Dear NHS Contract Holder,

**INTRODUCTION**

As you may know, from 1 April 2023 Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB) has taken on responsibility for commissioning NHS dental services from NHS England. The ICB is aware of the significant dental access issues that patients face and the impact this is having on oral health including rates of cancer. There is clearly a lot we need to do differently as commissioners to work with you and the wider health community to meet these challenges.

Our commissioning team includes both managers and clinicians. We are keen to hear your views on how we should approach the oral health challenge. If you would like to reach us on any matter, please contact Dental@SNEE.NHS.UK. We are recruiting to expand the team. Also, we are working through the best way to regularly communicate with all dental professionals on our plans and progress.

There are some key areas where we have made progress including:

* Commissioning increased oral public health services in Suffolk and North East Essex in schools
* Taking steps to move to a minimum UDA value across SNEE
* Commissioning a new Suffolk dental centre based in Ipswich (due to go live in the Spring 2024)

**NEW COMMISSIONING OFFFERS**

In this context, we are pleased to contact you to present three “ever-green” offers

***1. Supporting practices able to offer UDA’s above their contract value***

Do please contact us if you are expecting to reach your contracted value and would like to offer more NHS dental services in 2023/24 or 2024/25. The ICB has already supported a number of providers who have approached us with an offer to undertake 110% of their contract value in 2023/24. We are also interested to hear from practices who may wish to offer more than 110% of their contact value in 2024/25 and by how much you feel you could do above this.

***2.*** ***Dental Priority Access and Stabilisation Service***

This is an offer to every dental practice holding a contract with SNEE ICB. The offer is to increase dental services for people in one of the priority groups below. This includes new patients and support for you to treat priority patients that already attend your practice.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Children in Care (including those under Social Services care plans) | The Homeless | Urgent and Emergency Care Patients |
| Care Leavers | Transient Populations including immigrants | Those awaiting any NHS procedure that requires Oral Stabilisation |
| Residents in care homes and nursing homes being treated within the practice setting | Sex workers | High dental risk patients |
| People with dementia | People with a learning disability (LD)or Autism Spectrum Disorder Patients |  |

The practice can choose to sign up to one of 2 options for payment.

1. ***Extra sessional payments for out of hours***

Additional sessional payments to you as a provider for extended hours: evenings, weekends and bank holiday rates are available in the document shared in the email with an expected minimum of 2 patients an hour. The ICB’s preference is to have providers sign up to these and, if possible, provide full coverage across all of these days or partner with other neighbouring provider/s to cover all of the days. However, if a practice is interested in just providing some extended access sessions for priority groups, then these will also be considered.

1. ***Enhanced UDA rate for in hours***

The second scheme is an offer to see the same Priority Groups in hours at an enhanced rate of £50 per UDA.

For greater detail, the specification is attached. The scheme is for 18 months with the aim of starting as soon as possible. Ideally before 1st April this year. However, this is an evergreen offer.

The ICB has good links with services that can help identify and refer patients within these group to your practice. We are also asking providers to be the prime provider for specific care homes within the Practice Setting as part of this work.

This service includes aspects of Oral Health Education and having an individualised Personalised Care Plan agreed with the patient to attempt to achieve disease stabilisation going forward. The ICB is preparing some information to give to the patient so that the patient is aware of the requirements for them to continue to be engaged with the practice for the stabilisation period of the scheme.

There is a requirement for a minimal data set to be collected and submitted to the ICB so we can understand and review the impact of the scheme and clarify our intentions after the 18 month period. Patients seen on this scheme are expected to be followed up on the scheme and be part of a list who are regularly cared for until the scheme is finished or their oral health has stabilised to the level they can receive routine care under the usual mandatory services. Alternatively, if a patient does not engage according to current guidelines, or they have two consecutive failures not attend, then the patient will be seen under routine services or the practice must make a decision as to whether any care continues, respectively.

**Next Steps**

If you are interested to take part, please complete the return: <https://forms.office.com/e/eWjyR9dBRn> , if possible by 10th February 2024. In your return, please indicate the percentage of new patients you feel you could take on from this cohort with the additional funds that are being made available.

We are holding two information sessions on Microsoft Teams which will be a chance to hear more and ask questions, which we would like to encourage you to attend.

These are held on: 23rd January 2024 at 18:30 - [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_ZjMzMGFiNzgtNjk0YS00NjlhLTgxM2UtMjkyNzkxYzhlNDBi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2246a6a078-a0b0-4a34-a2dc-27bad75b7531%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ede06ab2-4bb8-40ce-881d-a7c07e90d2cf%22%7d)

 26th January 2024 at 18:30 - [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_ZWNjMjMyMGYtMThkMy00NDIzLTk4MzctNTY5YTY0Yzk2YWEw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2246a6a078-a0b0-4a34-a2dc-27bad75b7531%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ede06ab2-4bb8-40ce-881d-a7c07e90d2cf%22%7d)

If you do have any questions, the Head of Dental at the ICB – Gregory.Brown@SNEE.NHS.UK will be happy to help or put you in touch with the newly appointed Senior Clinical Fellow who will be able to assist you with any clinical questions.

We look forward to working with you in the future:

Peter Wightman Nick Barker Tom Norfolk

Director lead for Pharmacy, Co-Chairs Local Dental

Optometry and Dental Network

Suffolk and North East Essex ICB East of England.