

Tamar to Moor & South East Cornwall Joint Health & Wellbeing Working Group Update – September 2024

Oral Health remains the focus of the working group and, in particular, how the CAPs can support oral health promotion in early years and primary school provision, with an additional focus on addressing health inequalities by working with foodbanks and community hubs. In our discussions, we have worked closely with Gareth Walsh, Public Health Practitioner in Cornwall Council, and Danielle Kirby of the ICA.

Currently, there are two oral health programmes being delivered in primary schools:

1. Smarter Smiles is in 45 schools in Cornwall (15 schools in each of the three Integrated Care Areas), with the selection based upon Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) of 1-3
2. Big Brush / Open Wide & Step Inside (OW&SI) being delivered in schools with IMD 1-6.
* Some schools have not yet signed up to Big Brush, but this is in hand.

Delivery of oral health programmes for Year 7 (transition to secondary school) was also considered. However, the Working Group feels the focus needs to be on early years/ primary schools, and therefore recommends that the CAPs:

1. Use social media and other channels to promote the oral health programmes across the two CAPs.
2. Explore funding opportunities and apply where appropriate to enable the OW&SI programme to be offered in schools where it is currently not provided.
Open Wide Step Inside - Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise
NB: OW&SI costs £150 per class of up to 30 (including oral health homepacks for each child), and it is estimated that there are 7 KS1 classes across the two CAPs that fall outside of the current programmes (IMD 7-10).
3. Explore funding opportunities and apply where appropriate, to deliver oral health packs and Oral Health Champion training to Foodbanks and Community Hubs.
NB: Family packs (4x toothbrushes, large toothpaste, timer & leaflets) cost £5.29 per pack. Initial estimate is that circa 50 packs are required to be shared amongst the 11 community hubs and 6 food banks.
4. Work with Public Health to help facilitate additional Oral Health Champion training, subject to provider capacity and available budget.

Next Steps:

- Health & Wellbeing Working Group to finalise the project scope and funding required.
- Working Group Chair and Vice Chair to work alongside Community Link Officers and liaise with CC Divisional members regarding potential use of Community Chest funding to finance these recommendations.
- Identify an appropriately constituted body for funding applications.
- Arrange for Oral Health Champion Training to be delivered to the working group.