



Update on Oral Health in Leicester

Report for : Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission

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Lead Director : Ruth Tennant, Director of Public Health

Useful information

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Suggested content

1. Purpose of report

This is the second report to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission and provides an update on Oral Health in Leicester.

2. Summary

In September 2013 Leicester City Council established the Oral Health Promotion Partnership Board (OHPPB) to facilitate and coordinate responsibilities and activities for improving oral health. Three months after being established, the Board agreed and endorsed the first Oral Health Promotion Strategy (OHPS) for preschool children (2014-2017).

Poor oral health, as with general health, is more common in individuals from areas of relative deprivation. The wider determinants of health such as poverty, poor housing, access to food, access to services, education and unemployment impact on oral health as they do on general health. Dental decay has been shown to be multigenerational; caregivers with higher decay are more likely to have children with high decay. Therefore improving oral health can have a positive impact on general health and wellbeing across the life course for a wide variety of factors such as diet, nutrition, sleep, social interaction, work, school readiness & confidence. Tooth extraction under general anaesthetic is also one of the key reasons that children are admitted to hospital with associated preventable costs for the NHS.

The ambition of the board is to see a 10% increase in the number of 5 year olds who are decay free by 2019. Dental health survey results for five year olds released by Public Health England in May 2016 already show a significant 8% improvement.

Soon after it was established the board embarked on the establishment of Leicester's early intervention programme Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles! (HTHS!). A range of leaflets aimed at adults & children have been developed & distributed and are also available to download.

The Council has received an award from the Royal Society of Public Health for its programme of oral health improvement for children. The Chief Dental Officer is also looking into how the Leicester model can be fed into a national programme.

3. Recommendations

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission are asked to note the contents of this update.

4. Report

Update

Oral Health Promotion Services: Leicester's Oral Health Promotion Service (OHPS) was established in February 2015. This extension to the skills mix has been key in delivering operational aspects of the oral health programme. To date 401 people have attended oral health training, and 758 members of staff in pre-school settings have been trained to deliver Supervised Toothbrushing. The service has been at 83 venues & spoke to 6240 people about oral health during national campaigns like National Smile Month, World Oral Health Day & Mouth Cancer Action Month.

Supervised Toothbrushing Programme : All pre-school settings in the City have been given the opportunity to take part in a supervised toothbrushing programme with free training & free resources provided by the Council.

The numbers of settings currently offering the programme & movement since the last briefing are :

Measure	Previous Briefing	Current Position
STB Programme (Primary Schools) : - Proportion of offering STB - Number of children involved	20% (n=15) 1288	23% (n=17) 1518
STB Programme (Nursery & Playgroups): - Proportion offering STB - Number of children involved	45% (n=62) 3198	59% (n=77) 4595
STB Programme (Special Schools) : - Proportion offering STB - Number of children involved	0 0	13% (n=1) 16

The supervised toothbrushing in specials schools is being piloted at Ellesmere College and is aimed at all children on the school's roll.

Targets have been set for the Oral Health Promotion Service to ensure the number of settings in the programme continues to increase. The initial focus is nurseries and playgroups followed by schools.

Oral Health Resource Packs: The Universal offer of free toothbrushes and toothpastes to all children in the city at 5 separate points in their lives by age 5 has continued. During December 2016 packs were distributed by city schools to all children in nursery & reception classes. These are in addition to the packs already being distributed by Health Visitors. Over the last 2 years approximately 50,000 packs have been distributed. Targeted packs were distributed by the Family Nurse Partnership & Travelling Families Team.

Dental Epidemiology: As part of the NHS Dental Epidemiology Programme for England, our supplier will soon start collecting information on the oral health of 5 year olds in the city. This data will be an indicator of our progress against our target for a reduction in 5 year olds with decay. The data will also be used by NHS Digital to allow them to link the survey data with a

dataset they hold containing height and weight information from the National Child Measurement Programme

Training: The OHPS held a Continuous Professional Development aimed at dental practice practitioners. The theme of the event was dental prevention. During the event the success of the first Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles! accredited dental practices was celebrated. The event was attended by 86 dental care practitioners from 14 dental practices across the city.

Accreditation Schemes

Dental: The James Cooil Dental Suite, Fosse Dental Care & Moti Smile Design Centre became the first dental practices in the city to receive the Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles! accreditation. This quality mark of excellence demonstrates their commitment to improving oral health by supporting and promoting dental prevention.

Nursery: Applications for the pilot of the nursery accreditation were recently opened to nursery settings. The scheme aims to lay solid foundations for good oral health throughout life via regular toothbrushing, health eating & regular visits to the dentist.

Pharmacy: The OHPS is currently working in partnership with the Leicester Pharmaceutical Committee to ensure oral health is incorporated in the Healthy Living Pharmacy Accreditation Scheme.

Adults

A booklet advising on Oral Health in Pregnancy is currently available in all maternity receptions across UHL. Leaflets on tobacco and oral cancer were given out during Stoptober & Mouth Cancer Action Month 2016. A general leaflet on adult oral health is available in front line settings. A leaflet on diabetes and oral health will be available in late February 2017.

During Mouth Cancer Action Month the Oral Health Promotion Service held a number of roadshows across the city raising awareness of mouth cancer and teaching members of the public how to self-check. These sessions were delivered in partnership with NHS Health Education working across the East Midlands.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

The OHPPB has a ring fenced partnership budget of £631k funded by Leicester City Council & NHS England to cover the years 2014 to 2019. By the end of financial year 2016/2017, the estimated spend over a two year period is £405k. This leaves an estimated £226k to be used to continue delivering the strategy objectives until 2019.

5.2 Legal implications

N/A

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

N/A

5.4 Equalities Implications

N/A

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

N/A

6. Background information and other papers:

None

7. Summary of appendices:

None

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

No