

Summary of Hull's Oral Health Action Plan 2015-20

The action plan was produced by the Oral Health Advisory Group (OHAG) in Hull and endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Priority Actions:

Brush for Life programme	Health visitor led programme that promotes regular brushing of children's teeth using fluoridated toothpaste. The programme builds on antenatal initiatives, including Health Visitors antenatal contact and involves dental packs containing toothpaste, a toothbrush, free-flow cup and a health educational leaflet being distributed to the parents/carers of all infants at their 3-4 month, 9-12 and 2 – 2.5 yrs development checks. This is supported by timely evidence based prevention advice from the health visitor and signposting to local NHS dental services.
Supervised tooth brushing programme in targeted childhood settings	Involves the delivery of a nursery/school based daily tooth brushing programme for 3-7 yr olds in targeted schools and nurseries in the most deprived areas of the city. Jointly provided by Teeth Team and by 0-19 Public Health Nursing service.
Explore the feasibility of a community based fluoride varnish programme	To assess whether it was possible and affordable to provide a fluoride varnish programme in childhood settings delivered by primary care dental teams.
Assess the feasibility of water fluoridation	To provide necessary information to inform any decision about whether to pursue water fluoridation.
Increase the proportion of children regularly attending NHS dental practices	Explore further opportunities to signpost people to local NHS dentist practices and for dental practices to actively encourage attendance including encouraging dental practice teams to proactively engage with schools including parents/carers and children.
Increase varnish application rates and other recommended preventative measures in NHS dental practices	Use a range of approaches to increase the provision of preventative measures in practices including training, awareness raising, and commissioning levers/models.
Staff training in dental practices	Cascading updated Making Every Contact Count (MECC) and Delivering Better Oral Health (DBOH) training for dental teams with reference to the model of brief interventions aimed at alcohol and tobacco use (27 NHS dental practices).

Training for health, educational and social care professionals	To enable front line staff working with children and vulnerable adults to be able and confident to promote good oral health.
Dental resources for schools	Supporting schools to educate children about oral health through the provision of a physical and virtual 'resource box'.
Review oral health domiciliary provision	To ensure that current provision is adequate to improve oral health of older people and that where necessary oral health is included in individual care plans.
Explore peer-support interventions to improve access to dental service	Recognises the value in empowering both individuals and communities in Hull to be active in developing oral health promotion.
Include oral health in local strategies, policies and programmes	Increase partnership working and integration of oral health into work around children and older people, healthy weight/obesity, tobacco control and alcohol.
Improve healthy eating and reduced intake of sugar	Includes increasing use of sugar-free medicines for children, reducing high sugar food/drink and healthy food policies in children's settings and workplaces.

Desirable actions:

- A new 'school starters' scheme involving distribution of dental packs to all children starting primary school in Hull.
- Supervised tooth brushing programme in all childhood educational settings (rather than targeted) across Hull, based upon evidence based guidance and for children up to 11 years (rather than targeting 3-6 year olds)
- Oral health promotion in residential care homes
- Explore the potential for 'child friendly' and health promoting award scheme for NHS dental practices and children's centres
- Explore further oral health promotion opportunities in early years settings
- Research to explore the oral health needs, barriers and beliefs of vulnerable groups
- Explore with OHAG future training models, eg. online training, to support MECC and DBOH training for dental practice teams.