

Councillor Arash Fatemian  
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2 July 2019

Dear Councillor Fatemian

### **Re-commissioning of Special Care Adult and Paediatric Dental Services**

NHS England South East is currently in the planning stages of re-commissioning of Special Care Adult and Paediatric Dentistry services, sometimes known as Community Dental Services, as the current contracts to provide these services in the South East and Dorset are due to come to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

As part of this process we are gaining feedback on the services currently provided to assess if this is the best way of providing them or if they could be delivered in a different way which would be better for patients. We are developing a service specification for the new contracts and will be considering feedback from the profession, stakeholders, patients and the public when doing this.

#### **About the services**

Special Care Adult and Paediatric Dental Services (often known as Community Dental Services) include a wide range of services provided for both children and adults unable to attend general dental services due to additional needs, for example, those relating to physical or learning disabilities, or where they have a need for enhanced support to receive treatment.

Services are provided to patient groups with a variety of needs, some of the key groups are: adults and children with learning disabilities; those with physical or sensory disabilities; with complex medical problems: where patients need dentistry in their homes; where patients need general anaesthetic or sedation; obese adults requiring a bariatric chair for treatment and children in the care of social services or with complex social problems.



## **Service needs assessment**

Public Health England has carried out a service needs assessment to identify existing need for the services, as well as gaining feedback on potential enablers and barriers to accessing care from organisations advocating for and supporting groups of people with additional needs. We will be using this information along with patient and stakeholder feedback to influence design of future services.

## **Your feedback**

We would be grateful for any feedback you have on these services which will then be considered alongside views from patients, the public and the dental profession to help to inform the new contracts. Please find attached a copy of the draft service specification for information.

Please can you send your feedback to [england.southeastdentalfeedback@nhs.net](mailto:england.southeastdentalfeedback@nhs.net) by **1 August 2019**.

Thank you in advance for your feedback.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Macdonald." The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Sarah Macdonald**

Director of Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning  
NHS England and NHS Improvement South East