

BASCD 2023 ABSTRACT #19**Can dental care professionals lead to improve oral health in care homes?**

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Background:

NHS England East of England led a working group to develop the 'My Mouth Matters' pilot, aiming to test the feasibility of a Dental Care Professional (DCP) led intervention to improve oral health in care homes.

Objectives:

To develop a primary care model to support implementation of NICE NG48 guidance and quality standards, in line with the NHS Long Term plan and Enhanced Health in Care Homes framework, with the potential to upscale. To support the reduction of oral health inequalities and improve oral health and oral health related quality of life as an integral part of general health.

Methods:

DCPs liaised with a nominated Oral Health Champion in each care home to provide oral health training, aid oral health policy development, and act as a direct link to a primary dental service provider. A resident pathway was developed to refer residents for oral health care.

Results:

280 resident care plans were evaluated. 75% of residents did not have a regular dentist, 30% required domiciliary care, 45% had additional access needs and 28% required no additional support. 54% of residents did not know if they paid for their dental treatment, 11% believed they were exempt however 3% were aware of the exemption type. 71% of residents with dentures had a denture pot, and 14% had their dentures marked. 38% of residents required some support and 24% required full support for oral health care. 10% of residents were prescribed High Fluoride Duraphat toothpaste and 32% of residents had diet advice recorded in their oral care plan. 48% of residents agreed oral health was supported by the care home

Conclusion:

Participants reported feeling confident following upskilling and learning from the pilot, with agreement that positive steps were made to improve oral health for care home residents. Further work to support engagement and training were highlighted as the main areas requiring development.

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