

Update on Oral Health Promotion service in Barnet

HOSC 22 February 2021

Background

Officers have been requested by the HOSC committee meeting to outline progress in delivering the Oral Health Promotion service in Barnet. This paper is a progress update and includes the service user and stakeholder feedback survey results undertaken to inform service improvements.

Public Health and Family Services commissions the Oral Health promotion service for the London Borough of Barnet from Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust since 2014.

Oral Health promoters play an important role in delivering the Healthy Child Programme (an early intervention and prevention public health programme) for all children aged 0-5 years. The service has an annual budget of £59,000 from the public health grant and employs 1 whole time equivalent member of staff. The current contract is due to expire on 30 September 2021 however discussions are underway and the intention is to continue commissioning this service in Barnet.

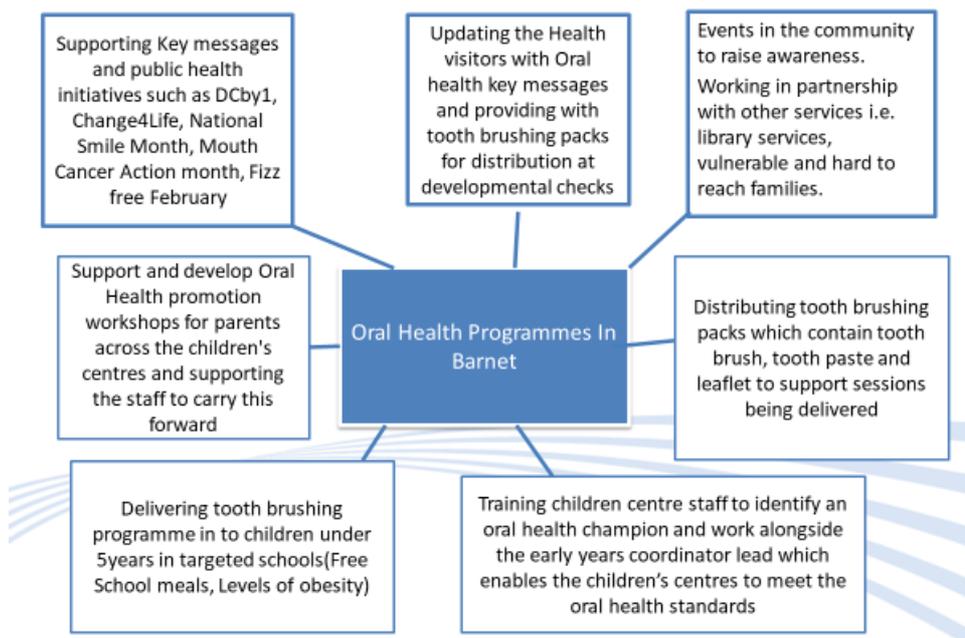
The purpose of the Oral Health Programme in Barnet is to deliver key messages on oral health for young children (up to the age of 5) including children in care and to upskill early years staff to disseminate oral health messages to families. It also raises awareness to parents of the importance of prevention of dental caries and by encouraging them to take their children to local General Dental Practitioners (GDP's) for advice on prevention and healthy eating to support National Oral Health Guidelines.

It is widely acknowledged that dental decay is preventable, yet a third of young children in Barnet are suffering from tooth decay. Good oral health is integral to a child's overall general health.

Poor oral condition has an impact on quality of life affecting health and intellectual development through pain, impaired speech, embarrassment in smiling and laughing, poor child growth and low weight gain causing significant morbidity to the child and financially in turn to the family and society. Oral diseases are seen as a marker of wider health and social care issues.

Service delivery during the pandemic

Although the oral health promotors (OHP) were partially redeployed during Lockdown 1 to support the setting up of an Urgent Dental Care Hub open to all London residents, the OHP started devising a virtual offer, made contact with existing stakeholders regarding their requirements and sent out resources to schools and Early Year settings. Following this no further redeployments have taken place and the table below details the service offer at present (Lockdown 3).



Barnet level data

The table below provides data on children with decay in Barnet and London as well as nationally. In Barnet the proportion of 5-year olds with decay experience is below the London average but above the national. This is in line with results found in the 2017 dental health survey of 5-year-old children (Barnet-24.1%, London-25.7%, England-23.3%). Results suggest there has been no further improvements in prevalence of experience of dental decay since 2017.

	Proportion of 5 year old children with decay experience (2019)	Mean d ₃ mft :Average number of decayed, missing, filled teeth among 5 year olds (2019)
Barnet	24.8%	0.9
London	27.0%	0.9
England	23.4%	0.8

Data source: PHE (2019). National Dental Epidemiology Programme for England: oral health survey of 5-year-olds 2019 A report on the variations in prevalence and severity of dental decay.

There has been a 5.9% reduction in the number of episodes of caries-related tooth extractions in hospital for 0 to 19 year olds compared to the previous year, despite a 0.3% increase in the estimated population of this age group. The reduction is mainly due to the significant drop in the number of admissions for tooth extractions in March 2020. This is consistent with the reduction for all admissions to hospital during this month because of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak. Tooth decay is still the most common reason for hospital admissions in the 6-10-year-old age group. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hospital-tooth-extractions-of-0-to-19-year-olds>)

The commissioner and the service presented to the Barnet Local Dental Committee (LDC) on 11 January 2021 which was well received and has resulted in an invitation to update other dental practitioners at an LDC Dental practitioner forum.

The service has also participated in a commissioner led service user and stakeholder feedback survey between November and January 2021 and the full report and key highlights presentation are in Appendix 2. The survey was well responded to and provided information on:

The quality of the oral health services
What is working well and recommendations for areas of improvements
The level of engagement between services users and the available oral health services

53% of service users were likely or extremely likely to recommend the service and 93% were supervising brushing their children's teeth twice a day.

Next steps

The survey indicated that the majority of respondents (60%) wanted the service to remain in its current form. However, the virtual offer is working better in the community than schools at present due to schools also offering a remote learning experience to most pupils, so it's been agreed to concentrate on the community service offer for 2021 and then from January 2022 to have a 'year of schools' where they become the priority for the service to engage with.

Clare Slater-Robins, Senior CYP Commissioner, LBB

Susan Yadin, Clinical Director - Community and Specialist Dental Services, Central London Community Healthcare Trust

Collette McCarthy, Assistant Director Commissioning & Strategy, LBB

Appendix B – Service user and Stakeholder feedback survey report and presentation



Oral Health SUF
Report Feb 2021 v1.d



Oral Health SUF
presentation Feb 202