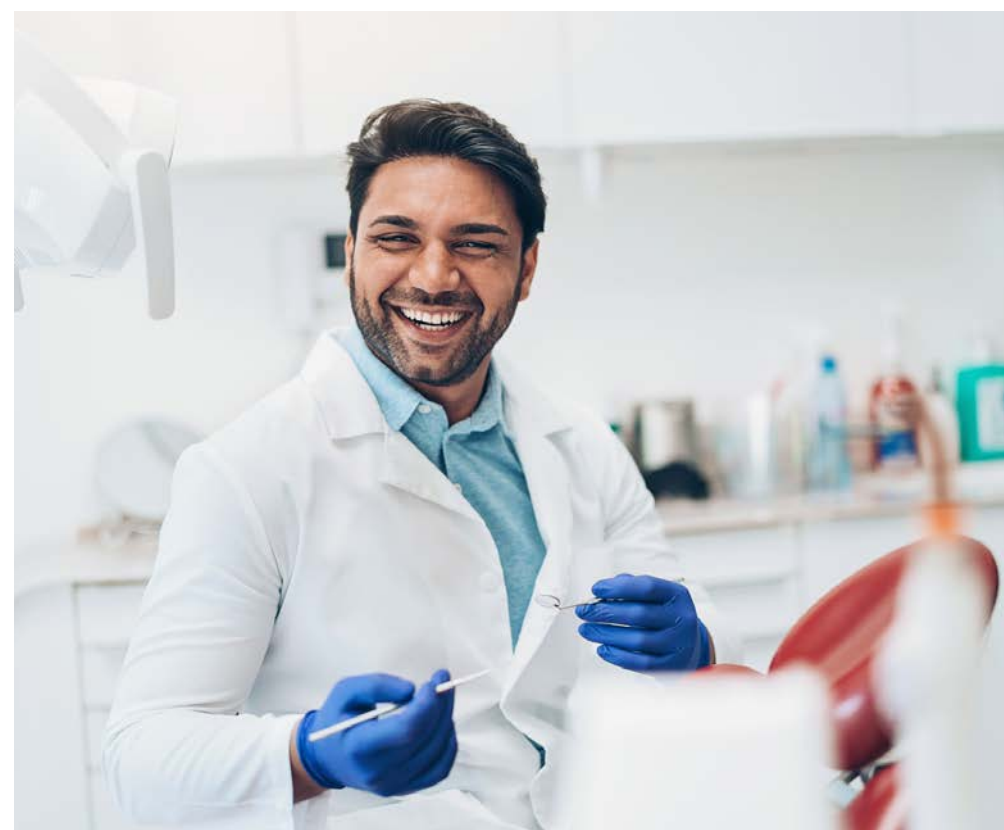


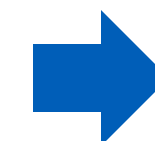


NHS
Lincolnshire
Integrated Care Board



Lincolnshire Dental Strategy

2023-2026



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- Health Education England
- Healthwatch
- Lincolnshire Care Association
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board
- Lincolnshire Local Dental Network, General Dental Practice Dental Teams, and the Community Dental Services (CDC-CIC)
- Lincolnshire Oral Health Promotion Service
- Lincolnshire Voluntary and Community Services
- NHS England Dental Commissioners and Public Health
- University of Lincoln Academic Partners
- Wider Primary Care



Executive Summary

From April 2023, Integrated Care Boards (ICB) will take over delegated responsibility for commissioning dental services from NHS England, whilst responsibility for oral health improvement will remain with local authorities. To support this transition, this dental strategy for Lincolnshire was created to provide a framework for the ICB and its partners to support action over the next 3 years, acting as the central vision for a wider programme of work aimed at improving oral health and dental services through a 'whole system' approach. Just as this was developed collaboratively, delivering on the strategy to provide better oral health and care for people and communities across Lincolnshire will require close working with stakeholder partners and organisations.

Our focus is on transformation, innovation, and delivery to meet needs, with the values and design principles described in the strategy guiding us in implementing the change in the delivery of oral care. We will invest in the teams who deliver dental care, provide strong system leadership and continuous engagement, to:

- Enrich the well-being, capability, and engagement of the dental workforce in Lincolnshire
- Ensure equitable access, and improve the experience and quality of dental care for the whole population of Lincolnshire through evidence-informed commissioning of dental services, continued investment in access improvement schemes, innovation, use of best practice, and eliminating waste to meet current and future demand
- Improve population health and oral health and wellbeing through a greater focus on prevention and reducing inequalities in oral health and ability to receive dental care
- Create better integration between oral health and general health and wellbeing, making good oral health everyone's business across Lincolnshire





Introduction

Oral health is essential for general health and wellbeing, and improving oral health is a national and local public health priority. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines oral health as a key indicator of overall health and wellbeing. In children, it contributes to physical, educational, and social development. In adults, good oral health means people experience a better quality of life and take fewer days off work. Yet we know that in Lincolnshire, too many people are unable to access the dental care, resources and support they need, when they need it.

The need for equity

The provision of dental care and services, and by extension of dental outcomes, is neither equal nor equitable across Lincolnshire. This was highlighted in Lincolnshire County Council's Rapid Oral Health Needs Assessment[1], with one example being the rates of dental decay in 5-year-old children. Whilst the overall oral health of children in Lincolnshire has improved over recent years, there remains large variation for this metric (2 out of every 5 children have experienced tooth decay in Boston, significantly higher than the Lincolnshire average of 1 in 4). This is despite dental decay being largely preventable with good oral care at home and in schools, a healthy diet and access to preventative care.

3The importance of good oral health for this population is also highlighted in the recently published Core20PLUS5 approach for children and young people, where oral health is identified as one of the key clinical areas of focus[2].

We also see higher amounts of dental disease in our more vulnerable adult populations and those living in areas of deprivation. The risk factors associated with worse oral health in some of our populations and communities in Lincolnshire are shared with many other common causes of ill-health, such as heart disease, obesity, and diabetes. They are associated with poverty, lifestyle behaviours and culture. These are not always easy things to address but are issues we all have a duty to tackle. As identified locally in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy[3], preventing disease across all social groups is key to creating a more prosperous and equitable Lincolnshire. For oral health this will be more achievable if it is integrated into wider health and care services, and in all relevant policies.

[1] [Lincolnshire County Council, "Rapid Oral Health Needs Assessment"](#)

[2] [NHS England, "Core20PLUS5"](#)

[3] [Lincolnshire County Council, "Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy"](#)





Introduction

“Whole system” working – an opportunity

We believe that the transfer of dental commissioning to local ICBs will provide greater opportunities to improve oral health and dental care services by bringing the design of care closer to home. This shift will allow us to develop dental services that better meet the needs of our people and communities across Lincolnshire. At the local level, combined Primary Care Networks will provide a forum for integrating local dental teams providing general dental services for their communities. This will create a whole ‘four pillars of primary care’ service for communities, better integrating dental care services with General Practice (GP) services, community pharmacy and optometry services, with the aim of providing more joined-up shared care that improves outcomes for local populations.

One of the key challenges facing primary care and specialist dental teams is that of recruiting and retaining staff. A key aim of this strategy is to work with our dental workforce partners in the region and with our academic colleagues doing important research at the University of Lincoln on dental workforce development in rural and coastal settings.

By collaborating through a Lincolnshire Centre for Dental Development to find innovative ways of developing the workforce, we want to develop shared understanding of the strengths and talents of each service, better communication across boundaries, and appreciate the benefits of working together.

To achieve our vision of sustainable dental services for the future in Lincolnshire, we want to develop new models of care, including ways to resource them, that are co-developed by service planners, patients and those providing care. In addition to the opportunities offered by the shift of dental service commissioning to our ICB, we also need to maximise on the benefits from the recent General Dental Services contract reforms announced in 2022. These are the first substantial changes in the national contract since its start in 2006, offering a fairer distribution of payments to dental providers based on patient needs. The new organisation of dental services now means we have more agility and flexibility to develop and test new ways of working in Lincolnshire. Our ambition is that Lincolnshire is held up as an exemplar leading system for others in turning around a challenging dental service landscape into one where the dental workforce is thriving, and oral health inequalities show the greatest reduction nationally.



Our vision for dentistry and oral health in Lincolnshire

Stakeholders involved in the development of this strategy agreed on a bold vision of creating oral health and dental services which promote the prevention of dental diseases and meet the needs of the people of Lincolnshire now and in the future. Through a series of strategy development workshops, four key themes for the strategy were agreed:

1. Developing the Dental Workforce
2. Improving Access to Dental Services
3. Increasing the Focus on Prevention
4. Strengthening the Integration of Oral Health into Wider Health and Care Services

Three cross-cutting themes were also agreed:

- the need to address health inequalities as the golden thread running across all pillars of our strategy, drawing on the CORE20PLUS5 inequalities framework for adults, and children and young people
- maximising the use of evidence, data, and intelligence to improve oral health
- enhancing leadership and creating an environment that fosters developing the culture of pride and accomplishment within and across all members of dental teams across Lincolnshire.

All of this sits under one overarching principle, that patients and the Lincolnshire public are at the heart of everything we do.



Theme 1: Developing the Dental Workforce

Where are we now?

Lincolnshire faces significant workforce challenges which manifest as reduced capacity of services for patients and inequalities in provision, particularly for those in rural and coastal areas. Patients are therefore often left to travel long distances to access dental services, particularly for specialist input such as Restorative Dentistry which is not available in Lincolnshire. This mismatch between demand and capacity places additional pressure on the existing workforce to try and manage long waiting lists, which in turn hinders recruitment and may make existing staff consider early retirement or career changes. Such a cycle of events has a negative impact on both patient's oral and general health.

It is therefore a priority that we look at ways of supporting our existing workforce and also attracting new staff to Lincolnshire. The transfer of dental commissioning from NHS England to the Integrated Care Board provides us with the opportunity to work more closely with stakeholders across Lincolnshire to foster a holistic approach to looking after our staff, with a particular focus on their overall wellbeing. These developments are intended to be taken in conjunction with ongoing work nationally to influence dental contract reform, so that well-recognised challenges beyond the scope of individual places can be addressed.

Where do we want to be?

Our vision for supporting and strengthening our local workforce centres on:

- Effectively utilising the full skill mix of the whole dental team
- Improving the resilience of the workforce in Lincolnshire and our ability to respond to workforce needs
- Developing a sustainable workforce that is reflective of the needs of the communities it serves
- Maximise the capacity dental teams have, to deliver high-quality and efficient dental care



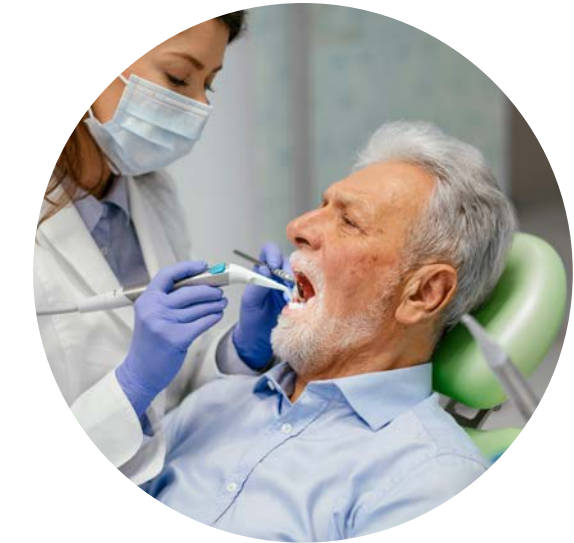
Theme 1: Developing the Dental Workforce

What will this look like?

To achieve this future goal, we will work to:

- Improve our understanding of the current local workforce structure and what it needs to be
- Improve workforce satisfaction and retention, in alignment with the Lincolnshire People Plan[4]
- Create a local Centre for Dental Development to coordinate and lead on increasing the number of people training in Lincolnshire
- Develop a workforce with a sense of shared identity, that feels valued by both internal and external partners, and is supported in progressing their careers

[4] [Lincolnshire Integrated Care System, "Lincolnshire People Plan 2022-23"](#)



Theme 1: Developing the Dental Workforce

How will we get there?

Actions that need to be undertaken to take us from our current situation to where we want to be, can be grouped into 5 sub-themes:

Improved information and intelligence – To make sure that we are targeting resources effectively, it is important that we make decisions based on the best available evidence rather than working from unfounded assumptions. We will therefore undertake a comprehensive mapping and engagement exercise of the current dental services (both NHS and non-NHS), the composition of the dental workforce, and the available training posts. This will allow us to employ an approach based on the principle of proportionate universalism, whereby we have a universal offer alongside additional, focused support to those parts of the workforce need. Furthermore, an up-to-date registry of local services will allow for the creation of a dental helpline to better support patients identify and subsequently connect with the most appropriate service.

Developing unique training and career opportunities in Lincolnshire – In order to attract new people to work at every level of dentistry in Lincolnshire and to retain those already here, we must develop career opportunities that allow for ongoing professional development. We will therefore co-design new pathways with staff, which may include the development of practical training, apprenticeships, preceptorships, and leadership programmes. Whilst we lack some dental specialties such as Restorative Dentistry locally, we will explore how we can partner with consultants and dental schools from other regions in order to support dental specialty development in Lincolnshire. Furthermore, we will expand the use of alternative ways of working by delivering care directly to the community via in-person mobile health solutions, digitalisation, and flexible working. Both staff and patients will benefit from this increased choice of how services and people interact. Finally, it is recognised that training in an area increases a person's likelihood of them then going on to work in that location. We will therefore seek to expand training locations in Lincolnshire by incentivising the establishment of new training practices, via routes such as sponsorship programmes. There is an opportunity for work in this area to be led by a new Centre for Dental Development, which could provide longer term strategic oversight and leadership.





Theme 1: Developing the Dental Workforce

Maximising the skills of the full dental workforce – In Lincolnshire, we recognise and appreciate the skills and talents of all members within dental teams. We will therefore work to enhance the role of dental nurses and therapists, so that they are able to maximise the full scope of their practice in a supported environment. We will also encourage staff to undertake a risk management approach to patient care, within existing NICE guidelines. This may include extending recall intervals for patients identified as being at low risk or having reviews by a member of the team other than dentists. Doing so will require additional support for dental professionals so that they feel comfortable doing this, and engagement with patients to ensure that they understand any extension of a recall interval is positive and will not result in their being removed from a practice's records.

Encouraging people to live and work in Lincolnshire – If we are to strengthen our workforce then in addition to supporting existing staff, we must also attract individuals from other areas. We will therefore undertake promotional campaigns alongside the County Council and Primary Care Networks to highlight the many positives of living in Lincolnshire and develop “Community Ambassadors” to support new recruits moving to the area. This new role can provide a wraparound support service, helping to provide information on local schools, housing, and supporting international staff navigate the often-complex visa and work-based application systems. Developing a central resource to show where jobs are available in Lincolnshire, rather than relying on individual practices would also facilitate a more streamlined approach and could be linked with the Golden Hello Scheme to support recruitment in areas of most need. Finally, people are more likely to work in Lincolnshire if they have grown up locally and have existing links to the area. We will therefore seek to foster local talent by working with the NHS Talent Academy to engage with schools and promote dentistry and oral health as a career.



Theme 1: Developing the Dental Workforce

Developing a more united workforce with a positive and supportive culture –

People enjoy work and work more effectively if they feel valued, appreciated, and identify as being part of a wider team. Learning from other professions such as General Practice, we will therefore create new professional and social networks for all members of the dental team (for example, mentorship schemes, dental nurses' network, professional consultant hub, and First5[5]). Through these, we can promote regular events and work to develop a sense of community through the hosting of local dental awards and hero type events. In addition to creating new networks, we will also expand existing ones, by inviting dental students, Foundation Dentists, Dental Core Trainees, and dental nurses onto the Local Dental Committee (LDN). To facilitate these networks, we will also work with the LDN to design and create a dedicated communication platform or channel to support engagement of the workforce with new developments and events.

[5] [Royal College of General Practitioners, "Early career GPs \(First5\)"](#)



➔ Theme 2: Improving Access to Dental Services

Where are we now?

Whilst there have been severe and longstanding difficulties with access to dental services in Lincolnshire, these were further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the responses required to mitigate the spread of the novel Coronavirus. Access to general dental services was paused across the United Kingdom on the 25 March 2020, with limited access available during subsequent lockdowns as services were required to maintain physical distancing and faced additional challenges such as surgery stand-down time between patients, enhanced PPE requirements, reduced staff availability, and growing appointment backlogs.

Whilst rates of patients seen are on average higher in Lincolnshire than those seen nationally, there is wide variation across the County. Locally, the highest rates are experienced in South Kesteven and East Lindsey, whilst the lowest are in Lincoln, Boston and South Holland. Some of the most deprived communities, for example on the East Coast, are particularly impacted. This contributes to multiple and intersecting inequalities for these areas. NHS contract hand backs affecting general dental and orthodontic services have further reduced treatment capacity in these areas compounding access problems and delays in receiving care for patients.

The inability of the local population to receive dental care when it is required has several consequences. It reduces their exposure to positive oral hygiene messaging, results in delayed presentations and so more advanced disease and a greater need for emergency treatments. This in turn further reduces the capacity available for providing routine care and exacerbates access related difficulties. This is particularly problematic for at risk groups, including children, elderly adults, and those with additional needs. Addressing these issues are therefore a priority for our local strategy and will be further supported by work undertaken to support our other key themes, particularly “Workforce”.



➔ Theme 2: Improving Access to Dental Services

Where do we want to be?

Our vision for improved access in Lincolnshire centres on:

- Better alignment between services and the needs of local people, particularly in our coastal communities which have the greatest need. This requires appropriate needs assessment and evidence-informed commissioning and procurement of general dental and specialist services (including orthodontics and minor oral surgery), leading to a sustainable improvement in patient access
- Raised awareness and provision of person-centred commissioning and orientation of dental services for populations with additional need including people experiencing homelessness and Severe Multiple Disadvantage, our vulnerable older people, our looked after children, and those with learning difficulties.

What will this look like?

To achieve this future goal, we will work to:

- Provide an integrated, evidence informed, and needs-based approach to commissioning and procurement of general, community and specialist dental services
- Improve efficiencies and eliminate waste, working with dental teams to redistribute existing activity away from low value clinical items
- Develop and expand innovative ways of working and interacting with the public to enhance their involvement in dental service commissioning
- Support patients to better understand, enter, and navigate the dental system



Theme 2: Improving Access to Dental Services

How will we get there?

The actions that need to be undertaken to take us from our current situation to where we want to be, can be grouped into 4 sub-themes:

Improved information and intelligence – Improvements in access and the delivery of new programmes seeking to achieve this, should be targeted to those with the greatest need. We will therefore apply an evidence-based approach to service planning and delivery, using the findings from oral health and dental service needs assessment and the developing dental dashboard to ensure resources are used as efficiently as possible. Both new and existing interventions such as the “Golden Hello” scheme will be evaluated to determine their effectiveness and reviewed accordingly. Furthermore, we will continue to work closely with organisations such as Healthwatch to monitor changes in patient experiences over time that can be used to influence future service planning and delivery.

Maximise existing resources – Dental services are currently faced with unprecedented demand and so recognising these difficulties, it is important that we consider how resources can be used to their maximal potential. This includes ensuring that the skill mix of the whole dental team is utilised fully, with it not always being appropriate for patients to be seen by a dentist on each attendance. Furthermore, there is scope to extend the recall interval for low-risk patients, thus further reducing immediate demand on services. We will work with dental teams to ensure they feel sufficiently supported in making the decision to not review low-risk patients as frequently (as per clinical guidelines), whilst simultaneously working to promote this as a positive change in care for patients and addressing wide-spread misunderstandings and fears involving being removed from dental lists. We will also seek to support dental teams in engaging effectively with preventative measures that are within their scope to deliver, with the aim of reducing future demands on emergency services.



➔ Theme 2: Improving Access to Dental Services

Enhance service delivery to populations with the greatest need – Applying the principles of proportional universalism, we must consider how populations with the greatest needs can be further supported to access dental services. This will include further development of existing services that work in this space, such as the Swallowing, Oral health and Nutrition Ambassadors programme and Enhanced Health in Care Homes, as well as developing novel methods of service delivery for our other vulnerable groups and underserved communities. These will include provision of outreach services and exploring the potential for digital delivery of services, learning from organisations that have undertaken outreach work directly with communities in need, and developing new networks linking dental services with settings such as care homes. Additional support also needs to be provided to dental teams to allow for expansion of out of hours services and enhanced delivery of emergency care.

Enable patients – Dental service access points and pathways can be especially difficult to navigate for people from severe and multiple disadvantage groups. This contributes to additional and unnecessary stress for patients, and an increased workload for staff. It is therefore important that we simplify pathways where possible, and support members of the public in understanding what services are available. We will therefore work with colleagues in the voluntary sector to deliver clear and consistent messaging on topics such as oral health prevention, and on the roles of wider dental teams. We will also seek to address misunderstandings around the subject of “patient registration” and explore ways of delivering a single point of access system that connects patients with the most appropriate service based on their individual needs.



Theme 3: Increasing the Focus on Prevention

Where are we now?

Despite many negative oral health outcomes being largely preventable with good personal oral care, a healthy diet, and access to preventative care, there remains a high level of variation in disease rates across Lincolnshire. Acute pressures such as the cost-of-living crisis and attempts to clear the COVID-19 backlog have further exacerbated this. We must therefore continue to work with, and provide support to, our local authority and oral health improvement service colleagues, to seek to provide enhanced and targeted support to the most vulnerable populations in Lincolnshire. Whilst a prevention approach must be embedded across the whole life-course, additional support should be provided to populations most at risk of dental complications, namely children and older adults.

Such an approach requires patients to be empowered and enabled to support their own oral health, and the exploration of new ways for dental services to focus on oral health promotion. Only by undertaking a multifaceted approach will we be able to deliver sustainable and positive behaviour change.

Where do we want to be?

Our vision for promoting a prevention focussed approach to dental care centres on:

- Empowering and supporting our population to effectively take care of their own oral health and that of dependants
- People experiencing fewer dental-related complications, better oral health, and by extension, better general health



Theme 3: Increasing the Focus on Prevention

What will this look like?

To achieve this future goal, we will work to:

- Ensure that the population have the necessary skills, tools, and knowledge to practice good preventative behaviours
- Deliver a combination of both universal measures such as water fluoridation, and targeted interventions to populations with the greatest need. This should be guided by Lincolnshire County Council's recently completed Rapid Oral Health Needs Assessment and the NHS Core20PLUS5 framework

How will we get there?

The actions that need to be accomplished to take us from our current situation to where we want to be, can be grouped into 3 sub-themes:

Improving the population's knowledge and understanding of good oral health –

The first step towards empowering people to take care of their own oral health is ensuring that they have the necessary knowledge and understanding. We will therefore learn from best practice and national campaigns to produce and deliver educational materials and programmes through various media including the use of social media campaigns. The creation of a County-wide dental awareness week may also be used to further raise awareness. To support this and ensure consistent messaging, we will work closely with existing partners such as the Oral Health Alliance Group (OHAG), the Local Authority Public Health team, and the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board. Furthermore, we will engage with non-dental teams including health visitors, teachers, voluntary and community services, higher and further education centres to ensure that oral health messaging reaches as diverse an audience as possible. Oral health champions will also be trained to support colleagues in sectors that work with at-risk populations, including care home staff and health care assistants in hospitals. Finally, we will provide additional signposting to existing resources such as the NHS website or NHS Choices and encourage dental practices to update sources regularly to ensure information such as whether they are currently accepting NHS patients is accurate and reliable.



Theme 3: Increasing the Focus on Prevention

Creating healthy places that support behaviour change – In addition to understanding what good oral health means and what is needed to achieve it, people need to have access to the necessary resources. We will therefore support our most vulnerable populations by distributing regular tooth brushing packs to them and expanding existing programmes that support healthy behaviours such as supervised tooth brushing in schools and nurseries. We will also seek to support an environment whereby the healthy choice is the easy choice. This will include working with businesses and organisations to promote the uptake of healthier food and drink choices by children and young people. By creating awards systems and identifying local champions, behaviour change can be encouraged across systems. Finally, water fluoridation is well evidenced as being a safe and effective intervention for protecting oral health. We will continue to work with strategic partners such as Anglian Water and the Integrated Care Board, whilst encouraging local Ministers for Parliament to advocate for fluoridation across the whole of Lincolnshire.

Supporting dental services to have a greater focus on prevention – Whilst patients must be supported to take ultimate responsibility for practicing good oral hygiene, dental teams also have an important role to play in promoting prevention measures. We will therefore increase the training of dental care professionals in oral health promotion measures to ensure they are sufficiently confident in delivering this aspect of care alongside acute service delivery. Furthermore, we will seek to explore new ways by which dental teams can play a role in prevention, such as by allowing the prescribing of high-fluoride toothpaste in care homes, designing programmes for the delivery of fluoride varnish to targeted populations and undertaking infant dental checks, and by embedding dentists in primary care networks to increase their presence in General Practice.



Theme 4: Strengthening the Integration of Oral Health into Wider Health and Care Services

Where are we now?

The bidirectional relationship between oral and general health is well evidenced, and there are excellent local examples of embedding oral health within the system, such as through the Swallowing, Oral Health and Nutrition Ambassador (SONA) training programme for care homes. There are however still many instances where the opportunity for impacting the course of disease by linking communication between general (medical) primary care and dental services is not fully realised. To help address this, primary care networks in Lincolnshire have established a clinical academy that seek to develop combined pathways and tackle unwarranted variation via quality improvement tools, across the whole system.

Our discussions with stakeholders during the development of this strategy have shown that there is a strong appetite to build further on this work of creating a more 'joined-up' approach to care, whilst simultaneously ensuring dentistry achieves a parity with other key areas. Being highlighted as one of the key pillars in establishing the Integrated Care Board (alongside Medical, Optometry and Pharmacy) provides us with an ideal opportunity for embedding these principles over the next 3 years.

Where do we want to be?

Our vision for improved integration between dental and other healthcare services in Lincolnshire centres on:

- Improving awareness of the important bidirectional relationship between both oral and general health, and working to 'put the mouth back into the body'.
- Reducing the number of dental related attendances to non-dental Urgent and Emergency Care services, including Accident and Emergency



Theme 4: Strengthening the Integration of Oral Health into Wider Health and Care Services

What will this look like?

To achieve this future goal, we will work to:

- Upskill and train members of the wider healthcare system on the ways in which oral disease impacts on people's general health, including improving knowledge on common risk factors and simple interventions that can be made as part of wider health care
- Develop an agreed operating model for collaborative working to establish a whole '4 pillars' of primary care alliance at Integrated Care Partnership and Primary Care Networks level
- Increase the proportion of referrals to and from oral health services and other services that are considered 'appropriate'

How will we get there?

The actions that need to be accomplished to take us from our current situation to where we want to be, can be grouped into 3 sub-themes:

Improving multi-disciplinary working across dental and non-dental services –
We already have a skilled and diverse workforce in Lincolnshire, but there is the opportunity to develop these talents further. In addition to the development of novel training pathways as discussed in "Theme 1: Workforce", we will incorporate oral health improvement training into nursing, allied health professional, and social care education programmes. We will also work to enhance existing training in, and expand the delivery of, Making Every Contact Count and Social Prescribing, in addition to oral health improvement initiatives in acute settings such as Mouth Care Matters and Mini-Mouth Care Matters. To support this, we will work to improve staff awareness of existing referral routes into wider lifestyle services such as 'One You Lincolnshire'. We will also deepen levels of engagement with existing national programmes such as the NHS England Core20PLUS5 agenda, by nominating dedicated dental leads. This approach can also be used to support integration and engagement with important non-healthcare partners such as education settings, whilst simultaneously providing leadership opportunities for staff.



Theme 4: Strengthening the Integration of Oral Health into Wider Health and Care Services

New ways of working – With patient demographics changing and healthcare services experiencing frequent alterations, we must ensure our own dental services and workforce are sufficiently dynamic to meet these new challenges. We will develop new pathways that allow for patients identified as having specific oral health issues to be referred to medical colleagues for further investigations such as testing for diabetes and blood pressure monitoring. This new way of working will require closer integration of dental and other community healthcare services such as pharmacies (mirroring the pre-existing General Practice/Pharmacy relationship), along with the development of shared intelligence routes between systems to allow access to patient medical notes. To further support this, we will explore opportunities for shared training between dental and other services, to ensure that the same language and level of understanding is used across sectors.

Advocating for dental services – Recent delegation of responsibility for commissioning dental services to Integrated Care Boards represents an ideal opportunity to ensure that oral health is considered at all levels of service planning and delivery. This will include making sure that oral health is considered within all relevant wider health care pathways where it may have an impact on outcomes (such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, frailty, learning difficulties and mental health, drug and alcohol use), exploring ways of integrating oral health into existing programmes such as Starting Well and Ageing Well, and seeking to have dental representatives within multidisciplinary teams across the health and social care systems. Ongoing engagement and relationship building between the Integrated Care Board and Primary Care Networks will underpin these developments. Furthermore, the diverse skill mix within dental teams means there is potential for our services to play a wider role in primary care delivery, such as by supporting vaccination services. Leaders within the system will act as advocates for dental services to be utilised to their fullest extent, and for investment in the infrastructure necessary for supporting these roles.



Lincolnshire Dental Strategy Summary

