

Public health and health integration scrutiny committee

Mouth Cancer Action Plan

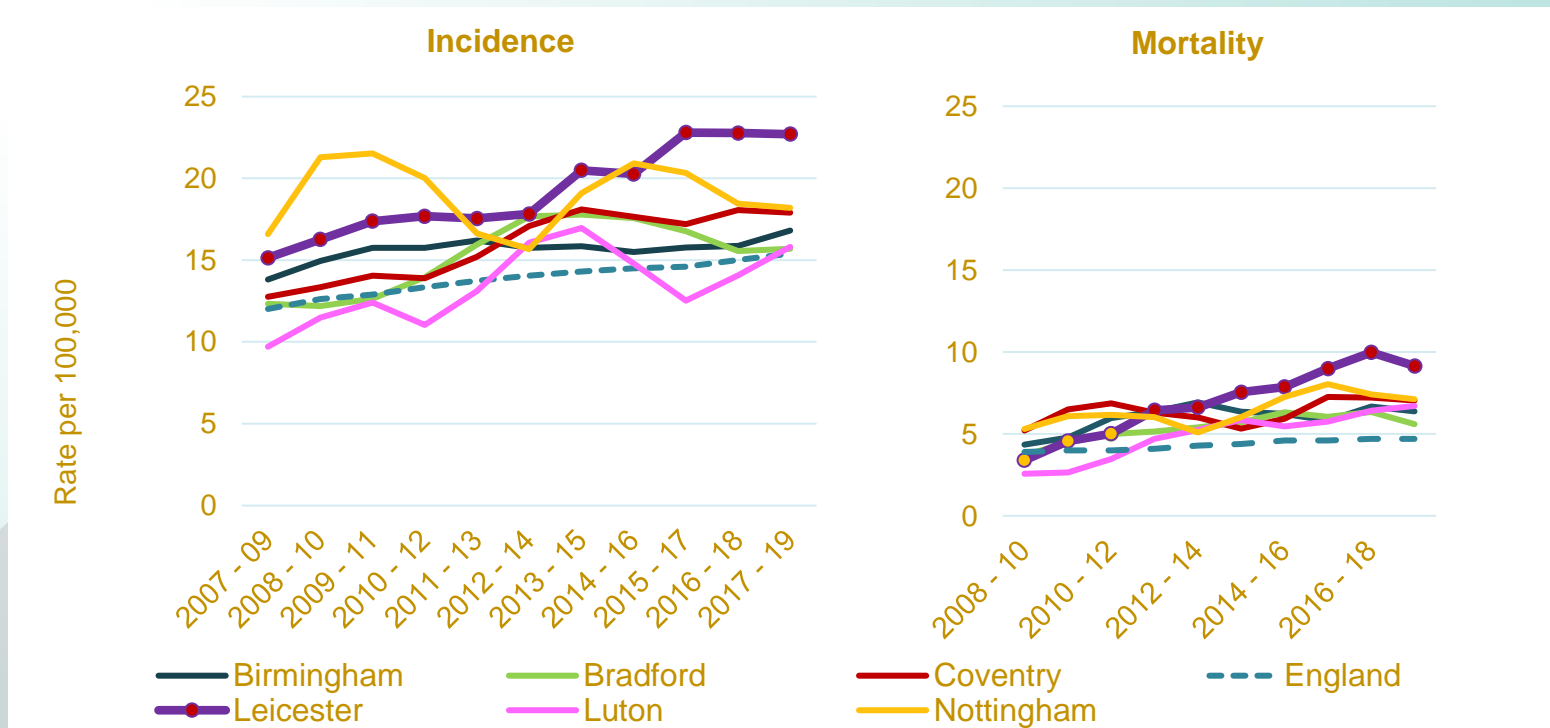
April 2024

What is oral cancer?

- Mouth cancer, also known as oral cancer, appears in areas such as the lips, tongue, cheeks or throat.
- In the United Kingdom (and around the world), the number of people with mouth cancer has been growing considerably.
- Symptoms include – tooth loss, swelling/ lumps, ulcers that won't heal, numbness, white/red patches and changes in speech.

Oral cancer in Leicester

- Leicester City has the highest rate of oral cancer and the highest level of oral cancer mortality among Local Authority Areas in England.
- The mortality rate from oral cancer in Leicester has been rising between 2008 and 2019 and has been increasing more rapidly than other similar parts of the country



The sooner a person's oral cancer is spotted, the better their treatment outcome tends to be

A person with symptoms or signs that might suggest mouth cancer should therefore see their dentist or GP as soon as possible

Poor dental access can reduce the chance of opportunistic identification of oral cancer



Leicester
City Council

Modifiable risk factors



SMOKING



**SMOKELESS
TOBACCO**



**HEAVY
DRINKING**



**HUMAN
PAPILLOMAVIRUS
(HPV)**

Action plan

Strategic Priority 1: Improve awareness of signs and symptoms of mouth cancer

- Raise awareness of signs and symptoms
- Promote self-checks
- Support health professionals to make mouth cancer diagnoses

Strategic Priority 2: Reduce prevalence of risk factors for mouth cancer

- Reduce prevalence of smoking and communicate mouth cancer risks to people who smoke and ex-smokers
- Reduce prevalence of harmful levels of alcohol consumption
- Raise awareness of the link between smokeless tobacco and mouth cancer
- Improve uptake of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination

Strategic Priority 3: Improve access to medical and dental advice for those with mouth cancer symptoms

- Encourage attendance of regular dental check-ups
- Increase awareness that doctors, as well as dentists, can diagnose mouth cancer
- Create options for dental access for those who are unable to register with a dentist

Next steps

- Mouth Cancer Action Plan working group
 - Multi-agency group
 - Meet quarterly
 - First meeting Feb 24
 - Implementing action plan