

## BASCD 2022 ABSTRACT 23

**Healthy Smiles Pan-London Pilot: tackling oral health inequalities in Children Looked After***Barrett, D.,<sup>1\*</sup> Yusuf, H.<sup>2,3</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Barts Health NHS Trust, UK; <sup>2</sup>Queen Mary University of London, UK; <sup>3</sup>NHS England and NHS Improvement, UK***Background:**

Inequalities exist for Children Looked After (CLA) in terms of unmet dental needs and access to dental services. There is a statutory requirement for CLA to have a minimum of one oral health check annually. There are approximately 10,000 CLA in London and the COVID-19 pandemic had significant impacts on accessing dental services.

**Objectives:**

Co-development of a pilot with CLA teams and carers to enhance access to dental services and promote oral health.

**Methods:**

The pilot was co-developed with CLA and dental teams which included a dedicated pan-London clinical care pathway consisting of 17 volunteer NHS dental practices and a triage referral service, training of dental teams, training to CLA teams and development of peer-reviewed resources to promote oral health. An evaluation framework has been developed to assess: the accessibility of the pilot, dental activity and uptake of oral health assessments, acceptability among carers, CLA and dental teams, costs and sustainability. Ethics approval was given from QMUL (QMERC22.226).

**Results:**

There were 505 referrals to date (26/09/22) across 33 London boroughs, majority of CLA referred into the pilot reside in NE London: Redbridge (22.8%), followed by Tower Hamlets (13.3%), Havering (6.5%), and Barking & Dagenham (5.0%). There were 58 children who were referred into the pilot directly by carers (11.5%), other sources of referrals were from Social Workers (38.0%), Nurses (23.8%), Key Workers (12.5%), Support Workers (4.2%), Doctors (2.4%), Admin/Managers (2.0%), CLA Teams (2.0%), Unknown (1.8%), Local Authority (1.6%), and practitioners (0.4%). Collection of dental activity data has been challenging. Feedback from carers and CLA teams has been positive and evaluation is currently ongoing.

**Conclusion:**

The pilot has been extended to further enable children to be referred into the pilot. Evaluation of the pilot will be conducted and lessons learnt will be shared across children and young people's networks.

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