

## PIONEERING DENTAL AMBASSADOR SCHEME IS A SUCCESS



A team of adults with learning disabilities has successfully passed a training course as part of a pioneering dental ambassador scheme – the first of its kind in the UK.

Six people from Plymouth People First have completed their programme of training for the peer support project developed by the Community Engagement Team at the Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise (PDSE) and supported by Henry Schein.

The team – just the second group to complete the course – has spent six weeks learning from PDSE experts about oral hygiene, toothbrushing, the importance of fluoride, healthy eating, reducing sugar intake and accessing dental care.

Dental Ambassador Luke Garland said: 'The course was really interesting and enjoyable. I liked doing it'.

The programme culminated in an awards presentation held at PDSE's Dental Education Facility (DEF) at Plymouth Science Park where each dental ambassador received a certificate, badge and oral health pack.

They will now promote good dental hygiene and care to their peers through delivering presentations in workplaces and residential settings.

The dental ambassador scheme offers people with learning disabilities the understanding, awareness and confidence to encourage their peers to adopt better oral hygiene and make regular visits to the dentist. They are also supported with presentation skills training – last year's ambassadors delivered oral health presentations to more than 180 of their peers.

Martine Fletcher, Dental Ambassador Co-ordinator at Plymouth People First said: 'Plymouth People First are delighted to continue working with PDSE on the dental ambassador scheme. We already have three bookings for the spring and are looking forward to sharing our new-found knowledge of oral hygiene.'

## BIRMINGHAM BEAUTY QUEEN ARRANGES MOUTH CANCER DINNER



Enterprising Indyah Lynch, lead administrator at Midlands Smile Centres in Selly Oak, has organised a Mouth Cancer Awareness Charity Dinner to be held at the

Hyatt Regency Birmingham on 22 April 2016.

Indyah (pictured), who is also a dental nurse and a recent finalist for Miss England WM/Miss Birmingham 2016, was inspired to organise the charity event when a close friend was diagnosed with oral cancer.

'There are so many patients who are not aware of mouth cancer and the dangers it presents,' said Ms Lynch. 'This event will bring us together to emphasise how

## BDA UPDATE

- The BDA has welcomed a BBC investigation revealing the scale of illegal teeth whitening across the West of England. Undercover reporters from the BBC's Inside Out West filmed one provider operating under an assumed name just two years after he was prosecuted by the GDC for illegal whitening. The film revealed unlicensed online trainers providing rudimentary guidance for illegal whitening, and recommending products including chlorine-dioxide whiteners that cause lasting damage to teeth. The BDA has called on the public to remain alert to the risks.
- BDA Northern Ireland has heralded a major breakthrough for community dental services, as the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety agreed the basis for a new contract, with pay set to be backdated to April 2015. The agreement will deliver an average uplift of 4.4% and introduce a dedicated educational fund of £750 per dentist to be used on CPD, in line with the contracts in England and Wales. This marks the first time such funding will be available to Community Dentists in Northern Ireland. The BDA is now balloting its members, and is offering a recommendation to accept the deal.
- The BDA has called on government to put prevention at the heart of its approach to the crisis on child tooth decay, as new figures showed over 14,000 children aged five and under had been admitted to hospital for tooth extraction in 2014/15. Analysis of data from the Health and Social Care Information Centre has also revealed a 10% increase in children requiring tooth extractions in the last four years. The BDA has led calls for action to improve children's oral health, and championed action on sugar.

### GARRY SIME

We regret to announce that dentist Garry Sime of Perth died on 13 February 2016, aged 57.

important mouth cancer screening is and to support our chosen charities, but I am also trying to reach out to other dental professionals who feel they could do more and get them involved too.'

Tickets for the charity dinner with champagne reception and entertainment from live musicians cost £45.50, with a silent auction and games to raise additional money. Profits will be shared equally between the Oral Health Foundation's Mouth Cancer Action and the Mouth Cancer Foundation.

To purchase tickets for the event, visit <http://bit.ly/1Mx4qEw> or email [info@dpasmiles.com](mailto:info@dpasmiles.com).