

DRAFT ORAL HEALTH GUIDANCE PUBLISHED

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a draft guideline to help local authorities improve oral health. The draft guideline makes recommendations to help councils work with other local organisations (such as the NHS, nurseries, schools, community centres and voluntary groups) to develop a local strategy on oral health and deliver community-based activities to:

- Improve diet and reduce consumption of sugary food and drinks, alcohol and tobacco
- Improve oral hygiene
- Increase the availability of fluoride (such as using fluoride toothpaste -

but water fluoridation is not within the scope of this guideline)

- Increase access to dental services.

Professor Mike Kelly, Director for the Centre of Public Health at NICE, said: 'Helping local authorities to improve oral health in their communities is vital in helping people live a healthier life overall. We are keen to receive comments on this draft version of this new guideline from anyone who is likely to be involved in making key decisions in their local area. We also keen to hear from those delivering frontline services in dentistry, health, social care and education.' A copy of the draft public health guidance can be found at <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PHG/61>.

ORAL HEALTH PROMOTION TEAM HOLDS SPEED DATING EVENT



On 12 April 2014 the Oral Health Promotion Team from County Health Partnerships, part of Nottinghamshire Healthcare, held a networking event for dental health professionals.

Delegates from dental practices in Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire County and Bassetlaw were joined by Barry Cockcroft, Chief Dental Officer England, and Sandra Whiston, Dental Public Health Consultant for the East Midlands, who set the scene by presenting international, national and local data.

The theme for the conference was children and focussed on families with children under five-years-old. In Nottingham City 39% of five year olds had experience of dental disease (England average 28%) and in the County 20% have had active decay. This highlighted the importance of this agenda in the local area.

Julia Wilkinson, Head of Oral Health Promotion and 'Chief Tooth Fairy' said:

'Current oral health activities we are working on in Nottingham include The City Smiles and Incredible Mouths programmes which involve training to midwifery, health visiting and school health teams to ensure they are all delivering up to date key oral health messages at crucial developmental stages. New initiatives include a drive to increase dental access of families with two year olds through the "two year ticket scheme" with health visiting and dental practices.'

The event included speakers, dental reps, a raffle, goody bags, workshops and 'speed dating' - an opportunity for local services to liaise with dental practices for the first time.

The next conference, on older children and young people, is planned for October.



FIONA IS OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF 2013

Dental nurse Fiona Cullen has received the British Dental Association (BDA) Outstanding Student of 2013 award for being the student who attained the highest standing in the BDA Education Radiography examination in 2013.

Fiona was presented with her award by Peter Ward, BDA CEO, and Alasdair Miller, BDA President, at the British Dental Conference and Exhibition 2014, held in Manchester in April.

This is the first time that this award has been given. The BDA launched its own qualifications in Radiography and in Oral Health Education in 2013, building on the success of its online courses in the same disciplines, which have been offered since 2006. BDA Education has helped over 1,000 dental care professionals (DCPs) gain nationally-recognised qualifications.

Fiona, who works at Finaghy Orthodontic Practice in Belfast, qualified as a dental nurse in 2011 and is actively engaged in further education to gain new skills.

For more information on the BDA's online courses, visit www.bda.org/dcps/course/.

Look out for a full conference report in the June issue of BDJ Team.

