

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Health and Wellbeing Board	15/06/18
<b>Subject:</b> Dental Public Health	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Public Health	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Tizzy Keller, Strategy Officer (Health and Children)	

## Summary

Oral health is a key component of overall health and wellbeing. Tooth decay and oral disease is largely preventable but remains a widespread health problem and increases the risk of a number of serious health issues. Effective oral public health services are an essential component of public health improvement.

This report outlines the oral public health services that are currently being delivered in the Square Mile through our commissioned provider. It highlights how the Public Health Team are working with the provider expand their activities within the City. This report also includes some possibilities for opportunities to increase dental public health provision and provide additional activities within the Square Mile to ensure we are effectively improving the oral health of our population.

## Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.
- Review options for expanding oral health promotion and agree the approach.

## Main Report

### Background

1. Oral health is a key marker of the general health of a community. Oral disease has a negative effect on an individual's physical and psychological well-being and reduces quality of life. In addition, it increases risk of other serious health complications, including stroke, diabetes and heart disease. Tooth decay is largely preventable but remains a serious problem within the UK, where almost a third of five year olds suffer from tooth decay<sup>1</sup>. Interventions aimed at preventing tooth decay occurring and sustaining long-term improvements in oral health are essential components to improving population health.
2. In the London Borough of Hackney and City of London, tooth decay is a significant problem. Inequalities exist with trends suggesting that dental disease is increasingly concentrated in population groups suffering social deprivation or

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<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup> Royal College of Surgeons: Faculty of Dental Surgery, The state of children's oral health in England, 2015

exclusion. Ensuring that services and provisions are in place and sufficient to improve oral health and reduce oral health inequalities is a component of the Health and Wellbeing Board's role.

### **Current Position**

3. On behalf of the City of London Corporation, the London Borough of Hackney commissions a service to improve oral health and reduce oral health inequalities in Hackney and the City of London. The provider of the service is Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust.
4. Currently, the service:
  - Delivers a fluoride varnish programme to children in reception and year one at Sir John Cass school and dental health education sessions for parents at the children's centre. They are in the process of organising oral health training for staff and nominating a dental champion to ensure they are successfully promoting oral health throughout the school.
  - Delivers toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste (brushing for life packs) to children through Sir John Cass school, the City and Hackney looked after children nursing team, the paediatric dietitian and the City's health visitor.
  - Have trained the City's health visitor to integrate oral health into the healthy child programme. They have also trained staff City and Hackney Carers Centre and The Alzheimer's Society for Hackney and the City to promote oral health to vulnerable adults.
5. We are working with the provider to expand their activities within the City, in line with their service specification, in the following ways:
  - We have informed the provider about, and put them in touch with, the City's two independent primary schools (Charterhouse Square and St Pauls Cathedral). Both schools have now been invited to take part in the oral health schools services.
  - We have put the provider in touch with other groups in the City working with vulnerable adults, including the Adult Social Care team, to help deliver their community based preventative services and targeted provision of toothbrushes and toothpaste packs.
  - We will continue to promote their service amongst City of London Corporation staff and partner organisations that work with their target groups.
6. Sir John Cass staff and parents are happy with the service they are receiving and don't feel that any additional services in the school or children's centre are required. They highlighted that it would be beneficial to raise awareness amongst parents that children can go to any City dentist that provides NHS services free of charge, and that children should visit a dentist before the age of one.

### **Options**

7. The City of London Corporation has recently been approached by a private dental practice in the City which is keen to undertake oral health activities to the City's population, as part of a wider "corporate social responsibility" programme.

It is possible that other private dental practices in the City may also be interested in this kind of initiative.

8. Some additional opportunities to increase the provision of oral public health services in the City, potentially to be delivered with private partners, could include:
  - Provide oral health information sessions for children, young people and their parents in community spaces, with a focus on areas with higher levels of deprivation in the City e.g. delivering sessions in Portsoken community centre.
  - Distribute toothbrushes and toothpaste in more community settings e.g. libraries at children's sessions, community centres.
  - Organise supervised tooth-brushing sessions to for children and young people, focusing on those with special educational needs and learning disabilities (SEND), in community sessions.
  - Organise a health promotion campaign to raise awareness of free NHS dental services for children, the importance of young children visiting dentists, free apps available to encourage young people to brush etc.
9. It is proposed that officers contact other private dental practices in the City to determine whether they would also wish to be involved in oral health promotion activities, and to gauge their level of interest in the opportunities above.
10. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to review these options; suggest other possible options for additional oral dental health services in the City; and agree the approach.

### **Corporate, Strategic and Health Implications**

11. Oral public health services positively impact physical health and wellbeing. They contribute to the following corporate and strategic objectives:
  - **Corporate Plan-**  
Contribute to a flourishing society- *People enjoy good health and wellbeing*
  - **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy-**  
Priority 4- All children have the best start in life  
Priority 5- Promoting health behaviours
  - **DCCS Business Plan-**  
Priority 4: Health and Wellbeing

### **Appendices**

- 'None'

**Tizzy Keller**

Strategy Officer (Health and Children)

T: 020 7332 3002

E: [tizzy.keller@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:tizzy.keller@cityoflondon.gov.uk)