



Cllr Chris Attwell
Portsmouth Health Overview and Scrutiny
Panel (HOSP)
Chair

Anna.Martyn@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Primary Care Commissioning
NHS England and NHS Improvement
– South East Region
Wharf House
Medway Wharf Road
Tonbridge
Kent
TN9 1RE

Email: england.southeastdental@nhs.net

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Sent by email

Dear Cllr Attwell

Portsmouth Dental Service Procurement – Update to Portsmouth HOSP

Following our letter of 4 March 2020, we would like to provide an update on the procurement of dental services in Portsmouth.

We have received and evaluated bids for contracts to provide general dental services in the city and following this process have identified preferred bidders. There has been a delay in awarding the contracts due to managing the response to Covid-19 but we are now continuing the process and aim to award contracts by the end of July.

This is some 6 weeks later than originally planned due to consideration of wider procurement issues and the impact of COVID-19 on NHS capacity. It was originally envisaged that the successful bidder would have 3-6 months to mobilise the new contracts and start to deliver services. However, as a result of COVID-19, and the potential financial impact to providers, it will be necessary to undertake additional due diligence. This is to ensure that preferred bidders are still in a position to proceed and to assess any revision to mobilisation timescales in light of the impacts of COVID-19 (e.g. delayed building works, workforce issues etc).

This will be completed in discussion with the preferred bidders to enable the resilient provision of services at the earliest possible time and therefore aim to avoid the need to enter into a re-procurement process. The timeline for contract start is as yet unknown and cannot be determined until discussions have taken place with the preferred bidders and COVID-19 impacts are understood.

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We will provide an update to the HOSP including timescales as soon as we have further information.

Yours Sincerely

Nick Spence
Dental Senior Commissioning Manager
NHS England and NHS Improvement – South East Region