

Briefing Note to HOSC/MPs/Local councillors/HWBB/CCGS/Secondary Care Providers/Healthwatch/LDC

Procurement of services to provide Minor Oral Surgery procedures in the community

NHS England is responsible for commissioning primary and secondary care dental services in Essex.

A number of dental procedures can be safely and effectively delivered by specialists or dentists with enhanced skills who are based in general dental practices within the community.

These procedures, which include wisdom tooth extraction and removal of retained roots, are generally referred to as minor oral surgery procedures.

In some areas of Essex patients are already referred to a specialist or dentist with enhanced skills in a community based practice for their minor oral surgery procedure. These services have been established and operating successfully for a number of years. Some of these service providers were established on a pilot basis.

We now wish to re-procure these services on a permanent basis to ensure that we have the best Providers to deliver minor oral surgery procedures across the whole of Essex and to ensure value for money.

The funding for these services is already in place in the existing community based minor oral surgery service.

There will be improved access for patients as a result of this procurement; however, the oral surgery services may not be provided in the exact same locations. The Essex Area Team is expecting to commission a minimum of two providers in each of the five main localities in Essex.

The benefits of this change are;

- Patients will be offered a choice of appointment time for their minor oral surgery procedure
- Improved access for patients by having community based provision across the whole of Essex
- More cost effective use of NHS resources
- Patients will benefit from more availability and therefore less waiting time

It is intended to commence the new service from 1st April 2015.