Improving access to NHS dentistry in Middlesbrough

Investment in a new practice with better facilities and accessibility









There is a growing crisis in access to **NHS** dentistry



Millions without NHS dental care as practices close or turn private

dentists quit service across England last wa

"Denial decerts" are emergin across England after more that







The Guardian view on the dentist shortage: a gap that needs filling Editorial



research By Ruth Green, Harriet Agerholm & Libby Rogers BBC News

() 8 August - 🖬 Comments

Evacuation

fixed to me

BBC

MailOnline

4million people in England left without an NHS dentist after 2,000 guit in just a year leaving health service with smallest workforce in a decade



The Telegraph

The entire county where you cannot get an NHS dentist appointment

Patients reduced to tears after 2,000 dentists quit the health service, forcing people to spend thousands going private

Struggle to get a dentist in Devon is revealed

One person needed wheelchair access but there were no NHS dentists that were wheelchair accessible and had to travel 15 miles away and had to go via public transport

Thousands of Wigan children have not seen an NHS dentist all year



NHS dental patients 'face 90-mile trip', union claims



The crisis is the result of an acute workforce shortage

- 3,000 dentists have left the profession since 2020. New data shows that since 2020-21, the number of dentists delivering some NHS care has fallen by more than 3,000 (13%), the largest fall on record.
- 75% of dental practices are now struggling to fill vacancies. This rises to 93% among practices with the highest NHS commitments. In addition, 29% of practices with vacancies say these have been empty for at least 12 months.
- Half of NHS dentists have reduced their NHS commitment since the pandemic. In addition, in a survey with the BDA, 75% of dentists said they were likely to reduce their NHS commitment over the next 12 months, with 45% planning to go fully private.
- UK dentistry is heavily reliant on overseas dentists, which is under particular pressure. In 2019, 28.3% of dentists who registered with the GDC qualified outside the UK. In 2020 (the last year for which figures are available) the number of overseas dentists on the GDC register had fallen to 2,937, a reduction of 43% in a year. More than 15% of dentists leaving the profession in 2020-2021 were from the EEA.



We are pressing for policy changes to improve access nationally

Simple cost-neutral solutions could have a huge impact in improving the workforce crisis and improving access to NHS dentistry across the country.



Reform the NHS contract to make it more attractive to dentists and improve morale



Increase the number of dental University places and Foundation Training Places available



Better use skill mix to take advantage of dental therapists who are able to deliver c80% of Band 2 treatments



Use existing flexible commissioning powers to increase funding for training and prevention



Remove obstacles to recruitment of high-quality overseas dentists by:

- Passing the Section 60 Order quickly to give the GDC discretion over qualifications
- Maintaining mutual recognition of qualifications with the EU



In the meantime, we are investing in practices to improve recruitment

- More than 80% of {my}dentist clinicians say that their practice environment makes the biggest difference to their working life
- By 2025, we are **investing more than £70 million into our practices** to ensure we can offer the best facilities and equipment to patients and clinicians
- And we are modernising our network to ensure our practices are in good locations that are more desirable for clinicians and practice teams to work – this creates a more stable environment, with a larger clinical team to offer better support
- We have **completed more than 11 of these projects** now with clear feedback that clinicians and patients prefer them, and that accessibility is improved. We have seen:
 - Improved recruitment and retention following investment
 - Longer practice opening hours
 - More patients supported.



A recent example: Killingworth in North Tyneside

- £1.1m invested to relocate a practice into a large, secure shopping centre with better accessibility (all surgeries at ground level) and improved transport links and parking
- Total surgery capacity increased by 85% from 7 chairs to 13 chairs
- Within the first 12 months, 5 new clinicians and 6 new nurses were recruited to the practice
- A total of 400 new clinical hours per week have now been recruited allowing us to extend opening hours by 26 hours per week (including offering evening and weekend appointments).





Killingworth: before and after













- **£1.5m will be invested** to relocate three local practices into one at Cleveland Retail Park
- **£2.2m committed** in ongoing lease costs, an increase of £70k per annum
- **£40k in payable rates per annum**, an increase of £16k (circa £250k over 15-years)
- Total surgery capacity will increase with 12 surgeries being available immediately, with further options to expand to 14 in the future, subject to successful recruitment
- The practice will benefit from a dedicated staff room, greater security, free parking and investment in new digital technology
- **Opening hours will be 25% larger than at the current practices** (50 hours per week, compared to the current average of 40.25 hours)
- Opportunities will be available to expand services in future, subject to support from local commissioners

 this could include offering prevention, oral surgery, as well as alignment with the nearby University
 who we currently work with.









Proposed look & feel of new site





