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THE SEATON
NURSING & RESIDENTIAL HOME



Seaton (01297) 20882

New dentist, no new patients



POLISH dentist, who started practising in Seaton last week, already has a full patient register.

Grzegorz Figiel, from Gdynia, started practicing at the Seaton Dental Centre in Seaton Street last week.

He is the first of 18 Polish dentists invited into the South West in a bid to ease the 'tooth care' crisis.

However, East Devon Primary Care Trust has already warned that, rather than taking on any new patients, his role will be to care for patients whose own dentists have left the profession.

Another Polish dentist, Jaroslaw Blonko, has also come to East Devon. He will be taking up a place in Exmouth over the next few weeks. He too is likely to take on new patients wishing to register for the first time.

A spokesman for East Devon PCT said: "We are delighted to welcome both Mr Blonko and Mr Figiel to East Devon

By Sally Munro

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their appointments will help approximately 4,000 people in the district receive much needed NHS dental treatment.

"Although the Polish dentists are taking on patients, these places are predominantly people for who became deregistered as a result of their own dentists retiring."

Patients eligible for treatment with Mr Figiel will be contacted directly by the primary care trust.

Mr Figiel lives in Exeter, with his wife live with their 11-year-old daughter. He said: "The landscapes are very beautiful in England, and I particularly love the beach at Seaton where I sit and have my lunch when the weather is good.

"I like the dental surgery very

much and I have found both the patients and staff very welcoming.

"I was afraid about how the patients would take me, but they are very welcoming and friendly.

"In terms of differences, there is a lot more paperwork and bureaucracy over here but the procedures are the same."

The primary care trust is not registering any other patients, however they have a waiting list which they will pass on to any new dentists who decide to set up practices in East Devon.

Patients wishing to be added to the list should write to the trust at Dean Clarke House, Southernhay East, Exeter, Devon, EX1 1PQ, or e-mail dentist@eastdevon-pct.nhs.uk giving their names, address and details of any family members at that address to be included on the list.

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