

item:	10
report:	CYP38/08

CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH 'A TRAJECTORY FOR IMPROVEMENT' by David Babb

Summary

This report introduces a presentation that will highlight Highland's improvement trends in children's oral health. These trends indicate progress towards the national targets as detailed in the National Dental Inspection Programme reports of recent years.

The presentation will also introduce the Joint Committee to the *Childsmile* programme, which is designed to deliver further improvements to child oral health across Highland.

1 Background

- 1.1 The National Dental Inspection Programme monitors children's dental health in Scotland providing an essential source of information for tracking changes, identifying trends and helping in the planning of future dental services with the aim of improving the nation's health. It is important that each child's dental wellbeing is assessed so that children, with the help of their parents, can enjoy good oral health and take the necessary steps to remedy any problems that may have arisen.
- 1.2 Newly published figures, which are available in a report published at www.scottishdental.org/docs/ndip_scotland2007.pdf cover the school year 2006 to 2007 with nearly 12,000 children taking part, representing 21% of the P7 population in Scotland. This included 626 children in Highland, which is 23.2% of the P7 population.
- 1.3 These figures show an improvement in the percentage of P7 children who showed no signs of having decay or restorative treatment of decay in any of their permanent teeth.
- 1.4 The '*Action Plan for Improving Oral Health and Modernising NHS Dental Services in Scotland*' outlines the development of a major demonstration programme (*Childsmile*) to deliver improved child oral health.
- 1.5 *Childsmile* adopts a multi-agency approach to improving children's oral health through dental practice, community, nursery and school settings. The programme targets children from birth providing a comprehensive pathway of oral health promotion and clinical preventive care delivered by local *Childsmile* dental practices, with additional clinical preventive programmes. Further details are attached as an appendix.

1.6 *Childsmile* will be implemented in Highland over the next few years. The national targets we are working towards are:

- 60% of P1s with no decay experience by 2010 (56.0% for NHS Highland in 2006).
- 60% of P7s with no decay experience in permanent teeth by 2010 (59.4% for NHS Highland in 2007).
- 80% of 3-5 year-olds registered with a dentist by 2010 (66.0% for NHS Highland in April 2008).

Recommendation

The Joint Committee is invited to comment on the issues raised by the presentation.

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Appendix 1
NHS Highland Childsmile Briefing Paper

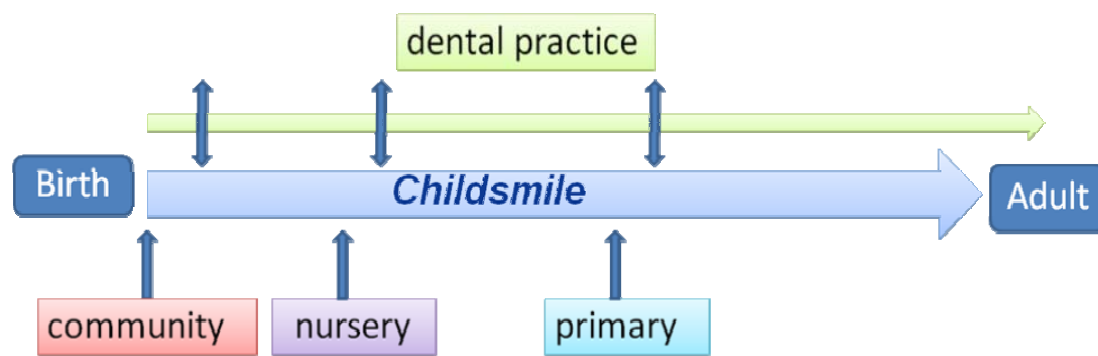


'An Action Plan for Improving Oral Health and Modernising NHS Dental Services in Scotland' (March 2005) outlines the development of a major demonstration programme (*Childsmile*) to deliver improved child oral health.

Childsmile adopts a multi-agency approach to improving children's oral health through dental practice, community, nursery and school settings. The programme targets children from birth providing a comprehensive pathway of oral health promotion and clinical preventive care delivered by local *Childsmile* dental practices, with additional clinical preventive programmes such as fluoride varnish for children attending *Childsmile* nurseries and schools, and supported in the community via a network of *Childsmile* Dental Health Support Workers.

As the NHS dental service for children in Scotland, *Childsmile* must operate on the principle of universal access. However, universal access does not mean uniform provision of service. Additional and intensive support will be directed towards our children and families most in need through community, dental practice and educational establishments. For example, the efforts of community-based *Childsmile* Oral Health Support Workers will be targeted in communities in greatest need and parents and carers supported and empowered to keep their children's teeth healthy. Additional clinical preventive programmes within educational establishments will also be targeted towards the 20% most deprived nursery and primary schools.

Childsmile Care Pathway:



Since the beginning of the toothbrushing programme The National Dental Inspection Programme has highlighted an improvement in the number of 5 year old children in Highland with no obvious decay experience. In 2004 this was recorded as 52% rising to 56% in 2006.

In December 2007 it was announced that NHS Highland would introduce the *Childsmile* scheme within two target areas in Highland with a view that this scheme would contribute to further improving these figures. These areas were identified as Caithness in North CHP and the Merkinch/Dalneigh areas of Inverness within SE CHP.

Key Features of the Programme

***Childsmile* is made of four key components:**

- *Childsmile* Practice
- *Childsmile* Nursery
- *Childsmile* Primary
- Core Toothbrushing Programme

***Childsmile* Practice**

Key staff

- Lead Health Visitor/Health Visitors (HVs)
- Oral Health Support Workers (OHSWs) = 1 per 220 live births
- Salaried/GDS/CDS primary care services

Description

In the first instance *Childsmile* Practice will be targeted towards designated communities within Highland. These are informed by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) in addition to the location of “target” primary schools involved in the core toothbrushing programme.

Childsmile Practice targets children from birth; or those born on or after 1st January 2005. *Childsmile* Practice is reliant on the establishment of formal links between the health visiting and the primary care dental services inclusive of salaried, GDS and CDS services.

The health visitor will provide all families of newborn children within the target area with information surrounding *Childsmile* Practice and will advise that an Oral Health Support Worker will be in contact with the family when the child is around three months old. The health visitor may also recommend that other children in the family born after the 1st Jan 05 are also taken into the scheme.

In addition to the aforementioned care pathway, a child may be enrolled into the scheme by local *Childsmile* dentists. Similarly, if a child is identified within *Childsmile* Nursery/School as not having a local dentist, the child will be linked into Primary Care Dental Services.

It is recognised that some parents and carers may require only information and access to *Childsmile* dental services, while other families may need considerable support and guidance in the early stages or over a continuous period of time.

The Oral Health Support Worker will contact every child at the age of 3 months. This contact will include an oral health promotion session and linking the child into Primary Care Dental Services. *Childsmile* dental service appointments will start at aged 6 months. However, families requiring additional support will receive enhanced home visiting and community support via the Oral Health Support Worker during the first year of life and linked into Primary Care Dental Services at aged 12 months.

From the age of eighteen months onwards fluoride varnish will be applied to the child's teeth on a six monthly basis.

(Additional Features Unique to Highland)

In addition to the two care pathways used on a national basis, children living within designated areas in Highland may be referred onto the scheme by contacting the NHS Highland Dental Helpline whereupon their details will be passed on to the relevant Oral Health Support Worker.

***Childsmile* Nursery and Primary**

Key Staff

- Oral Health Support Workers (OHSWs)
- Dental Nurses (DNs)
- Education/Nursery staff

Description

Childsmile Nursery and Primary will be targeted towards the nursery and primary schools that fall within the designated *Childsmile* areas.

The parents of all children within these schools and nurseries will be asked to consent to their child participating in the *Childsmile* Nursery/Primary scheme. As a participating member of the scheme the child will have fluoride varnish applied to their teeth on a six monthly basis within the school or nursery setting.

This fluoride varnish will be applied by extended duty dental nurses. A team consisting of an oral health support worker and 2 extended duty dental nurses will facilitate the programme within the nursery/primary school.

Any children identified within *Childsmile* Nursery/ School as not having a local dentist, will be linked into Primary Care Dental Services.

Core Toothbrushing Programme

Key Staff

- Oral Health Educators (OHEs)
- Tooth brushing Support Workers
- Education Staff

Description

The Childsmile Toothbrushing Programme is a major Scotland-wide initiative to help improve the health of children's teeth. Free toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste are provided, with key staff working with nurseries to encourage children to brush their teeth with a fluoride toothpaste.

The Programme includes both local authority, voluntary and private partnership playgroups and nurseries. In addition, children who attend primary school in targeted communities are offered daily supervised toothbrushing in both P1 and P2 classes.

Children who are at greater risk of tooth decay may be given additional supplies of free toothpaste and toothbrushes – usually via their Health Visitor or other professional groups. During their first year of life, children are also provided with a free drinking cup to encourage healthy weaning.

Every child who attends a nursery should be offered free daily supervised toothbrushing with Fluoride toothpaste from age 3 upwards.

Implementation in NHS Highland

In the first phase (2008/2009) of the implementation of an integrated Childsmile programme within Highland, the programme will be developed in:

CHP	Communities	Births (approx)	Target Nurseries	Target Primaries
North Highland	Caithness, Thurso, Wick	253	12	6
South East Highland	Merkinch/Dalneigh, Inverness	237	8	3

Areas in Phase Two 2009/2010

- East Sutherland
- Alness & Invergordon
- Islay & Jura

Areas in Phase Three 2010/2011

- Raigmore/Culcabock/Smithton
- Ft William/Skye
- Kintyre (Campbeltown – Lochgilpead)/North Argyll

Phase Four 2011 onwards

- All other remaining areas within NHS Highland's four CHPs

Staff Recruitment

- OHSW – Each area requiring the whole time equivalent of 1 – 1.5 staff per 220 live births. Due to the geography it is intended that staff will be recruited on a part time basis.
- *Childsmile* Dental Nurses (backfill as required)
- Lead Health Visitor per area (backfill as required)

Training (Delivered by NHS Education Scotland)

- OHSW to attend and complete specialised *Childsmile* training
- Dental Nurses to attend and complete the *Childsmile* training
- OHEs to attend and complete *Childsmile* training