

BSPD Mission Statement and Strategy (2020-2023)

Background

BSPD is a charity which exists to advocate for the delivery of high quality and accessible oral health care for children from birth to sixteen in the United Kingdom. We work to raise standards in all areas, whether specialist provision in hospital and community clinics, research, teaching or general practice, giving voice to the oral healthcare needs of children and young people.

The delivery of healthcare across the four nations continues to face re-organisation, and, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, unprecedented change. This presents challenges and opportunities, and it is within this background that the Society's members have approved this to guide the work and objectives of the Society for the three years, 2020-2023.

Mission statement

To advocate for improvements in oral health and to support the development of high quality, accessible oral health care for children and young people in the United Kingdom.

Strategy

The Society will focus on the following domains.

- Upholding the overall wellbeing of children and young people as our overarching concern
- Providing advice and information for children and young people.
- Promoting and ensuring a preventive philosophy.
- Contributing to the work of policy and decision makers to advocate for children's oral health, collaborating with other stakeholders.
- Supporting the development of all members of the dental team.
- Supporting the development and dissemination of evidence and advice to professionals.
- Developing the Society to provide added value to members and to strengthen advocacy for Paediatric Dentistry.

1. Upholding the overall wellbeing of children as an overarching concern by:
 - a. Encouraging good safeguarding practice in dentistry through support of training and research.
 - b. Working with the dental profession and external stakeholders to raise awareness of dental neglect.
 - c. Continuing to campaign for a reduction in oral health inequalities.
2. Providing advice and information for children and young people by:
 - a. Developing high quality evidence-based resources for patients and carers
 - b. Developing, disseminating and signposting patient resources to children and their families
 - c. Ensuring that these resources are child-friendly and accessible.

3. Promoting and ensuring a preventive philosophy by:
 - a. Developing and informing prevention-based oral health initiatives
 - b. Promoting targeted measures to address oral health inequalities in children and young people.
 - c. Raising awareness of the need for improving children's oral health through collaborative working with other health care agencies and community-based programmes.
4. Contributing to the work of policy and decision makers to advocate for children's oral health, and collaborating with other stakeholders by:
 - a. Continuing to engage at the highest levels in the reconfiguration of dental services.
 - b. Collaborating with national and local stakeholders to support oral health improvement initiatives that aim to give every child the best start in life.
 - c. Working with health and social care professional bodies to increase the awareness of oral health, as being integral to general health.
 - d. Campaigning for a Specialist and Consultant workforce able to meet the current and future needs of our population.
5. Supporting the development of all members of the dental team by:
 - a. Contributing to national guidelines and curricula which define skill sets and training.
 - b. Supporting teaching, training, and continuing development to maintain, and further develop, a high quality and effective workforce and leadership.
 - c. Delivering a programme of continuing professional development via the scientific conferences, branch meetings and other events.
 - d. Supporting the development of research skills.
 - e. Championing diversity and inclusion of all who wish to work in Paediatric Dentistry.
6. Supporting the development and dissemination of evidence and advice to professionals by:
 - a. Initiating and supporting national quality improvement projects.
 - b. Supporting the development of, and signposting to, evidence-based clinical guidelines.
 - c. Promoting national and international collaborative research to help secure the evidence-base for all aspects of children's and young people's oral health.
 - d. Promoting the involvement of children and young people and their carers in the development of research, guidelines and resources.
 - e. Campaigning for the continuance of high quality national surveys relating to children's oral health.
7. Developing the Society to provide added value to members and to strengthen advocacy for Paediatric Dentistry by:
 - a. Identifying and communicating the Society's key messages through all appropriate channels to ensure that Paediatric Dentistry is represented and known to diverse audiences.
 - b. Ensuring that the dental profession, and professionals working with children, are aware of BSPD, and those who are committed to working in the field understand the benefits of membership.
 - c. Delivering an Annual Scientific Conference, which showcases the work of BSPD and its members and fosters partnerships with industry.

Adopted on 17 September 2020