



Update on Oral Health in Leicester

Report for: Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission

Report Date: August 2018

Lead Director: Ruth Tennant, Director of Public Health

Useful information

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Suggested content

1. Purpose of report

This is the fourth 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 was released in May 2018 and Leicester has had a significant 15% improvement, therefore exceeding the original target. The BDA (British Dental Association) praised Leicester for the work on improving children's oral health.²

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

² https://www.bda.org/news-centre/press-releases/child-tooth-decay-gap-persisting?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=tooth_decay_gap

However, Public Health England also released a Local Authority Variation Report in May 2018³ with Leicester listed in the 30 worst areas for child oral health in the country. Therefore oral health remains a priority.

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 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. The programme is jointly funded by LCC and NHS England.

HTHS! includes an Oral Health Promotion Service at Leicester City Council that has 2 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. This ties in with our existing HTHS! Dental Practice Accreditation Scheme so the team are working closely with the practices involved and NHS England to support this.

National Smile Month: National Smile Month (NSM) is a country-wide campaign held annually. This year NSM ran from 14th May – 14th June. LCC took part in NSM with a variety of activities throughout the month. NSM was launched in over 20 early years settings at 11am who took part in synchronised toothbrushing. The launch event was picked up by The Leicester Mercury. 13 Lift the Lip clinics were held across the city in toddler sessions. Foundation Dentists spoke to families about their oral health and how to check for decay. During the sessions we spoke to 175 parents and assessed 215 children. All children were given a goodie bag with leaflets, a brushing chart, toothbrush and toothpaste in. An evaluation of the campaign is currently being conducted.

Educational Resource Packs: In January 2018 oral health resource packs were launched city wide for Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. The packs include lesson plans, activities and a storybook. They are aimed at incorporating oral health messages into lessons that fit with the national curriculum. The packs are available to download for free via our webpage. Various communication channels have been used to promote the packs. So far they have been downloaded by over 20 settings and work is ongoing to increase this. An evaluation

³https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/707179/Local_authority_area_variation_in_the_oral_health_of_five-year-olds.pdf

will be carried out in January 2019.

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 - Number of children involved	25% (n=19) 1865	26% (n=20) 2006
STB Programme (Early Years Settings; nurseries and preschools) : - Proportion offering STB - Number of children involved	75% (n=90) 5583	73% (n=87) 5706
STB Programme (Special Schools) : - Proportion offering STB - Number of children involved	25% (n=2) 106	25% (n=2) 106

Primary Schools: Since the last briefing an additional school has started doing supervised toothbrushing. From September 2018 the team will be getting in touch with all primary schools who do not participate to request a meeting with the EYFS lead to get more schools involved.

Early Years Settings: Slightly less settings are involved due to a setting closure and the team being unable to get hold of some settings. Although the number of settings participating has decreased the number of children involved has increased due to some settings increasing the number of children they have on roll.

Special Schools: The supervised toothbrushing in specials schools has been offered to an additional school after a successful pilot at Ellesmere College.

Accreditation Schemes

Dental: there are now three city practices accredited with full 'Healthy Teeth, Happy Smiles!' status. Nine practices are working toward accreditation. This quality mark of excellence demonstrates their commitment to improving oral health by supporting and promoting dental prevention.

Early Years: Seven nurseries have achieved accreditation during a 12 month pilot. The scheme aims to lay solid foundations for good oral health throughout life via regular toothbrushing, health eating & regular visits to the dentist. Evaluation of the scheme is being carried out to determine the added value of the scheme over and above STB.

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

