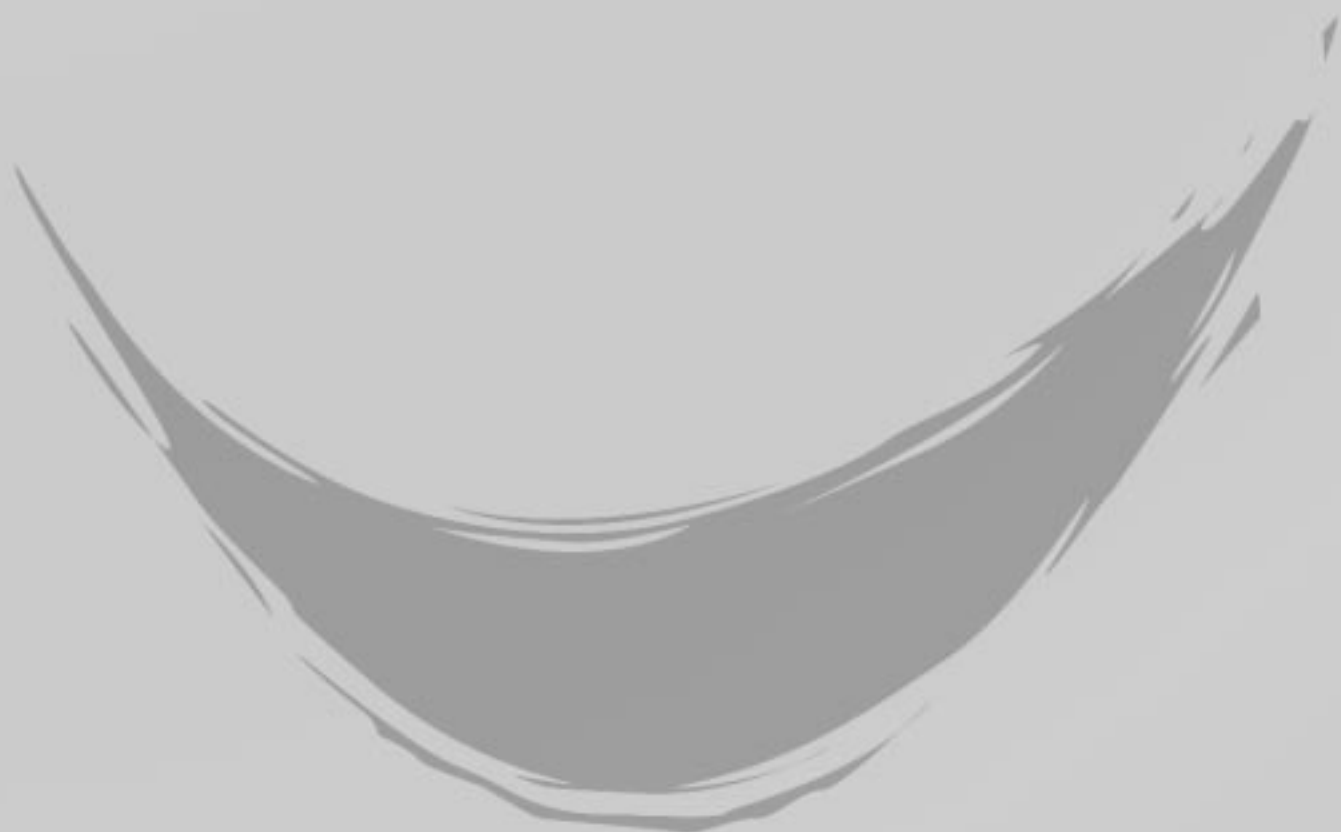
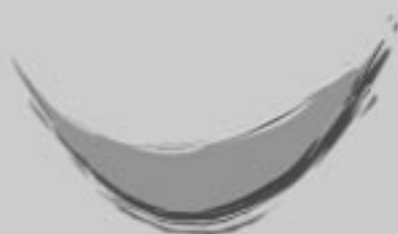


Dental Health Foundation,
Ireland
Annual Report

2001



Promoting Oral Health in Ireland



Introduction

Since its establishment 22 years ago, the Dental Health Foundation has played an integral role in raising the profile of oral health in Ireland. Operating as a charitable trust, the Foundation is a non-profit making, non-political and equal opportunities independent body. Its mission is to promote oral health in Ireland by providing effective resources or interventions, and by influencing policy through a multi-sectoral partnership approach.

The Foundation's commitment to an evidence-based approach to its work, underpins the priority that is placed on core partnership programmes with the Department of Health and Children, the Health Promotion Unit, the Health Boards and universities. The Foundation also works closely with agencies and individuals within the dental profession and plays a complementary role to public health bodies on a national basis.

The Foundation started the year with the publication of its *'Five Year Strategic Initiative'* which helped to clarify its role and promoted the development of a range of partnership programmes throughout 2001.

The Foundation marked the year's end with a focus on those at greatest risk of oral ill-health in Irish society with the publication of the report *'Oral Health in Disadvantaged Schools in the Eastern Region'*. This report highlights the pressing need for a comprehensive oral health promotion strategy for the most disadvantaged groups, particularly amongst young children.

These findings underpinned the Dental Health Foundation's call for urgent action in the area of strategic planning for oral health promotion nationally in its annual submission to the Department of Health and Children. This action echoes the recommendations of the *'Value for Money Report'* (Department of Health and Children 2001).

In November 2001 the Department of Health and Children launched its document *'Quality and Fairness - A Health System for You'* which provides for new strategic direction for all those concerned with promoting the health of Irish people, and gives fresh impetus to the Dental Health Foundation for further development and consolidation of planning its role in an integrated and streamlined way. This strategy has been one of the most widely consultative policy documents published and the Foundation focused its input by engaging in the consultation process for the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and Health coordinated by the Institute of Public Health. The substance of this process is reported in *'Your Views about Health - Report on Consultation: Quality and Fairness - A Health System for You'* (Department of Health and Children 2002).

In looking ahead to 2002 the Foundation awaits the publication of the findings from *'A Review of Oral Health Promotion/Education Activity in the Republic of Ireland - A Study of Attitudes, Knowledge, and Behaviours of Special Needs Groups Towards Oral Health'*, undertaken by the Centre for Health Promotion Studies, the National University of Ireland, Galway. It is hoped the findings will inform the development of a strategic framework including an action plan for oral health promotion nationally. The Foundation also awaits the *'Forum on Fluoridation Report'* with anticipation and looks forward to another productive year in 2002. The Dental Health Foundation's 2002 work programme will be shaped within the context of the new National Health Strategy and the organisation's own *'Five Year Strategic Initiative'*.

Full details of the Foundation's work programmes and publications are available on its website at www.dentalhealth.ie

Mission

The mission of the Dental Health Foundation is to promote oral health in Ireland by providing effective resources or interventions, and by influencing policy through a multi-sectoral partnership approach. This is achieved by:

- Taking an inclusive approach that caters for the needs of minority groups, without exception.
- Using the Foundation's independence from vested interests by providing resources and advocating policies for the sole objective of effective oral health promotion.
- Investing resources in initiatives that are based on sound scientific research.
- Taking a broad multi-sectoral approach to raise awareness of oral health.

Strategic Objectives

Activity by the Dental Health Foundation over the next five years will be carried out in order to achieve the following strategic objectives:

- To strengthen the Foundation's advocacy role.
- To provide information and education on fluorides.
- To develop programmes and information specifically tailored to meet the oral health requirements of special needs groups in Irish society.
- To take a multi-sectoral approach in the promotion of oral health.
- To provide support for health professionals.

Values and Principles

As outlined in our strategy document, the following principles and values are core components of the Foundation's structure and activities:

- Equality and Social Inclusion: "The Foundation believes in the need for an inclusive approach to oral health promotion, targeting special needs and minority groups."
- Accountability: "The Foundation values its status as an independent body, capable of providing resources and advocating policies for the sole objectives of oral health promotion. The Foundation has clear and defined reporting procedures and seeks to comply with all requirements of accountability."
- Effectiveness: "An evidenced-based approach is incorporated into all aspects of the Foundation's work. Activities must be based on clearly identified needs and contain a strong monitoring and evaluation aspect."
- Multi-sectoral working, Integration and Management Principles of Partnership: "The Foundation believes in the need to work with all the key players such as food producers, retailers, the consumer oral hygiene products industry, food agencies, dental professionals, allied professionals, educators, government departments and the media. The Foundation shall strive to ensure multisectoral working throughout its programmes."

Review of Dental Health Foundation Work Programme 2001

The Dental Health Foundation's *'Annual Report 2000'* identified a programme of work for 2001. This work programme was presented under the five key strategic objectives outlined in our *'Five-Year Strategic Initiative'*.

Partnership working is central to the Foundation's principles and evident in its core activity. The high degree of partnership working involved in each initiative is evident in reading through the *'Review of 2001'*. Partnerships often require adequate time and support in the initial stages of formation to ensure the identification of shared goals, which enhances the commitment and sustainability of programmes emerging.

The following is an analysis of progress on the key action points within the 2001 work programme.

ADVOCACY

Submissions

The Dental Health Foundation made submissions as planned to the following processes:

- The Forum on Fluoridation
- The Evaluation of Oral Health Promotion and Education in Ireland (NUI, Galway)
- The working group on the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and Health
- Other appropriate policy issues as the need arose

Department of Health and Children / Health Promotion Unit

The Dental Health Foundation has ongoing discussions with the Health Promotion Unit on a range of issues on an ongoing basis or as the need arises. The agenda this year included:

- Information and education on fluorides
- The Schools Settings in disadvantaged areas
- Children's dental health campaign
- National Health Promotion Strategy policy issues
- National Health Promotion Forum
- Evaluation of oral health promotion / education in Ireland

Department of Health and Children, Food and Nutrition Guidelines

The Foundation, through its research programme, provided evidence-based information on the role of 'drinks' in children's diet. *'Oral Health in Disadvantaged Schools in the Eastern Region'* informed the Foundation's input into the preparation of the guidelines, resulting in significant change with provision for guidelines on the consumption of 'drinks' in the pre-school and school settings.

Pre-Schools

The Foundation took part in the consultation process involved in the drafting of the 'Food and Nutrition Guidelines for Pre-School Settings'. The Foundation attended the consultation meetings in the Green Isle Hotel on the 4th December 2001. These guidelines were developed in response to the objectives and goals in the 'National Children's Strategy' and the 'National Health Promotion Strategy 2000 – 2005' as well as a request from Health Board Community Dietician Managers and Preschool Inspectors. Their aim is to provide information on a health diet for children from 4 months to 5 years of age in a pre-school setting so as to encourage them to foster positive attitudes and habits to healthy eating as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Schools

The Foundation participated in the consultative meeting on 'Food and Nutrition Guidelines for Schools' in December 2001. The Department of Health and Children has identified school children as one of the groups that should be given priority during the planning and delivery of programmes and initiatives for good health throughout life. In the Government's 'National Health Promotion Strategy 2000/2005', there is a focus on two major objectives for children. These are:

- To promote healthy eating habits and a healthy body image among school going children and young people.
- To facilitate the implementation of Health Education and Health Promotion Programmes, in partnership with the Department of Education and Science in the implementation of 'Social, Personal and Health Education' in all schools consistent with the Health Promoting Schools concept.

Focus on the Oral Health of Children Seven Years and Under

The Dental Health Foundation progressed its plans to develop a Children's Dental Health Campaign. This involved the completion of the research report '*Oral Health in Disadvantaged Schools in the Eastern Region*', which was published December 2001. It reports on three strands of connected research and has provided key information and recommendations, which shall inform the proposed Dental Health Campaign.

National Health and Lifestyle Survey – Slán

The Dental Health Foundation advised on the oral health component of the second phase of the National Health and Lifestyle Survey, in collaboration with the National Nutrition Surveillance Centre, NUI, Galway. The work of the Foundation on the 'Slán Baseline Survey' (obtained sample 6,539 adults age 18 years old +) resulted in the availability of data on the dental health status, sociodemographic factors and lifestyle behaviour, of the Irish population. This data can now be used to inform the development of a common risk factor approach to oral health promotion at national and/or regional level.

General Medical Services Scheme

The Dental Health Foundation was contacted by the G.M.S. Payments Board in relation to the cariogenic potential of the '*List of Reimbursable Non-Drug Items in the G.M.S. Scheme*' published by the General Medical Services (Payments) Board. The process is ongoing.

Department of Education and Science, 'Breaking the Cycle Programme'

The Foundation held informal discussions with the Department of Education and Science personnel with responsibility for the schools 'Breakfast Clubs' project development. Copies of the report '*Oral Health in Disadvantaged Schools in the Eastern Region*' (December 2001) have been made available to the Project Team. The reports findings and recommendations will provide important evidence-based research for the 'Breakfast Club' development.

Publications

- ☞ The Minister for Health & Children, Micheál Martin T.D. launched the '*Magic Tooth*', a book to raise children's awareness of the importance of good dental healthcare on the 5th May 2001. It was published in Braille, A3 for the visually impaired, Irish and English. The author Dr John Hackett, a dentist from Waterford, joined with the Dental Health Foundation, the National Council for the Blind of Ireland and Gael Linn, to publish the book, which is accessible in English, Irish, Braille and A3 versions. It was distributed to children's hospitals & wards throughout the country, regional Health Boards, dentists' waiting rooms, Gael Linn National Network, national primary schools, National Disability Authority, National Council for the Blind and public libraries nationwide.
- ☞ Our '*Five-Year Strategic Initiative*' was published in March 2001 and was endorsed by An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern T.D. This publication was distributed to the Foundation's collaborative partners and communications listing. The document has been positively received and is currently available on the Foundation's website in PDF format.
- ☞ '*Promoting Oral Health in the 21st Century*' was a report produced by the Foundation on the proceedings of the Forum held in Cork in September 2000. The key strategic partners on this publication were the WHO Oral Health Services Research Centre, University College Cork and the Department of Health and Children. It is available on the website in PDF and HTML formats.
- ☞ '*Promoting the Oral Health of People with Disabilities*' was published by the Foundation in partnership with the Centre for Disability Studies, NUI, Dublin; School of Dental Science, Trinity College Dublin and supported by the Department of Health and Children. This publication has been widely distributed and is available on the website in PDF and HTML formats. The report was presented to the Minister for Health and Children during his visit to the Dublin Dental Hospital in May 2001.
- ☞ The report '*Oral Health in Disadvantaged Schools in the Eastern Region*' was published in December 2001. Its main findings show that children attending schools designated as socially disadvantaged, have higher levels of tooth decay than other children and fewer are decay-free. Their parents and teachers have highlighted a lack of knowledge about their dental service entitlements and how the service is delivered. The Regional Chief Executive of the Eastern Regional Health Authority, Mr Donal O Shea, launched the report on behalf of the Dental Health Foundation. The report centred on an oral health school intervention programme called '*Mighty Mouth*', which focused on senior infant class children, their parents and teachers, in schools deemed disadvantaged by the Department of Education and Science.

The National Dental Services Research Programme

The Foundation continued throughout the year to participate in aspects of the Epidemiology Consultancy Contract of the Public Dental Services as requested.

The Foundation also attended a number of planning meetings for the following:

Lot 1. Epidemiology - Planning for the Children's Survey 2001 – January 2001

Lot 2. Oral Health Services Research - Fluorides

Lot 4. Oral Health Services Research – Oral Health Promotion / Education

Awards

This year the Foundation sponsored the following awards:

ESAT Young Scientist of the Year Awards

The Dental Health Foundation sponsors a special award each year in the 'ESAT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition'. The 2001 exhibition held from the 9th – 13th January 2001 proved to be an exciting showcase of the depth of knowledge and skill, which students from schools all over Ireland possess. The Foundation was delighted by the variety of work produced by students on the topic of oral health. The winner of the Dental Health Foundation Young Scientist of the Year Special Award for 2001 was Donacha Walsh, a student at St Mary's CBC, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Donacha presented a comprehensive study on the 'Relative effects of well known drinks and the adolescent perception'.

Children's Dental Health Awards

It was smiles all round on the 22nd June 2001 as An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern T.D. presented achievement awards to staff and pupils at Scoil Íde Girls National School, Cromcastle Green, Kilmore Road West, Dublin 5, the overall winners from schools in the Coolock and Darndale areas of Dublin. Now in its 11th year, the Annual Children's Dental Health Awards recognise excellence in dental health care standards achieved by national school children. These awards formed part of the overall oral health promotion programme of the Northern Area Health Board, Principal Dental Surgeon, Dr. Mary Ormsby and dental team.

Health Services Research Award – International Association for Dental Research Irish Division.

In association with the International Association of Dental Research Irish Division, the Foundation has been working throughout 2001 on the development of an annual award to be presented to support research by investigators, whose current main position is in a primary care setting such as a Health Board/Authority or general dental practice. Health services research is the primary focus of the award and this may include epidemiology, audit, health promotion or other health service issues.

Communications

News Report – We embarked on the task of producing a biannual news report during 2001. An evaluation of this process demonstrated the complexity of producing a news report that meets the needs of both the organisation and the target audience. Resources were invested in planning, consistent with the organisational values and principles. Planning completed in 2001 allows the Foundation to publish its first news report in the first quarter of 2002.



Public Information Service - Through the Information Office the Foundation has dealt with thousands of written and telephone enquiries throughout the year. The nature of the enquires is infinitely variable, many are for specific leaflets or packs of prepared information. The Foundation aims to ensure that all requests for facts and figures from the public are answered either from stock material or by referral to specific agencies.

Enquiries come from both specialist and general audiences. A large percentage of telephone calls come from members of the public, who are looking for information to help them understand dental problems and their solutions.

As well as enquiries to this office, we also service enquiries about dental health made to the Department of Health, The Health Promotion Unit, The Irish Dental Association and the Dental Council.

Dental Health Foundation Website Development – Our website has been developed throughout the year to ensure up-to-date and relevant information is available to all users both professional and the general public. The website has also undergone some structural changes in the past year, which have made it more accessible and user friendly. To save the user time navigating the site, current events are now listed on the 'splash' page to enable users to link directly to the most recent event. All publications are available in PDF format and it is now the policy of the Foundation to make all future documentations also available in HTML format.

Through our Internet Service Provider, the Dental Health Foundation monitors the number of 'hits' on the site and which sections are viewed most frequently. Providing the publications online has proved worthwhile with, for example, 1154 requests for *'Promoting Oral Health in the 21st Century'* in December 2001. On average there are 15,000 hits per month on our website. The Foundation realises that this information has limitations for interpretation. However, it provides a guide as to the activity on the site.

Department of Health and Children's Website – At the request of the Chief Dental Officer of the Department of Health and Children, the Dental Health Foundation is established as an oral health component in the publications section of the Health Promotion Unit's website and is also listed on the links page of the Department's main website.

Direct Communications – The Foundation has developed an extensive communications list of key stakeholders including oral health professionals, who have received direct communications on relevant events throughout the year.

Media Communications – The Foundation values its on-going relations with the media, e.g. RTE, TV3, national and local radio, newspapers, the national and international dental press, as well as other media including *'Consumer Choice'*, *'Parent and Teacher Magazine'*, *'The Medical Times'* and *'Wrigley: Action in Practice Newsletter'*.

Prominent media coverage received by the Foundation in 2001 included the front page photograph on the *'Irish Independent'* in May at the launch of the *'Magic Tooth'*, and page three coverage in December on the same publication of the report *'Oral Health in Disadvantaged Schools in the Eastern Region'*.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ON FLUORIDES

Forum on Fluoridation

Fluoridation Media Monitoring: All articles from the national papers, magazines, journals, etc. relating to fluoridation were sourced and filed in the offices of the Dental Health Foundation. Additionally, copies were made of the articles, as they were received, and forwarded to Ms Nessa O'Doherty, Forum Secretariat, Department of Health and Children: Dr Paul Beirne, Oral Health Services Research Centre, UCC and Dr Marie O'Connor, Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

York Review: Over a period of 2–3 months all references from the 'York Review' were sourced through the Dublin Dental Hospital Library and subsequently forwarded to Miriam Owens, Rapporteur for the Forum on Fluoridation. This extensive reference is also held in the offices of the Dental Health Foundation and the Dublin Dental School and Hospital Library as an important resource for future work in this area.

Professional Support

The Foundation spent a considerable proportion of its time proactively providing, evidence-based information on fluorides, for national and local radio, print media and television.

The Foundation also provided assistance to a number of Health Boards by providing links to the Information and Education Section of the Dental Health Foundation Website.

British Fluoridation Society: The Foundation also negotiated and reached agreement to have an observer status representation at the meetings of the British Fluoridation Society throughout 2001.

Dental Health Foundation Website: The organisation maintained an up to-date section on 'Information and Education on Fluorides' throughout 2001. It contained current information for both the consumer and the health professional and provided a link to the Forum on Fluoridation website. The 'What's New Section' also allowed easy access to current, relevant evidence-based international research.

Schools Programme

The evaluation, planning and development of a schools-based dental health programme for 7 to 11 year olds, was one of the Foundation's objectives for 2001. Partners on this initiative include the WHO, Oral Health Services Research Centre, University College Cork; Northern Area Health Board of the Eastern Regional Health Authority and the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Health and Children. Partnerships by their very nature often require considerable time to develop and emerge. It is generally accepted that agreement by all partners on the proposal at the outset is key to successful partnership working and this has taken time to achieve. The protocol development is now at an advanced stage for implementation and evaluation throughout 2002 – 2003.

Adolescent Programme

The Foundation was invited to present a parallel session during the 'Best Health for Children National Conference on Adolescent Health', held in the Corrib Great Southern Hotel, Galway on the 2nd / 3rd May 2001. Dr Joe Mullen, Principal Dental Surgeon, North Western Health Board presented, while Dr Brian Mercer, Senior Dental Surgeon, North Western Health Board facilitated the session. The target audience for the conference included senior Health Board managers and clinicians, policy makers, national parent representatives, national education representatives and other key stakeholders of adolescent health.

The report on *'Adolescent Health – Get Connected – Developing an Adolescent Friendly Service'* was launched at the conference. This report provides an important opportunity to develop, within a context, future strategies to improve the oral health and general well being of our adolescents. The Foundation made submissions to this report ensuring that oral health was recognised as a key topic area for adolescent health.

The evaluation, planning and development of an oral health promotion initiative has been agreed with the North Western Health Board, Republic of Ireland and the Western Social Services Board of Northern Ireland. The programme development will be based on a needs assessment of adolescent's oral health and also on the results of the internal *'Report of Health Behaviour in School Age Children'* (WHO 1999). Both the programme for 7 – 11 year olds and the adolescent programme are being developed within the context of the 'Best Health for Children Work in Progress' programme and the 'Get Connected Report'. It also involves communications with 'Cooperation and Working Together' (CAWT).

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Specialist Certificate Health Promotion (Oral Health)

Throughout the year we have worked towards the development of a proposal with the National University of Ireland, Galway, for an Information Technology based component of the Specialist Certificate in Health Promotion Oral Health. This IT proposal for the development of the course shall increase accessibility and facilitate a greater level of distance learning.

Master Classes

The Foundation, due to the programme delays following the Foot and Mouth crisis, was restricted to the provision of one Master Class on the 17th December 2001 on 'Literacy Awareness Training', which was to be led by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). This Master Class was organised in response to a growing concern and interest expressed in relation to the tailoring of oral health information, to meet the needs of adults experiencing literacy difficulties.

Professional Support

We felt it most appropriate to await the publication of the 'Evaluation of Oral Health Promotion in Ireland' before progressing discussions on development of an 'Oral Health Promotion Competency Skills Course' for members of the dental teams. Best practice would dictate that a comprehensive evaluation would inform future planning of key training initiatives within the sector.

The Postgraduate Medical and Dental Board: The Foundation contributed to the 'Vocational Training in Dentistry' programme on Monday 1st October 2001, in St James Hospital, Dublin. This provided an opportunity to address the group on the new Health Strategy 'Implications for Oral Health Promotion – and Special Needs' Groups'.

UCC Masters in Dental Public Health Programme: In March 2001 the Foundation presented a paper on 'Oral Health Promotion' to students of the Masters in Dental Public Health, Dental School and Hospital, University College Cork, contributing to the oral health promotion dimension of the curriculum.

Special Events

The Foundation revised its strategy for involvement with the EU Congress of the European Academy of Paediatric Dentistry, which is planned for June 2002. It was agreed that the Foundation would await the outcome of the Forum on Fluoridation and the report by the National University of Ireland, Galway, on the 'Evaluation of Oral Health Promotion in Ireland', before the planning of key symposia or forum programmes. These reports shall play a significant role in the future direction and content of programme development.

The Foundation has held initial dialogue with key stakeholders in the planning of the 'Special Smiles' programme of the Special Olympics National Games in June 2002 and the 2003 Special Olympics World Games, which Ireland will host. These discussions are ongoing and the Foundation has committed to supporting work in this area. Special Olympics 'Special Smiles' (SOSS) is a dental screening, education and referral programme that operates under the auspices of Special Olympics Inc. (SOI). The programme was developed in 1993 and first implemented at Massachusetts Special Olympics Games that year.

Society of Chief and Principal Dental Surgeons: The Foundation supported the winter meeting of the Society in December 2001. It was also invited to present a paper at this meeting.

Health Services Personnel

- **Principal Dental Surgeons – Regional Roles for Oral Health Promotion:** The Foundation was available for meetings on an individual and collective basis as the need arose. The Foundation facilitated where appropriate the development of resources, through the provision of expert advice and guidance on current policy and research findings, on the Slan National Lifestyle Survey and the Health Behaviour in School Aged Children. For example, the development of the leaflet '*A Guide – Dental Treatment Under General Anaesthetic*' consistent with National Adult Literacy Agency guidelines.
- **Oral Health Promoters:** The Foundation provided support and guidance for Oral Health Promoters assigned to these posts within Health Boards. This was in direct response to the growing number of requests for assistance by Oral Health Promoters in areas of resource developments and event management. For example advice to oral health promoters, Sharon Mahon and Olive Leavy, in the development of educational tools such as 'posters' targeted at parents of children in disadvantaged areas.
- **Health Promotion Units and Departments:** The Foundation was contacted for meetings on an individual and collective basis as the need arose. A wide range of information was provided on oral health issues to a number of health professionals developing integrated components to their programmes and policies.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Resources

In association with the Dental and Cardiology Departments, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, the Foundation worked throughout 2001 on the development of an 'Endocarditis Prophylaxis Identity Card'. This card has been developed to inform the dentist of the child's congenital heart lesion and the antibiotic prophylaxis regimes, which are recommended prior to undertaking dental procedures that result in bleeding. This initiative shall be launched in 2002.

The development of key strategic partnerships began in 2001 with a series of meetings with the specialists in maxillofacial prostheses in Dublin Dental School and Hospital. The partnership development phase of the initiative has been completed and the development of resources addressing the needs of patients of oral cancer and cancers of the head and neck can progress.

Professional Support

We held informal discussions with the Centre for the Study of Developmental Disabilities, National University of Ireland, Dublin on development of oral health inputs into appropriate courses provided by the Centre. The Foundation welcomes the appointment of Dr P. Noonan Walsh, Director of the Centre for Disability Studies to the Chair of Disability Studies NUI, Dublin.

Chair in Special Care Dentistry

The Foundation welcomed the appointment of Professor June Nunn to this position. Subsequently the Foundation held a series of meetings to progress the key issues arising from the report '*Promoting Oral Health for People with Disabilities*' (November 2000).

Information Clearing House

The Foundation prepared an outline proposal for the establishment of an 'Information Clearing House' on oral health issues for people with special needs. This was one of the key issues addressed in the report '*Promoting Oral Health for People with Disabilities*' (November 2000).

The aim of this project is to create the Dental Health Foundation Information Clearinghouse (DHFIC) website; a service of the Dental Health Foundation to help meet oral health information needs for special care patients. The DHFIC will be a resource for health professionals and special care patients, where information from many sources, including voluntary health organisations, research institutions, government agencies and industry, is gathered and disseminated.

MULTI – SECTORAL WORKING

International Association for Dental Research

The Foundation sponsored a symposium hosted by the International Association for Dental Research entitled *'The Relationship Between Oral and Systemic Disease'* on the 10th April 2001. This proved to be a very successful event with commitment to future collaboration agreed.

Symposium Topics

- *Review of the relationship between periodontal and systemic disease*
Dr G. Linden (Department of Periodontology, Queens University Belfast).
- *Strategies for determining the relationship between Oral Infection and Systemic Disease*
Professor M. Jeffcoat (Department of Periodontics, University of Alabama).
- *Cardiac disease and oral disease, recent research findings*
Dr D. Cox (Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland).
- *The relationship between periodontal and cardiac disease: an epidemiological perspective*
Professor I. Perry (Department of Public Health and Epidemiology, National University of Ireland, Cork).

The National Adult Literacy Agency

On the 17th November 2001, Ms Deirdre Sadlier, Executive Director Dental Health Foundation, attended the launch of the National Adult Literacy Agency *'Health and Literacy Project'*. Minister for Health and Children, Mr Micheál Martin T.D. formally launched the project in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork.

The Dental Health Foundation is a member of the Steering Committee for the National Adult Literacy Agency Health and Literacy Project. The aim of this project is to:

- Produce a commentary on some of the health promotion material that is available;
- Establish the precise health issues and needs for a low literacy population;
- Inform strategic policy making to address these issues; and
- Produce a literacy pack, which can be used by health promotion officers and literacy practitioners.

The Foundation has played an active role in progressing this initiative throughout 2001.

Tobacco and Oral Health

In collaboration with the Dental Services and the Health Promotion Department within the Eastern Regional Health Authority Area, the Foundation planned to develop a Smoking Cessation Programme delivered by dental professionals. This programme was placed on hold awaiting the appointment of key personnel within the Health Promotion Units of the Eastern Region. These vacancies shall be filled in 2002 and the plans for the programme shall progress. The Dental Health Foundation inputted into the ERHA *'Region Tobacco Control Strategy'*.

National Heart Alliance

The Dental Health Foundation is a member of the National Heart Alliance Forum. Our membership is grounded in the commonality of risk factors between oral and cardiovascular disease. We participated in the National Heart Alliance conference held on the 3rd July 2001, on 'Physical Activity: Creating a supportive environment for Children and Young People'.

Irish National Health Promoting Hospitals Network

The Foundation is an Associate Member of the Forum of the Irish National Health Promoting Hospitals Network and attended the conference on 'Pathways to Population Health Gain', which was held in Galway on the 18th & 19th October 2001.

Ash Ireland

The Foundation supported the launch of the 'No Smoking Campaign' on the 26th February 2001, together with the Irish Cancer Society and the Irish Heart Foundation.

All Island Dimensions

'Northern Ireland – Investing for Health Consultative Document'. The Dental Health Foundation was invited to represent a 'South' input into a review of the Northern Ireland Dental Services. This review was initiated by the Department of Health and Social Services, Chief Dental Officer, Dr Doreen Wilson. Ms Deirdre Sadlier, Executive Director, represented the Dental Health Foundation acting as facilitator in workshops held during September 2001. The purpose of the workshops was to explore concerns and issues amongst consumers and stakeholders involved in dental services, care or provision. A report is currently being prepared by the Northern Ireland Chief Dental Officer that will feed into the next phase of developing the 'Investing for Health Strategy'.

International Dimensions

The Dental Health Foundation is a member of the European Association of Dental Public Health, the International Dental Federation and the Oral Health Promotion Research Group.

The organisation is also a member of the *Framework Convention Alliance*; an alliance of over 100 non-governmental organisations from around the world that are working to support the development of a strong Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

The Foundation sourced throughout the year information on new research and policy developments at international level, which it used to inform practice within key strategic alliances. This broad knowledge base also allows the Foundation identify change as it emerges within the health sector, ensuring a presence for oral health at the coal face of new developments.

Private Sector

We responded to a number of private sector business calls for assistance in 2001. We have further developed our role as a technical advisor to the industry on oral health promotion by providing feedback on current policy and research, to inform resource development, and by ensuring that when the private sector engages in oral health promotion activity it is evidence based and appropriate within an Irish context.

Conference Participation

- On the 7th April 2001 the Foundation attended the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) seminar to launch the evaluation of the '*National Youth Health Programme*', presenting an opportunity for future partnership working and integration of oral health into the NYCI Health Promotion Strategy.
- '*International Association for Dental Research British and Irish Divisions*', 48th Annual Scientific Meeting 9th – 12th April 2001 at Queens University Belfast.
- The Dental Health Foundation participated in the '*Irish Dental Association*' conference in Kilkenny on the 25th – 28th April 2001.
- The Foundation was represented at the launch of the '*Annual Report of the Traveller Health Unit*' in the Eastern Region on the 3rd June 2001.
- The Foundation had a representative attend the '*Check back*' Seminar on National Anti-Poverty Strategy and Health on the 7th June 2001 and 18th September 2001, which feed into the NAPS consultation process.
- The Dental Health Foundation was invited to present on the findings of the '*Oral Health in Disadvantaged Schools – Interim Report*' at the National Parents Council, Primary Annual Meeting on the 8th – 10th June 2001.
- Attendance at '*Social Capital*' Summer School Conference 2001 in the National University of Ireland, Galway.
- The Foundation supported the '*Europe Against Cancer Week*' by being present at the launch on the 4th October 2001, at the European Commission Representation, European Parliament Conference Room, Dublin.
- The Foundation attended part of the '*Health Boards Dental Surgeons Conference*' on the 26th October 2001, with particular interest in the presentation on '*Tobacco and Oral Health*'.
- On the 31st October 2001, the Irish Heart Foundation's '*Employee Health Conference*' presented an opportunity to look at health promotion issues within a particular setting. The Foundation used this conference as a starting point for partnership working on Oral Health Promotion within a work place setting.
- The Foundation participated at the seminar on '*Health Impact Assessment*' on the 4th October 2001 hosted in Belfast by the Institute of Public Health in Ireland. This conference aimed to provide information on the policy context and practice of Health Impact Assessment and promote discussion on the current '*state of play*' and the future development of Health Impact Assessment in Ireland.
- The Foundation attended the Office of Tobacco Control's '*Legislating for a Tobacco Free Society*' conference in Dublin Castle on the 1st – 2nd November 2001. The Foundation has now established a working relationship with the Office of Tobacco Control.
- The Foundation was represented at the '*Faculty of Dentistry Annual Meeting*' in the Royal College of Surgeons on the 1st – 2nd November 2001.
- The Foundation began partnership building in the area of '*Alcohol and Oral Health*' by attending the Department of Health and Children's, Health Promotion Unit's international conference on '*Alcohol Policy – A Public Health Perspective*' on the 20th November 2001.
- The Foundation supported the Society of Chief and Principal Dental Surgeons Winter Meeting in December 2001. It was also invited to present a paper at their meeting.

CONCLUSION

The Foundation experienced delays in some aspects of its 2001 planned actions. These involved partnership working and also the length of time involved in producing evidence-based information and education resources. This was compounded overall, by delays and cancellations of meetings caused by the Foot and Mouth Disease crisis in the first half of 2001. Similar delays are not expected this year and we look forward to advancing our agenda rapidly.

The Foundation advanced its work programme under the five key strategic objectives outlined in our *'Five-Year Strategic Initiative'*, which was launched in March and endorsed by An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern. We embarked on a number of partnership programmes throughout the year, which further strengthened our objective of multi-sectoral working.

The publication of the *'Magic Tooth'* in May marked a new departure for the Foundation and was also the first children's book published on oral health. We also published a number of research reports, the most notable being *'Oral Health in Disadvantaged Schools in the Eastern Region'*.

Our website, which receives over 15,000 hits monthly, underwent major structural changes to make it more user-friendly. Our plans for 2002 include making all information available in both PDF and HTML formats.

We enjoyed the challenge of planning a biannual news report during 2001. An evaluation of this process demonstrated the complexity of producing a news report that meets the needs of both the organisation and the target audience. With planning now complete, we look forward to the publication of our first news report in the first quarter of 2002.

We are particularly grateful to the Department of Health and Children for the provision of funding support, which has enabled us to accelerate its programmes considerably. Much of this work has been developed in close collaboration with the Department's Health Promotion Unit and the Regional Health Boards.

We are also grateful to the South Western Area Health Board of the Eastern Regional Health Authority for processing payment of funding to the Foundation and for their overall support for our role and programmes.

We look forward to 2002 and further pursuing our agenda in line with our strategic objectives. We also look forward to expanding the momentum of our current efforts with our many partners and coalitions who are dedicated to improving the overall health and well being of Irish society.

Board of Trustees and Partners

Board of Trustees

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Accountants

Oliver Freaney & Company, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditor, 43-45 Northumberland Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Solicitors

Orpen Franks, Solicitors, 28/30 Burlington Road, Dublin 4

Bankers

Bank of Ireland, Talbot Street, Dublin 1

Charity Ref No:

CHY 6200

Current Collaborative Programme Partners

- Best Health for Children, Work in Progress Programme
- Centre for Health Promotion Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway
- Centre for the Study of Developmental Disabilities, National University of Ireland, Dublin
- Clinical Dental School and Hospital, Wilton, Cork
- Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College London Medical School
- Department of Health and Children (including Health Promotion Unit)
- Eastern Regional Health Authority
 - East Coast Area Health Board
 - South Western Area Health Board
 - Northern Area Health Board
- Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland)

- Midland Health Board
- Mid-Western Health Board
- National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism in Ireland
- National Paediatric Cardiology Services, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Dublin
- North Eastern Health Board
- North Western Health Board
- Pavee Point, Travellers Centre
- Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Faculty of Public Health Medicine
- School of Clinical Dentistry, Queens University Belfast, Northern Ireland
- School of Communications, Dublin City University
- School of Dental Science, University of Dublin, Trinity College
- Society of Chief and Principal Dental Surgeons in Ireland
- South Eastern Health Board
- Southern Health Board
- The National Adult Literacy Agency
- Western Health Board
- WHO Oral Health Services Research Centre, University College Cork

Dental Health Foundation

Financial Data 2001

Income & Expenditure Account For The Year ended 31st December

	2001 Ir£	2000 Ir£
Income:		
Department of Health and Children Allocation	304,550	285,000
Other Income	61,307	44,602
	<u>365,857</u>	<u>329,602</u>
Expenditure:		
Pay expenditure	97,780	84,073
Non-pay expenditure	202,637	254,735
	<u>300,417</u>	<u>338,808</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	<u>65,440</u>	<u>(9,206)</u>

Balance Sheet For The Year ended 31st December

	2001 Ir£	2000 Ir£
Tangible Fixed Assets	<u>13,161</u>	<u>16,271</u>
Current Assets		
Debtors	1,857	3,105
Bank	<u>159,457</u>	<u>84,487</u>
	161,314	87,592
Creditors	(12,845)	(7,673)
Net Current Assets	<u>148,469</u>	<u>79,919</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>161,630</u>	<u>96,190</u>
Represented By:		
Income & Expenditure Account	<u>161,630</u>	<u>96,190</u>

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