

Minutes of proceedings of the Plenary Meeting of the Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health held on Wednesday, 27th October 2016

Present: Dr Seamus O'Hickey (Chairman), Ms Bernadette McDonnell, Professor Denis O'Mullane, Professor John Clarkson, Mr Michael Kilcoyne

In attendance: From Secretariat: Ms Etain Kett, Ms Patricia Gilseyan O'Neill

Apologies: Mr Ray Parle (Vice Chairman), Mr Stephen McDermott

EB Minute 19/16: Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were noted.

EB Minute 20/16: Minutes of the last meeting (30th June 2016)

The minutes from the meeting of June 30th 2016 were agreed subject to minor amendments.

EB Minute 21/16: Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

EB Minute 22/16: Correspondence

A report of all correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

It was agreed that matters raised in correspondence received from the Working Group on Best Health for Children would be considered by the New and Emerging Issues Sub-Committee at its next meeting.

It was noted that University College Cork are compiling the documentation regarding a Rep received by Deputy Simon Harris, Minister for Health concerning water fluoridation.

It was noted that the Department of Health will ask for an update from the Food Safety Authority Ireland through the Food Unit Department of Health regarding the Total Fluoride Intake Study.

EB Minute 23/16: Report of Sub-committees

The Quality Assurance Sub-committee reported the following:

- It was noted that the Future Role of Expert Body is still under consideration by the Department of Health . the QA Sub-Committee is awaiting approval for its Work Plan.
- It was noted that the Code of Practice on the Fluoridation of Drinking Water 2016 has gone to print. It was further noted that the CoP would be distributed to the water treatment plants.
- The Quality Assurance Sub-Committee was thanked for the work on the Code of Practice.

The New and Emerging Issues Sub-committee reported the following:

- The NEI Sub-Committee's review of the published literature has not resulted in any findings which necessitated any alteration to the Expert Body advice to the Minister of Health. The papers do not impact or change the current practices on water fluoridation in the Republic of Ireland. The following papers were reviewed:

- ***Community water fluoridation predicts increase in age adjusted incidence and prevalence of diabetes in 22 states from 2005 and 2010, Fluegge 2016***

It was agreed that Dr Carmel Parnell would review the dental side of this paper and it was suggested to send the paper to Professor Donal O'Shea, Endocrinologist for review in relation to the aspects dealing with diabetes.

- ***'Equity in children's dental caries before and after cessation of community water fluoridation: differential impact by dental insurance status and geographic material deprivation', McLauren et al 2016.***

Results are consistent with increasing inequities in dental caries following cessation of CWF. However further research is needed to 1) confirm the effects in a study that includes a comparison community, 2) explore possible alternative reasons for the findings, including changes in treatment and preventive programming.

- ***Health Policy Brief ‘An Innovative Project Breaks Down Barriers to Oral Health Care for Vulnerable Young Children in Los Angeles County’, UCLA Center of Health Policy Research 2016***

It was agreed that this paper be brought to the attention of the Academic Reference Group, Oral Health Policy.

- ***Community Water Fluoridation: Tackling The Irrational Fears’, Duronio & Baum 2016***

This paper will be on the Agenda for the next meeting of the New and Emerging Issues Sub-Committee.

- ***‘Cognitive Impairment and Risk Factors in Elderly People Living in Fluorosis Areas in China’, Li et al 2016***

This paper does not impact on current practices or policies on water fluoridation in Ireland. It supports the conclusion reached in the review of the Health Research Board Report *Health Effects of Water Fluoridation*(2015).

- ***‘The Controversy over Community Water Fluoridation: An Analysis of its Effects and Reasons Behind the Arguments’, Noda 2016***

This paper covers the studies which reviewed the introduction of water fluoridation in the USA. The report does not impact on the current water fluoridation policy in Ireland.

- ***‘Water fluoridation and ethnic inequities in dental caries profiles of New Zealand children aged 5 and 12–13 years: analysis of national cross-sectional registry databases for the decade 2004–2013’, Schluter & Lee 2016***

It was agreed that this paper is a good example of the use of service data to monitor the oral health of the population and to measure the effectiveness of population interventions like water fluoridation. It was further agreed to bring this paper to the attention of the Department of Health.

- ***Draft NHMRC Information Paper: Effects of water fluoridation on dental and other health outcomes', the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council 2016***

It was noted that this paper is an extremely well done literature review and that it covers a broad range of issues. It was suggested that it be made available on the Expert Body website once it is published.

It was noted that the paper refers to *Community Water Fluoridation and Intelligence: Prospective Study in New Zealand* Broadbent et al 2014.

- ***'Fluoride exposure in public drinking water and childhood and adolescent osteosarcoma in Texas', Archer et al 2016***

It was agreed that this paper be referred to the National Cancer Control Programme for review. It was also suggested to update the Expert Body Position Paper on Osteosarcoma once the review is complete.

- ***'The tooth of the matter', Autumn edition Maternity and Infant 2016***

It was noted that the use of a grain sized amount of toothpaste varies from the Recommendations of the Expert Body.

- ***'How to get evidence into policy: A European Fluoridation Story', Presentation Slides, Dr Mary Rose Kenny, DCU***

It was noted that this was very helpful research and to request Dr Kenny to send a copy of it when it is published.

- 'Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) has agreed to open a file regarding claims concerning Aloe Vera Toothpaste.

The Expert Body is concerned at the claim on Aloe Vera packaging *'You can be sure your child is getting all the benefits of toothpaste+- when fluoride is not present is misleading.*

The HPRA states that *'claims which are not substantiated and justified are not permitted on cosmetic products'*

- A search will be carried out on the use of infiltrants to treat dental fluorosis.

- It was noted that the Expert Body FAQ is under review by the NEI Subcommittee.
- The National Fluoridation Steering Committee will be contacted regarding reporting procedures for non-conformances

EB Minute 24/16: Report of Executive Committee

The Report of the Executive Committee was noted.

Secretariat Costs were for May . August 2016 were reviewed. It was noted that these costs were within budget.

EB Minute 25/16: Report of the 21st Congress of the European Association of Dental Public Health

Ms Etain Kett presented a report on her attendance at the conference of the European Association of Public Dental Health. It was agreed that Ms Kett would send abstracts from the conference to the Oral Health Policy Group.

It was noted that Dr Mairead Harding, Deputy Director, Oral Health Services Research Centre, Cork presented some findings from the Fluoride and Caring for Children's Teeth (FACCT Study) still underway) at EADPH and that there had been great interest shown in it.

EB Minute 26/16: Future Role of Expert Body

It was noted that the future role of the Expert Body is still under consideration by the Department of Health.

EB Minute 27/16: AOB

Following the recent death of Mr Paul Castle it was agreed to send a letter of condolence to the Castle Family.

It was also noted that Professor Aubrey Sheiham had died recently.

It was noted that a business case would be submitted to the Department of Health regarding Expert Body attendance at the annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR).



It was noted that recent contact between paediatric dentists and the Dental Health Foundation has highlighted that some paediatric dentists may not be aware of the Expert Body Recommendations regarding the use of fluoride toothpaste for under twos.

EB Minute 28/16: Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman thanked all for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 12:45pm. The date for the next meeting was suggested as Wednesday 8th March 2017.

Signed: _____

Date: _____