

OFFICIAL



Primary Care Commissioning  
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*Sent by email*

Dear Jane

## **UPDATE TO PORTSMOUTH HOSP**

### **Procurement**

The building work at each location in the North and South of Portsmouth has commenced and is on target to start on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. We have not been advised of any delays and therefore anticipate patients will commence a service on this date.

### **COVID-19 – additional sessions**

As you are no doubt aware, the pandemic has affected dental services due to the closure of all dental services in from 23 March 2020 to 8 June 2020. The profession are working hard to re-commence services and to ensure they undertake all the appropriate Infection contract measures, including social distancing to assist with the reduction of the virus. The closure of services and the subsequent change in infection control etc has left a backlog of patients who require not only ongoing regular dental treatment which had been postponed, but also access to urgent care. NHS England and NHS Improvement are aware that patients are finding it difficult to access dental care because of these additional measures affecting activity levels of dental practices and are working with the profession to re-commence service delivery as quickly but as safely as possible.

We recently wrote to all dental practices across the South East Region offering additional funding in order to provide sessions outside of their normal contracted hours. These sessions are to be paid separately to the practice and would allow patients to access a dentist and receive treatment where they had not been able to receive an appointment during normal working hours. These sessions would involve general dental procedures and not just emergency appointments. Unfortunately to date no practices in the Portsmouth locality have taken up the offer of the additional funding. We will however continue to offer this for the foreseeable future and a practice can approach us at anytime if their capacity to provide these services should change.

NHS England and NHS Improvement



## Data sheet information

I have also provided the enclosed excel spreadsheet which was previously shared as data for the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. However, it was agreed to revisit this to make it more specific to Portsmouth. I hope you find this data useful however it is a first draft. I'm open to feedback as to what you would like to see in this report going forwards.



Yours sincerely

Alison

**Alison Cross**  
**Senior Commissioning Manager (Dental)**

