

# **Changes to Consultant-led Specialist Orthodontic Services Briefing for stakeholders**

## **Background**

Consultant-led specialist orthodontic services for people living in East Cheshire are predominantly provided by East Cheshire NHS Trust (Macclesfield General Hospital) at present. These services are commissioned by NHS England (Cheshire and Merseyside). This service provides complex orthodontic services which currently are not provided by Specialist Orthodontists in Primary Care.

The service is currently treating 136 patients; of which 90 are from the Cheshire and Merseyside area. Procedures for orthodontic treatment can take up to 24 months, as moving teeth and the growth of the patient both need to be factored into treatment plans. The majority of patients are seen in outpatients clinics. Patients who need any associated maxillofacial surgery are usually managed by University Hospital South Manchester.

## **Change to service**

In September 2018, East Cheshire NHS Trust gave notice on the contract to provide these services, due to the Consultant who provides the service deciding to leave. The service is due to close on 6 March 2019.

A priority for both the Trust and the commissioners has been to find alternative services for the patients currently receiving treatment. Therefore, as an interim measure the decision was taken to identify alternative local providers, who are able to provide this specialised treatment. A phased approach is being taken to enable a smooth and safe transition between the different providers.

Ensuring a smooth transition for patients is a priority. All patients will receive a letter, advising them of this development. New services will have been identified for all patients by mid-February. They will be given the opportunity to raise any concerns with the team from the Trust, who will work together with the commissioner to try and mitigate these; they will also be informed of their new provider and will have the opportunity to raise any questions.

Any new patients referred for orthodontic treatment by their dentist are being directed to one of these alternative services.

Once patients have been transferred and the service at East Cheshire NHS Trust has closed, further consideration will be given to the procurement of a new permanent service based on a full Needs Assessment.

NHS England as the commissioner will work with local dentists/the Managed Clinical Network, patients and the public along with other stakeholders to shape the service specification as part of any future procurement process.