

Successful Dudley community toothbrush scheme piloted in special schools with new adapted resources (continued)

These toothbrush packs have been designed to meet the varying needs of as many young people as possible. They include a specially adapted toothbrush and toothpaste, an information booklet for parents, a toothbrushing chart, and a step-by-step guide with flashcards to encourage better oral health.

The pilot is a further development of the council's successful oral health programme, which aims to reduce children's tooth decay across the borough. The programme has already distributed more than 65,000 free toothbrush packs to Dudley's children and families in need as part of the Dudley Community Toothbrush Scheme.

Tooth decay remains the most common cause of hospital admissions for children in England. Adopting good oral health behaviours, including regular toothbrushing and reducing sugar intake, is a simple yet effective health improvement measure.

The impacts of poor oral health in children should not be underestimated. It can cause pain and infections, affecting their ability to sleep, eat, speak, learn, and play.

The council will evaluate this pilot and, if successful, seek to secure future funding to expand the scheme later in the year to support more of Dudley's children with SEND.

For more information on the community toothbrush scheme, please visit: [Healthy Dudley](#).

