



Poster number: 23

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Community Dental Services CIC

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## Background

In 2022, CDS CIC working in partnership with Nottingham SMD Oral Health Project group undertook a small ‘snapshot’ oral health survey with 45 adults experiencing Severe Multiple Disadvantage (SMD) focussing on those who were homeless in Nottingham City. Nottingham has a high prevalence of SMD in England. The results highlighted that 38% of adults had 1 or 2+ PUFA\* lesions present and 55% of participants reporting having dental pain at the time of the survey. This demonstrated a need to provide dental services for the SMD/homeless population in this area and across key East Midlands sites. One element of a strategy for access to dental services by the East Midlands Primary Care Team involved commissioning services utilising a mobile dental van, focussing on community sites where the targeted population would be supported.

## Objective

To establish a 12-month pilot to provide dental services for the SMD/homeless population in the East Midlands, using an experienced service provider, mobile dental van and in collaboration with community outreach settings.

## Method

Community Dental Services CIC in conjunction with East Midlands Primary Care Team, identified community outreach settings in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire where services were already being provided for the SMD/homeless population. The services needed to have enough space to accommodate a dental van.

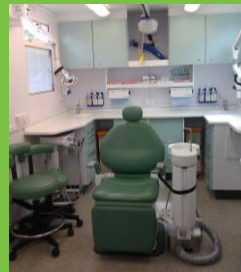
The rationale for locating the van in these settings was:

- Patients are already familiar with the settings and feel safe. The staff have close, supportive interactions with the clients regarding their dental and holistic care.
- To reduce failure to attend rates.
- Allow easy access for drop-in appointments.

An integrated patient pathway was established:

- The SMD/homeless setting would identify suitable patients and book the first appointment.
- Full courses of treatment would be provided, excluding band 3 items.  
Band 3 items were excluded for practical reasons as the van only visited each region for 2 days each month.
- Urgent Care would be provided.
- A combination of pre booked and drop-in appointments would be available.
- CDS CIC would book any follow up appointments.
- All patients would receive tailored oral health advice, a full mouth soft tissue screening and a toothbrushing pack.
- Patient feedback would be collected for the purposes of evaluating the project.

Ethical approval was not required for this project.



## Results

The pilot started in June 2023 and will run for 12 months, providing two visits to each of the four counties every month. So far, 175 patients have been treated.

The mobile dental van contains a fully equipped dental surgery, a hoist, X-ray and sterilisation facilities.

## Conclusion

This service aims to provide a positive dental experience for the SMD/homeless population in the East Midlands by providing services in an accessible location with supportive community staff and an experienced, non-judgemental dental team in a mobile dental van.



### Quote from a patient:

*“I cannot thank the dentist enough; they were non-judgemental. I have been living in a tent for 2 years. I would never have gone to a dental surgery as I am too embarrassed.”*

\* PUFA Index

Scan here for a copy of this poster and PUFA index

