

# BRIEFING NOTE

**TO:** Health Scrutiny and Performance Sub-Panel  
**DATE:** 3 March 2009

**RE: Commissioning NHS Dental Services on the East of the Borough of Walsall**

## Purpose

To provide Members the opportunity to comment on the proposed procurement of dental services by NHS Walsall as part of its Oral Health Improvement and Dental Commissioning Strategy.

## Background

Currently the East of the Borough has only one dental practice accepting new NHS patients compared to 14 dental practices in the West accepting new NHS patients. There are significant issues with people finding an NHS dentist in the area and the provision of additional services will provide equitable access that is local and convenient.

Our priorities are to deliver better oral health by:

- investing in oral health promotion and disease prevention to reduce inequalities in dental health; enabling people to maintain good oral health for as long as possible
- increasing the provision of NHS dental services close to where people live
- commissioning evidence based high quality dental services that are accessible to all that need them.

The Government's vision for the future of dental services was set out in Options for Change, June 2002. It heralded reform and envisaged dentistry being an integral part of the wider primary care network. Access to NHS dentistry is a national priority and the Department of Health have made available funding for PCTs to increase access in their areas.

A copy of the public consultation document is attached for information. The document sets out the tPCT's plans for the east of the borough for comment. Please note that although the formal consultation process ended on 19 February 2009 the Panel's comments will be reported to the tPCT Board meeting that considers the outcome of the consultation.

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2003, the budget and commissioning for NHS dentistry was devolved to local PCTs and from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust (NHS Walsall) became responsible for NHS dentistry in the local Walsall area, including responsibility for dental public health and urgent and out of hours care.

## Recommendations

**That the Panel comment on the dental services proposed by Walsall tPCT.**

## Author

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**New Dental Practice(s) for  
East Walsall**

**Where do you want it?**

**Public Consultation document**



# What to do with this document

We've published this consultation paper so that you can help us with our decision. The consultation is running from 27 November 2008 to 19 February 2009. The views you give us during this period will strongly influence the decisions we make.

The easiest way to let us know your views is to write on this document and send the whole thing back to us. No stamp is necessary so just fold the back cover over so that the FREEPOST address is showing, fold it into three, and sellotape down the ends. Then pop it in the post.

## OR

You can email your views to [consultations@abetteridea.info](mailto:consultations@abetteridea.info).

## OR

You can ring one of our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) representatives 01922 618 358 and we will write down what you tell us over the phone.

## OR

Post comments on [www.abetteridea.info](http://www.abetteridea.info).

## OR

You can send us a letter free of charge, by writing to:

FREEPOST RRLU-CSTS-ERUZ

Walsall NHS

Jubilee House

Bloxwich Lane

Walsall WS2 7JL

If you are posting this document back to us, you can put your contact details here so that we can send you the results of our consultation and the decision made.

You can leave it blank if you prefer.

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

☐ I am responding for myself

☐ I am responding on behalf of a group or organisation

Name of group:

If you want this in another format or language, or if you want someone to go through it with you just ring us on 01922 618 358

We will do our best to get it into a format or language useful to you as quickly as we can.

Of course, this is free.



## About this consultation

This is a formal consultation by NHS Walsall about the best place for new dental practices in the East of Walsall. As it is a formal consultation, you have 12 weeks to respond, from 27 November 2008. All responses will be taken seriously, and we are happy to take responses on paper, by email, through the internet, by phone, in person, or in any other way that suits you. We can also provide this document in a different format or language on request. You can respond as an individual or as an organisation. We expect most responses will come from people who live or work in Walsall, but anyone with an interest in this issue is welcome to respond.

## Summary of the proposal

Access to NHS dentistry in Walsall is difficult in some parts of Walsall. In the East there are significant issues with equitable access particularly in **Pheasey Park Farm** and **Streetly** Wards, which also have the lowest percentage of residents accessing an NHS Dentist (between 10 and 21%).

To improve access to dental care in these areas NHS Walsall is planning to procure one new large practice or two small practices in the East via a competitive tendering process.

Our intention is that the new practice or practices will treat at least **5,000 patients** every year and cost around half a million pounds.

This will provide the opportunity for new patients to access NHS dentistry locally and conveniently and to address inequality of access in the East.

If you would like further information please contact Carol Marston, NHS Walsall Dental Commissioning Manager on 01922 444042 or e-mail at [carol.marston@walsall.nhs.uk](mailto:carol.marston@walsall.nhs.uk)

### Clinic Location

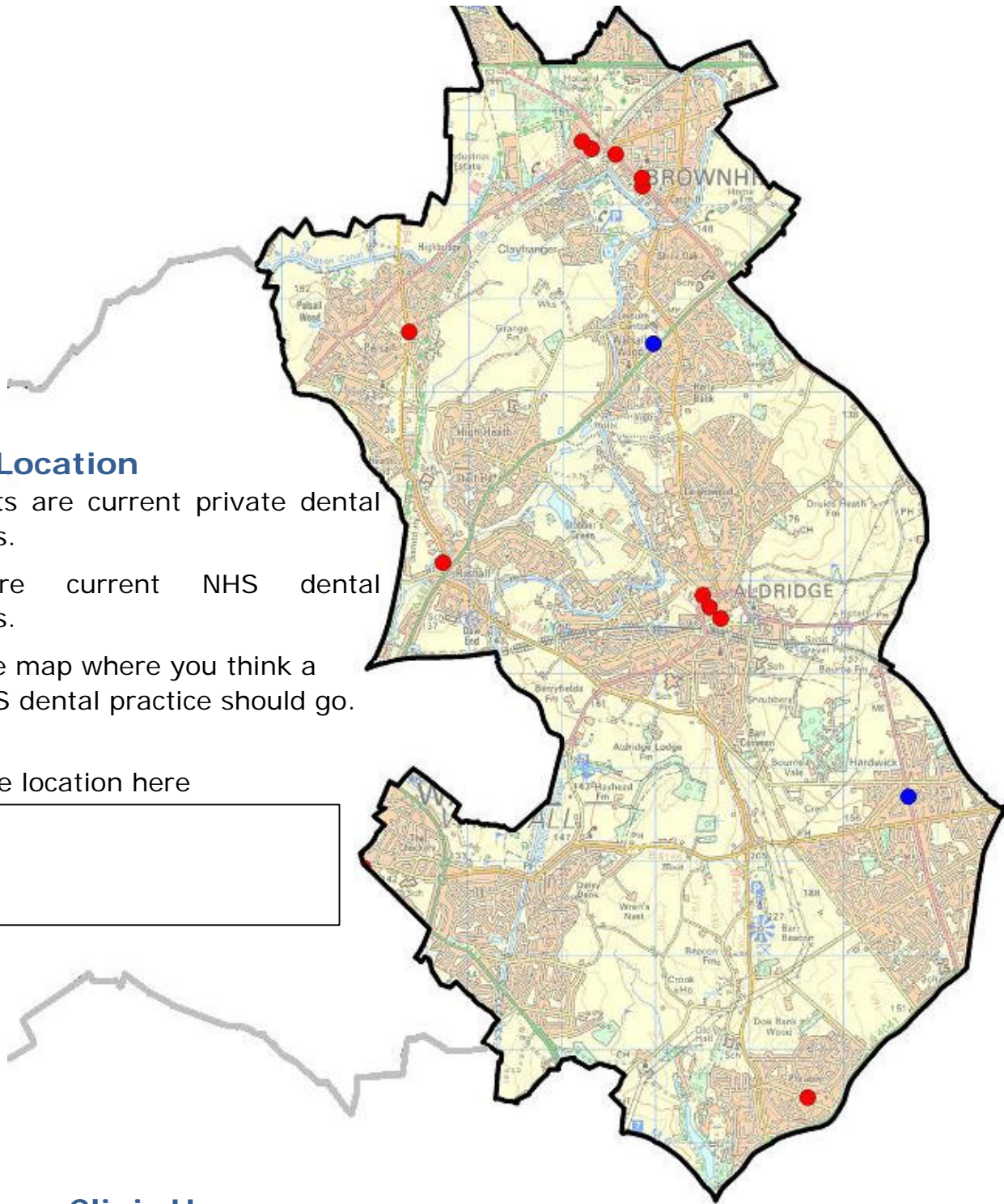
Blue dots are current private dental practices.

Red are current NHS dental practices.

Mark the map where you think a new NHS dental practice should go.

**OR**

Write the location here



### Clinic Use

To help us understand how a new practice might be used we would value your answers to the following questions.

Q1. When did you last go to a dentist? Month  Year

Q2. When will you next go to a dentist? Month  Year

Q3. How far do you travel to your dentist?

Q4. If we had a practice at the place you marked on the map, how far would you have to travel to get there?

Q5. Are you with an **NHS** dentist now?

☐ Yes ☐ No

## **What we do next**

This consultation will finish on 19 February 2009. After that we will add up all the responses to work out the location or locations which best match what you've told us.

We will then write a procurement document that specifies the location you've chosen.

Our task then is to do our best to find a business that will tender for the job.

We are planning to have the new practice or practices up and running by the first of September 2009.



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Business Reply  
Licence Number  
RRLU-CSTS-ERUZ

NHS Walsall  
Jubilee House  
Bloxwich Lane  
WALSALL  
WS2 7JL

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