



Update on Oral Health in Leicester

Report for: Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission

Report Date: November 2017

Lead Director: Ruth Tennant, Director of Public Health

Useful information

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Suggested content

1. Purpose of report

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

2. Summary

In 2012/13 Leicester had the highest proportion (53.2%) of dental decay in five year olds in England. Poor oral health can impact a child's diet, nutrition, sleep, social interactions, work, school readiness and confidence. Dental decay is more common in people from areas of relative deprivation, and the wider determinants¹ of health impact on oral health as they do general health. Poor oral health and dental decay have been shown to be multi-generational; caregivers with higher decay are more likely to have children with high decay.

Therefore improving oral health to improve children's health was made a priority for Leicester City Council's Public Health team in 2013.

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 across partner organisations. The OHPPB includes representatives from NHS England, Health Education England, Public Health England, HealthWatch, Leicestershire County Council and LCC Children's Services.

Three months after being established, the Board agreed and endorsed the first Oral Health Promotion Strategy (OHPS) for preschool children (2014-2017). The OHPPB developed Leicester's early intervention programme Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles! (HTHS!). A range of resources and activities aimed at adults & children have been developed and implemented since 2014.

The ambition of the board is to see a 10% increase in the number of 5 year olds who are decay free by 2019. Public Health England's latest data for dental decay in five year olds were released in May 2016, and Leicester has had a significant 8% improvement. The next set of data will be released by Public Health England in early 2018.

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 and her deputies have visited

1 Poverty, poor housing, access to food, access to services, education and unemployment

Leicester on multiple occasions to assess our programme and its impact.

3. Recommendations

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

4. Report

Health Teeth, Happy Smiles!

Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles! is an early intervention programme that works both 'on the ground' and strategically to improve the oral health of Leicester's children and adults. The programme is jointly funded by LCC and NHS England.

HTHS! includes an Oral Health Promotion Service at Leicester City Council that has 2 Oral Health Promoters, a Programme Officer and a Prevention Programme Assistant. This team deliver the Supervised Toothbrushing scheme and oral health campaigns, and they work with partners, community groups, etc to embed oral health messages in the wider health and care work happening in Leicester.

Activity Update

NHS England's Starting Well: Leicester is one of 13 areas to be included in the initial 12 month pilot of NHSE's Starting Well programme. This programme seeks to improve the involvement of dentists in oral health prevention work, and the expected start date is early 2018. The launch event was held on 26 September with the Chief Dental Officer and LCC's Director of Public Health in attendance.

National Smile Month: National Smile Month is a country-wide campaign held annually from 15 May to 15 June. LCC took part in NSM with a variety of activities throughout the month. NSM was launched in over 50 early years settings at 11am on 15 May, and the event was shared on LCC social media. Lift the Lip clinics were held across the city in toddler time sessions. Foundation dentists spoke to families about their oral health and how to check for decay. During the sessions we spoke to 206 parents and assessed 244 children. Pharmacists also ran the campaign in their facilities to better advise customers on oral health.

Mouth Cancer Action Month: MCAM is running throughout November. The at risk population for mouth cancer includes individuals who are in care homes, drink alcohol, use tobacco and/or use illegal drugs. Therefore, LCC is targeting care homes, homeless shelters and users of substance misuse services. Sessions are being held to both educate individuals and care home staff on self-care and checking for mouth cancer.

Supervised Toothbrushing Programme (STB): All early years settings in the City have been given the opportunity to take part in a supervised toothbrushing programme with free training and free resources provided by the Council.

The numbers of settings currently offering STB:

| Measure | Previous Briefing | Current Position |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| STB Programme (Primary Schools) : | | |
| - Proportion of offering STB | 23% (n=17) | 25% (n=19) |
| - Number of children involved | 1518 | 1865 |

| | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| STB Programme (Nursery & Playgroups): - Proportion offering STB - Number of children involved | 59% (n=77) 4595 | 75% (n=90) 5583 |
| STB Programme (Special Schools) : - Proportion offering STB - Number of children involved | 13% (n=1) 16 | 25% (n=2) 106 |

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 to achieve 80% of nurseries and playgroups. As we have now achieved 75%, we will begin to more intensely target schools.

Special Schools: The supervised toothbrushing in specials schools has been offered to an additional school after a successful pilot at Ellesmere College. More special schools will be added to the programme over the next 6 months.

Accreditation Schemes

Dental: there are now five out of 10 pilot practices accredited with full 'Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles!' status. This quality mark of excellence demonstrates their commitment to improving oral health by supporting and promoting dental prevention.

Nursery: We have accepted 7 settings across the city into the pilot scheme, so far 1 has met all the standards and achieved accreditation. 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.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

The OHPPB has a ring fenced partnership budget funded by Leicester City Council & NHS England to cover the years 2014 to 2019.

5.2 Legal implications

None.

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles! works to ensure deliveries and travel around Leicester are managed in an efficient way. The team is registered to use the Council's electric car scheme to further reduce our impact on the environment.

5.4 Equalities Implications

Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles! provides both targeted and universal events and services. The programme does not disadvantage any particular group of people.

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