

## Smile Together embarks on sixth harbourside tour of Cornwall and Devon



lifestyle advice and information from other healthcare providers and charity partners.

Smiles at Sea is funded and delivered by Smile Together in partnership with The Fishermen's Mission and Healthy Cornwall, SeaFit and their partner network of healthcare providers.

According to project lead Joy Callender: 'This will be the sixth year Smile Together have visited local harboursides. We're passionate about tackling oral health inequality in our communities, in this case helping to improve the oral health of fisherfolk who so rarely get to see a dentist due to the demands of their work.'

The 2022 #SmilesAtSeaUK tour for fisherfolk started in Newlyn on Tuesday 27 September and was due to visit Newquay, Brixham, Mevagissey and Padstow. In Penzance and Newquay the team were also supporting Cornwall Health for Homeless initiatives with the mobile dental unit.

Fisherfolk and their families are being offered free dental checks, emergency treatment and oral cancer screening in five fishing ports across Cornwall and Devon thanks to Smile Together Dental CIC. The treatment will relieve any immediate dental problems including simple tooth extraction, permanent fillings and scale

and polish with referrals through NHS routes where more complex oral surgery is required.

Oral health packs for the fisherfolk who attend will include a toothbrush, toothpaste and two-minute timer along with top dental tips for all the family and in some locations there will be free healthy

## BSPD ISSUES PAEDIATRIC ORAL HEALTH BLUEPRINT TO LIZ TRUSS

The British Society of Paediatric Dentistry (BSPD) issued a 'blueprint to improve children's oral health' to new Prime Minister Liz Truss, as she put her administration together and set out her policies.

The Society's message to the PM's new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Thérèse Coffey, lists the following ten steps:

1. Every child and young person (CYP) should have a dental home
2. Deliver a Dental Check by One (DCby1) before every baby's first birthday
3. Support vulnerable groups (asylum seeking children, looked after children and those in poverty) by expanding supervised toothbrushing schemes in early years settings, community water fluoridation and increasing the free school meals offer
4. Drive an equitable recovery of general anaesthetic (GA) services
5. Enable effective and funded Managed Clinical Networks (MCNs)
6. Oversee true integration of oral health, with initiatives such as Mini Mouth Care Matters (MMCM)
7. Ensure targeted, evidence-based intervention for vulnerable groups such as Looked After Children, CYP with learning disabilities and/or autism
8. Upskill and contractually enable primary dental care practitioners to provide evidence-based interventions using schemes such as Child Friendly/Focused Dental Practices (CFDP)
9. Support and develop the whole oral healthcare team
10. Expand the paediatric dental workforce – including provision of tier 2 services and recruiting community based specialists and consultants.

The coming months will see BSPD focus attention on vulnerable groups in the community as the priority. These groups include neglected children, children living in poverty (an alarming percentage of the population will be less able to afford toothbrushes and toothpaste this winter), asylum seekers and refugees. If put into action, the Society's blueprint would ensure that those most in need will be supported.

Professor Claire Stevens CBE, BSPD's



Professor Claire Stevens CBE, BSPD spokesperson with a jar of extracted children's teeth

spokesperson (pictured) said: 'Our message to Liz Truss and Thérèse Coffey is – If you put the Society's blueprint into action, we will be ensuring those most in need will be supported. We have to remember that tooth decay remains the leading reason for hospital admissions among five to nine year olds. This is wholly unacceptable when we consider that dental caries is a largely preventable disease.'

©BSPD, Photographer: Roger Moody