



Carolyn Thomas MS
Member of the Senedd for North Wales

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Dear Carolyn,

During First Minister's questions on 23 April, you asked about the use of a mobile dental unit on school sites in North Wales. I am pleased to provide you with more details about the programme.

A dental therapist-run mobile dental unit has been co-located at Ysgol y Moelwyn, a large bilingual secondary school in Blaenau Ffestiniog. The team has carried out dental assessments for 11 and 12-year-old students at the school and, where necessary, provided clinically-effective and evidence-based prevention interventions, such as fluoride varnish application and tailored advice. Where dental disease was detected, the team contacted parents/guardians with a follow-up request for the child to be treated at a suitable permanent dental setting.

The first stage of the programme is being evaluated. Initial results are extremely positive. We found that the majority of students had not seen a dentist since before the pandemic. The service was valued by parents and was well received by the wider community. The dental team and mobile unit is now planning to move to Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn, Bala. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board has also identified three other schools which will be invited to participate in the programme over the next year.

If this trial is successful, it represents an exciting opportunity to deliver dental care directly to schools – and students – in some of the most deprived areas of Wales, as well as reducing pressure on general and community dental services.

Yours sincerely,

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
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