

Tamar to Moor & South East Cornwall Joint Health & Wellbeing Working Group Update

Context

- In December 2023, the Tamar to Moor & South East Cornwall CAPs agreed to establish a joint working group to look at health & wellbeing priorities.
- Terms of Reference agreed in March 2024.
- Working group representatives have been exploring where the CAP partners can have a meaningful impact.
- Dentistry/ Oral Health agreed as initial priority.
- Many other health & wellbeing issues have been brought forward. In order to manage resource and not spread itself too thin, the working group has started to develop a Forward Plan – illustrative draft below which requires further consideration and prioritization.

	Issue	Status	Priority	Partners ...	Useful Docs	Timesc...
1	Dentistry & Oral Healthcare	In Progress	High	ICA, Peninsular Dental Social Enterprise, Public Health, VSF, Cllrs	20240222_MP_briefing_update_on_dental(002).docx	Quarter 1
2	Diabetes	Not Started	High	ICA, Health Hubs, Public Health, Family Hubs		Quarter 2
3	Derriford Hospital (e.g. virtual wards)	Not Started	Medium	ICA, Derriford,		Quarter 3
4	Health outcomes for excluded pupils	Not Started	Medium	CC Education & Community Health, CASH, Wave MAT		Quarter 4

Dentistry & Oral Health

- The working group has received briefings from a range of relevant partners, including:
 - Kirsty Lewis - Acting Director Primary Care
 - Danielle Kirby – Integrated Care Area Development Manager
 - Karen Burn - Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise
 - Gareth Walsh - Public Health Practitioner, Cornwall Council
- From the briefings noted above, it is clear that the world of dentistry and oral healthcare is very complex. The working group has drafted a paper outlining the complexities; this draft paper is being considered by the Council’s public health team and will be circulated in due course for the CAP’s background information, but in summary:
 - Integrated Care Boards are responsible for commissioning health services including dental services for their local area, and are accountable to NHS England.
 - Under NHS dental contracts, providers agree in advance to deliver a set amount of activity per year (units of dental activity – UDA). This means dentists cannot offer more NHS appointments, even if they subsequently

Tamar to Moor & South East Cornwall Joint Health & Wellbeing Working Group Update

have capacity to do so. This has more recently changed whereby high performing practices can provide up to 110% of their agreed contract.

1. DENTISTRY

- In 2020, the National Audit Office reported that the UK has the lowest number of dentists per capita in Europe, with England having the fewest NHS primary care dentists per person across the Four Home Nations.
- Research undertaken by the British Dental Association published in August 2022, showed that 90% of practices across the UK were not accepting new adult NHS patients.
- Challenges recruiting NHS Dentists.
- A national NHS Dental Recovery Plan was released in February 2024 - [NHS Dental Recovery Plan](#). This includes:
 - The launch of dental vans in rural and coastal communities
 - One off payments of up to £20,000 for new NHS dentists
 - The Unit of Dental Activity (UDA) value to be increased from £23 to £28.
 - Locally this means:
 - dental underspend will be used to create a fixed term dental strategy clinical lead.
 - Cornwall and the IOS will be allocated funding to support one mobile dental van.
 - Flexibility will be created for providers to use 10% of the total contract value on a sessional basis

2. ORAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

The 2012 Health and Social Care Act transferred responsibility for oral health improvement from the NHS to local authorities. Oral health initiatives in Cornwall include:

- Big Brush Club - <https://bigbrushclub.co.uk/schools/resources-schools/>
- Smarter Smiles - <https://smartersmiles.co.uk/resources/>
- First Dental Steps will see Cornwall Council's Health Visitors support families with tooth-brushing for 9–12-month-old babies.
- Further info on some of the programmes can be found here - <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/health-wellbeing-and-social-care/three-new-programmes-launched-to-improve-the-oral-health-of-cornish-children/>
- Where can the Community Area Partnership make a meaningful difference?):
 - Promote current initiatives such as “Open Wide & Step Inside” & “Big Brush Club” (<https://smartersmiles.co.uk/resources/> <https://bigbrushclub.co.uk/schools/resources-schools/>)

Tamar to Moor & South East Cornwall Joint Health & Wellbeing Working Group Update

- Oral Health Champion training for CAP members and relevant services such as schools, community hubs, foodbanks, nurseries etc. *Limited availability.
- Detail would need to be worked up, but in principle would the CAP membership consider funding an oral health project which would add value to existing provision across the two CAPs? *It is important to note that any project would be to “add value” rather than subsidising core health budgets and responsibilities.
 - Some Cornwall Cllrs have already agreed in principle to support an oral health project from their Community Chest. Could T&PCs consider contributing?
 - Gareth Walsh (Public Health) is mapping current oral health provision and discussing options to add value (e.g. – resources & training for schools/ service providers, free oral health packs, develop an educational video etc). Once this is done Gareth will update the CAPs on how they can best support and promote oral health in their areas.

Recommendation to T2M & SE Cornwall CAPs

- Help promote existing oral health resources & activity.
- Check with your local school how they are engaged.
- T&PCs to consider funding towards an oral health project across the two CAP areas.
- Continue to work with budget holders and decision makers to improve NHS dentistry provision.