

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



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| REPORT OF: | Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing Executive Member for Children Young People and Education |
| LEAD OFFICERS: | Director of Public Health Strategic Director for Children and Education |
| DATE: | Thursday, 13 April 2023 |

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| PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: | Public Health Prevention and Wellbeing Children Young People and Education |
| WARD/S AFFECTED: | (All Wards); |
| KEY DECISION: | N |

SUBJECT: EB Oral Health Improvement Strategy - One Year On

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Blackburn with Darwen (BwD) was identified as having the highest proportion of five year olds experiencing dental decay in England, with 51% of our five year olds having at least one decayed, missing or filled tooth. The rate for the North West is 31.7% and for England it is 23.4% (Public Health England, 2018/19).

The BwD Oral Health Improvement Strategy, which highlighted 15 key recommendations, was ratified by the Council's Executive Board in October 2021 with the official strategy launch being held in May 2022. The main focus of the strategy is on prevention, which requires a multifaceted approach involving education, healthcare, dental services, young people's services, the community, voluntary and faith sector and Public Health.

The aim of the oral health improvement strategy is to improve the oral health of children, alongside vulnerable adults, and the elderly in supported living or in care homes. The long term vision is to see an increase in children starting school with a full set of healthy teeth who will then grow into adults with healthy strong teeth.

A key recommendation is to deliver targeted preventative interventions in our early years' settings as the best return on investment. With sustained investment and focussed resourcing, the impact of these interventions will be evident in the next two to five years, measured by the surveys of five year olds in 2023 and 2025 and evaluation of the recommended interventions.

Vulnerable adults who misuse substances or are homeless or those with a severe mental illness or learning disability, also require additional targeted oral health interventions, as identified in a Public Health England report 'Inequalities in Oral Health in England' (March 2021). In addition, the strategy includes elderly residents in care homes as a target group requiring improved oral health care support.

Local partners and stakeholders are committed to improving oral health in BwD. Public Health has provided the strategic leadership and co-ordination, and has a key role in leading the delivery of the strategy to ensure senior level, multiagency ownership and co-ordinated local action. The five year

strategy (2021-26) adopts a life course approach, aligned to the three Health and Wellbeing life stages of start well, live well and age well.

The purpose of this report is to update the Executive Board of progress made to date and the new priorities for 2023/24.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- Notes the content of the report.
- Note that poor oral health remains a significant public health issue requiring ongoing senior level leadership and commitment to improving oral health across the life course.
- Note the progress made to date by all partners and the key issues impacting on delivery of the action plan.
- To note the priorities for year two of the delivery of the Oral Health Improvement Strategy.

3. BACKGROUND

When the Borough was identified as having the highest rate of tooth decay in England in 2018/19, the public health team worked with partners to develop an oral health improvement strategy and action plan. These were approved by the Executive Board in October 2021 and a launch event for the strategy took place at Ewood Park in May 2022. The launch was attended by a range of stakeholders and partners and helped to raise the profile of the work happening across the borough

The 'One Year On' report in Appendix 1 reviews all activity which has taken place over the past 12 months against the recommendations, with the following highlights:

- Launch event held at Ewood Park in May 2022
- Roll out of the newly commissioned Oral Health Improvement Service
- GULP (Give Up Loving Pop) delivered in 40 Year 3 classes in primary schools
- Engagement work in Madrassah
- Kind to Teeth parent champions training
- 'Lift the Lip' being implemented in primary care
- Max's Not So Sweet Dream book reading and dental nurse talk in primary school assemblies
- Start, Live and Age Well oral health improvement training delivered to front line workers

Year 1 has seen more activity around the mobilisation of the Start Well element of the strategy. Now that this work is becoming embedded the focus can shift towards Live and Age Well activity over the coming 12 months.

On 23rd March 2023, the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities released the most recent 'decayed, missing or filled teeth' data for 5 year olds. This new data indicates there has been a significant decrease from 51% in 2018-19 to 40% in 2021-22 for BwD with the Borough no longer the worst in the country.

Looking forward to 2023-24, the Oral Health Improvement Partnership have identified the following priorities:

- Improve oral health support for Looked after Children and Care Leavers (Start Well). This will include working with the Integrated Care Board who now commission dentistry to make sure all Looked after Children have access to a dentist even when they move placements. Following a successful pilot in Rossendale between Lancashire County Council's Children's Social Care and dental practices in Rossendale, the Integrated Care Board hope to further support our Looked after Children's oral health across the Lancashire & South Cumbria area.
- Develop a programme of support for homeless people to improve their oral health (Live Well)

- Develop a network of 'Oral Health Champions' within care settings and linking with the Food Alliance to reduce malnutrition which impacts on oral health through ill-fitting dentures (Age Well)
- Develop closer links between dentistry and primary care in BwD. (All age)

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The remit of the Council in oral health improvement is around prevention across the life course. This strategy supports a preventative approach and all recommendations are prevention focussed.

The complex commissioning arrangements around dentistry remains an issue in terms of the amount of 'units of dental activity' available in BwD as commissioned by NHS England. Responsibility for dental commissioning will move from NHS England to Integrated Care Boards from April 2023. Whilst the level of provision by total 'units of dental activity' across the borough cannot be increased, there will be an opportunity to influence the commissioning of 'additional services' to suit local need.

The cost of living crisis will continue to impact on residents over the coming 12 months. Affordability of dental treatment and purchasing toothbrushes and toothpaste has the potential to impact on progress made to date. Links will continue to be made with local organisations who are able to provide toothbrushes and toothpaste via the Household Support Scheme for older children and adults which will support the universal toothbrush and toothpaste offer through the Start Well Oral Health Improvement service.

Capacity across the system remains a risk for continued and new engagement. The Oral Health Improvement Partnership remain committed to work together to support organisations to deliver against the recommendations.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no new financial implications. The strategy and action plan is being delivered within existing partner agency budgets and the Department of Health and Social Care Public Health Prevention grant. The Public Health Grant allocation to Oral Health Improvement for 2022-25 is £125k per annum.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Transfer of public health from the NHS to local government and what is now the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (which is part of the Department of Health and Social Care) has introduced a significant extension of local government powers and duties and represents an opportunity to change focus from treating sickness to actively promoting health and wellbeing. Section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 inserted a new section 2B into the NHS Act 2006 to give each relevant local authority a new duty to take such steps as it considers appropriate to improve the health of the people in its area. Therefore, under section 2B of the NHS Act 2006, local authorities should provide or commission such oral health promotion programmes as they consider appropriate to improve the health of the local population in their areas.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

An oral health improvement strategy group has been formed, which is chaired by The Executive Member for Children and Education. It oversees the oral health improvement strategy and is informed of progress made of the oral health improvement action plan.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

10. CONSULTATIONS

Consultation for the Oral Health Improvement strategy included:

- Adults & Prevention Senior Policy Team (Sep 2021)
- BwD Food Resilience Alliance group (Sep 2020)
- Care Network (Aug 2021)
- Change Grow Live / Inspire BwD (June 2021)
- Children & Education Senior Policy Team (Feb 2021)
- Children's Partnership Board (July 2021)
- East Lancs & BwD CCG, Pennine Lancashire Children and Young Peoples Transformation Programme, Priority scoping workshop, Oral Health (July 2021)
- Eat Well Move More Shape Up group (Sep 2020)
- Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer (June 2021)
- Healthwatch public consultation (July 2021)
- IMO (Apr 2021)
- Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust (June 2021)
- One Voice (Apr 2021)
- Parents in Partnership (July 2021)
- Public Health & Wellbeing Senior Policy Team (Feb 2021)

'One Year On' report consultation included:

- Health Protection Board 9th March 2023
- Public Health Senior Policy Team 14th March 2023
- OHI Strategy Partnership Board 23rd March 2023
- Children's and Education Senior Policy Team 28th March 2023

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION: 1

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| CONTACT OFFICER: | Gillian Kelly, Ailsa Smith, Beth Wolfenden |
| DATE: | 13 th April 2023 |
| BACKGROUND PAPER: | Appendix 1 Oral Health Improvement Strategy – one year on report |