

National Dental Inspection Programme 2019

Almost four out of five primary 7 (P7) children in Lanarkshire have healthy teeth with no obvious decay, according to the latest figures from the recent annual National Dental Inspection Programme (NDIP) report.

The latest figures reveal that 78.4 per cent of Lanarkshire's P7 children have no obvious caries, an increase of 4.3 per cent on the previous survey in 2017 and an improvement of 31 per cent from the first P7 NDIP survey in 2004/05. The Scottish Government set a target of 74.9 per cent of P7 children in Lanarkshire to be caries free by 2022 and these latest figures confirm that Lanarkshire has already significantly exceeded that target.

Anne Moore, NHS Lanarkshire director of dentistry, said: "We are pleased that these latest figures for Lanarkshire show some very encouraging signs of improvement.

"There is still work to do to tackle the significant levels of dental disease, especially in more deprived areas. We will use this information gathered from NDIP, together with other indicators of deprivation, to ensure our robust Childsmile prevention programme is appropriately targeted, as are our clinical services, to provide care.

"The integrated work between health and social care is no more ably demonstrated than in our Childsmile programme which delivers oral health prevention, advice and treatment through home visits, dental practice visits and nursery and school toothbrushing along with fluoride varnish applications. This joint working approach is undoubtedly responsible for the improvements we have seen over the last 15 years."

Director of Dentistry



Anne Moore has been appointed as the director of dentistry – the first for NHS Lanarkshire.

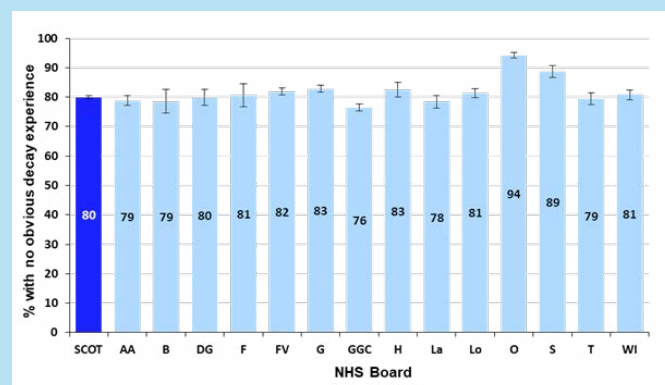
She took up the role permanently from January 2020 having undertaken the post in an acting capacity.

The director of dentistry is responsible for all aspects of dentistry within the Board, similar to the role of medical director for medicine and acts as a conduit to Scottish Government. Anne will be champion and lead for delivering the oral health improvement plan across Lanarkshire.

Anne said: "I feel very proud and honoured to have been appointed as the first director of dentistry for NHS Lanarkshire and will do my best to represent all aspects of dentistry in the interests of improving the oral health of our population."

"My plans for the future are to build on the existing strong links between the different branches of the profession and also with our social care partners, to ensure we continue to deliver the highest quality care for our patients and the population of Lanarkshire through our excellent prevention and clinical teams."

Percentage of P7 children in Scotland with no obvious decay experience in 2019; by NHS Board



SDCEP Dental Companion app

The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP) has launched its second app, the *SDCEP Dental Companion*.



This app joins the popular *SDCEP Dental Prescribing* app as a handy way of accessing SDCEP's evidence-based dental clinical guidance on your mobile device to support improvements in patient care. For convenience, the *Dental Companion* is also provided as a [website](#) for access from any computer.

The *Dental Companion* presents four diverse guidance 'toolkits' based on the following SDCEP publications:

- [Prevention and Treatment of Periodontal Diseases in Primary Care](#)
- [Management of Dental Patients Taking Anticoagulants or Antiplatelet Drugs](#)
- [Oral Health Management of Patients at Risk of Medication-related Osteonecrosis of the Jaw](#)
- [Prevention and Management of Dental Caries in Children](#)

Each toolkit includes the key recommendations from the full published guidance, with supporting tools such as flowcharts and links to patient information.

The app is available to download free on [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#).

The *SDCEP Dental Companion* is suitable for dental professionals working in primary and secondary care dental practice, those involved in dental education and undergraduate trainees. The app may also be of relevance to other healthcare providers.

Updated Resources for Radiation Protection

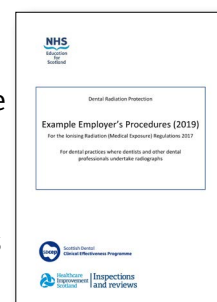
The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme has updated the Radiation Protection section of their Practice Support Manual (PSM) in line with the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 and Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposures) Regulations 2017.

The 2017 Regulatory changes include:

- the need, since 2018, for dental practices to register with the Health and Safety Executive for the use of x-ray equipment (previously only notification was required).
- the practice's appointed Medical Physics Expert should now be on the Radiation Protection Agency 2000 register to demonstrate recognition by the competent authority for medical exposures.
- additional procedures to provide guidance and dose constraints for the exposure of carers and comforters, and procedures for equipment quality assurance are also now required.

The additional resources include:

- updated PSM templates and checklists, including new templates for equipment testing records, Radiation Protection Supervisor appointment and quality assurance.
- updated example Employer's Procedures, including new example procedures for exposure of carers and comforters and equipment quality assurance. Templates within the procedures are also provided as separate files for convenience.
- new example protocols for exposures and example exposure charts.



A new *Guide to Radiation Protection Documentation for the Combined Practice Inspection* to help dental practices better understand and provide the evidence required to meet the radiation protection requirements of the Combined Practice Inspection is now available to download from:

www.sdcep.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/SDCEP-Guide-to-RP-documentation-for-CPI_v1.0.pdf

The PSM can be accessed at:

www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/practice-support-manual/additional-resources-for-radiation-protection

Holiday Clubs and Club365

As part of the Scottish Government's agenda to reduce health and social inequalities, they are committed to encourage partnership working between services and community groups to tackle inequalities.

Whilst the oral health of children in Lanarkshire is showing steady improvement, more work needs to be done in partnership to improve the oral health of the most vulnerable groups to tackle the widening gap of inequality.

Partnership working between local council services has enabled the oral health prevention team to gain access to the most vulnerable children attending school holiday clubs both in North and South Lanarkshire.

School holidays can be very challenging for families on low incomes.

Holiday clubs provide nutritious meals and promote learning through fun and engaging activities.

In South Lanarkshire, Youth, Family and Community Learning Service, with voluntary sector support, are running summer holiday hubs in 13 venues that support young people and families across South Lanarkshire.

The oral health prevention team have introduced toothbrushing as a routine daily activity in South Lanarkshire holiday clubs.

Supervising staff are trained and provided with appropriate resources to enable toothbrushing to be carried out daily.

As part of the support provided by the public dental service, oral health educators deliver short lessons on the importance of the three key oral health messages and provide each child with a toothbrush and toothpaste to encourage and support toothbrushing at home.

In North Lanarkshire, Club365 initiative provides free meals and activities for children at weekends and holidays as child poverty is above the national average according to the latest figures.

Club365 operates as more of a drop in service, therefore daily toothbrushing activity is not an option.

However, oral health educators provide packs containing toothbrushes and toothpaste for every child attending to encourage and support daily toothbrushing at home.



Young people taking part in the daily toothbrushing activity at the summer club based within St. Joseph's Primary School at Blantyre



Teachers report that children return to school in a better frame of health and mind, and local food banks report that fewer families with children are referred during school holidays.

This, along with a raft of other initiatives to tackle inequalities, is regularly supported by the public dental service to help improve the oral health of the most vulnerable.



A healthy cooking session being conducted by a nutritionist for the Chinese community

Oral Health Community Challenge Fund

This £2.5 million Scottish Government fund is supporting new or enhanced activities which will reduce the number of young children having a general anaesthetic for tooth extraction. Projects link to a range of health initiatives such as local food co-operatives, cooking skills' development, breast and infant feeding support or link with wider social factors such as welfare benefit support, physical activity and child obesity.

Five third sector organisations working in Lanarkshire were successful and are currently implementing their oral health projects:

- Getting Better Together Ltd – the aim is to engage with families and deliver weekly sessions on good oral hygiene and cooking sessions, including meal planning with a clear focus on reducing sugar in the diet. Dental role play, toothpaste tasting and poster competitions are being used to raise awareness.
- Lanarkshire Chinese Association – aims to improve oral health in families in the Chinese community. Focus groups and surveys have been conducted to establish current knowledge of oral health and identify needs in relation to healthy cooking. Healthy cooking sessions have started and two part-time sessional staff have been recruited.
- Home-Start Glasgow North – aims to offer support for parents and children aged 0-5 years old in the promotion of both oral and general health; providing resources for group workers, parents and volunteers to enable them to implement a daily toothbrushing routine at home.
- Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Project – aims to improve oral health of children from birth to three years by using a family approach to healthy eating through cooking classes. Oral health messages will also be embedded into existing as well as new healthy eating projects for example High Five for Fruit and Healthy Mummy Happy Baby.
- Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust – aims to implement a community led grassroots engagement and information oral health campaign for children and families. The campaign will explore and address barriers in the community to improving oral health.

All of the organisations are being supported by the NHS Lanarkshire health improvement department, with training, consultancy and advice on prevention, health behaviour change and evidence-based practice.

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