

Improving Children's Oral Health in NW London – Pilot

14.5.25

The Aims

- NWL ICB has committed to:
 - action to improve access to dentistry for children and young people, with a focus on those from the Core20Plus communities who are mostly likely to have unmet oral health needs
 - Work with communities to understand the factors driving poor oral health in the local population and incorporate their input in service design
 - Review current Oral Health Promotion (OHP) offers in partnership with Local Authorities across NWL to ensure aims are met, recognise and share effective practice and make best use of available resources
 - Develop and implement training to support health professionals to have effective conversations about oral health and signpost to dental services where necessary, as part of MECC
 - Targeted collaborative work across local authorities with education, social and health care and family hubs to signpost children and young people to dental services

The Model

- Children and young people who are unfamiliar with dentistry and/or pre-cooperative, or those with increased clinical needs/complexity may find accessing dentistry more challenging or may not prioritise oral health.
- Due to the financial constraints of the dental contract and the business model under which they operate, clinicians may find it difficult to allocate the time required to acclimatise these patients.
- A model with an enhanced payment rate for Units of Dental Activity (UDA), allows the clinician to allocate more time to the patient and should ensure acceptance of treatments and future compliance.

The Ask

- Selected dental practices will be commissioned to:
 - develop a tailored offer for children and young people (incl. longer appointments) and to provide a range of dental treatment but also provide evidence-based advice on maintaining good oral health based on Delivering Better Oral Health 2021.
 - work with local communities and wider stakeholders to identify and address barriers to access, through a nominated practice champion or similar
 - act as a nominated local dental service for children who have not accessed services previously; working with family hubs/community venues to promote oral health, ensure children are being referred into the designated dental practices
 - develop relationships with other local primary care settings (eg. CDS, GPs, pharmacies, child health hubs etc.) to promote oral health,
 - provide a clear pathway into and out of these practices and into community dental services, where necessary.
 - contribute to monitoring and evaluation of the pilot

Still To Do

- Confirm enhanced UDA rate and payment methodology
- Stakeholder engagement
- Agree monitoring framework and data needed against outcome metrics
- Design launch and mobilisation
- In partnership, design pathways from community settings/venues eg. family hubs to ensure the target populations are able to access the services.
- Identify and design training for dental practices providing these services.

Plan is to launch the services in Q2 2025-26.