

Media Release



To: Local and national media
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Release: Dental Drop In

Dental Drop-in

Dental services in NHS Forth Valley are working with The Salvation Army to provide dental drop-ins for homeless and vulnerable people. They are hoping to offer treatment to those who regularly use Salvation Army premises. The scheme, which is currently being rolled out, aims to improve their accessibility to care and advice.

The service is starting in Stirling, and will then be extended throughout Forth Valley. Initial consultations will be offered at specific times which will be advertised within Salvation Army buildings. People can then turn up to speak to a dentist and discuss any treatment which may be needed.

Sue Storrar, NHS Forth Valley Dental Nurse Manager, said the new scheme will help people who do not know how to access dental care – and perhaps are not in a position to pay for private treatment. “It is not just dental care that some people find difficult to access – it is often the whole logistics of seeing a dentist and undergoing treatment. The thought of travel and unfamiliar surroundings can be daunting and often those who are vulnerable do not have the money to pay travel costs.”

Initially the dental drop-ins will be held once a week, but the regularity will be determined by uptake. One dentist is being assigned to this service – Paul Cushley, Lead Clinician for Dental Access. “This is one of a raft of measures that NHS Forth Valley are undertaking to improve access to all patients to NHS dental care. We hope to build on the excellent work that The Salvation Army do for vulnerable people and improve the dental health of all members of the community.”

The service is being funded by NHS Forth Valley and will be evaluated to decide whether the right areas are being targeted, or whether they should be offered elsewhere.

Welcoming the initiative a Salvation Army spokesperson said “As a church and charity The Salvation Army is extremely grateful to NHS Forth Valley. It is our aim to provide a “one-stop shop” holistic package of care for vulnerable people who are normally on the edge of society and excluded from most healthcare services. Today’s announcement ensures we take another step forward to achieving this aim.

The Salvation Army premises in Drip Road in Stirling have been chosen for the first dental drop-ins because the premises serve hot meals and are regularly used by both homeless and vulnerable people.

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Notes to Editors

For further information please contact the Communications Department on 01786 457243.

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Forth Valley NHS Board is the common name for Forth Valley Health Board