

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Dental Health Foundation is to promote oral health in Ireland by providing effective resources or interventions, and by influencing policy through a multi-sectoral, partnership approach. The mission will become a reality through:

- Taking an inclusive approach that caters for the needs of minority groups, without exception.
- Using the Foundation's independence from vested interests by providing resources and advocating policies for the sole objective of effective oral health promotion.
- Investing resources in initiatives that are based on sound scientific research.
- Taking a broad multi-sectoral approach to raise awareness of oral health.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Activity by the Dental Health Foundation over the next five years will be carried out in order to achieve the following strategic objectives:

- To strengthen the Foundation's advocacy role.
- To provide information and education on fluorides.
- To develop programmes and information specifically tailored to meet the special needs groups in Irish society.
- To take a multi-sectoral approach in the promotion of oral health.
- To provide support for health professionals.

WEBSITE LINKS

The following links are available on the Foundation's website www.dentalhealth.ie and are a useful source of further information about oral health issues.

INFORMATION ON ORAL HEALTH FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse
<http://www.aerie.com/nohicweb>

DENTAL HEALTH AUDIO VISUAL AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Hemming Visual Aids, <http://www.hemmingva.com>

INFORMATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS INCLUDING DENTAL

World Health Organisation (WHO)
<http://www.who.int/ncd/orh/index.htm>
Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/oh/index.htm>

DENTAL SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS IN IRELAND

Cork University Dental School and Hospital
<http://www.ucc.ie/ucc/denthosp/index.html>
Trinity College, Dublin Dental School
http://www.tcd.ie/Health_Sciences/hsstruct.html
Queens University, Belfast, <http://www.qub.ac.uk>

DENTAL ORGANISATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS AND SOCIETIES

Irish Dental Association
<http://www.dentist.ie>
Dental Related Internet Resources
<http://www.dental-resources.com/assoc2.html>

EVIDENCE-BASED DENTISTRY

Centre for Evidence-based Dentistry - Dental Links
<http://www.ihs.ox.ac.uk/cebd/dentlink.htm>

HEALTH PROMOTION STUDIES

National University of Ireland, Galway
<http://www.nuigalway.ie/hpr/>
National Nutrition Surveillance Centre
<http://www.nuigalway.ie/hpr/nns.htm>

HEALTH PROMOTION

Health Promotion Unit, Department of Health and Children
<http://www.healthpromotion.ie>
Health Education Board for Scotland
<http://www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk/>

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Department of Health and Children
<http://www.doh.ie>
Department of Education & Science
<http://www.education.ie>
Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, <http://www.welfare.ie>

HEALTH BOARDS

Eastern Regional Health Authority
<http://www.erha.ie>
Midland Health Board, <http://www.mhb.ie>

Mid-Western Health Board, <http://www.mwhb.ie>

North Eastern Health Board
<http://www.nehb.ie>

North Western Health Board
<http://www.nwhb.ie>

South Eastern Health Board, <http://www.sehb.ie>
Southern Health Board, <http://www.shb.ie>
Western Health Board
<http://www.whb.ie>

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE HEALTH SERVICES

The Office for Health Management
<http://www.tohm.ie>

THE OFFICE FOR HEALTH GAIN

The Office for Health Gain (established by the Chief Executive Officers of the Health Boards in 1995). Its aim is to achieve measurable health and social gain for all Irish people.
<http://www.ofhg.com>

OTHER RELEVANT WEBSITES

Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute
<http://www.indi.ie>
Office of Tobacco Control
<http://www.otc.ie>

Mouthpiece

The News Report of the
Dental Health Foundation,
Ireland

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Dental Health Foundation, Ireland, 26 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 478 0466 · Fax (01) 478 0475

Email: info@dentalhealth.ie · Website: www.dentalhealth.ie

Mouthpiece

Editorial



Welcome to the first edition of our news report, which we hope will keep you informed of important developments in the area of oral health and highlight the activities and progress of the Dental Health Foundation, Ireland. A number of key developments in the past year have set the context within which the Dental Health Foundation

shall progress its strategic initiative into 2002 and beyond.

The launch of 'Quality and Fairness - A Health System for You' by the Department of Health and Children provides for new strategic direction for all those concerned with promoting the health of Irish people. This strategy gives fresh impetus to the Dental Health Foundation for further development and consolidation of planning its role in an integrated and streamlined way.

This strategy has been one of the most widely consultative policy documents published, and the Foundation focused its input by engaging in the consultation process for the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and Health coordinated by the Institute of Public Health. The substance of this process is reported in 'Your Views about Health - Report on Consultation Quality and Fairness - Health System for You' (Department of Health and Children 2002).

The development of the role of oral health promotion within the public dental service through the establishment of regional roles of the Principal Dental Surgeons in Oral Health Promotion, and the appointment of oral health promoters to posts throughout the health boards is welcomed.

The 'Review of Oral Health Promotion/Education Activity in the Republic of Ireland' and a 'Study of Attitudes, Knowledge, and Behaviours of Special Needs Groups towards Oral Health' undertaken by the Centre for Health Promotion Studies, the National University of Ireland, Galway got underway and the Foundation looks forward to the publication of its results, which we hope will inform the development of a strategic framework includ-

ing an action plan for oral health promotion nationally. One of the most important aspects of our work programme in 2001 was the publication of a research report entitled 'Oral Health in Disadvantaged Schools in the Eastern Region'. Its findings highlighted the pressing need for a comprehensive oral health promotion strategy for the most disadvantaged groups, particularly amongst young children.

These findings underpinned the Dental Health Foundation's call for urgent action in the area of strategic planning for oral health promotion nationally in its annual submission to the Department of Health and Children. This action echoes the recommendations of the 'Value for Money' report (Department of Health and Children 2001).

The publication in 2001 of the Dental Health Foundation's 'Five-Year Strategic Initiative' helped to clarify its role and promotes the development of a range of partnership programmes into 2002.

The 2002 action plan is based on continued development of the Foundation's Five Strategic Objectives; Advocacy, Information and Education on Fluorides, People with Special Needs, Multisectoral Working and Support for Health Professionals. Finally, the Dental Health Foundation awaits with interest the report of the 'Forum on Fluoridation' which was established in May 2000.

As Executive Director of the Dental Health Foundation, Ireland and on behalf of the team, I am delighted to launch this news report and look forward to receiving your feedback. Don't forget to visit our website www.dentalhealth.ie, where you can view full details about the work of the Foundation, its programmes and publications, and contact details should you have any questions you would like answered about oral health in Ireland.

Deirdre Sadlier
Executive Director



LAUNCH OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

The first Strategic Initiative document of the Dental Health Foundation was launched in 2001 as part of the Foundation's ongoing commitment to increasing the profile of oral health in Ireland. The document brings a new dimension to the work of the Foundation and provides invaluable support and direction for future programmes. The strategy, which is endorsed by the Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern, TD, builds on existing partnerships and incorporates a multi-sectoral approach to the Foundation's work over the next five years.



Pictured at the launch of the Five Year Strategic Initiative are from left to right: Patricia Gilsenan, Administrator & IT Assistant; Deirdre Sadlier, Executive Director; An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, TD; Dr Brendan Pigott, Chairman and Breedra Hyland, Projects Manager.

INAUGURAL ALL ISLAND MEETING ON THE PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICES

A symposium to celebrate the 'The Inaugural All Island Meeting on the Public Dental Services' took place on the 25th February 2002 in Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar. The event was hosted by the Dental Health Foundation in association with the Principal Dental Surgeons of the Republic of Ireland and the Dental Directors and Dental Clinical Managers in Northern Ireland. This cross-border initiative, which was the first of its kind, focused on priorities in public health that can increase the involvement of the public dental service in strengthening both Governments' actions to improve the health and well being of all people on the island of Ireland. The meeting was addressed by leading national and international experts in the areas of primary care, inequalities in health, and tobacco control measures.



Left to right: Dr Joe Mullen, The Society of Chief and Principal Dental Surgeons of Ireland; Doreen Wilson, Department of Health and Social Services, Northern Ireland; Tom Mooney, Deputy Secretary General, Department of Health and Children, Republic of Ireland; Deirdre Sadlier, Executive Director, Dental Health Foundation, Ireland; Dr Judi McGaffin, Director, Northern Ireland Public Dental Services.

ENDOCARDITIS PROPHYLAXIS IDENTITY CARD LAUNCHED

The Dental Health Foundation marked its 2002 Saint Apollonia Annual Event on the 8th February, with the launch of an 'Endocarditis Prophylaxis Identity Card'. This important initiative was undertaken in association with the Dental and Cardiology Departments at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, which was also the venue for the launch. The martyrdom of Saint Apollonia, the patron Saint of Dentistry, took place in AD 249.

In Ireland about one baby in a 100 is born with congenital heart disease. These children are at risk of developing infective endocarditis, a serious infection of the heart caused by bacteremia induced by certain dental procedures and from chronic poor oral health. It is therefore extremely important that children with congenital heart disease attend a dentist from an early age for regular preventive and routine dental care. When these children attend paediatric cardiac clinics in Dublin and in Cork, their parents will now be given an



From left to right: Breedra Hyland, Projects Manager, Dental Health Foundation, Ireland; Dr Tim Holland, Senior Lecturer Consultant, Cork Dental School and Hospital; Dr Paul Oslizlok, Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin; Dr Paddy Fleming, Consultant Paediatric Dental Surgeon, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin.

'Endocarditis Prophylaxis Identity Card' by the paediatric cardiologists. This card has been developed to inform the dentist of the child's congenital heart lesion and the antibiotic prophylaxis regimes which are recommended prior to undertaking dental procedures that results in bleeding.

Mouthpiece



From left to right: Ann McCarthy, National Adult Literacy Agency; Micheál Martin, T.D., Minister for Health and Children; Jennifer Lynch, National Adult Literacy Agency; Deirdre Sadlier, Executive Director, Dental Health Foundation, Ireland.

LAUNCH IN CORK

The launch of the Health and Literacy Project took place in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork on 17th November.

Ms Deirdre Sadlier, Executive Director of the Dental Health Foundation attended the event, which was formally launched by the Minister for Health and Children Mr Micheál Martin, T.D.

The Dental Health Foundation is a member of the Steering Committee for the National Adult Literacy Agency Health and Literacy Project, which aims to:

- Produce a commentary on some of the health promotion material that is available;
- Establish the precise health issues and needs for a low literacy population;
- Inform strategic policy making to address these issues; and
- Produce a literacy pack, which can be used by health promotion officers and literacy practitioners.

PROMOTING ORAL HEALTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY



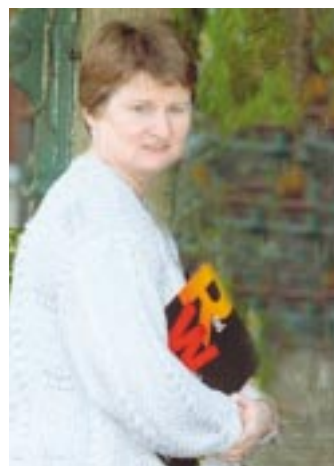
Left to Right: Professor John Clarkson, Dean, Dental School, Trinity College Dublin; Ms Deirdre Sadlier, Dental Health Foundation, Ireland; Mr Chris Fitzgerald, Health Promotion Unit, Department of Health and Children; Dr Lois Cohen, National Institutes of Health, USA; Dr Helen Whelton, WHO Oral Health Services Research Unit, University College Cork.

MASTER CLASS LAUNCHED

The first one-day Master Class on 'Literacy Awareness Training' was held by the Dental Health Foundation on 27th November 2001, and led by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).

The initiative was in direct response to increased interest expressed by dental services staff and oral health promoters, in relation to the tailoring of oral health information to meet the needs of adults experiencing literacy difficulties. The day covered many of the issues related to adult literacy and stressed the importance of being informed and prepared for the challenges which low literacy levels present.

Una Breathnach, a dental nurse with the Western Health Board, completed the Specialist Certificate in Oral Health Promotion two years ago, and attended the Master Class. She spoke highly of the content and the way in which information could be practically applied by health professionals in their area.



Una Breathnach

"I work with many disadvantaged groups where often literacy is a problem. This day has been a real eye-opener for some people and has been hugely beneficial from my own perspective. Although I am delighted that we have progressed to this stage, I still think more investment is required to tackle the problem of literacy on a wider scale," explained Una.



From left to right: Frances Sands, National Adult Literacy Agency; Dr Barney Murphy, Principal Dental Surgeon, South Western Area Health Board; Deirdre Sadlier, Executive Director, Dental Health Foundation, Ireland.

"I now realise that information should be more visual. In my opinion, there is very little published information on health that takes literacy skills into account. We are living in affluent times and people tend not to be aware of the problems facing those with literacy problems," she concluded.

A further series of Master Classes will take place this year and details will be available on our website.

PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH COMMISSIONED

The Dental Health Foundation commissioned a comprehensive programme of research between July and December 2000, the results of which were presented to the Department of Health and Children and The Forum on Fluoridation.

The research included exploratory focus group discussions on the subject of fluoride in water, compilation of a quota-controlled survey to assess public awareness of the issues surrounding dental health and water fluoridation, and content analysis of monitored media. The findings provided the Dental Health Foundation with a benchmark from which to monitor progression of this issue. Full details of the Executive Summary Report are available on our website.

LAUNCH OF MAGIC TOOTH



Pictured at the launch are from left to right: Aine O'Cuireann, Gaellinn Teo; Minister for Health & Children, Mr Micheál Martin, T.D.; Dr John Hackett, Author; Lina Kouzi, National Council for the Blind; Dr Brendan Pigott, Chairman, Dental Health Foundation, Ireland

PROMOTING THE ORAL HEALTH OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



From left to right: Deirdre Sadlier, Executive Director, Dental Health Foundation, Ireland; Dr Patricia Noonan-Walsh, Director of the Centre for the Study of Developmental Disabilities, NUI Dublin; Minister for the Department of Health and Children Micheál Martin TD; Professor John Clarkson, Dean, Dublin Dental School and Hospital; Dr Jacinta McLoughlin, TCD; Report's Editor, Dr Gerard Gavin, Chief Dental Officer.

SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH PROMOTION (ORAL HEALTH)

This certificate course was launched in 1999 and is a partnership programme between the Dental Health Foundation, Department of Health Promotion, NUI, Galway and the Department of Health and Children.

This 12-month course offers participants the opportunity to study from home and is available from several regional educational centres nationwide. The four modules are in distance education format for home study, and participants receive an open learning pack containing text, activities, progress checks and video material from NUI, Galway. Contact workshops take place for students throughout the year and successful completion of the course can be used as a credit towards the Diploma and Masters in Health Promotion run by the Department of Health Promotion NUI, Galway.

The course covers all aspects of oral health through the following modules:

1. Concepts & Principles of Health Promotion
2. Communications
3. Causes of Oral Ill Health
4. Oral Health Promotion



Ms Deirdre Sadlier, Executive Director of the Dental Health Foundation, believes the course is a step in the right direction. "The Certificate in Oral Health Promotion provides a structured career pathway for professionals within the dental healthcare arena, which has been lacking up to now. This pathway is critical as appropriate training and resources are two of the key objectives of our five-year campaign to push oral health firmly onto the mainstream health agenda. "Further information about this course is available from the Department of Health Promotion, NUI, Galway.



From left to right: Dr Gerard Gavin, Chief Dental Officer, Department of Health and Children; Jane Sixsmith, National University of Ireland, Galway; Dr Mary O'Farrell, Author; Breeda Hyland, Projects Manager.



ORAL HEALTH IN DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS IN THE EASTERN REGION

On Monday 17th December 2001, Mr Donal O Shea, Regional Chief Executive of the Eastern Regional Health Authority, launched 'Oral Health in Disadvantaged Schools in the Eastern Region' on behalf of the Dental Health Foundation.

This report, which was one of the most important aspects of our work programme last year, is based on the work of a research team whose membership comprises the Dental Health Foundation and multi-disciplinary personnel of the three Area Health Boards in the Eastern Region, the National Nutrition Surveillance Centre NUI, Galway, the National Adult Literacy Agency, the National Parents Council Primary and Best Health for Children.

The document sets in context, three strands of connected work relating to oral health promotion and highlights the need for a multi-sectoral and multi-faceted approach to help achieve sustainable improvements in health.

Speaking at the launch, Mr O Shea said that although children's dental health was better now than in the past, the report clearly highlighted inequalities in both general and dental health exist in society. He cited socially disadvantaged groups such as low-income, racial and ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities as groups most at risk of suffering disproportionately from the effects of oral disease. He said that findings of the report revealed an urgent need for a comprehensive oral health promotion strategy/programme for disadvantaged groups and particularly among young children. In conclusion, Mr O Shea said the research indicated the need to address the issue of oral health among the socially disadvantaged and commended the Foundation for their ongoing work in this area. The full version of this report is available on our website.



From left to right: Margaret O'Neill, Dietician Manager, Health Promotion Department, South Western Area Health Board; Stephen McDermott, Principal Dental Surgeon, representing the Public Dental Services of the three Area Health Boards in the Eastern Region; Tom Mooney, Deputy Secretary General, Department of Health and Children; Donal O Shea, Regional Chief Executive, Eastern Regional Health Authority; Deirdre Sadlier, Executive Director, Dental Health Foundation, Ireland.

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH AWARDS 2001

It was smiles all round on 11th June 2001 as An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern TD, presented achievement awards to staff and pupils at Scoil Íde Girls National School, Cromcastle Green, Kilmore West, Dublin 5; the overall winners from schools in the Coolock and Darndale areas of Dublin.

The Taoiseach, who has been patron of the project since its inception 11 years ago, praised the school and the pupils for their hard work in achieving excellence in dental care. He said it was an outstanding achievement to win this competition for a second time (they also won in 1999), and congratulated the principal Ms Mary Cunliffe, teachers, parents, and the dental team involved with this year's programme. He also thanked the Dental Health Foundation for their efforts in promoting oral health across the country.

The programme is part of a range of initiatives that the Dental Health Foundation is developing in partnership with a number of Health Boards nationally and also in a North / South partnership with the Health and Social Services Board in Northern Ireland. The awards recognise excellence in dental health care standards achieved by national school children and are part of the Schools Programme, which targets children who are particularly at risk of dental decay. The programme encourages children to brush their teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, and generally ensure that they appreciate the importance of a healthy smile now and for the future.



DEVELOPING AN ADOLESCENT FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICE

The Dental Health Foundation was invited to present a parallel session on oral health during the Best Health for Children National Conference on Adolescent Health, which was held in the Corrib Great Southern Hotel, Galway on the 2nd/3rd May 2001.

Delegates included senior health board managers and clinicians, policy makers, national parent representatives, national education representatives and other key stakeholders of adolescent health.

Dr Joe Mullen, Principal Dental Surgeon, North Western Health Board presented the parallel session, while Dr Brian Mercer, Senior Dental Surgeon, North Western Health Board facilitated. The objective of the session was to reinforce the full meaning of oral health and its importance to general health and well being for all adolescents in Ireland.

The substantial incidence of dental injury occurring to the otherwise healthy teeth and pleasing mouths of adolescents was highlighted as a concern for the dental services planning / provision.

The report on 'Adolescent Health – Get Connected – Developing an Adolescent Friendly Service' was launched at the conference. This report provides an important opportunity to develop, within a context, future strategies to improve the oral health and general well being of adolescents. The Dental Health Foundation made submissions to the development of this report ensuring the consideration of oral health within the context of adolescent health.

AHPI MEMBERSHIP

The Association for Health Promotion, Ireland (AHPI) was formed in 1997 and provides a national forum through which a range of expertise and experience in the fields of health promotion and health education can be shared. The AHPI is a professional body representing those employed to undertake the facilitation and coordination of health education/health promotion in a variety of settings. The AHPI also has an associate membership whose role includes a lesser element of health education/health promotion.

Being a member of the AHPI offers benefits of being part of a professional network independent of employers and with organised study days relating to a range of health-related issues. For further details please contact the Association Secretary, Siobhan McGrory at: siobhan.mcgrory@nyci.ie or the Chairperson, Sharon Friel at: sharon.friel@nuigalway.ie

PUBLICATIONS

The Foundation has a range of publications on oral health issues, many of which can be downloaded in PDF and HTML versions. Further details for all publications are on our website at: www.dentalhealth.ie

- ORAL HEALTH IN IRELAND
- WATER FLUORIDATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH
- FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC INITIATIVE
- ANNUAL REPORT 2000
- THE MAGIC TOOTH
- PROMOTING THE ORAL HEALTH OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
- PROMOTING ORAL HEALTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY
- ORAL HEALTH IN DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS IN THE EASTERN REGION

YOUNG SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR SPECIAL AWARD 2002

The Dental Health Foundation sponsors a special award each year in the 'ESAT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition'. The winners of this year's award were Heather Barry and Aisling McStay from Santa Sabina



Left to right: Ms Heather Barry & Ms Aisling McStay, winners of the Dental Health Foundation Special Award and Ms Deirdre Sadlier, Chief Executive, Dental Health Foundation, Ireland.

School, Greenfield Road, Sutton, Co. Dublin. This senior group project looked at which foods inhibit plaque.



Left to right: Mr Richard Cooke, Chief Executive Officer, Esat Group; Mr David Michael O Doherty, Winner Esat Young Scientist of the Year Award and An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern.