# Community Dental Service in Essex

## Essex Referrals and Criteria

Please send all referrals to our referrals Co-ordinator at the address below.

**Referrals Co-ordinator**
**Witham Health Centre**
4 Mayland Road
Witham
Essex
CM8 2UX

**Telephone No. 01376 531013**

### Criteria

The Community Dental Service in Essex provides a dental service for those whose oral care needs (on-going or part of a single treatment plan) cannot be met through other NHS primary care dental contracts due to their additional needs (medical, physical or behavioural).

Many children and adults with additional needs can be treated within the General Dental Service. However, if a patient's particular needs mean that if specialist skills, equipment or facilities are required GDPs may refer to CDS-CIC.

The Service is for patients that are resident, including homeless and socially excluded groups, within the county of Essex, including Southend & Thurrock boundary that meet the following criteria:

Children and adults who cannot be managed by a General Dental Practitioner (GDP) owing to:

- having learning disabilities (including people who exhibit challenging behaviour);
- severe mental health problems (including people who exhibit challenging behaviour);
- severe physical and/or medical compromise including bariatric patients(over 23 stone 140kg); that cannot be treated in a GDP setting
- complex social problems (including the homeless and drug/alcohol dependent);
- being Looked after Children who cannot receive on-going care from general dental practice;
- children requiring treatment who cannot be treated in general dental practice due to behavioural difficulties and/or severe anxiety management;
- adults with a treatment resistant dental phobia that has not been successfully treated through psychological services;

The Service also provides domiciliary care for patients with long term and / or progressive medical conditions; mental illness or dementia, causing disorientation and confusion in unfamiliar environments; or increasing frailty which means that they are housebound. The Service can offer behaviour management and dental care for a child with high levels of dental decay as part of a joint treatment plan with the referring dentist.

The Service will not normally offer dental care for an adult who is unduly anxious unless they have an additional need in line with the Service's acceptance criteria as there are other NHS primary care dental services offering anxiety management.

The Service may provide a single item of treatment or a complete course of dental treatment for a patient and then discharge them from the Service to return to their referring practitioner. Occasionally, where appropriate, the Service will provide a patient's long term dental care. It is recognised that patients' needs do change with time and patients may be discharged after receiving care from the Community Dental Service for a period of time if their on-going dental needs can be provided by the General Dental Service.

Pain management for referred patients is the responsibility of the referring dentist.

If you have any questions regarding referrals please contact one of the referral centres.