



Isle of Man
Government

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Oral Health Strategy for Children aged 0-11 years

2021 – 2026

Implementation Plan

Cabinet Office

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a. Introduction

This action plan provides the framework for the implementation of the Oral Health Strategy for Children aged 0-11 years. The overall aim of the Strategy is to improve the oral health of our young people. In collaboration with our stakeholders we have developed a set of actions to address the key priority areas identified in the Strategy.

This is a living document, which is to be kept updated to reflect change and emerging issues.

Certain actions within this plan are also linked to the priorities within the DHSC Dental Strategy (2020-2025).

Priority Areas for Action

The Oral Health Needs Assessment for Children aged 0-11 on the Isle of Man was conducted to ascertain the extent of the issues in relation to children’s oral health, and to identify gaps (what we are missing) to drive the development of the Strategy and meet the population’s needs. Three key strategic priority areas were identified and are as follows:

1	Governance, Data and Performance
2	Education and Prevention
3	Address the Wider Determinants of Oral Health
4	Performance Management Framework

b. Progress – colour coding key

White	Not started
Red	Project not meeting targets
Amber	Issues being addressed
Green	On target
Blue	Completed

Priority 1: Governance, Data and Performance

Strategic Outcomes:

- Reduce the prevalence of tooth decay in children at five years of age
- Reduce the average number of tooth extractions per child due to decay
- All children on the Isle of Man have access to a dentist

Strategic Objectives:

- Share appropriate data and information across appropriate agencies
- Ensure oral health is included in all health and wellbeing policies
- Evaluate the effectiveness of oral health provision against best practice

Ref	Action	Who?	How?	Progress	Rating
1.1	Improve data sharing between the DHSC and DESC	Manx Care / DESC / CO (PH)	One key representative from each department to attend regular Oral Health Steering Group meetings. (<i>Regular steering group meetings will ensure the implementation plan is on track, and issues are tracked as they arise.</i>) Initial reporting to go to Steering Group, then reported up to SPCC / COG for accountability.		
1.2	Continue to fund and participate in the PHE National Epidemiological Survey of five-year-old children	CO (PH) / Manx Care / PHE	Public Health to fund the programme, and Community Dental Service to carry out		

			operational work. Findings to be sent back to PHE for collation and analysis.		
1.3	Expand the Isle of Man PHOF oral health data set	CO / Manx Care	Appointed individual from Public Health, Health Intelligence Team to take a lead on data set, taking into account and considering the data PHE are measuring.		
1.4	Undertake a deep dive analysis of the reasons why the rates of tooth extractions due to decay for children admitted to hospital are higher than the England average	Manx Care (Community Dental)	Using data from 1.3 and other sources, look into potential reasons for the high rates e.g. different pathways to England, and present the findings into a report with actions and recommendations.		
1.5	Ensure all health and wellbeing policies include oral health	Multi-agency	Appoint a lead to establish connections with appropriate sectors/individuals who will be able to help with policy change.		
1.6	Undertake an audit to benchmark policies and interventions against 'NICE Oral health: Public Health Guideline [PH55]'	CO (PH)	Public Health to undertake this audit.		
1.7	Continue to fund the 'Smile of Mann' toothbrushing programme from the SDIL	CO (PH)	Public Health to continue to use the funds generated from the SDIL to continue to fund Smile of Mann.		
1.8	Include oral health promotion in service specifications for all early years provision	DESC / Manx Care	Liaise with appropriate stakeholders to carry forward this work.		

Priority 2: Education and Prevention

Strategic Outcomes:

- Change in food choices (meals/snacks) at home, in schools, clubs and early years settings

Strategic Objectives:

- Improve the oral health of children through education and early preventative interventions
- Explore the option of a mandatory policy for early years settings participation in Smile of Mann

Ref	Action	Who?	How?	Progress	Rating
2.1	Increase the number of nursery and pre-school settings taking part in the 'Smile of Mann' toothbrushing programme	CO (PH) / R&I	Explore whether the programme can be made mandatory for nurseries and pre-schools to take part in, and encourage uptake.		
2.2	Expand the 'Smile of Mann' toothbrushing programme to include reception and year 1 primary school children	CO (PH) / DESC	Introduce Smile of Mann as an optional programme into reception and year one classes across the Island, and encourage participation. The current Smile of Mann Standards will be used for primary schools as well as nursery and pre-school settings. Staff training will be required.		
2.3	Consider the introduction of a community-based fluoride varnishing programme in pre-school and school settings	Manx Care / DESC	Primary Care to discuss the feasibility of introducing programme with dental practitioners.		

2.4	Raise awareness of the importance of oral health, as part of a 'whole-school' approach in all primary schools	DESC	Introduction of Smile of Mann into primary schools. Work in collaboration with DESC to support oral health education within the PHSE curriculum.		
2.5	Implement evidence-based approaches to improve parent/carer awareness on all aspects of oral health and wellbeing	Multi-agency	Research which evidence-based approaches are most appropriate and would work best for the Isle of Man. Arrange leads from different areas to implement these approaches.		
2.6	Ensure that information and guidance is available to parents/carers on the process of accessing NHS dental care	Manx Care	Action already achieved.		
2.7	Increase access to NHS primary care dental services for prevention and early intervention	Manx Care	Included in work around contract changes re. access and waiting times within Dental Strategy.		
2.8	Commission training for Manx Care staff, and other professionals working with children and young people who are at high risk of poor oral health	Manx Care / LEaD	Investigate the possibility of an eLearn Vannin training package to be based upon evidence-based best practice, interventions and information.		
2.9	Develop an effective and efficient oral health pathway for 0-11s	Manx Care	Work together with Transformation and PCAS teams to develop pathway.		

Priority 3: Address the Wider Determinants of Oral Health

Strategic Outcomes:

- Reduce inequalities in dental decay prevalence

Strategic Objectives:

- Reduce inequalities by tackling the wider determinants of oral health
- Develop a national standard for food and drink offered to children through schools, and government-run children and young people's clubs

Ref	Action	Who?	How?	Progress	Rating
3.1	Engage with stakeholders to revisit and review fluoridation of the water supply on the Isle of Man	Multi-agency	Hold a workshop for appropriate stakeholders to discuss, and look into possibility of a public consultation.		
3.2	Work in partnership with DESC and other stakeholders to establish a standardised food and drink policy for schools and childhood settings in line with the Children's Weight Management Strategy.	Multi-agency	Liaise and work with appropriate stakeholders to develop the policy, and ensure policy is implemented by schools and childhood settings when complete.		
3.3	Engage with the leads of non-government children's clubs/organisations to raise awareness of, and encourage healthy food and drink options		Provide clubs/organisations with appropriate resources and work together to allow them to make and promote healthy food and drink choices.		

3.4	Ensure access to routine and urgent dental care for children at high risk of poor oral health	Manx Care	Included in work around contract changes re. access and waiting times within Dental Strategy.		
3.5	Integrate oral health into targeted home visits by health visitors and social workers	Manx Care	Ensure staff have appropriate training to enable them to provide the correct advice and interventions required.		

Performance Management Framework

Ref	Action	Who?	How?	Progress	Rating
4.1	Annual review of Implementation Plan				
4.2	Mid-term Strategy refresh				