

People and Health Scrutiny Committee
8 April 2025
Public Participation

1. Question submitted by Clare Dawkins

School nursing is commissioned to complete health needs assessments on our most vulnerable children and young people (those subject to child protection planning). These assessments have been undertaken since Sept 2024 and the one thing we record on about 99% of assessments is that the CYP have no access to dental care. We know that this is a national issue and there is a critical lack of NHS dental provision- but there seems to be very little in the way of preventing dental problems by promoting good dental hygiene.

We are consistently recording that CYP have not had a new toothbrush for over a year (and some don't have one at all), don't have effective education in brushing and flossing, and as a service we have absolutely no budget to supply dental kits to these CYP over the age of 5 years old. Some of us have taken to buying these supplies out of our own money to give to these individuals as there is no answer, no service we can promote, and no budget/ awareness from parents/ carers to provide these essential products.

What can be done to proactively support our young people, and their families?