

NHS England Report for General Dental Services
Cambridgeshire County Council Health and Scrutiny Committee
March 2018

Current NHS Dental Services provision in Peterborough

In hours dental care is commissioned across the Cambridge and Peterborough CCG area. This includes both routine and urgent dental care delivered by general dental practices and urgent care by the dental access centre.

There are 68 contracts providing dental care in the Cambridge area. The contractual mechanism is via 53 General Dental Service (GDS) contracts and 15 Personal Dental Service (PDS) agreements. GDS contracts are in perpetuity and PDS agreements have an end date.

58 of the contracts/agreements are for general dental services, including routine care, urgent care and domiciliary care. 10 agreements are for orthodontics (teeth straightening).

The total spends for primary care dental service provision in the Cambridgeshire area in 2011/12 is £30,369,755.34. £26,646,029.60 is spent on general dentistry including access and minor oral surgery and £3,723,725.74 on orthodontics.

Each of the contracts is managed by units of activity, Units of Dental Activity (UDAs) for general dental services and Units of Orthodontic Activity (UOAs) for orthodontic services. Under GDS and PDS Regulations providers have to deliver at least 96% of contracted activity in each year. If providers fail to deliver at least 96% of activity they are subject to a financial clawback to 100% of contracted activity.

If between 96 and 100% of activity is delivered providers are able to carry forward the shortfall of activity to be delivered in the following year. Contractors are allowed to over perform by up to 2% however this over performance is a negative carry forward which results in less activity being delivered in the following year.

Contract delivery has been reasonable consistent over the last two years with the majority of providers delivering at least 96% of their contracted activity for general dental and orthodontic services. There are however a small number of providers who have not delivered their contracted activity. NHS England is currently working with all dental providers across East who have consistently not been able to deliver their activity. In most cases we would look to 'right size' the contracts to a level that can be delivered.

List of dental practices in Peterborough area are in appendix 1.

Review and procurement of the out of hours dental services in Peterborough, Cambridge, Norfolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney

In Cambridge, the dental out of hours service is currently delivered by Cambridge Community Services and are delivered from the Cambridge Dental Access Centre. The out of hours service is available on Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays.

The current Personal Dental Service (PDS) Agreement in place with Cambridge Community Services for out of hours is due to expire on 31st March 2019.

NHS England commenced phase one of the out of hours project during 2016/17 and recommissioned services in Essex. East Anglia is part of phase two. Part one of phase two involved the review and recommissioning of out of hours services in Suffolk, with part two for the rest of East Anglia (Peterborough, Cambridge, Norfolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney).

Each of the areas in part two, phase two, currently have different contracting arrangements with some disparity within these arrangements. NHS England is currently reviewing the dental out of hours services delivered across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney. This review will lead to the re-procurement of these services and further details of this procurement will be provided in due course.

As part of the review of the current services, there will be a period of engagement with current providers, patients and the public to inform the development of the service specification. Activity monitoring will also be undertaken and current providers will be asked to supply views on how the current service may be improved.

Further stakeholder briefings will be provided at key stages of the review and procurement.

Following the review and re-procurement of services, patients will continue to be able to access urgent dental treatment, where considered clinically necessary, outside of core hours for dental practices, including weekends and bank holidays.

Review and procurement of PDS orthodontic services across East (including Cambridgeshire)

NHS England is currently reviewing orthodontic provision across East and will, later this year be re-procuring orthodontic provision that is currently provided in PDS agreements. The current PDS orthodontic agreements have been extended multiple times and procurement legislation does not allow NHS England to continually extend these agreements.

There will be similarities as out of hours in terms of engagement with providers and stakeholders. Patient engagement concluded in January 2018. The feedback will inform the development of the service specification.

Further stakeholder briefings will be provided at key stages of the review and procurement.

Oral health needs assessment

For information, please refer to appendix 2

Population growth in Cambridge

Across East there are a number of areas where there is a growth of population, some of this is predicted and taken into account in the oral health needs assessment. There is also population growth due to building programmes.

NHS England is committed to work with public health and other colleagues to gain a better understanding of access to primary dental care across Essex and East Anglia and the factors that may affect this, including the identification of service gaps, changes in demand for services and identification of new builds/population changes and implications for planning the provision of primary care dental services. This will also take into account the health profiles and areas/pockets of deprivation across East.

Appendix 1 – list of dental providers in Cambridgeshire



Appendix 2 – oral health needs assessment

