

County Durham Oral Health Strategy 2016-2019

Key Areas of Focus 2016-2019

<p>Early Years Settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase breastfeeding initiation and at 6-8 weeks by 5% Breastfeeding friendly venues – maintain UNICEF accreditation status Increase in families accessing the dentist in 30% most deprived MSOAs Plain drinking water in public sector venues is main drink available Provide a choice of sugar free foods – including vending machines Oral health part of early years strategy and included within current practice in order to identify need early Training on oral health promotion given to front line practitioners Targeted oral health promotion work for vulnerable groups Align dental practices to children centre cluster areas in targeted communities Deliver and evaluate a three year tooth brushing scheme in targeted nurseries, working with local dental network 	<p>Primary School Settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of schools following national school food plan: ensure plain drinking water available and sugar free snacks Encourage schools to include oral health as part of the curriculum School nurses to promote dental access at parent sessions School nurses to assist with dental practices regularly visiting schools to facilitate the uptake of dental care in targeted communities Oral health promotion team to work with special schools through the academic year Training sessions delivered to special school support staff on oral hygiene Deliver and evaluate a three year targeted tooth brushing scheme working with the local dental network to deliver intervention 	<p>Workplace and Community Settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make plain drinking water available in community venues Provide a choice of sugar free food, drinks and snacks, including from vending machines Encourage and support breastfeeding with work places and communities Healthy living pharmacy – SMILE campaign delivered annually Oral health in Health at Work campaigns 	<p>Vulnerable Group (children and adults at high risk of poor oral health)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral health promotion team to work specifically with special schools and those educated outside of mainstream Explore feasibility of minimum set of standards for oral health within care home contracts, and those in receipt of adult social care Include training and support in residential care homes on importance of oral hygiene and dual training on dementia care as part of contract Implementation of labelling dentures to reduce loss and cost of replacement Align dental practices to each residential care home to ensure a general dentist is available for advice/guidance <p>Workforce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Education North East – oral health promotion training course. Evidence based advice and guidance to early years and care homes <p>County Durham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the possibility of water fluoridation
---	--	---	---

<p>Aims and Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce the population prevalence of dental disease – and specifically levels of dental decay in young children and vulnerable groups. To reduce the inequalities in dental disease. To ensure that oral health promotion programmes are evidence informed and delivered according to identified need. <p>The gap in oral health inequalities between children living in deprived communities and those in less deprived communities needs to reduce and the action plan will be targeted accordingly. Targeted work must also continue with vulnerable groups such as those with poor physical and mental health and the frail elderly population.</p> <p>Due to the overlap with other health promotion messages for many other preventable conditions, there is benefit in combining approaches and making sure oral health is embedded into other health promotion work rather than a stand-alone topic. The aim is to improve people's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> diet – this includes reducing the amount of sugar consumed oral hygiene access to fluoride <p>National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance provides 21 recommendations which can be applied to a 'settings based' approach. The strategy sets out the intentions for how the Action Plan will be pragmatically applied and collectively delivered by partners and stakeholders, to embed oral health over the next three years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years Settings Establishing good oral health routines in early life is crucial and health practitioners and early years workers can be a key part by providing evidence based information and advice. Primary School Settings Promote a 'whole school' approach to oral health by ensuring the school environment promotes and protects oral health. Workplace and Community Setting Workplace is an environment where oral health can be promoted and the public sector can positively impact upon its communities. Vulnerable Group (children and adults at high risk of poor oral health) Frontline health and social care staff working with groups at high risk of poor oral health need to be appropriately trained to meet the needs of vulnerable groups. Workforce It is important to make every contact count and support our residents to make healthier choices.
--	---

<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral health is important for general health and wellbeing. Tooth decay is the most common oral disease affecting children and young people, yet is largely preventable. People living in deprived communities consistently have poorer oral health Vulnerable groups are more likely to suffer from poor oral health. Other risk factors include poor nutrition, high consumption of sugar and lack of access to fluoride 	<p>Vision</p> <p>Our vision is that "every child grows up free from tooth decay as part of every child having the best start in life". The oral health of local communities is important for their general health and wellbeing and their quality of life. It may be improved by adopting a common risk factor approach and by providing evidence-based oral health promotion programmes and interventions.</p>	<p>National Policy Context</p> <p>NICE guidance 'Oral health: approaches for local authorities and their partners to improve the oral health of their communities', states 21 recommendations for Health and Wellbeing Boards to consider. This guideline covers improving oral health by developing and implementing a strategy that meets the needs of people in the local community. It aims to promote and protect people's oral health by improving their diet and oral hygiene, and by encouraging them to visit the dentist regularly.</p>	<p>Local Policy Context</p> <p>The County Durham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p> <p>This sets out the way in which every child can have the best start in life and includes a focus on improving oral health.</p>
--	--	--	--