

Dear Colleague

### **Purpose**

1. The attached update provides dentists and dental bodies corporate (DBC's) with information about the progress of the Oral Health Implementation Programme to February 2019.

### **Action**

2. NHS Boards are asked to issue the Memorandum to this letter to all dentists and DBCs on their dental lists.

Yours sincerely

Tom Ferris  
Chief Dental Officer (Interim)

19 February 2019

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### **Addresses**

#### For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards

Director, Practitioner Services

Interim Directors of Dentistry

#### For information

Chief Executive,  
NHS National Services Scotland

Chief Executive,  
NHS Education for Scotland

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### **Enquiries to:**

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**DENTISTS/DENTAL BODIES CORPORATE  
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE  
GENERAL DENTAL SERVICES**

**ORAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME –  
FEBRUARY 2019.**

**Purpose**

1. To provide an update and forward summary of the progress of the Oral Health Improvement Plan Implementation.

**Communication**

2. The Scottish Government is committed to maintaining a regular flow of information to dentists as work progresses across the OHIP implementation programme. Directors of Dentistry will be the key person in your local area for OHIP related information and Scottish Government will provide regular PCAs, blogs and twitter messages.
3. OHIP Action 39 suggested that there would be a bi-annual newsletter from the Chief Dental Officer about OHIP, this will be delivered through regular updates on OHIP implementation. The blog will provide further information: <https://blogs.gov.scot/oral-health-improvement/>; and the CDO uses twitter: @CDO\_Scotland

**Summary of implementation progress**

4. The publication of the Oral Health Improvement Plan (OHIP) in January 2018, included 41 Actions that provided the framework for the future of NHS Dentistry in Scotland. The overall programme is being managed through a phasing strategy, which is explained at Annex A. Throughout the past year Scottish Government and key stakeholders have been working collaboratively to deliver Programme for Government (PfG) commitments and other first phase priorities.
5. The focus for 2019 is to develop the keys aspects of Phase 2 activity around the Oral Health Risk Assessment and the Preventive Care Pathway for adults.

*Programme for Government Commitments*

6. The OHIP has brought an increased Ministerial focus to dentistry and two actions were included within the First Ministers Programme for Government 2018/19. The Community Challenge Fund opened for funding applications on Wednesday 13 February and projects are expected to run from 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2022. The Fund is designed to ensure that Third Sector organisations (voluntary organisations or community groups) design and deliver projects that support outcomes to improve infant oral health, reduce oral health inequalities among people most at risk and increase opportunities for people to improve oral health and well-being.

7. The second PfG commitment relates to new arrangements for GDPs to become enhanced in the provision of domiciliary care. Some GDPs have already been approached for inclusion as early adopters for these new arrangements. There will be two programmes of around 20 GDPs per programme during April and May, hosted in Edinburgh and Glasgow by NHS Education Scotland (NES). The new arrangements are expected to come into force on 1 July 2019 through amendments to the GDS Regulations (GDPs will continue to be able to provide domiciliary care under the existing arrangements). We anticipate that these new arrangements will be developed over time and further updates will be provided as the service rolls out across NHS Boards areas.

### *Implementation Progress*

8. More generally across the programme, Interim Directors of Dentistry are now in place in the majority of NHS Boards and Special Boards, and a list is included at Annexe B. NHS Boards have been asked to confirm substantive Directors in post by Autumn 2019. New occupational health services for GDPs and the dental team has been in place since 1 June 2018 and on the basis of initial monitoring are being used by GDPs and the dental team.

### **Next Steps**

9. The development of the Oral Health Risk Assessment and the Preventive Care Pathway for adults features some of the main changes within the OHIP and present in themselves a major reform of dentistry. Scottish Government will be working closely with key stakeholders in the coming months to design the architecture of the new regime. Due to the nature of the reform it is not possible at this stage to provide definitive timescales for implementation. This means that specific information on progress will be communicated at the most appropriate point as the policy develops.
10. Scottish Government will provide further information throughout the year on OHIP matters.

### **Enquiries**

11. Please contact your Director of Dentistry if you have any queries relating to this update.

Scottish Government  
Population Health Directorate  
February 2019

Phase	OHIP Action	Phase	OHIP Action
1A	<b>ACTION (7):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will introduce a new three year Community Challenge Fund for Oral Health Improvement. We will host an event with our partners to help develop the key components of the fund.</i>	1B	<b>ACTION (22):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will explore the possibilities for providing NHS Boards with more powers to prevent GDS being provide from practices where there is a danger to patients.</i> <b>ACTION (24):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will consider how the functions of the SDPB can be subsumed within NHS NSS.</i>
1A	<b>ACTION (10):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will ensure that the PDS actively pursue shared care arrangements with local ‘high-street’ dental practices.</i> <b>ACTION (11):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will introduce arrangements to enable accredited GDPs to provide care in care homes. These practitioners will also work with care home staff and the PDS to ensure the maintenance of good oral health hygiene.</i> <b>ACTION (12):</b> <i>We will work with organisations such as the Care Inspectorate to ascertain how we can continue to raise the profile of oral health care in home settings.</i> <b>ACTION (14):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will work with Chief Officers within HSCPs to establish how we can work together to improve the oral health of people who are cared for in domiciliary settings.</i>	1B	<b>ACTION (33):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will work in partnership with NHS Boards and NES to ensure protected learning time for practice staff.</i>
1A	<b>ACTION (20):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will work with NHS Boards to introduce a Director of Dentistry in each Board area.</i>	1B	<b>ACTION (21):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will:</i> <i>Introduce regulations to provide NHS Boards with more powers to refuse potential applicants;</i> <i>Introduce arrangements for a single database of information for NHS Boards; and</i> <i>Explore options in order to gather relevant information on bodies corporate.</i>
1A	<b>ACTION (37):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will actively consider how we can increase the engagement and participation of the dental</i>	1B	<b>ACTION (30):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will establish an EU dentist’s network which will provide</i>

	<i>profession in HSCPs through our programme of engagement.</i>		<i>the opportunity for dentists from the EU to engage with the CDO on issues that are a consequence of Brexit.</i>
<b>1A</b>	<b>ACTION (25):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will: Publish a pathway to support dental practitioners locally; and When necessary ensure that NHS Boards use local disciplinary procedures and NHS Tribunals where appropriate.</i>	<b>1B</b>	<b>ACTION (39):</b> <i>The CDO will produce a bi-annual newsletter to provide an update on progress towards implementation.</i>
<b>1A</b>	<b>ACTION (34):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will introduce an occupational health service for GPs, members of the dental team and other practice staff.</i>	<b>Left intentionally Blank</b>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>ACTION (1):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will ensure oral health is featured in future strategies on alcohol, smoking and diet.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (2):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will ensure the new population improvement body to be established by 2019 recognises dentistry and improving oral health as a priority. Include this as part of the Oral Health Risk Assessment package.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (3):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will change payments to dentists and introduce a system of monitoring to ensure that all dental practices provide preventative treatment for children.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (4):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will introduce an Oral Health Risk Assessment.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (5):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will introduce a clinically-proven programme of periodontal care for patients with periodontal disease and those with high risk of developing it.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (9):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will establish a single working group to provide a strategic oversight to all national oral health improvement programmes and ensure we maximise our oral health improvement effort.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (18):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will develop the standard of NHS oral health information on self-care, treatments available, costs and services to be made available to the public by dental practices and dentists.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (19):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will streamline items of service payments to GPs.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (23):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will explore the possibilities for providing NHS Boards with more powers to prevent GDS being provided from practices where there is a clear danger to patients.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (26):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will work towards a single database of quality improvement information for NHS Boards with the appropriate access for dental teams and the public.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (29):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will develop programmes for promoting working in remote and rural areas.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (36):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will work with NHS Boards and NSS to ensure that any Payment Verification issues are dealt with.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION (41):</b> <i>The Scottish Government will work with the Scottish Health Council to develop a Patient Forum.</i></p>		

Phase	OHIP Action	Phase	OHIP Action
3	<p><b>ACTION (13):</b> Once we have sufficient numbers of accredited GDPs in place the Scottish Government will introduce new domiciliary care arrangements for people who are cared for in their own home.</p> <p><b>ACTION (15):</b> The Scottish Government will work with NHS Boards to ensure that adequate secondary care data is available on which to establish primary-secondary care pathways.</p> <p><b>ACTION (16):</b> The Scottish Government will introduce a system of accreditation that recognises GDPs with enhanced skills enabling them to provide services that would otherwise have to be provided in HDS.</p> <p><b>ACTION (17):</b> The Scottish Government will ensure that the clinical pathway across Scotland is safe, consistent, clear and effective.</p> <p><b>ACTION (28):</b> The Scottish Government will establish a Dental Workforce Planning Forum chaired by the CDO to provide regular workforce planning across the dental team.</p> <p><b>ACTION (32):</b> The Scottish Government will commission NES to develop a General Dental Practitioner Fellowship Programme to enhance clinical skills, develop quality skills and support remote and rural working.</p> <p><b>ACTION (35):</b> The Scottish Government will work with the Scottish Funding Council and the universities to widen and improve access to dental education in Scotland.</p>	4  And  5	<p><b>ACTION (6):</b> The Scottish Government will explore the potential for introducing general health checks for adult patients whilst attending for routine dental checks.</p> <p><b>ACTION (27):</b> The Scottish Government will:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Commission the development of a National Framework for Quality Assurance and Improvement across NHS dental services, using the HIS report as a starting point; and Work with HIS and NES on ensuring an overarching quality approach to NHS dentistry</p> <p><b>ACTION (31):</b> The Scottish Government will commission a short-life working group to look at models of OoH NHS dental care and the patients OoH care journey. This group will report to the CDO with recommendations on how OoH care should be taken forward in the future.</p> <p><b>ACTION (38):</b> The Scottish Government will establish a number of short-life working groups to take forward the actions set out within this plan.</p> <p><b>ACTION (40):</b> The Scottish Government will run a number of roadshow events to discuss the implementation arrangements for the OHIP.</p>

## Interim Directors of Dentistry

Interim Directors of Dentistry have been appointed in the majority of NHS Board Areas and Special Board Areas. This table is provided to let you know who the Interim Director is for your Area. Please contact your Interim Director of Dentistry or nominated contact if you have any OHIP related query.

Name	Board or organisation	Email
Maura Edwards Peter Ommer Emma Hall-Scullin	Ayrshire and Arran	<a href="mailto:aa-uhb.directorofdentistrynhsaa@nhs.net">aa-uhb.directorofdentistrynhsaa@nhs.net</a>
Morag McQuade	Borders	<a href="mailto:morag.mcquade@borders.scot.nhs.uk">morag.mcquade@borders.scot.nhs.uk</a>
Valerie White	Dumfries and Galloway	<a href="mailto:valeriewhite@nhs.net">valeriewhite@nhs.net</a>
Emma Okeefe	Fife	<a href="mailto:emmeokeefe@nhs.net">emmeokeefe@nhs.net</a>
Derek Richards	Forth Valley	<a href="mailto:derek.richards@nhs.net">derek.richards@nhs.net</a>
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TBC	Lothian	See nominated contact
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## Nominated contacts.

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