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Chief Executives

cc Directors of Dentistry

Childsmile National Clinical Leads /
National Programme Managers

17 November 2021

Dear Colleague

Winter Preparedness & Recovery of Children's Oral Health - Funding for Childsmile

On 22 October 2021, the Cabinet Secretary wrote to all high-street NHS dental teams describing the route map to recover NHS primary care dental services, and detailing additional monies to redress the backlog in routine dental care as a consequence of the pandemic. He confirmed that these measures will have a particular focus on children, including the overarching aim of addressing oral health inequalities.

Subsequent correspondence from myself on 1 November 2021 set out a separate funding allocation for the Public Dental Service (PDS) relating to securing access to NHS dental care and mitigating actions for older people living in Care Homes, as part of the Winter Preparedness Funding.

This letter, strengthens the recovery measures for Children's Oral Health and Dentistry, with a package of additional funding to support a suite of additional Childsmile interventions, at the national and local level.

For 2021/22:

As a result of the continuing capacity restrictions relating to aerosol generating procedures in dentistry, available appointments are being clinically prioritised, leaving a backlog of care, and treatment for children still waiting to be seen. In this event, a funding package to safeguard longer term oral health considerations and to strengthen Childsmile prevention and education has been made available, and will see the distribution of over 400,000 additional toothbrushing packs via health visitors, nurseries and the child minders coupled with ongoing education about the absolute benefits of regular toothbrushing. Each Board will receive significant allocation of additional packs and your local Childsmile teams will be asked to work closely with new and existing local partners, including the Third Sector and community groups, to enhance contacts and support through this means.

Territorial Boards will receive a part-year allocation from 2021/22 to meet the logistical costs associated with the distribution of these packs (see Annex).

NHS Fife and Lanarkshire have additional allocations associated with their role as Childsmile Management Boards.

There are also specific monies for NHS Education Scotland (preparatory work for 2022/23) and NHS Services Scotland to meet the cost of the packs and website changes.

For 2022/23:

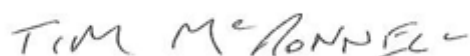
As a legacy of our recent Oral Health Community Challenge Fund initiative in the Third Sector we are developing a model of support with a particular focus on children living in areas of disadvantage, specifically those from minority ethnic backgrounds. Funding will be made available from 2022/23 to strengthen the Dental Health Support Worker cohort that works within areas of disadvantage to improve awareness of food and oral health issues as well as provide advocacy, signposting and address barriers to access. Such access difficulties are more acute in certain Board areas; allocations to each Board will be modelled using deprivation indices once funding levels are confirmed. Your Director of Dentistry will be asked to work with HR colleagues in your Board to expedite recruitment to these key positions such that the positions as a matter of priority. NHS National Education Scotland have been asked to deliver bespoke training to support the focus of these posts, to include advocacy and cultural awareness.

We want to ensure these mitigations are firmly in place that will safeguard children's oral health and wellbeing. The legacy of the coronavirus pandemic is not yet fully known, but it is likely that there has been a disproportionate impact on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in society.

As part of conditions attached to this support package, careful monitoring of the level of input and the outputs from these mitigating interventions will be sought, such that the impact on children's oral health may be continuously tracked and managed in your respective areas.

More detail of the specific allocations for this programme in the current financial year are set out in the Annex to this letter. Allocations for 2022/23 will be notified in due course.

Kind regards,



Tim McDonnell
Director, Primary Care

Funding Allocations for 2021/22

Ayrshire & Arran	£8,666
Borders	£2,626
Dumfries & Galloway	£3,414
Fife	£21,642
Forth Valley	£7,485
Grampian	£14,181
Greater Glasgow & Clyde	£28,625
Highland	£7,222
Lanarkshire	£27,070
Lothian	£21,403
Orkney	£2,500
Shetland	£2,500
Tayside	£9,585
Western Isles	£2,500
NES*	£23,363
NSS**	£95,678

Notes and Further Details on Allocations for 2021/22:

- Allocations to Territorial Boards for 2021/22 are to meet the costs of distribution of the toothbrushing packs;
- NHS Fife and Lanarkshire have additional monies included in their allocations to meet the costs of their management role in the Childsmile Programme;

There are specific monies for NES and NSS for their particular roles in the Programme:

- * In advance of the recruitment of Dental Health Support Workers (2022/23), a tutor role will be established presently;
- ** Costs of the toothbrushing packs and website changes.