

◀ them information and encouragement to change unhealthy behaviours to healthier ones. We are hoping for this project to lower levels of sugar consumption and consequently tooth decay within young people in Wandsworth.

Due to the positive reception and feedback from our collaborating organisation and public engagement, we are expanding the project by making more videos and online resources like these for our local GP surgeries, libraries and community centres. Our vision is to spread awareness of dental health through simple but consistent messages, and reach people who would normally not visit the dentist due to language or financial barriers.

Oral health becomes mainstream topic for schools



The British Society of Paediatric Dentistry (BSPD) wants all children to understand from an early age the importance of caring for their teeth – and this is now set to become a reality thanks to an

addition to the school curriculum, driven by Public Health England's Jenny Godson and aided by BSPD member, Professor Zoe Marshman (pictured).

As of September, oral health is now included in the 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' curriculum for both primary and secondary schools in England.

Professor Marshman, Professor of Dental Public Health, who is based at the School of Clinical Dentistry, Sheffield and whose interest is child-centred dental research, worked with the Department of Education to develop the teachers training module underpinning the curriculum changes.

Professor Marshman said: 'This development turns oral health into a mainstream topic in schools in England and will help children understand that teeth are integral to their health and how best to look after them.'

The uncertainty of the future caused by COVID-19 is ever-growing. It has been hard for us to reach out to different organisations and local authorities about their plans for health promotion. It is a crucial time to give out prevention advice when dental access is limited. While overcoming technical and communications difficulties, your participation in public health campaigns will truly make a difference in the oral health and overall wellbeing of the community. ■

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Entries invited for paediatric dental innovation

The British Society of Paediatric Dentistry's (BSPD's) Outstanding Innovation Award (OIA), which celebrates inspiring and innovative schemes to improve the oral health of children, is about to enter its fifth year. Entries are invited for 2021 from anyone with an initiative or scheme which has a demonstrable impact on children's oral health. The deadline is 31 December 2020.

By creating positive publicity around innovative schemes, BSPD's aim is to encourage, promote and disseminate good practice. The winner in 2020 was Linzi Maybin (pictured, centre) for her Happy Teeth Outreach initiative.

Linzi said of the OIA: 'It was a huge and important stepping stone with raising awareness of Happy Teeth Outreach. To have dentists from BSPD believing in the project was incredible. The OIA and BSPD's support has fuelled my passion and drive to continue to reach young people with disabilities to improve their oral health.'

Other winners of the award are: 2019, Helen Rogers for Connect Trainees; 2018, Ben Underwood for Brush DJ; and 2017, Ingrid Perry for Teeth Team.

The key criterion for the OIA is evidence of the benefits of the scheme which must meet BSPD's mission to improve the oral health of children. A BSPD member must have initiated or manage it and submit



the entry. The prize is the opportunity to speak about the winning scheme at the BSPD annual conference, to which you gain free access for the day. If there are several outstanding entries, there may be the opportunity for 'Highly Commended' awards.

For more information visit: <https://www.bspd.co.uk/Professionals/Awards-and-Prizes/The-Outstanding-Innovation-Award>. Applications will be considered at the February meeting of the BSPD Executive. The deadline for entry is 31 December and submissions should be emailed to the administrator, Neil Sutcliffe: administrator@bspd.co.uk.