

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Health Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 25th March 2019

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

ORAL HEALTH IN SLOUGH – UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**

To inform the Panel of the picture of oral health in Slough, and the current service provision update for supporting oral health.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Panel is requested to consider the actions being taken to deliver improved oral health, particularly in children in Slough.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities –**

The current programme is aimed at supporting local children and their families to improve their health and wellbeing through improved oral health. In particular, this work supports the Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Protecting vulnerable children
- Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The primary outcomes where delivery will be enhanced by the paper are:

- Outcome 1: Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
- Outcome 2: Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendations of this report and outlined activities are within the current budget and resources.

(b) **Risk Management**

There are no identified risks associated with the proposed actions.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications to the content of this report

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

The content of this report does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

5. Supporting Information

Context

- 5.1 Further to the arrangement agreed in the Health Scrutiny Panel on 28 June 2018, that the chairs of the Panel and Slough Wellbeing Board meet regularly to discuss issues of mutual interest, the chairs have met and an initial topic of oral health (with a focus on childhood oral health) has emerged. This report therefore provides an update on the Slough oral health projects and future provision.
- 5.2 Specific oral health activities that are running in Slough are described below. These are primarily funded from the SBC Public Health grant but where indicated, are part of a pilot initiative from NHS England who are responsible for NHS dental care. SBC Public Health also work closely with our South East Region oral health experts in PHE.

Update on current initiatives and successes in oral health

- 5.3 **Oral Health promotion project, “Slough Healthy Smiles”** – This project is provided by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. It is an SBC Public Health-commissioned project. The project aims to upskill early years staff to be proficient in supervised tooth brushing; and knowledge around good oral health provision. For quarters 1-3 in 2018/2019 the project delivered 39 information sessions amounting to a total of 176hours worth of promotional activity. The project has delivered 10 training sessions to 117 healthcare professionals and accredited a further 5 venues on top of the 10 Children Centres. This provision also includes a range of workshops for adult social care staff and carers that work with vulnerable older adults.
- 5.4 The Healthy Smiles services are now fully integrated with the “Active Movement” programme, whereby primary schools have a structures programme of wellbeing which includes a specific phase on Oral Health. During this phase the oral health team provide training and information sessions to the primary school.
- 5.5 The Public Health team has agreed to extend this contract with Oxford Health until the end of March 2020, at which point we will review the service and evaluate how to expand and grow on this successful work.
- 5.6 **PHE “Starting Well” initiative** – Slough Public Health are working with PHE (Public Health England) and Slough community dental practices in this NHS England-funded initiative to provide outreach to 6 primary schools in Slough. The initiative works on 2 levels; to provide support to schools to supervise tooth brushing in Reception Class and Year 1 and for local increase the number of children and families using dental services. The programme also includes community open days. One was delivered in October half term 2018 and the other in February half term 2019. During these days there were activities,

children's games and free check ups provided to Under 5 residents as well as good press coverage in the local papers and on social media.

- 5.7 This project has received confirmation from NHS England that funding will be extended for a further year, culminating in Spring/Summer 2020. Discussion is currently ongoing to which dental practises and schools will be engaged for this next phase of delivery.
- 5.8 **Healthy Early Years and Healthy Schools coordinators update**– Through the Public Health grant, the Public Health and Schools Quality teams are in the process of establishing two coordinator posts that will support early years settings and schools to develop a broad evidence-based approach to health and wellbeing amongst its students, families and staff. The Healthy Early years post has now been recruited and in the process of formulating work plans. The Healthy Schools post is still in the recruitment phase.
- 5.9 **Public Health research insights project** – We have recently commissioned “M.E.L Research” to conduct an in-depth health beliefs research project. Through a comprehensive programme of surveys and focus groups using existing community groups, the project will gain a granular understanding of our residents’ beliefs and attitudes towards health, the barriers that our more challenged communities have in terms of improving their own health and understanding local examples of what is already working to improve health for individuals and the community. The project will focus on our key health inequalities, one of which being oral health.

6. Comments of Other Committees

A related paper on childhood oral health was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in August and the Wellbeing board in November 2018.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Oral health is important to health and wellbeing but also acts as marker of health inequality in certain key groups including children and ‘at risk’ adults. Therefore, in addition to oral health-specific interventions which are cost-effective and evidence-based, it is important to provide individuals and communities a wider, holistic approach to support them to keep themselves well.
- 7.2 The Public Health team are continuing this work through:
- Reviewing the evidence and learnings on oral health from the research insights project, due in the summer of 2019
 - Reviewing the Healthy Smiles programme, post April 2020
 - Working with PHE to explore options of how to extend the Starting Well programme, post Summer 2020.
 - Working directly with Slough early years settings and schools to embed healthy behaviours and knowledge amongst students, families and staff through the new Health settings roles.
 - Maintaining the monitoring of adult oral health (through formal survey) and as required, working with others with closer links to those people identified to be ‘at risk’ of poor oral health.