



<b>Gwên Am Byth Programme</b> <b>Annual Report 2021-2022</b>	
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<b>Purpose and Summary of Document:</b> This document collates reports of activity related to the Gwên Am Byth programme, undertaken by the Community Dental Services in the 7 Local Health Boards in Wales. The reporting period is from 01.04.21-31.03.22.	
<b>Acknowledgements:</b> Thank you to the Gwên Am Byth staff who submitted the local reports, and worked tirelessly in their substantive and redeployed roles during 2021-22.	

Gwên Am Byth is the national oral health improvement programme delivered by the Community Dental Services in Wales with the primary aim of improving oral health and hygiene for older people living in care homes. It is underpinned by Welsh Health Circular 2015/001 <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/improving-oral-health-for-older-people-living-in-care-homes-in-wales.pdf>

For many health and social care programmes, 2020 and 2021 were extremely difficult years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Gwên Am Byth was significantly impacted. It would be inappropriate to dwell on comparison with years prior to 2020 in terms of activity. During the time period, significant numbers of staff were redeployed to other roles to support the NHS. There has been considerable staff sickness and recruitment delays.

When Gwên Am Byth work has been possible, it has been apparent how changes within the care home environment have affected the ability to rebound from the pandemic. These changes include the considerable turnover of care home staff and care home management, as well as closures of care homes, which have meant restarting afresh in many circumstances, with a loss of organisational memory and established working relationships. Covid-19 outbreaks and changing restrictions caused substantial cancellation and

rescheduling of work. Whilst virtual engagement has been possible in some situations, it isn't without challenges and for many, both teaching and learning, it is not a replacement to face-face oral healthcare education. Conversely, there has been very positive re-engagement and feedback from care home staff about restarting the Gwên Am Byth programme, as the teaching and the interventions are highly valued in importance. Activity data for this reporting period is provided in Table 2 and 3.

In June 2021, the Deputy Chief Dental Officer, Welsh Government, updated the programme with a framework for 'Essential' Gwên Am Byth. This provided an option for staff to overcome some of the challenges mentioned above, whilst aiming for equity of support to all care homes.

*The purpose of this update is to maximise the knowledge and awareness of the programme; and the resource and benefit it offers to residents, in as many care homes as possible across Wales. The programme expansion and this wider offer is being supported by the development of a simplified approach to achieve and offer the main aims of the programme to all care homes.*

In December 2019, Welsh Government announced that Gwên Am Byth would receive a doubling of funding across the seven Local Health Boards. The funding was increased to £0.5 million a year to ensure the programme is rolled out fully to all care homes in Wales during 2020/21. This funding uplift has resulted in an increase in workforce allocated to support the programme.

<b>Table 1: Gwên Am Byth Workforce within the NHS Community Dental Services (March 2022)</b>	
<b>ABUHB</b>	1 (0.6 WTE Band 4) Oral Health Educator is employed through ABUHB CDS budget to provide mouthcare training 2 (1.0 WTE Band 5) Oral Health Improvement Practitioners through the additional funding from Welsh Government support the Gwen am Byth programme and home care in the community. 1 (1.0 WTE Band 6) Programme lead continues to be funded by WHC/2015/001 funding to support the programme delivery.
<b>BCUHB</b>	Dental Health Promotion Manager 0.8WTE Oral Health Educators 5.6 WTE
<b>CAVUHB</b>	2 (1.16 WTE) Dental Health Improvement Practitioner 1 (0.2WTE) Administrative Support Officer (vacant)
<b>CTMUHB</b>	1 (1.0 WTE) Oral Health Improvement Practitioner 1 (0.56 WTE) Oral Health Improvement Practitioner
<b>HDUHB</b>	1 (0.5 WTE) Service Improvement lead 2 (1.0 WTE) Senior Oral Health Promotion Managers 4 (1.1 WTE) Oral Health Promotion Officers 1 (0.57 WTE) Band 5 Oral Health Promotion Officer started 21/03/2022
<b>PTHB</b>	1 Dental Therapist (2 days per month which during this reporting period, but will increase to 2 days per week from May 2022). 1 (0.4 WTE Band 5) Dental Nurse Oral Health Educator
<b>SBUHB</b>	1 (1.0 WTE) Programme Lead 1 (0.6 WTE) Oral Health Promoter

As well as the fundamental relationship with care home staff, the Gwên Am Byth teams across Wales work closely with other teams. For example, in the last year:

- ABUHB Gwên Am Byth provided joint training sessions with the speech and language therapy team
- BCUHB Gwên Am Byth worked closely with Advanced Nurse Practitioners and Continuing Care Nurses
- CTMUHB Gwên Am Byth has worked with Palliative Care Nurses
- HDUHB Gwên Am Byth has provided induction training to hospital care staff
- PTHB Gwên Am Byth worked closely with Speech and Language Therapists, Nurses for older people's mental health and Dementia Nurses.

This annual report provides an opportunity to showcase new projects and ways of working that are being established by Gwên Am Byth local teams.

In ABUHB, the Gwên Am Byth Essential programme was rolled out to domiciliary care home providers within Gwent. This involves working with Gwent-wide agencies, social care, local authority and health care teams that provide care to older frail and vulnerable people living at home that have complex health and social care support requirements prior to being moved to care homes. One borough was targeted initially with engagement with District Nursing and all teams attended mouthcare training. Training was also provided monthly for new carers on their induction week. One hour face to face training was requested with additional end of life mouthcare training being requested after these sessions. Each of the five borough Complex Care teams have also included the training in their induction programme for new carers. The programme has recently started rolling out to private sector care providers.

In BCUHB, many homes are moving away from standard staff and dental champions and moving towards the keyworker responsibility for paperwork. The positives of this are that homes are not left without champions when these trained staff leave. This means all staff are trained as dental champions and directly responsible for a small number of residents rather than 1-2 staff members responsible for all residents. Regional domiciliary training has been held once a quarter. This training session encompasses the foundation training and is held in local council sites. These sessions are available for domiciliary staff, but in addition, any care home staff member who may have missed training in their own care home. This has been very successful with a large uptake at each event.

In HDUHB, the Gwên Am Byth programme leads, in collaboration with the learning and development team and Improvement Cymru mouth care lead have been working to develop an All Wales ESR mouth care training resource. This will allow for all NHS care staff to access and complete as part of their mandatory e learning.

In SBUHB, the Gwên Am Byth Essentials framework is being used for domiciliary care providers. Five providers have been approached and are delighted to pilot this as they currently have no or very little mouth care training.

Table 2: Participation of homes	1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022							
	Health Board	BCUHB	CTMUHB	HDUHB	PTHB	SBUHB	ABUHB	CAVUHB
<b>Total number of homes in HB</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>610~</b>
<b>Number of homes targeted for the programme</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>557</b>
Number of care homes participating fully in the programme	77	32	26	1	78	71	14	299
Participating partly in the programme	50	32	31	6	5	10	36	170
Care Home has requested training only	1	0	28	0	0	0	0	29
<b>Number of homes not participating</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8*</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>112</b>
Number of homes with an up to date mouth care policy	73	54	35	14	78	89	38	381
Number of homes who can identify their local dental services	92	54	40	30	78	89	38	421
Number of homes that have had an external inspection highlighting good / excellent mouth care	0	0	4	0	2	1	0	7
Number of homes that have had an external inspection highlighting inadequate mouth care	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2

~ This number is reported by the Gwên Am Byth teams. The number of adult care homes and nursing homes registered with Care Inspectorate Wales is 1266 (as of June 2022).

\* These 8 homes have been put forward for the SENIOR research trial.

<b>Table 3: Staff training</b>		<b>1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022</b>						
<b>Health Board</b>	BCUHB	CTMUHB	HDUHB	PTHB	SBUHB	ABUHB	CAVUHB	<b>All Wales totals</b>
Of the targeted homes that are participating fully:								
Total number of health and care staff eligible for training	-	1090	792	52	2203	-	2484	<b>6621</b>
Total number of oral health champions trained (by the CDS)	711	293	63	2	333	56	0	<b>1458</b>
Total number of health and care staff trained by the CDS (not including oral champions)	2293	1255	360	10	489	1261	268	<b>5936</b>
Total number of staff trained directly by oral health champion	9	407	101	0	644	119	0	<b>1280</b>
The number of training sessions given to care home staff by CDS (annually)	710	44	89	2	110	78	26	<b>1059</b>