

Blackburn with Darwen Oral Health Strategy 2021-22



Key Findings

Children and young people

- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has the highest proportion of its five-year-olds experiencing decay, in the whole of England. 51% of five-year-olds have at least one decayed missing or filled teeth.
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council also has the second highest rate for hospital admissions for tooth decay for 0–5-year-olds in the North West. This can be a dangerous procedure as it must be under a general anaesthetic.
- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has the same proportion of five-year-olds experiencing decay as thirteen years ago.
- Poor oral health can affect the ability of children to sleep, eat, speak, play and socialise with other children. Other impacts include pain, infections, poor diet, and impaired nutrition and growth which affect the ability of the child to learn, thrive and develop.

Issues to be addressed – inequalities faced by our BAME population

- **Barriers to access:** Several studies have explored the barriers to accessing dental services by people from black and minority ethnic groups.
- Barriers identified included:
 - 1) language issues
 - 2) A mistrust of dentists
 - 3) Organisational issues for those in large families
 - 4) Cost
 - 5) Anxiety
 - 6) Cultural misunderstandings
 - 7) Concern about standards of hygiene.

9 Recommended Actions

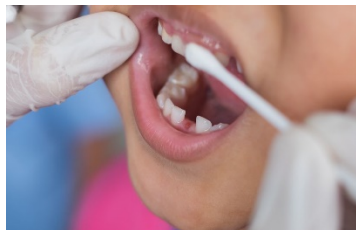
1. Oral health training for the wider professional workforce (e.g. health, education)



2. Integration of oral health into targeted home visits by health/social care workers



3. Targeted community-based fluoride varnish programmes



4. Targeted provision of toothbrushes and toothpaste (i.e. postal or through health visitors)



5. Supervised tooth brushing in targeted childhood settings



6. Healthy food and drink policies in childhood settings



7. Fluoridation of public water supplies



8. Targeted peer support groups/peer oral health workers



9. Influencing local and national government policies

