

Good oral health is a key component of dignity, comfort, nutrition, and overall wellbeing for residents, and it remains a clear regulatory expectation within care homes.

Over the coming weeks, I will be in touch to arrange an oral health improvement training session for your care home, if you have already received an email from myself, please reply as soon as possible. Please be reminded that oral health training is a CQC and NICE mandatory requirement, and all care homes are expected to engage fully to remain compliant and inspection ready. (please see the link below for NICE guidance)

Overview | Oral health for adults in care homes | Guidance | NICE

In line with CQC recommendations, each care home should appoint an Oral Health Champion. This role supports consistent oral health practices across the home, provides guidance to staff, and acts as a point of contact for oral health services. Where an Oral Health Champion has not yet been identified, managers are expected to ensure this role is assigned.

To support ongoing compliance and best practice, Oral Health Champions and/or care home managers should attend the Oral Health Link Meetings. These meetings provide essential updates, shared learning, and practical guidance for care homes.

The first meeting will take place on Friday 27th February at 2:00pm, and attendance is strongly encouraged.

Prior to any training visit, a short tick-box baseline oral health audit will be circulated. Please note the following requirements:

- One audit must be completed per care home
- Completion is mandatory
- The audit must be completed and returned before the training visit
- Information gathered will be used to adapt training to the specific needs of your care home

Completion of the audit and engagement with training are essential to demonstrate safe, effective, and person-centred oral health care for residents.

Chloe Marsden (Registered Dental Nurse)

Oral Health Improvement Training Officer