



Roger Batterbury

Chairperson

Healthwatch Portsmouth

By email

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NHS England and NHS Improvement
South East Region

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Dear Mr Batterbury

Further to my earlier letter, I am writing to update you on the alternative NHS dental provision we have put in place for patients in Portsmouth now that the Colosseum Dental Group's contracts at three local practices have formally terminated.

As you know, Colosseum was contractually obligated to continue delivering care for NHS patients at the practices until 31 July. While we understand Colosseum was experiencing staffing challenges, it is disappointing that the provider did not act in the best interests of their patients by ceasing to provide services at the three practices ahead of their contractual obligations ending on 31 July. I can confirm that we have taken formal action as a result of this breach of their contracts to deliver NHS care. Breach notices have been issued and Colosseum will need to declare these as part of any future bid they were to make to provide other NHS dental services. All payments for any NHS services not delivered by Colosseum will also be recovered.

As you were aware, we have been in negotiations with two major alternative providers in the City.

I am pleased to confirm that we have finalised an agreement with the Bupa Dental Care practice in Cosham to provide additional appointments for NHS patients. The Bupa practice, located at 90 Northern Road, Cosham, PO6 3ER, is just over a mile from the Paulsgrove dental practice that had been run by Colosseum. The Bupa practice will soon be able to treat a number of extra patients, although they are already providing support to patients who contact them in need of treatment at this point in time.

We are also finalising arrangements with the University of Portsmouth Dental Academy in the south of the city, which is located less than a mile from one of the other former Colosseum practices. They have told us that they should be able to provide further additional appointments for NHS patients. Their final agreement is pending but, with the additional care the Bupa practice is able to deliver, this would

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provide around 80 per cent of the NHS treatment that was provided by the three Colosseum practices in 2018/19 and we are working with other local practices to put in place the remaining capacity as soon as possible.

We welcome the involvement of these practices to help meet the needs of NHS patients in the area.

As you know, the procurement process for additional contracts for long term arrangements is underway. Comprehensive market and patient engagement will be carried out to ensure that the services commissioned are sustainable and meet the needs of the population of Portsmouth.

Patients do not need to take any immediate action, as they do not need to register with another dental practice in the same way they would with a GP practice. Patients can change dental practices between check-ups and courses of treatment if they wish to do so.

At the point a patient needs treatment, or their next dental check-up, they can check the latest updates regarding dental practices that are able to offer appointments for NHS patients by visiting the local Dental Helpline website at www.wessexdentalhelpline.nhs.uk, or by calling the NHS 111 service on 111.

I have attached a copy of the letter we are sending to patients who previously used the three Colosseum dental practices about how they can continue to access NHS dental care, in case this is helpful to you.

Thank you for your working with us as we progress our plans to procure new dental services in Portsmouth, to support the sustainable provision of services for patients in the longer term.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Best wishes,



Sarah Macdonald
Director of Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning
NHS England and NHS Improvement - South East Region

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