

## **Capacity of Health Provision (Doctors and Dentists) in Boston (April 2014)**

### Overview

A search for healthcare providers in the Boston area was undertaken via 'yell.com'. The search focused on doctors surgeries/health clinics and dentists within a 5 mile travel distance of the application site (Tytton Lane East), the approximate locations of which are shown on the appended plan. Eight doctor's surgeries and six dentists were identified and a schedule has been prepared showing the survey results. Once the list had been produced, each healthcare provider was contacted via telephone (and/or in writing where requested) and asked a brief series of questions, including:

- The name of the Practice Manager;
- The number of patients on roll;
- The current capacity of the practice;
- Whether the practice is accepting new patients;
  - If so, whether they have a waiting list and the length of such a list and;
- Whether the practice has any plans to expand in the future.

Responses were received from the majority of practices, with only The Medispa Group not answering the telephone. Additionally, Boston Health Clinic was found to be a speech therapist and physiotherapist practice, rather than a doctors surgery.

Just over half the practices were able to advise of the number of patients they currently had on roll, though fewer were able to advise of their precise current capacity.

Of all the healthcare providers, only one practice, the Holland House Dental Practice, currently had a waiting list for new patients, with this extending at present to a 6-week wait.

The majority of practices were not able to advise exactly how much spare capacity they had, although the Parkside Medical Centre advised it currently had capacity for 7,000 additional new patients and the Stressless Dental Care practice advised it was currently operating at 50% capacity, with room for an additional 1,200 patients.

Significantly, however, all practices were accepting new patients, albeit only private patients in the case of Oasis Dental Care. The Stuart House Surgery advised they are legally obliged to take on new patients who call, despite being at capacity.

In summary, and whether through existing capacity or legislative requirement, it appears all doctors and dentists within a 5 mile travel distance of the application site continue to take on new patients, suggesting there is existing capacity for healthcare provision in the network.