

# Briefing:

## Orthodontic services for people in the Camelford area

September 2018

### **The South West position**

Orthodontic treatment - usually with braces - is most often used to improve the appearance and alignment of crooked, protruding or crowded teeth, and to correct problems with the bite of the teeth.

It is usually only started after most of a child's adult teeth have started to come through. This is usually when they're about 12 years old, but depends on the number of adult teeth and the growth of their face and jaws. Treatment for adults can begin at any age, but the treatment options are more limited.

Orthodontics is commissioned by NHS England, alongside other forms of NHS dentistry. Referrals to the service nearly all come from general dental practitioners (high street dentists).

Practices are commissioned to provide a certain number of units of orthodontic activity (UOAs) each year. Initial assessment, for example, would take up one UOA, while a full course of treatment might take 20 UOAs.

Existing contracts for orthodontic treatment in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, as in the rest of the South of England, are due to come to an end on 31 March 2019. A major procurement exercise has therefore been carried out to secure new providers from 1 April.

Final contract negotiations are now under way to mobilise the services and notify patients about any changes, ready for April.

### **The Camelford position**

NHS orthodontics is currently provided by Dr S Cooper from Trestone Dental in Tresparrett. Many patients travel long distances for treatment.

Following the procurement exercise outlined above, NHS care was due to transfer from 1 April next year to the successful bidder in Central and North Cornwall, Portman Healthcare Ltd.

However, Dr Cooper has decided to retire on health grounds before the transfer takes place.

To ensure continuity of care for young people who are currently under treatment at Trestone, and to avoid delays for new patients, NHS England has agreed an interim contract with Portman from 1 October 2018.

This means NHS patients will be able to go to Bude or St Austell, where Portman already has premises. Portman has appointed an additional orthodontist to increase its capacity.

Those patients/carers who do not want to transfer to Portman will have the option of using another NHS orthodontist.

A longer-term contract will be agreed with Portman to provide care across Central and North Cornwall from 1 April next year.

All Trestone patients/carers have been contacted by letter to explain the position.

Ends