

## 'All I Want for Christmas' day held in Blackpool

People in recovery and other groups who find it hard to access NHS dental services in Blackpool received essential dental treatment onboard a mobile dental unit operated by Dentaaid in late 2017.

The project was funded by Horizon, Blackpool Council's drug, alcohol and non-clinical sexual health support for Blackpool residents – and was the brainchild of Carole Houston, Communications Lead for Horizon, Janet Goodwin, President of the Oral Health Foundation and Blackpool resident, and Pam Swain, Chief Executive of the British Association of Dental Nurses, which is based near Blackpool. The event was attended by Deputy Chief Dental Officer, Eric Rooney.

Carole's previous PR experience in dentistry had led to her meeting Janet and Pam, and also made her aware of the work done by Dentaaid. Having obtained funding from Horizon to commission Dentaaid, Carole went ahead organising the day at the Church Street centre used as a focal point for the recovery programme, liaising with Janet Goodwin on oral health education materials provided by the OHF and with Pam Swain who asked for volunteer dental nurses from the BADN membership. Horizon volunteers, themselves in recovery, were also on hand to offer support to nervous patients.

Despite a couple of hiccups – fuses in the centre blew twice and the kettle and microwave had to be cannibalised to restore power to the mobile unit! - 47 patients were seen, including many who had been suffering long-term dental pain. One patient had five teeth extracted and a further 16 patients had at least one tooth



Dentaaid volunteer dentist Benjamin Veale and BADN member volunteer dental nurse Michelle Brand with a patient in Blackpool

removed. The team also provided scale and polishes, fillings, fluoride application for children and oral health advice. Several patients had not seen a dentist for several years, either because of access difficulties or because of previous difficult experiences.

'At Horizon we are very conscious,' said Carole, 'that many of our clients find it difficult to access NHS dental treatment for various reasons. We therefore wanted to make dental treatment as accessible as possible for our clients and other vulnerable people in Blackpool. We commissioned the Dentaaid team to bring their mobile unit into the heart of the recovery community in Blackpool to help to break down any perceived barriers. The event was a tremendous success and the feedback from the patients was very positive. So many patients had been in desperate need of dental treatment but either didn't know how to access treatment or were too anxious to seek help. This initiative was created especially for our clients, bringing dental treatment directly to them.'

'We were delighted that Eric Rooney came along to support the event, and his ideas for bringing various services together to improve access to dental care for our clients in the future was a perfect outcome from a very successful day.'

## Dental hygienist wins clinical case study award

A dental hygienist working in Edinburgh who started her career in Melbourne, Australia, has won BioMin's 2017 Clinical Case Study Award.

Fiona Ord, who initially studied dental nursing at the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne and then Oral Health Therapy (Hygiene) at the University of Melbourne, presented an entry that the judging panel felt exhibited considerable scientific rigour. The case study incorporated the use of BioMin F toothpaste designed to help reduce the tooth sensitivity.

Marina Harris, on the judging panel, said: 'Fiona developed a very logical treatment plan which coupled with appropriate and detailed oral hygiene instructions resulted in an excellent clinical outcome. Fiona's delivery of the treatment plan has clearly enhanced the

patient's quality of life.'

Fiona, who is currently working at the Clyde Munro practice in Edinburgh, is also a clinical research dental hygienist at the University of Dundee. She moved to the UK in 2000 and was awarded a 1st class degree in Health Science from Napier University, Edinburgh then more recently an MSc in Health and Social Care Research Methods from the University of Sheffield.

'I am delighted to have won this award,' said Fiona. 'The patient in my case study presented dentine hypersensitivity that had not been discussed with previous clinicians.'

BioMin F toothpaste is a controlled release fluoride toothpaste that provides a fluorapatite rich surface on the teeth after brushing for up to 12 hours. This helps reduce sensitivity and provides protection against acid attack and

early stage enamel lesions. The company will publish details of the 2018 Clinical Case Study Competition in February. Please indicate your interest to participate at [admin@biomin.co.uk](mailto:admin@biomin.co.uk) and details will be sent directly to you.



Fiona Ord being presented the award by Dr Gillam, Senior Clinical Lecturer in Periodontology at Barts and the London Medical and Dental School QMUL and a director of BioMin