

Please share this newsletter with all members of the dental team.

Welcome!

Welcome to the Cheshire & Merseyside Local Dental Network (LDN) Autumn/Winter Newsletter, which includes details of our ongoing work and the plans for the next year. We hope that you have had a good summer break and now looking forward to Christmas!

Message from Roger Hollins, C&M LDN Chair: "The LDN has recently launched the **Starting Well Initiative**. After a very well attended series of peer review evenings we targeted high need areas for support with the DCP Champions. I am delighted to report we have over 40% of practices in these areas signed up to Starting Well, which is a terrific achievement and I would like to thank all the practitioners involved for their commitment to the programme. The LDN is also planning an engagement event for Spring 2019 where we will showcase the LDNs achievements and also the MCNs will be represented so that all providers can see what the work plans are for 2019/20 and have an opportunity to feed back their own suggestions. I would like to thank all of you for your support for the LDN and look forward to continuing our successful collaboration".

In addition, the Managed Clinical Networks (MCN) work with the LDN will enable the delivery of improved outcomes for patients, address health inequalities and utilise continuous quality improvement through pathway redesign and the best use of NHS resources. We have improved communication through the NHS Network site.

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Communication

Please remember that the LDN is open to ALL who work in delivering NHS Dentistry across Cheshire and Merseyside and we would be delighted if you could engage with our work streams. The LDN exists to enable clinical engagement in the commissioning process, to ensure that dental care meets the needs of our patients.

All practices with an NHS contract have recently been required to register for a shared NHS mailbox, this is how NHS England will communicate with the practices in the future. Furthermore, each practice can register up to ten individual accounts. The LDN is continuing to improve the means that we can use to communicate with everyone. We are aware that not all clinicians receive a copy of this newsletter; it is our hope that we can improve this access to information and developments plus other benefits on a more regular basis. To improve this access please send us an email and request that you are added to our mailing list.

Whilst we explore other electronic means the LDN has a site within the NHS Networks Website; click [here](#). We recommend that you regularly visit the site as this is where you will be able to access many documents and further information mentioned within the newsletter plus other very useful guides and advice.

Influenza Vaccination

It's that time of year again! As many of us are in continuous close contact with the general public you may wish to consider a 'flu vaccination. More information is [here](#). The vaccinations are free to high risk groups however the cost is approximately £10 for everyone else. Don't forget to 'spread' the benefit of good hand hygiene!

Managed Clinical Networks (MCN)

MCNs are clinicians working together to influence and improve services and best practice. There are 5 MCNs working independently and collaboratively. Please review information highlighted in previous newsletters.

Special Care: Chair: Alistair Docherty

- Developing a C&M footprint wide Oral Health Needs Analysis for Special Care Dentistry; to provide an overview of projected health needs, available resources for SCD patients. A priority is to share this information with local providers plus the accessibility and scope of available tier 2 & 3 services.
- Development and piloting of a common referral form for all tier 2 & 3 SCD services.
- General anaesthesia services; comprehensive care in a hospital setting is in high demand and a project mapping this and the SC patient journey is underway.
- Domiciliary care for SCD patients is challenging. CDS and GDS providers are invested in this process and additional support for these providers is planned for 2019.
- It is planned to bring these projects together in 2019 with a sharing of findings and plans for care pathways for services and practices throughout C&M in 2019, building on earlier work including the Dementia Toolkit.

Orthodontics: Chair: Colin Melrose

- The eReferral form is currently working well, with most snags now sorted. Work is being done to refine it further to improve efficiency according to experience and feedback from providers, plus the electronic radiograph systems.
- The work plan is also progressing with guidelines in the process of being drawn up on managing noncompliance, multiple failed appointments and a standardized consent for orthodontic treatment.

Oral Surgery: Chair: Tim Lord.

- Triage calibration for new recruits to the triage team.
- Draft referral guidance for tier 1 and 2 practitioners.

Paediatric: Chair: Clare Ledingham

- Starting Well campaign has recently been launched in priority practices across the patch.
- Many practices have signed up as a result of attending the launch sessions and this will be followed by an assessment of the improvements in child dental health across the patch.
- Dental Check by 1 campaign is part of Starting Well.
- How to make dental practices more child-friendly, including use of resources available.

Primary Care: Acting Chair: Roger Hollins.

- The Oral Cancer Toolkit has been adopted by many other LDNs!
- Refinement of the two week eReferral form following feedback from providers.
- Continuing awareness of Oral Cancer including information cards for dental practices.
- Guidance for providers on how to best manage those patients undergoing treatment of oral cancer; plus their care and monitoring post treatment.
- Considering an e-referral for oral cancer preventative services such as smoking cessation.

NOVEMBER IS MOUTH CANCER ACTION MONTH: get involved, visit mouthcancer.org

Public Health England - Improving Oral Health of Older People

Following on from the dementia friendly dentistry programme, we are moving into a new phase of work to improve the oral health of frail older people. As well as the benefits of good oral health for eating, speaking, smiling and being free from pain and discomfort, there is a growing body of evidence linking poor oral health and general medical conditions. The BDJ published a set of four evidence summaries in 2017 which reported associations between poor oral health, and particularly periodontal health, and diabetes, cardiovascular disease, pulmonary disease and dementia.

These associations have triggered an increasing amount of interest from a wide range of 'non-dental' colleagues particularly in respect of the frail older population who may be living at home with additional support, or in care homes, or who may spend long spells in hospitals, and may be dependent on others to help them with their mouth care on a daily basis. The CQC are also beginning to look at arrangements for mouth care as part of their inspection visits to care homes.

Over the next few months we will be working with a team of 'Trainers' (from oral health and health improvement backgrounds) so that we can have a consistent approach to developing the knowledge and skills of staff working in care homes, 'care in your home' agencies and hospitals across Cheshire and Merseyside. The aim of the programme is to enable staff working with frail older people to identify dental problems before they become acute and urgent and to ensure that frail older people have a daily mouth care plan –including help with tooth brushing where needed.

You may have read about the [Mouth Care](#) matters programme and to start things off we are fortunate to have the leads for this programme coming up to Cheshire and Merseyside at the end of November to deliver a 2-day training event to our team of trainers. We will keep you updated on this work programme via this newsletter and other LDN events.

High F toothpaste prescription pad stamps: If you would like a pack, please get in touch with the commissioning team via the generic email address, england.cmdental@nhs.net and they will be distributed on a first come first served basis.

Head & Neck Cancer Awareness Programme

Make Every Contact Count: Dental teams are in a unique position to provide brief and timely advice to a large number of patients who have factors detrimental to their health and who may need signposting to support.

Discussing oral cancer should be a regular point on the practice meeting agenda, so that everyone in the practice should understand the risk factors and problems of oral cancer, and the importance of oral cancer examinations. In addition, everyone within a practice has a role to play; examination, reporting, advice, referral and patient follow up. Prevention is better so help to raise patient awareness and understanding of the need for, and importance of, oral cancer early detection

Antibiotic Prophylaxis against Infective Endocarditis

Be aware of the updated [guidance](#) regarding ABC for patients at increased risk of endocarditis; whilst prophylaxis is not routinely recommended there is a sub group that require special; consideration including patients with

- any prosthetic valve or in whom any prosthetic material was used for cardiac valve repair
- previous episode of infective endocarditis
- congenital heart disease (CHD)

Periodontal Disease 2017- Important Update

The British Society of Periodontology has published the 2017 changes for the multi-dimensional staging and grading framework for periodontitis classification. To help you understand the changes please see their [webinar](#).

Staging levels indicate the severity of the disease and the complexity of disease management, while the grading structure considers supplemental biologic characteristics of the patient in estimating the rate and likelihood of periodontitis progression.

The four categories of periodontitis staging are determined by a number of variables and range from the least severe Stage I to most severe Stage IV. The three levels of periodontitis grading—which consider a patient's overall health status and risk factors such as smoking and metabolic control of diabetes—indicate low risk of progression (Grade A), moderate risk of progression (Grade B), and high risk of progression (Grade C).

Starting Well Campaign

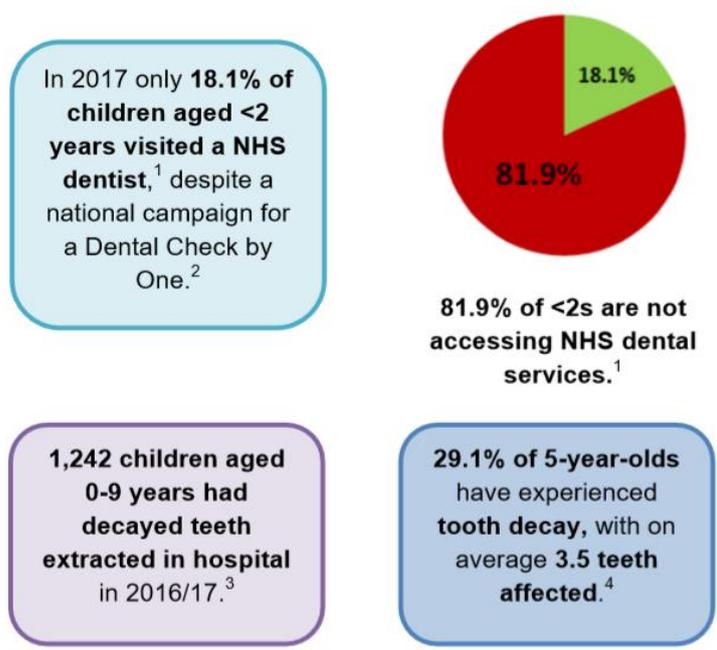
The [Starting Well Programme](#) is being led nationally by the Office of the Chief Dental Officer and aims to increase dental attendance amongst children before the age of 2 years, so that preventive treatment and advice can be given.

NHS England invited 160 dental practices to participate from targeted areas where dental decay levels are high and dental attendance in the very young is low. During October four Starting Well peer review events were held in Leighton, Halton, Wirral and Aintree. The theme of the evening was examining and treating the very young plus a review of prevention pathways. As always, the LDN has worked with a range of partners in putting together these events – on this occasion from the Paediatric Managed Clinical Network, PHE and HEE.

As a result of the workshops 69 practices have now signed up to become ‘Starting Well’ practices. The LDN DCP Champions are now visiting dental practices to provide a team workshop.

The champions are also working in the community to raise awareness of the programme. The target audience are early years’ teams (health visitors, nurseries, etc) in targeted communities to update them on the programme and encourage them to spread the message that dental practices are welcoming the very young. This dental practice-based intervention is part of a range of interventions aiming to improve children’s dental health in Cheshire and Merseyside. More updates will follow.

In the meantime, here are some facts on Cheshire and Merseyside children’s oral health



¹ Source: NHS Digital quarterly dental statistics publications.
² The Dental Check by One campaign is led by the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry.
³ Source: 2017 Extractions data (FCEs with caries as primary diagnosis), PHE.
⁴ Source: Oral health survey of 5-year-old children 2017, PHE.

Antimicrobial Stewardship

Since 2015, healthcare providers in the UK have had a statutory duty to reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance by ensuring appropriate use of antibiotics. Every year, 25,000 people across Europe, and 700,000 worldwide, die from antibiotic-resistant infections. Public Health England (PHE) has found that antibiotic resistance in the UK still on the rise. Dentists currently issue around 7% of all antibiotic prescriptions on the NHS.

The dental antimicrobial stewardship [toolkit](#) shows when to prescribe, how to audit your management of dental infections and how to educate your patients.

Are you ready to test your antimicrobial prescribing knowledge?

The British Association of Oral Surgeons (BAOS) has launched a new [Antimicrobial Stewardship e-Learning resource](#) for oral health professionals to test their knowledge of antibiotic prescribing. Free to take, it consists of three modules of clinical scenario-based quizzes, each of which provides a printable e-certificate of one hour's verified CPD upon successful completion.

FGDP have published the book [Antimicrobial Prescribing for GPs](#) and if you have a TV in your practice perhaps you could show the Keep Antibiotics [advert](#) or post it on your social media

Sepsis

Sepsis following a bacterial infection from a dental condition or treatment is rare, but it is possible for this life-threatening condition to occur if patients are not managed appropriately.

These clinical tools provide a blueprint for excellent sepsis care:

- [Sepsis](#): recognition, diagnosis and early management (NICE)
- [Toolkit](#) for dental practitioners: spotting and managing sepsis (Sepsis Trust)

When the CQC review if the practice is safe and well-led they will consider how the practice deals with patients who present a risk of a dental infection progressing to sepsis. For example, the management of a patient with acute pericoronitis with limited opening of the jaw. In addition, they may review your dental care records to assess how a practice has dealt with previous cases in which a patient has presented with bacterial infection.

Useful Contacts

We would welcome any comments and feedback - [Email](#) the LDN

Cheshire & Merseyside LDN Chair	Roger Hollins	roger.hollins@nhs.net
Primary Care: Acting Chair:	Roger Hollins	
Special Care: Chair:	Alistair Docherty	Alistair.Docherty@merseycare.nhs.uk
Orthodontics: Chair:	Colin Melrose	colinandalison@btinternet.com
Oral Surgery: Chair:	Tim Lord	Tim.lord@rlbuht.nhs.uk
Paediatric: Chair:	Clare Ledingham	Clare.ledingham@liverpool.ac.uk
Dental Team NHS England – North (Cheshire & Merseyside)		england.cmdental@nhs.net

Links:

Dementia Friendly Toolkit	AMR Toolkit	Oral Cancer Toolkit	NICE cancer guidance
CRUK	AMS audit	Antibiotic Guardian	BDA
DBOH	NHS England	Maxcourse	LocSSIPs
Awareness Saves Lives	Starting Well Campaign	2017 Survey of 5 year olds	‘Your NHS data matters’
Dental Check by 1 Campaign	Use of Amalgam	Minamata Treaty of 2013	