

Project updates from the Communities Officer

25th August 2022

Oral health project:

- All 600 oral health packs have been distributed – to every Year 6 child on the patch and to Food banks/community larders
- Good press coverage received
- Good partnership working with Community Dental Services
- They have been well received by schools and children – some takeaways from the survey (fuller findings on pages 3-5):
 - 77 responses from children/parents
 - 43% of responses said they had made changes to looking after their teeth
 - 40% of those surveyed are brushing longer than before they received the packs
 - 2 responses received from the schools but some schools unable to complete before the end of term
 - Still some very useful feedback including both schools felt their students engaged well or very well with the packs
 - A quote from one of the schools: “The pupils were excited to clean their teeth with their very own toothpaste. The were shocked with how long they should clean their teeth for but loved having a timer to help them.”

Slipper swap:

- A steady flow of referrals
- Well received thus far from recipients, families, partner organisations (foot practitioners) and groups from further afield (a group in Yorkshire asked us about how it is going)
- Another promotion push will happen in late September about the scheme to encourage people to swap their slippers over the winter
- Feedback from a family member of a recipient in her 90s: “My Mum is very pleased with them (new slippers) and they will keep her feet nice and warm this winter”
- One referral has since been supported financially from a local fund as a result of the initial contact – he needed to make home security improvements which he otherwise wouldn’t have been able to fund. Sam linked him with a local charity who funded the improvement. The recipient now has peace of mind and this support was delivered through the initial contact with the slipper swap

Halesworth youth research:

- Engagement has been continuing through the summer holidays (including at the summer activities) and Access Community Trust will be going into some schools at the beginning of the new term to pick up further responses
- The report will be written in September 2022 and submitted to the Youth Action Halesworth-Rural group (YAH-R) which is made up of different partners
- They will then consider the findings and drive forward action
- Work underway to select an independent chair of the group

Tree of Life project:

- Work underway on the different strands

SMART objectives work:

- The 2 Task and Finish Groups have worked hard over the summer to formulate some suggested objectives for the Community Partnership to consider for adoption
- These are being presented at this meeting

Rural proofing:

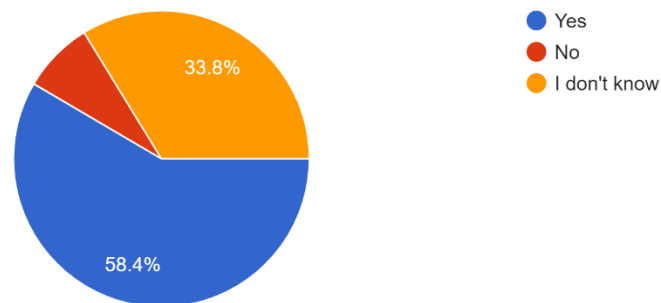
- Rural proofing document now available

Community Partnership Board:

- Cllr Cloke and I presented to the Community Partnership Board on 5th September to update on the work we have been doing

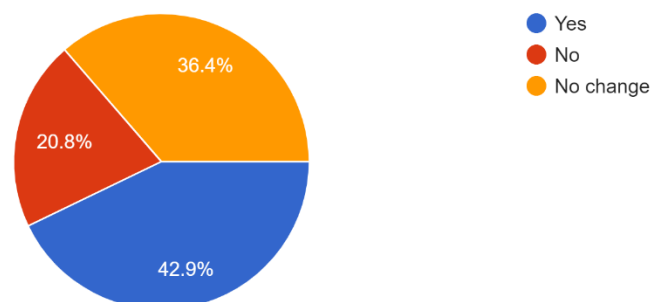
Oral Health Packs: Survey results – families survey

Are you happy you received the toothbrushing pack? (77 responses received)



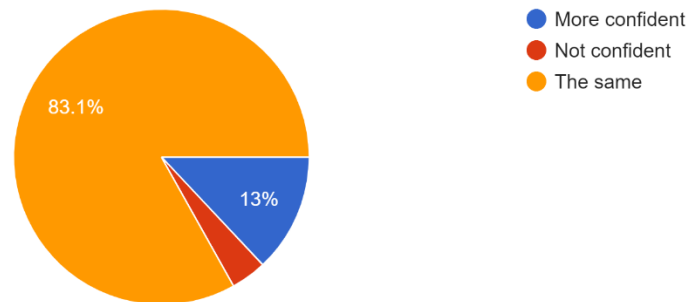
'Yes' is the leading response and 'I don't know' is in second place. This might be because some students were completing the survey quite quickly after the packs were distributed.

Since you received the pack have you made any changes to looking after your teeth? (77 responses received)



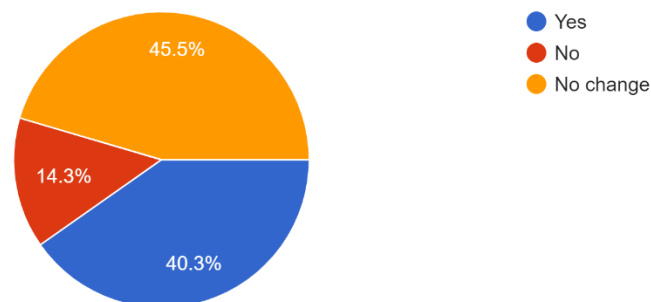
Just over two fifths have made changes to looking after their teeth and one fifth haven't. Around a third have made no change. The no change and no responses could be because we surveyed around a month after they received the packs so we could collect data before the end of term. It is still encouraging that the majority have made changes.

Do you feel more confident in how to look after your mouth since getting the pack? (77 responses)



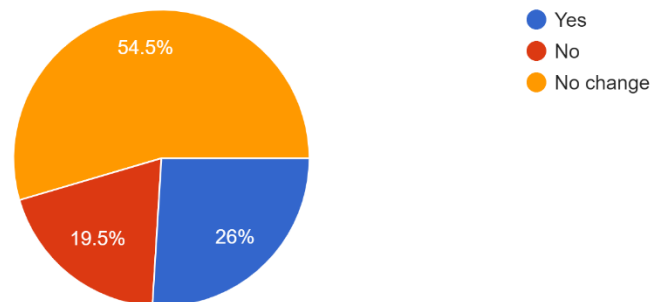
The biggest response to this question was 'the same'. This is not necessarily surprising as the survey was completed not long after the packs were distributed. It is also important to remember that some may have already been confident and the packs have helped reinforce that confidence. It is also important to note that 'the same' and 'more confident' far exceeds those who said they were not confident.

Are you brushing longer than you did before getting the pack? (77 responses)



While 'no change' was the leading response, around two fifths said they were brushing longer than they did before getting the pack. This is very encouraging especially after a month of having the pack. It is also important to remember that of those that said they didn't make a change, this may have been because of the time constraint or they are already brushing for the two minutes so this is reinforcing good habits.

Have you made positive changes to your food and drinks choices since getting the pack? (77 responses)



The biggest response to this question was 'no change'. This is not necessarily surprising as the survey was completed not long after the packs were distributed. Over a quarter of responses said they have made positive changes to food and drink choices since getting the pack which is encouraging.

Oral Health Packs: Survey results – schools survey

- Two responses received thus far - some schools were unable to complete before the end of term
- Still some useful feedback including both schools felt their students engaged well or very well with the packs
- A quote from one of the schools: "The pupils were excited to clean their teeth with their very own toothpaste. They were shocked with how long they should clean their teeth for but loved having a timer to help them."
- One school said they felt further support is needed around encouraging good oral hygiene in school and we will look into how the CP can link them up with the right organisations for this