

## LAC oral health toolkit published

A new practical guide for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) offering recommendations on oral health for Looked After Children (LAC) has been published.

This Oral Health Toolkit supports Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and key stakeholders in children's oral health to identify the oral health needs, as well as plan and deliver dental services for Looked After Children (LAC).

The toolkit has been written by a working group who have come together to share practical examples of activities and programmes that have been implemented in different regions of the UK. It contains personal reflections and case studies embedded in the document which provide practical and real examples of activities and programmes that have been implemented in different regions of the UK.

The LAC Oral Health Toolkit has been written by four main authors: Laura Johnston, Vanessa Muirhead, Claire Stevens CBE and Katharine Julia Hurry. It has also been supported by 24 other experts with personal reflections on case studies, and six individuals have provided feedback and comments prior to publication. Whilst

BSPD has not initiated this document, the Society supports the publication of this toolkit as part of the drive to ensure that the oral health needs of LAC are prioritised and is now available on the Resources section of the Society's website.

Dr Vanessa Muirhead, author and Clinical Reader, and Honorary Consultant in Dental Public Health, Queen Mary University of London said: 'Looked after Children are an overlooked and vulnerable group. Our research with LAC, care leavers and foster carers shows that they often have unmet dental needs despite the conscientious care often provided in foster families. We created this practical toolkit to draw on evidence, to share examples of different programmes and to provide links to further resources. Tackling inequalities in LAC is essential and a key objective of NHS England national policies such as Core20PLUS5 for Children and Young People. We hope that this toolkit will be widely used to improve dental services for LAC and care leavers at a crucial time in their lives.'

Professor Paula Waterhouse, BSPD President said: 'BSPD is delighted to be supporting the dissemination of the Looked

After Children Oral Health Toolkit since it provides practical guidance for all involved in children's oral health both in terms of how to identify and how to handle an oral care programme for these vulnerable children in our society.

'The collaboration from a broad group of authors who have come together to ensure that this resource is rich in examples, makes this document a fantastic resource for all key stakeholders. We know that children's oral health is in crisis right now, so enabling all who can have a positive input to help those most in need of our profession's support is warmly welcomed.'



## Registration figures are meaningless

The British Dental Association has responded to freedom of information requests by the Scottish Liberal Democrats, showing that:

→ 1.8 million people (more than a third of those registered) have not had an

examination or treatment in the past three years

→ Almost a quarter of those registered have not seen an NHS dentist for more than five years

→ The 95% figure quoted by ministers even includes more than 560,000 people (1 in 10 of those registered) who haven't seen their NHS dentist for more than a decade.

The BDA believe the Scottish Government need to start quoting meaningful participation figures, given lifelong registration figures are effectively meaningless.

David McColl, Chair of the British Dental Association's Scottish Dental Practice Committee said: 'Registration figures make for a nice press release but bear no relation to the crisis facing millions.'



## Correction to: Ways to support your team and patients throughout Ramadan

The original article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41404-024-2640-y>.

Journal's correction note:  
Feature *BDJ In Practice* 2024; 37: 80–82.

When this article was originally published online, an error was made in the spelling of one of the co-authors. The correct spelling should have been Mohammed Shriki, not Mohammed Shiriki.

When this article was originally published online, Figure 1 did not appear. This has also been corrected.

The journal apologises for the inconvenience caused.