



Health and care leaders have come together to develop a Long Term Plan to make the NHS fit for the future and to get the most value for patients out of every pound of taxpayers investment.

The value of continued integration of oral health into general health pathways is supported by the Long Term Plan, and this will allow us to continue ‘Putting the mouth back in the body’. The summary below sets out some of the key areas where we will see this happening whether this is from Starting Well Core for young children, the emphasis on good oral health for children in special schools through to supporting good oral health in care homes for the elderly.

Making sure Everyone Gets the Best Start in Life

A strong start in life for children & young people with a focus on prevention, reducing inequalities and redesigning services. Starting Well Core is endorsed in the Long Term Plan as an evidence based initiative which will help to deliver this

“The Starting Well Core initiative is supporting 24,000 dentists across England to see more children from a young age to form good oral health habits, preventing tooth decay experienced by a quarter of England’s five year olds”.

The Plan recognises meeting oral health needs as key to support children with a learning disability or autism in living happier, healthier lives. To ensure this, it commits to “work with partners to bring hearing, sight and dental checks to children and young people with a learning disability, autism or both in special residential schools.” OCDO will seek out current good practice in this area and promote this widely to improve consistency of provision.

“From September 2019, all boys aged 12 and 13 will be offered vaccination against HPV-related diseases, such as oral, throat and anal cancer”.

Delivering World Class Care for Major Health problems

Good oral health supports good general health and can impact positively on prognosis and outcomes for people with cancer, diabetes, dementia and other long-term conditions. OCDO will support commissioners with guidance to enable effective integration of dental and oral health services into care pathways. The Long Term Plan *“will improve uptake of the existing annual health check in primary care for people aged over 14 years with a learning disability, so that at least 75% of those eligible have a health check each year. We will also pilot the introduction of a specific health check for people with autism, and if successful, extend it more widely”.* OCDO will promote the inclusion of an oral health check into this health check and onward signposting to appropriate oral health services where appropriate.

Supporting People to Age Well

The Plan *“will upgrade support to all care home residents. As part of this we will ensure that individuals are supported to have good oral health, stay well hydrated and well nourished”.* OCDO will support commissioners with guidance to enable effective and innovative commissioning of oral health services for care homes

The Mouth Care Matters scheme offers local programmes of support and training in oral health care for the elderly for hospital staff looking after in patients.

Doing Things Differently

From the outset, the plan identifies the need to deliver NHS care in a more joined up and coordinated way using health professionals from different disciplines working together, in networks focused on local communities and reducing reliance on hospital care. This includes providing care from non acute settings

*“The ability of patients to choose where they have their treatment remains a powerful tool for delivering improved waiting times and patient experiences of care. The NHS will continue **to provide patients with a wide choice of options for quick elective care**”* OCDO have produced guidance for commissioning of level 2 services, to support provision of more complex care in a local primary care setting. This has and will continue to increase choice for patients.

To accommodate this and facilitate closer working across the system, networks at a range of levels are proposed. At the primary care network level a range of health and social care professionals are expected to work together and dental teams will need to become involved with these in order to deliver for example - *“all care homes supported by a consistent team of healthcare professionals, including named general practice support. As part of this, we will ensure that individuals are supported to have good oral health.”*

At the system level there is an expectation that NHS *“will continue to develop ICSs, building on the progress the NHS has already made. By April 2021 ICSs will cover the whole country and Every ICS will have clinical leadership aligned around ICSs to create clear accountability to the ICS”.*

The OCDO has supported and developed NHS England’s Local Dental Networks (LDNs) and Managed Clinical Networks (MCNs) and will continue to support and provide leadership to the further development of these going forward.

Preventing Illness

“the NHS will increase its contribution to tackling some of the most significant causes of ill health, including new action to help people stop smoking, overcome drinking problems and avoid Type 2 diabetes, with a particular focus on the communities and groups of people most affected by these problems.”

Prevention has been promoted by the oral health team and the common risk factor approach is well recognised. Integration of oral health teams into primary care networks will enable joint working between oral and general health teams and better signposting of patients at risk.

Backing our Workforce

“We will do more to nurture the next generation of leaders by more systematically identifying, developing and supporting those with the capability and ambition to reach the most senior levels of service’ Clinical leadership and innovation are expected within the new model of delivery and the OCDO has established its clinical fellows scheme and supports the NHS England clinical entrepreneurs scheme

“NHS Improvement, HEE and NHS England will establish a national workforce group to ensure that such workforce actions agreed are delivered quickly. This will include the new NHS Chief People Officer, the

NHS National Medical Director, the Chief Nursing Officer and the other Chief Professions Officers”

New NHS roles and careers will be shaped to reflect the future need, and the OCDO is working closely with Health Education England on Advancing Dental Care. Ensuring appropriate avenues in training and retention are considered, reviewed and implemented.

Making Better Use of Data & Digital Technology

“Digitally-enabled primary and outpatient care will go mainstream across the NHS “

The OCDO is supporting the NHS to become digitally enabled across its estate, by ensuring NHS dentistry has secure, encrypted communications means via NHSmail. This will be an important cornerstone in a digitally enabled NHS dentistry service.

The NHS will create a new framework for digital suppliers to offer their platforms to primary care networks, and the Office of the Chief Dental Officer has long-standing links between dental software suppliers to facilitate this.

“The Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) is now used in 93% of England’s 7,300 GP Practices.”

The OCDO is providing clinical guidance for the implementation of SNOMED-CT, which will pave the way for dental practices to implement the Electronic Prescription Service, amongst other technological advancement.

“The health service will continue to support implementation and delivery of the governments new five year action plan on Antimicrobial Resistance”

The OCDO is engaged in developing the EPS for NHS dentistry, which will permit richer information on prescribing trends, so work may begin on developing an effective response to AMR in NHS dentistry.

“The NHS believes the democratization of information via technology is a key driver in improving control”

The OCDO is utilising technology to improve patient control, by providing clinical leadership to develop a digital dental Primary Child Health Record.

NHSmail, SNOMED-CT and digital dental Primary Child Health Record implementation are amongst the few active project areas the Office of the Chief Dental Officer is undertaking. These will lay the foundation for a digitally enabled NHS dentistry service.

- Italics are direct quotes from the Long Term
- OCDO – Office of the Chief Dental Officer