

# **Changes to Consultant-led Specialist Oral Surgery Services**

## **Briefing for Stakeholders**

### **Background**

Consultant-led specialist oral surgery services for people living in East Cheshire are currently provided by East Cheshire NHS Trust (Macclesfield General Hospital). The services are commissioned by NHS England (Cheshire and Merseyside). The service provides complex oral surgery services that cannot be provided by oral surgeons working within primary care settings or by General Dental Practitioners.

The hospital service is currently treating 424 patients; of this 294 are from the Cheshire and Merseyside area. Patients are seen either as day cases or as outpatients.

### **Service change**

In October 2018, East Cheshire NHS Trust gave notice on the contract to provide these services. The service is due to close on 19 April 2019.

A priority for both the Trust and the commissioners is to ensure that patients who are currently within a course of treatment have this completed by the Trust and this has been enabled by the provision of additional Consultant support being given to the service. For those for whom completion of their treatment is not possible alternative providers are being identified, as close as possible to where patients live. A phased approach to their transfer is being taken, to try to minimise any disruption.

Ensuring a smooth transition for patients is a priority. All patients who are affected 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.

Since November 2018 any new patients referred for Consultant-led oral surgery 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.