

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL
DENTAL HEALTH AND THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 - ACTION PLAN**

14 FEBRUARY 2024

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	POST TITLE	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>a) That a further census survey of 5-year-old children is undertaken to enable analysis of data at a ward-level to identify health inequalities and enable the delivery of more targeted support.</p>	<p>Current survey taking place in schools, led by NHSE/ICB and delivered by Tees Community Dental Service and commissioned by the ICB.</p> <p>Anticipated school surveys taking place in Middlesbrough, between mid-March and April 2024.</p> <p>Action: Work with the dental survey team to optimise the uptake of the survey with schools and parental consent rates.</p>	<p>Health Improvement Specialist</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>March to July 2024</p>
<p>b) That a locally tailored oral health strategy is developed, which is based on an oral health needs assessment.</p>	<p>Oral Health Needs Assessment: Understanding oral health inequalities in the North East and North Cumbria (June 2023) and will be followed shortly by an ICB strategy.</p> <p>Action: To develop a Middlesbrough Oral Health Plan via the development of an oral health partnership, to deliver the recommendations of the strategy within Middlesbrough.</p>	<p>Health Improvement Specialist</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>September 2024</p>

c) That the Local Authority works with the relevant local authorities in the North East, the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), NHS partners and the relevant water companies to support and delegate responsibility to respond to the OHID national water fluoridation public consultation (due in early 2024) to the Director of Public Health.	<p>Action: Ensure key representation at the regional working group.</p> <p>Action: Gain support from the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p> <p>Action: To develop a local communication and Engagement Plan to respond to the consultation.</p>	<p>Public Health Principal</p> <p>Consultant in Dental Public Health</p> <p>Health Improvement Specialist</p>		<p>January 2024</p> <p>January 2024</p> <p>February 2024</p>
d) That the Health Scrutiny Panel receives regular updates on progress made with implementing a water fluoridation scheme for the region, including the outcome of the public consultation.	Action: Schedule regular updates to Health Scrutiny and the Health and Well-being Board in both forward plans	Public Health Principal	N/A	February 2024
e) That targeted work is undertaken to increase uptake of the supervised tooth brushing programme and ensure engagement of the early years settings and primary schools located in town's most deprived areas.	<p>Public Health is working in partnership with the Tees Oral Health Promotion Team and Harrogate and District Foundation Trust (HDFT) to increase the uptake of schools and early years settings participating in the toothbrushing programme.</p> <p>Participating in the toothbrushing programme is mandatory criteria included in the Eat Well Schools Award and Eat Well Early Years Award, working with primary schools and early years providers.</p>	Health Improvement Specialist	£15,000 per annum	July 2024

	Action: Public Health to work with the Oral Health Promotion Team and the 0-19 Team to increase uptake in the toothbrushing programme.			
f) That, for those families who choose not to engage with the health visiting service, free toothbrushes and toothpaste are sent via postal delivery to encourage parents to adopt good oral health practices.	<p>Health Visiting distribute toothbrushing packs to all families at the 1-year review. At the 2-year 3 month review, toothbrush packs are distributed to vulnerable families.</p> <p>Action: For the 5% of families who do not engage with Health Visiting, Public Health will meet with HDFT and review the current pathway for those who do not engage.</p> <p>Action: To meet with Health Visiting and to develop an understanding of the families who are not engaging with the service.</p>	Health Improvement Specialist	N/A	March 2024
g) That a targeted community fluoride varnish programme is commissioned to reduce health inequalities across Middlesbrough's population.	Action: To explore the feasibility of a fluoride varnish programme with the ICB, targeted at the schools with the highest rates of dmft.	Health Improvement Specialist	<p>Based on 2018 costs (£30,000) per annum</p> <p>Any future spend will be found from the existing Public</p>	April 2024

			Health Grant.	
h) That, to influence the national reform of NHS dentistry, the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel writes to the Secretary of State and the NHS England regional team undertake work, to make access to NHS dental services equal and affordable for everyone in the region.	Action: Chair to write a letter to the SoS	Chair	N/A	February 2024 - completed
<p>i) That an update is submitted to the Health Scrutiny Panel in 6 months' time in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board's (ICB) recovery plan to improve access to NHS dental services; and how feedback from the local population has been utilised to formulate solutions and determine future plans. <p>j) That Teesside University, the Local Authority and the North East and North Cumbria ICB work collectively to overcome and address current referral restrictions associated with the Student Dental Facility, with an aim to improving accessibility for those experiencing problems with accessing NHS dental care.</p>	<p>Action: Ensure the update is scheduled on the forward plan for Health Scrutiny.</p> <p>Action: To explore the feasibility of having an outreach dental service in the LWC (Live Well Centre) with the ICB and Teesside University (in accordance with the Dental Contract and Regulations).</p>	<p>ICB Director</p> <p>Health Improvement Manager / Dental Contract Manager ICB</p>	N/A	<p>February 2024</p> <p>July 2024</p>