

# Inter-Professional Engagement Module 2022 - 2023



UNIVERSITY OF  
PLYMOUTH



Peninsula  
Dental  
Social Enterprise

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# How does the Inter-Professional Engagement (IPE) Module work?

The IPE module is one of the building blocks for students at Peninsula Dental School introducing students to core academic skills in exploring, searching and selecting evidence-based information as well as developing societal and community awareness so students understand their future role in the healthcare system and wider society. Working in Enquiry Based Learning (EBL) and Dental Therapy and Hygiene (DTH) groups, students are introduced to the concept of community engagement and social accountability during this module.

Building their skills and knowledge year on year, students are given the opportunity to meet with local organisations in their 1st year, enabling them to gain an understanding of how a particular community group is supported locally during IPE1.

They then utilise the knowledge and experience gained from IPE1 to devise and deliver a health improvement project for a specific target group within the community as part of IPE2.

It would be impossible to deliver this module without the amazing, collaborative support of our host organisations, academic team and of course the enthusiasm of our students. A huge thank you to all involved who have made this module such a success.



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1st and 2nd year Inter-Professional Engagement Module Lead



# IPE2

## 2022/2023

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111



Number of students we supported during the module



Dental health packs distributed in the community



Hours of planning and preparation

It's made me more aware of some of the challenges patients can face before even coming into the clinic.

This experience has given me the skills to adapt my clinical skills to match the patients needs.

I will now take in to account the whole patient and not just their mouth.

This experience has contributed to my goal of being a patient centred practitioner.

Overall a positive experience with a lot of important messages to take away

Positive feedback received

# Inter-Professional Engagement 1

## An introduction to community

During the IPE1 module students undertake research in preparation for interviewing a representative from a local community organisation. These discussions facilitate students to understand how communities' function, the impacts of demography and lifestyle issues on local people and helps them explore how local people access the services available and why. This approach is a gentle introduction for students, who are very early in their professional training, to acquire an understanding of some of the social and health inequalities that exist within communities and how this may relate to some of the specific health and oral health challenges.

Additionally, it enables students to develop an early understanding of the wider determinants of health such as environment; employment and education which influence health behaviours and health outcomes, and which directly impact on oral health, use of dental services and quality of life.

The module has adapted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, interviews are undertaken through video conference calls or face-to-face, ensuring that the experiential learning experience and impact remains high and of immense benefit to students.

“  
It was a  
pleasure  
meeting your  
students  
today  
”

“  
I had never heard  
of the term 'hidden  
homelessness' and  
it really opened my eyes  
to learning that temporary  
council homes and sofa sleepers  
are considered within the  
homeless category. Before  
the meeting I was not  
aware of this at all.  
”



“ This experience has taught me to be more aware of the efforts of other organisations to help improve oral health. I have realised that I know very little about my local organisations. ”



“ The most important thing I learnt is to take the time to listen, hear people’s concerns and empathise. ”



“ Some people make the association that those in deprived areas are not willing to take care of their health however, I’ve realised this is a big misconception that stems from prejudice. ”



“ That listening can be more impactful and can cause more positive change than physical intervention and treatment. ”

“ It was a pleasure to meet your students and they were great! They engaged in the session and had prepared really well with intelligent questions. ”

“ The students were fantastic and a pleasure to spend time with, hopefully they found the morning productive and worthwhile. ”





# Inter-Professional Engagement 2

## Engaging with the community

Linking together the education of dental and dental therapy & hygiene students to communities using our model of community engagement is unique in the UK. It provides students with opportunities to develop a wider range of skills and experiences to draw upon in their professional careers to help them deliver dental care to an increasingly diverse population and in a rapidly changing health environment.

The year 2 module gives students the opportunity to work directly with members of the community who commonly experience poor oral health, and to develop and deliver a project adapted to the needs of the group they work with. The purpose is to provide students with insight into the health and wellbeing of various population groups, and to introduce 'social accountability' as a key part of professional practice.

As we move forward from the initial challenges of the Covid pandemic we have been able to undertake face to face engagement in the community again and these authentic connections between stakeholders has hugely benefitted the students and community members alike.

# EBL 1

## Brook Green Centre for Learning



Brook Green is a purpose-built school for young people aged 11 - 16 who have cognition, learning, social, emotional and mental health needs.

The school offers a calm and stimulating teaching and learning environment, celebrating the value of all individual students within their school. The school works in partnership with parents, carers and students to offer a broad curriculum which matches individual needs. Students achieve various qualifications in a wide variety of subjects with an aim of enabling them to become independent young adults.

Pupils took part in carousel style activities focussing on the importance of maintaining daily oral health routines. The students helped to reduce the pupil's anxiety around attending appointments by demystifying dentistry and also highlighted the link between sugar and poor oral health. The children got to practice brushing techniques, try on PPE and explore healthy food swaps to protect their teeth.

“ The children really enjoyed the session and it was lovely to see them trying new things and growing in confidence as they did more activities. ”





“

It really helped our pupils feel less nervous about attending their appointments.

”



“

Excellent engagement and rapport built with our students.

”



“

Allowing the pupils to sit and try the dental chair was a great idea.

”







“ Thank you so much for talking to us, it’s been really helpful. ”

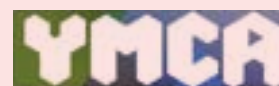
“ It’s been a pleasure working with an enthusiastic and engaged group of young people. ”



“ Feedback from our members was really positive, particularly from parents of young children. ”



# EBL2



## YMCA and Discovery College

YMCA Plymouth is an education, health & families charity, serving young people and the local community, guided by a friendly & personable approach where all people can belong, contribute and thrive.

Discovery College delivers vocational education and training for ages 16-19 combining academic excellence with a supportive, enjoyable and engaging environment supporting students to be the best they can be and achieve and succeed irrespective of their backgrounds or career ambitions.

Working in partnership with their host, the students delivered three drop-in oral health information sessions for their project. Splitting into three subgroups they were able to use their skills and time effectively to maximise outreach throughout the day. One group met with Discovery College pupils over lunch, another talked and played with toddlers and family members in the soft play area and the third group met with gym members later in the day to talk about brushing routines and the impact of sugar on our oral health.



“ The engagement levels in the softplay area was very impressive.”



# EBL 3

## Age UK Plymouth



For those with memory loss or dementia, Age UK Plymouth provides a specialist day care service providing meaningful, varied and personalised activities, based in Plymstock.

The Dementia Day Centre provides care for people with memory loss, cognitive issues and all stages of dementia with an experienced team offering person centred care which meets the needs of each client with a wide variety of engaging and fun activities.

The group attended a day centre session and provided hands on dental themed activities for the clients to try. These included dental games, an arts and craft area and a game of Boccia. The students also had time to sit and talk with clients and staff in between activities enabling them to share simple oral health messages and understand some of the challenges the clients face around oral health and general health and wellbeing.



“ It was enjoyable to see how interactive they were with our clients. ”





“ It’s nice that each client can take home a dental pack to share with their family or carer to help them put into practice what they’ve learnt from you. ”



“ Learnt some simple, but useful tips today, thank you. ”







“ After the session several clients spoke about their shock at the amount of sugar in certain drinks and said they would definitely be more mindful when making choices in the future. ”



“ The students were a pleasure to work with. ”



# EBL4

## Waters Park House



Waters Park House is a residential service for the rehabilitation of 22 adults with acquired brain injury and neurological disorders.

The home opened in 1998 and has been welcoming residents ever since. Staffed by a highly specialist team, Waters Park House offers facilities for adults with acquired brain injury as well as Huntington's Chorea, Motor Neurone Disease, and Parkinson's Disease.

Splitting into two teams, the students delivered training to staff and a drop-in information session for residents. During the training the group were able to share useful tips and advice regarding oral health care for patients whilst at the drop-in residents joined students to talk about all things teeth and took part in dental themed activities. The group also created a display for the resident's communal notice board to continue to share important key messages.



“ Very beneficial workshop as the information that both clients and staff learnt during the sessions will inform ongoing care of our clients’ oral health. ”

# EBL5

## Trauma Informed Plymouth Network



The Trauma Informed Plymouth Network (TIPN) is an independent group of people who are connected with Plymouth and who wish to learn about and promote trauma informed approaches.

The network aims to help Plymouth become a safer and kinder place, where the impact of trauma is recognised and responded to with sensitivity and compassion. Established in 2018, the network collaborates to promote trauma informed practice in a shame sensitive way.

Students spent time with the network co-ordinator from TIPN who took time to share her knowledge and experience around trauma and shame, linking it to the importance of being trauma informed within dentistry. The students designed a 'lunch and learn' session at the education facility to share their new found knowledge with their peers, dental team and PDSE clinicians.

“ If all dental practitioners approach their work with a trauma-informed approach, this benefits not just those who have experienced complex or developmental trauma, but all of us. ”







“Lovely to see those ‘light bulb’ moments.”

“Wonderful hearing student examples of applying the principles and values of a trauma informed approach to their work.”



“I have absolutely loved working with the dental students.”





# EBL6

## Young Carers

Barnardos recognises that young carers take on a lot of responsibilities which can often mean they miss out on opportunities that other children have to play and learn.

They aim to help young carers look after their loved ones and give them time to enjoy their childhoods by organising outings and activities for the carers to attend, give advice and emotional support through counselling sessions and help the family get support from social services.

Young carers were invited along to the dental facility after school for a fun dental session. The young people played games, had refreshments and then took part in various stations where they learnt about oral hygiene instruction, how to make healthy food choices and got to spend time on clinic understanding the role of a dentist and exploring the equipment used during an appointment.



“

It was fun being the dentist and trying out the chair and equipment.

”

“

The students were amazing, friendly and approachable.

”





# EBL 7

## Millfield's Inspired



Millfield's Inspired is a charity established and supported by the Millfield's Trust, a respected social enterprise in the city.

The innovative programme; Widening Horizons is delivered to the seven local primary schools located within the Stonehouse neighbourhood of Plymouth and allows children to understand the importance of education and how this can influence their life outside of the school.

Working in partnership with the Millfield's Inspired team the students planned and delivered a dental themed workshop to the children at St Andrew's CofE Primary. The students designed a classroom session with the children exploring dental careers and opportunities through fun, hands on activities, raising aspirations and acting as role models to the children.



“

It's been lovely working with the group and the children had a lovely time learning about dentistry.

”



“ It’s been a really positive experience. ”



“ The students were professional and loved engaging with the pupils at the primary school. ”







“

The group they attended has some gents with long term medical issues and disabilities and watching the students engage was impressive.

”



“

The students were excellent, they were a delight to have at the session.

”



# EBL8

## Elder Tree Befriending Service



The Eldertree Befriending Service has activities available citywide to support people aged over 50 who experience social isolation delivering a varied programme ranging from seated exercise classes to choirs and lunch clubs.

They also offer volunteering opportunities to support more vulnerable, socially isolated people in their home.

Students were welcomed into the 'Active Men' group at the Rees Centre in Plympton, where they meet weekly to talk, catch up and play gentle sports activities together, reducing social isolation. The students hosted a knowledge exchange where they shared key oral health messages and the members then taught the students how to play indoor Kurling. Lots of information shared between one another and a slightly competitive, but friendly game of Kurling was held at the end of session!



“

The students have been brilliant. All the gents were really positive about the experience.

”



# EBL 9

## St Budeaux and Barne Barton Wellbeing Hub

Part of a network of wellbeing hubs across Plymouth, the centre at St Budeaux aims to improve the health and wellbeing of St Budeaux and Barne Barton residents by offering advice and signposting to local and citywide health improvement activities or services.

Supported by Community Advisors, residents can access a wealth of information and attend regular activities hosted by the hub.

Students hosted a drop-in session at the wellbeing hub during the weekly community café. The group were able to focus on a wide range of topics including oral health, the impact of sugar on teeth and made 'every contact count' by promoting mouth cancer self-screening.



“ The group were extremely professional, polite and smart. ”





“ I didn't know to look for fluoride in toothpaste, I'll be able to do that now I know what to look for. ”







“ The students were very engaging and happy to answer all questions. ”





# EBL10

## Active for All

Improving Lives Plymouth provides a service for adults with learning disabilities and/or mental health support needs called 'Active for All' which hopes to improve individuals' health and well-being through physical activity.

Members take part in fun and enjoyable activities which are accessible in the local community such as football and walking.

Students attended the weekly basketball coaching at the Life Centre and joined activities alongside 'Active for All' members. They explored the importance of building a trusted relationship and how to reduce anxiety associated with visiting the dentist by participating alongside the members and spending time getting to know them and listening to their concerns. They then designed and delivered a 'Top Tips' Q&A at the end of the final coaching session for all participants.



“

It was lovely to work with the students, they were fully engaged with our clients and got involved fully in the basketball sessions.

”

“

It was great to have the students join us, the guys absolutely loved having them.

”

# DTH A

## Livewell Southwest Wellbeing Team

Livewell Southwest is an independent, award-winning social enterprise providing integrated health and social care services for people in the local area.

The Wellbeing Team support people to lead healthy and happy lives through a variety of programmes including One You and specialist mental health support.

The students designed and delivered an engaging and informative staff training session for the Wellbeing Team, sharing key oral health messages to enable them to feel confident to share this with those they support. Interactive stations included brushing technique, sugar and diet and oral cancer self-checks. The team reported that they felt more able to talk about oral health with their clients as a result of working with our students.



“ The students have listened, and this reflected in the workshop they presented to my team and other colleagues. ”





“ The training was a great help and raised awareness of oral health issues with our team. ”



“ The information given will enable our staff members to support the people we work with. ”





“ Everyone felt relaxed and comfortable around them during the activities. ”

“ It was great to let the children play with the masks and gloves to help them feel less anxious. ”



# DTH B

## Longcause Special School



LONGCAUSE COMMUNITY  
SPECIAL SCHOOL

Longcause provides high quality education for children on the autism spectrum and are committed to enhancing their pupil's life, well-being, abilities and successes.

Supporting children aged 4 – 16, the school specifically caters for the needs of children with communication and interaction difficulties together with cognition and learning. This means that the children usually have a moderate learning difficulty as well as an Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). The school usually has 98 children on roll and is the only one of its kind in the West of Devon.

Working alongside teachers and classroom assistants the group designed classroom-based sessions for the children, focussing on basic skills to maintain positive oral health routines and reduce dental anxiety. Designing a single lesson plan, the students then prepared and delivered bespoke lessons that were designed with the specific needs of each class. They also prepared 'pod packs' for children who worked independently in individual rooms to enable them to participate and learn along with the other children.

“  
The pupils  
really enjoyed  
the session with  
the students.  
”





# DTH C

## Mount Tamar Special School



Mount Tamar is a school for children who have an Educational, Health and Care Plan describing Social, Emotional and Mental Health and/or an Autism Spectrum Condition.

The school welcomes children from year 3 through to year 11 with approximately 100 pupils and staff based over 4 sites and looks to provide a broad curriculum to support student learning.

Having met the children at Mount Tamar School and working alongside the teaching staff, the students delivered two classroom-based sessions. Using simple, engaging activities the children learnt about the importance of brushing, using fluoride toothpaste and brushing techniques. They also took home dental packs to encourage and support them to brush at home.



“

The resources will be a fantastic addition to our classrooms.

”





“ A great opportunity for our pupils to meet the dental students and find out more about how to look after their teeth. ”



“ We will now be able to continue to talk about looking after our mouths with the children. ”



“ Loved the dental bingo, it was very popular. ”

“ I believe everyone learnt a lot about caring for their teeth and mouths. ”



“ Their visit was very beneficial to the café customers. ”







# DTH D

## The Pioneers Project

The Pioneers Project serves children, young people and families who need support across Plymouth and into South East Cornwall and the South Hams in the UK.

The project helps positively influence people's social, emotional, and mental health by giving them opportunities to connect and try new things. Projects include 1:1 support, group work and activities within the community.

The group were invited to spend the day at The Barn Community Café. The students welcomed customers and were able to spend time having meaningful, personalised conversations with people throughout the day. Designed as an informal dental drop-in the group were able to share key oral health messages with customers and host dental themed activities during their time at the café.



“ The students engaged really well with our community who attend the café. ”



“ Now know it is important to adapt the way you do things for patients to ensure they feel comfortable enough in the setting and to carry out treatment. ”

“ I now know how to communicate effectively with different people and how to interact with different ages. ”

“ I’ve understood how important it is to communicate more effectively especially when trying to convince someone to change behaviours they are so used. ”

“ This module has made me more aware of some of the challenges patients can face before even coming into the clinic. ”

“ I will now take into account the whole patient and not just their mouth. ”

“ Always maintain patient centred care. ”

“ Overall, a positive experience with a lot of important messages to take away. ”

“ Invaluable experience and would love to get the opportunity to explore different communities in the future. ”

“ I had a great experience with this module and definitely learned a lot from completing it. ”


“ It has helped me to understand more about interacting with children in healthcare settings, adapting language, tone of voice and other communication skills. ”

“ It has taught me how to approach people about difficult topics and to understand and prepare for their response to this. ”


“ I will take more care and time with patients, having a trauma informed approach with everyone from now on. ”



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