

## OUTSTANDING DCP ACADEMIC WINS PRIZE

An academic from the University of Plymouth has become the first dental care professional (DCP) to win a prize at the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) awards.

Clare McIlwaine, programme lead for BSc Dental Therapy and Hygiene (DTH), won the Oral-B Inter-professional Educator award, becoming the first dental care professional – rather than dentist – to win in any ADEE category.

The IPE award's sole recipient, Clare was selected following entries from dental schools across the continent. She collected her award at the ADEE ceremony in Berlin, Germany in August.

Her work has focused on making Inter-Professional Education (IPE) the core of the BSc programme, facilitating shared learning with the University's BDS Dental Surgery students.

The DTH course is three years long compared with dental surgery's five, but year one sees all students share teaching, learning

and assessments.

Where scope of practice overlaps, the shared teaching continues into year two, along with clinical working in year three.

This innovative way of working at the University of Plymouth helps to prepare students for collaborative settings in their future career. Clare said: 'In order to provide effective, patient centred, shared care, the dental team need to work together and understand each other's roles in the provision of patient care. Although dental therapists' and dentists' roles differ, we are all ultimately striving for the same thing, so it's great that we've been able to implement this innovative way of working into the very core of the curriculum at Plymouth.'

Clare has also led trips to New York



University, Tufts and Harvard School of Dental Medicine to further develop Inter-Professional Education opportunities.

Professor Christopher Tredwin, Head of Peninsula Dental School at the University of Plymouth, said: 'Clare's work has been outstanding – the shared curriculum promotes inter-professional skills in environments akin to real-life practice, and has been extremely well received by students. The programmes' integration has placed Peninsula Dental School at the forefront of dental education, and her award is thoroughly deserved.'

## New toolkit for safeguarding children who miss appointments

The British Dental Association (BDA) has launched a new toolkit to support safeguarding of children and young people who miss appointments, often for reasons beyond their control.

Representing a break from the 'did not attend' pathway, the new approach which was first developed by community dentistry professionals at Charles Clifford Dental Services, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, recognises that children do not 'call the shots' on whether they attend appointments. The 'was not brought' pathway,

'WNB-CYP', was published in the *BDJ*<sup>1</sup> and is now available for all dentists and teams to use via the BDA website.<sup>2</sup>

The toolkit is a step-by-step guide to managing the pathway in dental practices.<sup>3</sup> It offers a flowchart for action and downloadable template letters to help the team follow a standardised approach which will keep young patients safe. It will help practices to identify at each stage of the process which other healthcare professionals they need to communicate and share information with if they are worried about patients facing dental neglect.

The pathway was developed by Jenny Harris, Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry working in Community and Special Care Dentistry at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, recognised in 2018 as an NSPCC Honorary Member of Council for pioneering work in safeguarding children, including developing Child Protection and the Dental Team; and Jen Kirby, Leadership Fellow and Speciality Registrar in Paediatric Dentistry, whose work on the project was funded by Health Education England.

Charlotte Waite, Chair of the BDA's England Community Dental Services Committee, said: 'This new pathway is an important step forward to keeping children and young people safe. Young children do not call the shots on attending appointments, so for many health professionals treating them the term "did not attend" has never been applicable. This "was not brought" toolkit is designed to help the whole dental team, and provide practical help on making this important distinction.'

### References

1. Kirby J, Harris J C. Development and evaluation of a 'was not brought' pathway: a team approach to managing children's missed dental appointments. *Br Dent J* 2019; **227**: 291-297.
2. British Dental Association. Advice and Services: Safeguarding. Available at: <https://www.bda.org/safeguarding> (accessed September 2019).
3. British Dental Association. Implementing 'Was Not Brought' in your practice. A tool for safeguarding children who miss appointments. September 2019. Available at: <https://bda.org/dentists/advice/Documents/Was%20Not%20Brought%20implementation%20guide%20AW.pdf> (accessed September 2019).

