

Work Package 7: Oral Health and Primary Dental Care

Oral Health and Primary Dental Care: our work in the field of dentistry continues. The team, led by Professor Ivor Chestnutt, comprises Dr Anwen Cope and Hannah Scott. We work closely with staff in other PRIME work packages particularly, Drs Fiona Wood and Natalie Joseph-Williams. We also collaborate with other centres in Cardiff and Bangor Universities and with dental colleagues across the UK and overseas.

We work in three main areas:

- Clinical trials in preventive dentistry
- Use of antimicrobials in dentistry
- The effective and efficient delivery of primary dental care

What are our key areas of success over the last year?

1. Exploring how technology can be employed to **improve oral health in disadvantaged adolescents**
2. We have received funding to provide evidence to support **the current reforms to how primary dental care is commissioned in Wales**
3. The **international applicability of our work** has been recognised by the award of a prize from the International Association for Dental Research.

What have we been working on over the past year?

- The PRIDA study – working with Public Health Wales and the office of the Chief Dental Officer we are exploring how a shared decision aid can be used **to agree an appropriate interval to attend the dentist.**
- With colleagues in the Department of Mathematics, we have won funding from HCRW **to determine how a more efficient and cost effective preventive approach can be adopted in primary dental care** in Wales – the OPTIMISE study
- The NIHR funded BRIGHT clinical trial (in collaboration with the Universities of Dundee, Leeds, Sheffield and York) has completed all baseline examinations, and year two examinations in the schools recruited in 2017/18 are underway. **The objective of this work is to determine the clinical and cost effectiveness of SMS messages in encouraging behaviours conducive to good oral health in adolescents living in disadvantaged communities.**

What other news do we have to share?

- Members of this workpackage were instrumental in setting up the **Designed to Smile Programme** which celebrated its 10th Anniversary in September. This national oral health improvement programme has seen a 12% reduction in the proportion of 5 year-olds in Wales who have experienced tooth decay over this period.

