

**Rothbury & Hadston / Amble Dental Services**  
**Briefing for Northumberland Scrutiny Committee**  
**8 January 2019**

**Procurement Update**

The advert and tender went live on 7 September 2018. The deadline for submission of bids was 15 October 2018 following which a small number of bids were received.

The bids were independently evaluated against specific criteria (which is published in an evaluation criteria handbook), to ensure that bidders/organisations have the necessary clinical and financial capacity to deliver sustainable dental services under the contract, and also that they have proposed to deliver services from suitable premises.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to recommend a successful bidder as the bids received were non-compliant against one or more of the published criteria. Bidders have been informed of this in writing and have received detailed feedback on their bids.

**Next steps**

It is our intention to go back out to tender for dental services in Rothbury and Hadston/Amble as soon as possible and we are currently working with our procurement team to finalise the timescales. As you will recall, the new service will provide a significant increase in access for patients above that previously commissioned.

We had initially planned for a new dental service to commence in June 2019, however regrettably, due to having to re-tender there is likely to be a delay of approximately six months, subject to obtaining a successful bid.

Whilst we appreciate that this delay is less than ideal, it is important that we are able to secure the right services for the local population and we would offer our reassurance that we remain committed to securing these services as promptly as possible.

**Current access for patients**

There is capacity at dental practices in Alnwick, Morpeth and Ashington for patients requiring either urgent or routine NHS dental care, although we appreciate this does involve travel for patients. Patients are also able to contact NHS 111 who can signpost patients to their closest available urgent dental service if required.