

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 16 OCTOBER 2006**

**REPORT ON: ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE: SUPPORTED TOOTHBRUSHING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND NURSERY SCHOOLS**

**REPORT BY: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING)**

**REPORT NO: 580-2006**

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Council on an Oral Health Initiative approved as a Quality of Life project. (Report No 328-2004). The initiative seeks to improve opportunities for children and maximise health gain with local authority resources (Report No 352-2003).
- 1.2 This report provides an update on one of the Health and Care objectives highlighted in the Dundee City Council Plan 2003-2007 (Report No 685-2003). This also provides an update on an area of joint health improvement with partner organisations.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) notes the continuing programme of supported toothbrushing in primary schools
- (ii) notes the programme of supported toothbrushing in nursery schools
- (iii) remits the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) to produce an update report in June 2007 stating progress made in achieving agreed targets with partner organisations.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of continuing this initiative will be £26,000 in each of the years 2006/07 and 2007/08. Revenue funding is available from Quality of Life monies which have been approved for continuing joint health work with young people for the period 2006-2008.

## **4. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Addressing health inequalities and improving public health is consistent with the theme of protecting health and preventing illness.
- 4.2 The report is consistent with the Council's policy framework for tackling poverty and social exclusion, in particular through delivering services that help reduce health inequalities.

## **5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

Extending the supported toothbrushing programme to Education Department nurseries will help ensure equality of access to the project for nursery school children.

## **6. BACKGROUND**

### **6.1 Oral Health Initiative - Supported Toothbrushing in Primary One**

- 6.1.1 In December 2002, the Scottish Executive allocated the first tranche of Quality of Life funding to Dundee City Council. Among other things, the aim of the funding was to

increase opportunities for children and young people. In June 2003, a special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee pledged £200,000 of Quality of Life monies for joint health improvement work targeting young people. A component of the first tranche of funding initially supported the oral health initiative. Within this context the proposed further allocation of Quality of Life monies for 2006-2008 will allow continued support and development of the oral health initiative for two more years.

- 6.1.2 The Dundee City Council Plan 2003-07 has highlighted the promotion of oral and dental health targeting children as one of its partnership objectives. In addition, the Dundee Joint Health Improvement Plan 2005-08 and Dundee Partnership Community Plan, 2005-10 have endorsed oral and dental health as a joint health improvement priority.
- 6.1.3 Implementation of supported toothbrushing in primary one took place during the school year of 2004/05. A key part of the project was the support provided by Education staff appointed under the auspices of the Scottish Executive's programme "Hungry for Success". The creation of these posts was unique in Scotland and their main purpose was to ensure healthier eating regimes among primary school children in Dundee. Within the oral health initiative these posts had a central role by overseeing toothbrushing activity and maintaining materials and storage. Oral health and Nutrition are recognised as having a close association.
- 6.1.4 Implementation of supported toothbrushing in primary one was phased in during school years 2004/05. NHS Tayside provided off-site oral health training for Education support staff in November 2004 and community dental health staff were also on hand in schools offering advice and support when the scheme was phased in across the city during February - March 2005. Within this context, all 1,300 children took part in the scheme. NHS Tayside also undertook a base-line dental inspection, prior to the start of the programme and will follow up with an additional monitoring inspection when those children are in P3/4. In addition, information for parents has also been developed and from August 2006 leaflets on oral health will be issued to parents of all primary pupils together with home toothbrushing packs consisting of free toothpaste and brush. Within this context a programme of supported toothbrushing for primary one pupils will continue for 2006 - 2008.

## 6.2 **Oral Health Initiative - Supported Toothbrushing in Nursery Schools**

- 6.2.1 It was acknowledged at the beginning of the initiative that supported toothbrushing in schools would be targeted towards primary one exclusively due to limited capacity of Education support staff. Within this context, the oral health initiative has achieved the target set in respect of primary one pupils. Additional Quality of Life funding for 2006 - 2008 allows the primary one programme to continue and further develop supported toothbrushing in nursery schools. Targeting pre-school children in this way will help to improve levels of dental health at an earlier age and establish good oral health practices in early years
- 6.2.2 Supported toothbrushing in nurseries will build on the previous experience gained with a similar approach being adopted. Again, working closely with NHS Tayside, it is anticipated that:-
- a working group will be set up in October 2006 comprising relevant primary school, nursery school and health service staff to implement and evaluate the programme,
  - the working group will also ensure the continuing development of good practice and explore areas of parental involvement,

- a programme of training for nursery staff will be developed utilising in-service training days along with refresher training for primary school staff as appropriate,
- parental involvement will be important with the possibility of including parents in staff training events;
- information leaflets to be distributed to parents; and
- a home toothbrushing pack of free toothpaste and brush will be distributed to all nursery school children.

It is envisaged the programme of supported toothbrushing in nursery schools will be phased in during school year August 2006 - June 2007.

### 6.3 **Indicative Costs**

6.3.1 Indicative costs of continuing and developing the project are ascertained to be £52,000 for two full school years. These costs are based on previous running costs of the primary one programme and 1640 children registered for nursery school education in Dundee at September 2006.

Combined Primary & Nursery School Programme:

• Materials	£7,000
• Storage Equipment	£7,000
• Promotion & Training for staff and parents	£12,000
Total	<u>£26,000</u>

## 7. **CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and the Director of Education has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## 8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Dundee City Council Plan 2003-2007
- Dundee Joint Health Improvement Plan, 2005-2008
- Dundee Partnership Community Plan, 2005-2010

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