Dental services in West Sussex and Leeds get huge cash boost

West Sussex Primary Care Trust has invested £1.5m into dental services in the county. The cash investment means that 20,000 extra patients will now be able to see an NHS dentist.

Due to the cash boost, nearly one third of all dental practices in West Sussex – 152 out of 160 – are taking on new patients. They will also offer extended opening hours.

David Grant, dental contracts manager at West Sussex Primary Care Trust, said: “We know that access to NHS dentistry has been a problem but the situation has improved recently.”

“Even before this new investment, access in West Sussex was steadily improving and so it is important that people know there are NHS dentists out there if they want one.”

In a similar move, NHS Leeds is offering an additional 35,000 NHS dental places throughout the city, due to a £2.3m three-year investment. NHS Leeds is encouraging local people to contact the Leeds Dental Advice Line and register with a NHS dentist.

Steve Laville, head of dental contracts for NHS Leeds said: “We want to dispel the myth that there aren’t enough dental places in the city. We are committed to securing high-quality NHS dental care for people in Leeds and want to make sure that those people who want access to a NHS dentist are able to do so.

“Last year we made a large investment in dentistry which meant that there were an additional 36,500 NHS dentist places available in Leeds.”

NHS Leeds is continuing to make significant improvements in access to NHS Dental Care. A lengthy procurement process has recently been completed securing an additional 35,000 NHS dental places throughout the city.

BOS Student Technician of the Year

A student technician from the University of Bristol Dental Hospital has won this year’s British Orthodontic Society’s Student Technician Award.

Chetan Geisel received his award at the Orthodontic Technicians Association’s annual conference in Milton Keynes.

Entrants for the award were required to prepare two removable appliances to a given prescription along with a written commentary on the rationale for the designs.

David Bearn, one of the judges and chairman of the British Orthodontic Society’s (BOS) Scholarship & Grants Committee said: “Chetan’s entries were outstanding pieces of work showing that the skill of the orthodontic technician is alive and well.”

A spokesman for the University of Bristol Dental Hospital called it a ‘keenly contested award with entrants from around the country taking part’ and said: “It is the first time that a student technician from Bristol has won the award. This reflects the hard work and commitment that Chetan has put into achieving the standard that is required to win this important award.”

After completing his Dental Technology studies at the University of Wales Institute in Cardiff (UWIC), Mr Geisel gained experience in a private crown and bridge laboratory in Cardiff, after which he secured a position in Bristol Dental Hospital in 2007.

Through his employment at the hospital, he has been able to return to UWIC and study for an MSc in Dental Technology.