

Dental CHAMPs record rap to promote oral health



A team of adults with learning disabilities has recorded a rap to promote important messages about oral health.

Six people from CHAMPs – Cornwall Health and Making Partnerships – developed the ‘Brush DJ’ rap to the tune of the Robbie Williams song ‘Rock DJ’ and recorded it at the studios of Plymouth Music Zone.

The team, part of health promotion for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, came up with the idea while completing a dental ambassadors training course developed by the Community Engagement Team at Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise (PDSE).

They spent several weeks learning from PDSE experts about oral hygiene, tooth brushing, the importance of fluoride, healthy eating, reducing sugar intake and accessing dental care.

The dental ambassadors came up with

the rap idea while working on presentations with activities for audiences to help them understand key oral health messages.

As part of their ongoing work across Cornwall, the CHAMPs take oral health knowledge to special schools, health centres and adults with learning disabilities at colleges and workplaces.

The dental ambassador scheme, which is supported by Henry Schein, 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.

CHAMPs helps to make sure people with a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum condition get equal access to health services. Its main activities are checking health services, raising awareness of learning disabilities and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Honours, awards, appointment

Inspiring Educator

The NHS Tayside Staff Appreciation and Recognition (STAR) Awards took place on 18 May 2017 and Stephanie Sammut, NHS Consultant Oral Surgeon at Dundee Dental Hospital, took the Gold Award (1st place) in the ‘Inspiring Educator’ category.

Dr Sammut was nominated by the core trainees for her ‘supportive and first rate teaching in oral surgery’ and also for the innovative work she has been doing with the charity Let’s talk about Mouth Cancer.



NHS Consultant Oral Surgeon Stephanie Sammut with her STAR award

Top ranking for Plymouth

Plymouth University Peninsula School of Dentistry (PUPSD) is the top dental school in England outside of London, according to the The Guardian University Guide 2018. PUPSD came third in the dentistry league table after Dundee and Queen Mary in London, out of 16 dental schools across the UK.

Pathway National Inclusion Dentistry Network

Pathway, the national homeless healthcare charity, is initiating a UK-wide inclusive dentistry network in an attempt to promote collaboration and broaden the conversation about inclusive dental services.

Pathway has welcomed Janine Doughty as Inclusion Dentistry Fellow. Dr Doughty is an academic clinical fellow (academic speciality registrar) in special care dentistry. Pathway’s dentistry network will provide an opportunity to develop best practice for inclusion dentistry, explore barriers that may be faced when developing such services and ways in which these may be overcome.

Four key groups have been identified as experiencing social exclusion.¹ These include those who are homeless, Gypsy, Irish or Roma Travellers, sex-workers and vulnerable migrants. These groups experience a disproportionate burden of oral disease which leads to dental pain, and ultimately, a reduced quality of life.

Pathway wants to hear from *BDJ* readers. Do you know your local NHS or third sector dental services for people who are experiencing homelessness or those who are vulnerable migrants, Gypsies, Travellers or sex workers? Or perhaps you’re aware of research into dental care for

people who are experiencing social exclusion? You are invited to connect with Pathway to share information that will enable the charity to map out inclusive dental services and research happening across the UK.

To share your local knowledge and service information email includivedentistrygroup@gmail.com. To join the network and receive updates on socially inclusive dentistry visit <http://www.pathway.org.uk/faculty/join/>.

1. Department of Health. Inclusion health: improving the way we meet the primary health care needs of the socially excluded. March 2010. Available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/346571/inclusion-health.pdf> (accessed June 2017).