

**BASCD 2022 ABSTRACT 14****Make someone smile! Supporting mouthcare for vulnerable groups during a pandemic***Edwards, M.,<sup>1</sup> Muir, M.,<sup>2</sup> Marshall, J.,<sup>3</sup>**Gorman, R.,<sup>3</sup> Deas, L.<sup>1\*</sup>**<sup>1</sup>NHS Ayrshire & Arran, UK; <sup>2</sup>NHS Forth Valley, UK;**<sup>3</sup>NHS Education for Scotland, UK***Background:**

Caring for Smiles (CfS) and Open Wide (OW) are Scotland's oral health improvement programmes for older dependent adults and adults with additional care needs respectively. Both provide training to health and social care staff who support vulnerable adults with daily oral care.

**Objectives:**

With in-person training suspended during the pandemic, CfS and OW had the objective of finding ways to support staff, through alternative training methods and multi-professional partnership working.

**Methods:**

Working with NHS Education for Scotland, mouthcare advice was developed for care homes, care at home and hospitals. Two Open Badges (digital learning modules) for care homes and care at home were also developed, hosted by the Scottish Social Services Council. With the Care Inspectorate, a quality illustration was developed to help care homes and inspectors understand good oral care delivery.

**Results:**

The mouthcare advice was disseminated widely in the early pandemic stages. 74 learners completed Open Badges when in-person training was paused. Following publication of the quality illustration, the programmes delivered various webinars, interacting with health & social care staff who utilise this information. It was realised that this suite of resources could continue, even as in-person training resumed with easing of restrictions.

**Conclusion:**

Although the pandemic has been difficult for all staff, the programmes have worked with partners to develop resources which could be accessed while in-person training was suspended. The programmes are creating a positive legacy from the pandemic, producing a suite of resources to support health & social care staff in delivering oral care.

**Correspondence to:**

Leigh Deas

Email: [leigh.deas@aapct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:leigh.deas@aapct.scot.nhs.uk)

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