

The afternoon session started with a talk from Dr Rakhee Patel, Deputy Chief Dental Officer, who detailed her experiences within the field of dental public health and gave an insight into the strategy, policy and workforce planning of the Chief Dental Officer's leadership team. Her enthusiasm for policy change for the older adult population was evident as she detailed the work she has been doing to bring about positive change, particularly for patients residing in care homes, including advocating for their inclusion in national guidelines.

The next lecture provided a practical update on MRONJ, a real challenge for dental professionals working with older patient groups likely to be at increased risk. Dr Dipesh Patel, a consultant in oral surgery, spoke about his clinical experience with MRONJ and how many cases can be successfully managed in a primary care setting.

The final part of the conference's lecture series comprised three interactive case discussions, during which the audience was encouraged to participate digitally by responding to questions posed by the presenters. These sessions were led by Professor Gerry McKenna, Daniel Gillway, Specialist in Special Care Dentistry, and Emma Elliott, Academic Fellow in Dental Core Training. Together, they presented cases focusing on advanced tooth wear, the management of a patient with advanced dementia, and an oral cancer case.

The conference concluded by announcing the poster competition winners: Kery Ford, Sally Rowe, Kate Wyncoll and Tanhida Jalil. Dr Camilla Boynton was welcomed as the incoming President of the BSG for 2026 (Fig. 1). The BSG Winter Conference provided a varied and dynamic programme which allowed for thought and discussion amongst delegates. Perhaps the most profound take-home message was the need for enhanced dental services for our older adult population, who are often left out of legislation. That might be through more sustainable practices, utilising DCPs and their unique skills, collaborating with our medical colleagues, introducing policies to guide practice, improving primary care services, or taking opportunities to network with like-minded professionals.

We hope you will join us for the upcoming BSG Spring Conference, taking place in Exeter on 19 June 2026. Visit <https://www.gerodontology.com/> for more details.

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Correction to: SAAD Symposium explores advancements in dental sedation and dental anxiety management

The original article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-025-9436-2>.

Journal correction note:

News. *Br Dent J* 2025; **239**: 751.

When this news article was first published, a name mentioned in the text was incorrect. The correct name is Jeena Patel.

The author apologises for any inconvenience caused.



Plymouth research on homeless dental care featured as NICE case study

Research conducted at the University of Plymouth (UoP), in partnership with the Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise (PDSE), to improve dental access for people experiencing homelessness is now featured as a Case Study on the NICE guideline tools and resources¹ webpage and Into practice resources.² The case study highlights tangible, real-world impact aligned with NICE Guideline NG214, which focuses on delivering coordinated health and social care for people experiencing homelessness. Its objectives include improving access to healthcare and social care, supporting engagement between services, and addressing the barriers that prevent people experiencing homelessness from receiving coordinated, person-centred care.

The research began with an evidence synthesis to identify the barriers and enablers to accessing dental care among homeless populations in the UK. Building on these findings, the team at the University of Plymouth and PDSE worked closely with community partners and people with lived experience to conduct primary research, profiling oral healthcare needs, treatment requirements, the impact of oral disease on quality of life, and the factors influencing access to care.

In response to these findings, and amid growing calls to improve dental care access, PDSE, the clinical arm of Peninsula Dental School, co-developed a Community Dental Clinic in January 2018, specifically for people experiencing homelessness. Initially launched as a pro bono initiative, the clinic's success, demonstrated through research evaluation, led to full integration into a broader care coalition, now funded by NHS Devon.

Through collaboration with the Health Inclusion Pathway, Plymouth (HIPP), the clinic is now part of a coordinated network bringing together healthcare, housing, social care, local government, and the charity and voluntary sectors. Together, they work to meet the complex needs of the city's most vulnerable citizens. This initiative builds on collaboration among these organisations, formalises integration and strengthens reciprocal working across different providers and services. A similar care pathway has been developed in Exeter to extend reach and impact, also now funded by NHS Devon.

Dr Martha Paisi, Chief Investigator (UoP), said: 'Our research highlights practical ways to improve dental access for people experiencing homelessness. Being featured as a NICE Case Study demonstrates how evidence-based approaches can translate into real-world impact, supporting the coordinated care objectives outlined in NG214. It is incredibly rewarding to witness, through our research and personal contact with patients, the positive impact on their access to care and quality of life.'

This case study demonstrates how research-informed, co-designed dental services, underpinned by both evidence synthesis and primary research, can strengthen coordination among health, social services, and community organisations, and deliver sustainable, inclusive care.

References

1. NICE. Integrated health and social care for people experiencing homelessness. 2022. Available at <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng214/resources/improving-dental-access-for-people-experiencing-homelessness-in-line-with-nice-guideline-ng214-15488164189/chapter/Overview> (accessed 12 January 2026).
2. NICE. Into practice resources. Available at <https://www.nice.org.uk/implementing-nice-guidance/into-practice-resources> (accessed 12 January 2026).

