

Keep Lanarkshire Smiling

September 2023

Recycle and Smile



Recycle and Smile was launched as a pilot in a small number of boards in April 2023, including NHS Highland, Ayrshire and Arran, Borders, Orkney and Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Feedback from the pilot has been positive and Lanarkshire is currently looking forward to supporting the launch of this scheme in the later part of 2023.

Paul Cushley, Director of Dentistry, NSS, said: "Like all health boards across the country, sustainability is high on our agenda as we work towards our ambition of becoming a net zero organisation by 2040."

Peter King, Childsmile Programme Manager said: "Childsmile is committed to improving the oral health of children in Scotland and reducing inequalities.

"Ensuring that our practices are as sustainable as possible is very important to us and this is such a simple way to make a difference. Nurseries, schools and Childsmile teams across the country are vital to this programme's success.

"Recycling all this plastic will contribute to a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Scotland – and that's certainly something to smile about!"

Further information on the *Recycle and Smile* initiative can be found at: www.childsmile.nhs.scot/about-childsmile/sustainability/recycle-and-smile.

Each year in Scotland, the Childsmile programme delivers oral health prevention programmes within schools and nurseries in order to provide children with targeted caries prevention. Part of the vital work being carried out by the Childsmile teams involves toothbrushing in schools and nurseries, as well as providing oral health packs at intervals throughout children's early years.

The environmental consequence of this programme which is now being recognised is the generation of plastic waste from toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes. Each year in Scotland, the Childsmile programme generates plastic waste from one million toothbrushes and 178,000 tubes of toothpaste.

With sustainability being an increasingly important consideration in healthcare, NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) and Childsmile have teamed up to look at ways in which the impact of plastic waste from the toothbrushing programmes can be reduced. This has resulted in the introduction of *Recycle and Smile*.

The new process is simple and easy for everyone involved. Childsmile professionals will take the programme's used toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes to the local Public Dental Service collection site.

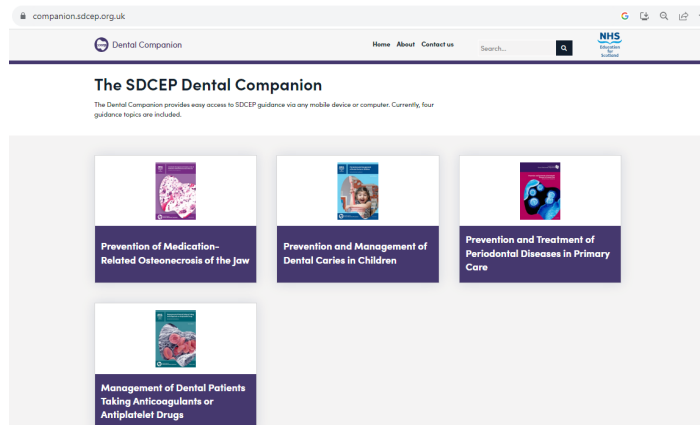
NSS' recycling partner will collect the used items, break the plastic down into small chips and sterilise it. Once processed, it's ready to be recycled into useful items such as vehicle parts, garden planters and playground equipment.

SDCEP Dental Companion website

The Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP) Dental Companion app has been replaced by a new mobile-enabled Dental Companion website (<https://companion.sdcep.org.uk>).

This website should be used instead of the Dental Companion app, which has been withdrawn and should be deleted from all devices. You can create an icon button on your mobile device home screen to provide quick access to the new website.

The Dental Companion was launched in 2019, providing easy access to SDCEP guidance via a mobile app or web-based resource for desktop computers.



The Dental Companion presents four '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

Access to the Dental Companion is now via the upgraded, mobile-enabled website. This single resource delivers the same content and provides better user experience across devices. Being a website, accessing content requires an internet connection.

Indemnity consensus statement

It is inevitable that, from time-to-time, errors will occur in clinical practice and patients may be avoidably harmed. The best way to reduce the chances of errors being repeated is to encourage a move from a 'blame' culture to a 'learning from events' culture in clinical dental practice.

To facilitate this change, dental indemnity organisations – BDA Indemnity, the Dental Defence Union, Dental Protection, the Medical & Dental Defence Union of Scotland, All Med Pro, Densura and Professional Dental Indemnity – formed a working group as part of 'Project Sphere', an NHS England-led patient safety forum, in order to help move away from the 'blame culture' in the profession.



The organisations have issued a consensus statement encouraging dental professionals to make sure they seek advice from appropriate sources when patient safety incidents occur, highlighting that advice should come from an experienced and competent adviser, who is knowledgeable of the dentolegal environment.

The statement strongly discourages use of social media and other informal information sources – which have the potential to leave dental professionals misinformed – and reassures dental professionals that 'there is no limit to the number of times you can call for advice, and the frequency of calls does not impact individual indemnity fees.'

The full consensus statement is available to view or download at: <https://cgdent.uk/wp-content/uploads/securepdfs/2023/05/Indemnity-Consensus-Statement-v5.pdf>.

Student Outreach Teaching Clinic Lanarkshire



The Dental Outreach Clinic within the Buchanan Centre in Coatbridge is a teaching facility where final-year dental and hygiene/therapy students from both The University of Glasgow and Glasgow Caledonian University, carry out dental treatment for unregistered NHS patients under supervision by senior dentists and hygiene/therapy tutors.

The facility is now also accepting referrals from dental practitioners for registered patients who may wish to join the waiting list to receive treatment.

Examples of suitable referrals include:

- (1) If a patient is unable to afford NHS treatment
- (2) If time or other constraints mean a dentist feels unable to carry out certain procedures
- (3) The dentist has completed a specific treatment but it has been unsuccessful for whatever reason and may require some remedial non-specialist care

One course of treatment is offered to suitable patients after an initial triage and assessment. The referring dentist remains responsible for all continuing and emergency care and treatment provided is free of charge. The Outreach clinic is operational during academic term time only and therefore does not run during Christmas and Easter holidays and select summer months.

As this is a teaching facility, appointment times will be longer than in general practice.

Patients who are not currently registered with a dentist can join the waiting list by contacting the Outreach reception on 01698 754 650. If you are a dental practitioner wishing to refer patients, please contact 01698 754 650 and we will provide a referral guidance pack and referral forms.

Oral Health Improvement Team Flash Report



The NHS Lanarkshire Oral Health Improvement Team is a small dedicated team working towards ensuring children across Lanarkshire, have the best chance to grow up with good oral health.

It aims to achieve this by promoting good oral health from a person's birth, right through their adulthood. It is important to encourage adults to be positive role models for children in relation to good oral health, and to support our ageing population to continue to access oral health care whether at home or in the community.

The team wants to make sure that everyone, no matter where they live, can have the best oral health they possibly can.

The 2022/2023 flash report of the Oral Health Improvement Team is available at:
www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/download/health-improvement-2022-23-flash-reports/?wpdmdl=60537&refresh=64c3cd3d84f571690553661&ind=1683897952265.

The Right to Smile consensus statement

It is well recognised that people experiencing severe mental ill health can have their lives restricted and shortened by conditions such as diabetes and heart disease, which also links with poor oral health. However, less recognised is that they also experience serious inequalities in oral health, with high rates of tooth decay, gum disease and tooth loss. This can affect functions as basic as eating and speaking.



It can affect a person's confidence and self-esteem. It can interfere with relationships or keeping a job.

The Right to Smile consensus suggests that tackling this inequality is overdue. Poor oral health should not be an inevitable consequence of experiencing severe mental ill health. *The Right to Smile* advocates for a 'whole-person' approach which recognises that there can be no health without oral health.

There is a lot dental teams can do to support. Oral health practitioners value preventative interventions, and dental diseases like tooth decay, gum disease and oral cancer are preventable if good oral self-care behaviours are implemented at the outset. These include regular toothbrushing with a fluoride toothpaste, reducing frequency of sugar intake, and cessation of smoking and alcohol intake. We therefore need to shift our focus from 'downstream' treatments that commonly involve extraction of teeth and are offered in crisis for advanced tooth decay and gum disease, to 'upstream' prevention and early intervention when a diagnosis of severe mental illness is first established.

The *Right to Smile* consensus statement is available at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/media/lancaster-university/content-assets/documents/fhm/spectrum/Oral_Health_Consensus_Statement.pdf.

Patient safety huddle sheets

The huddle sheets aim to encourage non-judgemental, open reflection among oral health and dental care teams in primary care, to further embed learning from patient safety incidents. They expand upon existing safety standards and toolkits, facilitating systematic evaluation of the impact of patient safety events on clinical sessions/days and team members, identifying any potential additional support and training required.

Dental teams are encouraged to download and edit the huddle sheets, so that they may be adapted to meet individual practice needs. Maintaining copies of both the post-patient safety event and reflection huddle sheets is advised, to support and evidence learning.

Huddle sheets and supporting guidance are available at: www.england.nhs.uk/publication/huddle-sheets-and-supporting-guidance.

Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees



Inauguration of Christina Ferry as Chair of Conference by the outgoing Chair Lindsay Milton (right)

Congratulations to Christina Ferry on being elected to be the Chair of the Conference of Scottish Local Dental Committees (LDC) for 2023–2025.

Christina is a principal dentist of Rutherglen HC Dental. She is also the current Chair of Lanarkshire LDC and GP Subcommittee of Area Dental Advisory Committee.

Hazel Hannigan, vice chair of Lanarkshire LDC, was also elected to be the Chair Elect of Conference of Scottish LDC. Hazel is a principal dentist of Hannigan Dental Care in Muirhead.

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