

Response to Kent HOSC questions on general dental services procurement

Members had the following question: Appendix A – clarification around catchment areas and locations. For example, there were two entries for Faversham and three for Sevenoaks with different numbers for each.

Response

Under the contracts they hold with NHS England, the providers of NHS dental services are commissioned to deliver care and treatment to patients as measured by units of dental activity or UDAs.

21,000 UDA contracts represent approximately three full-time NHS dentists and are likely to be brand new practices. In some areas we are planning to procure additional UDAs which do not require new practices but would equate to a whole or part-time NHS dentist which might then be delivered in addition to an existing contract.

Locations for contracts as part of this procurement have been proposed based on two factors:

- Taking into account where previous dental contracts have ended
- Additional dental services – locations are based on areas of the greatest need as identified through a dental needs assessment carried out by Public Health England

It should be noted that all dental services being procured are additional to existing services. There are no changes planned to current dental services as a result of the procurement.

As an example, a number of contracts of varying sizes have been proposed in Sevenoaks. This has been identified through the needs assessment as an area in Kent needing additional services. The contracts vary in size so those made up of 3,500 UDAs are likely to be additions to existing contracts or delivered on a part-time basis and the 21,000 UDA contract likely to be a new practice.