



RECOGNISING DENTAL NURSES AMID COVID-19

The Society of British Dental Nurses (SBDN) has launched a Community Heroes List to recognise the contribution made by dental nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Society have asked for dental nurses to be acknowledged for their input during the height of the pandemic.

This acknowledgement reaches out to every dental nurse – not just those engaged in clinical work.

It includes dental nurses who took on administrative roles, were redeployed, were involved in the Test and Trace initiative or who undertook voluntary work as an act of kindness and those involved in the mental health and wellbeing of colleagues.

Fiona Ellwood, patron of the SBDN, said: ‘The Community List will be held by the Society of British Dental Nurses and those nominated will be recorded by region. The list will be displayed on the Society of British Dental website and will be part of dental nursing history for many years to come.’

‘We have engaged with many of the key stakeholders and are keen that the local dental communities reach out and support this initiative across the four nations.’

During the height of the pandemic, the Society made an executive decision to provide support to all dental nurses during the height of the pandemic, not just to its members.

Fiona said: ‘What became very apparent and quite quickly was the psychological impact and the need to recognise early signs of stress, anxiety and exhaustion.’

‘We recognise that dental nurses are part of the team and we wish to acknowledge the hard work and excellence of everyone.’

‘Dentistry in lockdown and in recovery has faced many challenges and is now in a transitional period as it looks to the “new norm” in the provision of dental care, albeit on occasions hampered by local level lockdown periods.’

‘There are still many unknowns about COVID-19 but the one thing we do know is that it is fitting to shine a light on the dental nursing workforce who contributed when it was most needed in whatever way they could.’

‘Dental nurses are key members of any dental team but, in adversity, they adapted in their communities in the spirit of giving and kindness, which perhaps has not been seen before in such magnitude.’

‘They are a workforce that often speak of the love of the job, but equally speak of being undervalued – this is the time then to be recognised in the community.’

Nominations have now closed. The nominees list will be made public at the National Dental Nurses Day on 22 November 2020.

TV doctor reinvigorates child dental campaign

The British Society of Paediatric Dentistry’s (BSPD’s) Dental Check by One campaign is being reinvigorated thanks to a video with BAFTA award-winning TV presenter Dr Ranj (pictured).

Hosted on the new BSPD Kidsvids page (<https://www.bspd.co.uk/Kidsvids>), the video joins three others starring the celebrity doctor, who is passionate about improving the health of children’s teeth.

An NHS consultant paediatrician who works on the A&E ward, Dr Ranj has first-hand experience of the consequences of dental decay. Sometimes, late at night he will encounter worried parents who have turned up at casualty because their child is screaming and they don’t know why. The problem can be a dental infection or an abscess caused by untreated dental decay.

The video concept was born following research among parents whose children had been referred into hospital with gross dental caries. The research was carried out to understand the best way to deliver preventive advice. Among the findings were that nearly all parents have mobile phones or tablets, their children watch TV programmes like CBeebies and they take advice from celebrities, usually via social media.

Dr Ranj, presenter of the CBeebies programme *Get Well Soon*, was asked by BSPD’s Claire Stevens in 2019 to work on a series of four brief videos for families. The first three videos, *Healthy Teeth Guides* aimed at parents of children aged 0-3, 3-6 and 7+, were launched in May during the COVID-19 pandemic when communicating preventive advice to families was vital. The *DCby1* video was delayed because face-to-face video examinations were not taking place.

In the *DCby1* video, Dr Ranj is filmed at the home of Mum Danielle Heximer and her baby Kit. Edited into the Q&A with Danielle is some footage of Consultant Paediatric Dentist Claire Stevens carrying out a lap-to-lap examination in order to examine the mouth of baby Mariella.



BSDHT SUPPORTS BADN

The British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy (BSDHT) has thanked the British Association of Dental Nurses (BADN) for their support of the BSDHT’s campaign to raise awareness and inspire change for chairside dental nurse support to be the accepted norm for all dental hygienists and dental therapists working in clinical practice.

To drive the campaign forward the BSDHT has lent its full support to BADN in their call for dental nurses to be recognised for their contribution to dentistry. Dental

nurses are registered dental care professionals and must be recognised as such – by employers, by colleagues and by the NHS.

BSDHT supports BADN’s call for all dental nurses in general dental practice to be paid a salary which acknowledges not only their invaluable contribution to the dental team but also their training, knowledge and professionalism. This does mean not just minimum wage.

The NHS should also afford dental nurses working in NHS practices the same rights and benefits as all other NHS employees.