Scottish dental access crisis

MPs are calling on the Scottish Health Secretary to deal with the lack of NHS dentists in Scotland.

Orkney, Grampian and Caithness have the lowest level of NHS dental cover, according to MSPs.

Orkney MSP Liam McArthur claims that the situation on the islands had reached crisis level.

Currently there are around 1,800 people, out of a total population of 20,000, on a waiting list to register for a dentist.

Nicola Sturgeon said that registration with a dentist was at record levels in the country but she admitted: ‘Some areas of the country have registration rates that are unacceptably low. NHS in the Grampian area would be included in that category. Work is ongoing to improve the rates of registration.’

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Credit crunch hits ADP

The credit crunch has forced the company ADP to cancel its plans to run a new NHS dental surgery in Tunbridge in Kent.

NHS West Kent, the regional primary care trust (PCT), revealed back in June that a new £500,000 deal had been signed with ADP to provide dental care to 6,000 patients in the town.

However the PCT has now revealed that the company has been forced to pull out.

A spokesperson for the PCT, said it was ‘clearly disappointed’ that the company had withdrawn and that staff were doing ‘everything possible’ to help affected patients.

He added: ‘As soon as NHS West Kent became aware of this potential issue we took steps to alleviate the inconvenience that this will cause.’

The PCT has temporarily awarded contracts to a range of local dentists in the short term to ensure patients have access to treatment while the formal tendering process is completed.

That process will now begin again next month and the PCT hopes a successful bidder will be selected by June next year.

Dental Tribune moves ‘leaps and bounds’

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This makes DT, the second preferred choice for people in this age group.

Penny Palmer, editor of DTUK said: ‘We have only been in the market for two years and are already moving leaps and bounds compared to other stalwarts in the market that have been around for years.’

The survey found that BDJ and BDA News are the dental publications that attract the highest number of readers.

A total of 96 per cent of dental professionals believe that dental publications enable them to keep abreast of what is happening in the dental industry. While 77 per cent read dental publications to gain information on the newest techniques.

St Austell MP Matthew Taylor, said: ‘The doctors in Roche and myself are goshmarked that the investment has been put in for a new dentist facility but it isn’t being used. It is clear that there is a desperate need but the PCT is now saying that it won’t fund it.’

This simply suggests that NHS dentistry just isn’t being backed because everybody knows it isn’t possible to get an NHS dentist anywhere in the area, but here are rooms lying empty with all the expensive facilities ready. From the government down to the PCT they need to be a clear determination to sort out NHS dental services and there is nowhere better to start than to fill those expensive equipped rooms.’

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT say no one can be treated in the rooms until April next year.