Getting Our Teeth Stuck into the Problem

Opportunistic Public Health Messaging within the A+E Department

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BACKGROUND

1 in 4 five-year-old's have tooth decay with on average 3 or 4 teeth affected

Tooth decay is the **main reason** for children to be added to the Child Protection Register for **neglect** in Tower Hamlet. Our Doctors look in throats every day but often **don't spot or address this problem**

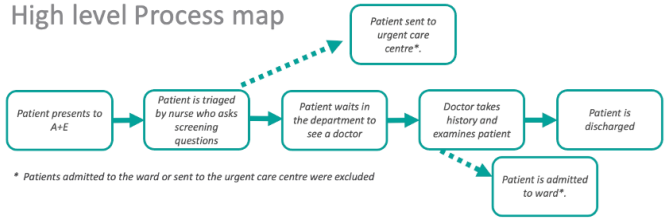
AIM & MEASURE

Aim: By the 1st March 2022 8 out of 10 children aged between 1-17 years old triaged to the paediatric A+E will have been asked the last time they visited a dentist.

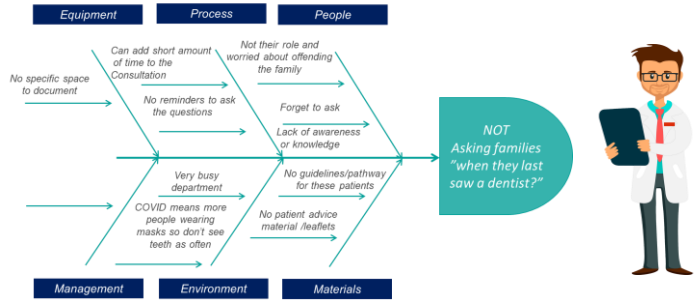
Measure: Number of patients with a documented assessment in their notes of when they last visited a dentist.

DIAGNOSTICS

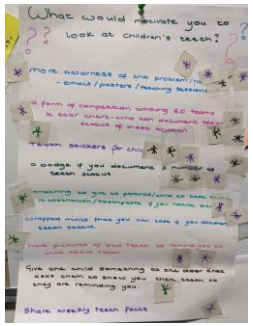
High level Process map



Fishbone Diagram

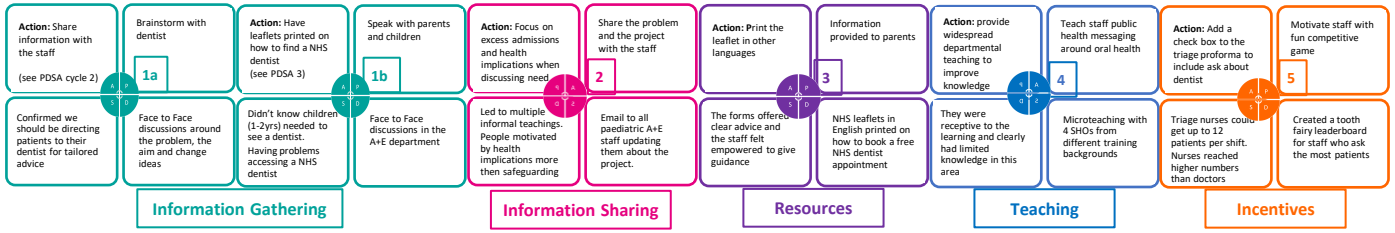


CHANGE IDEAS

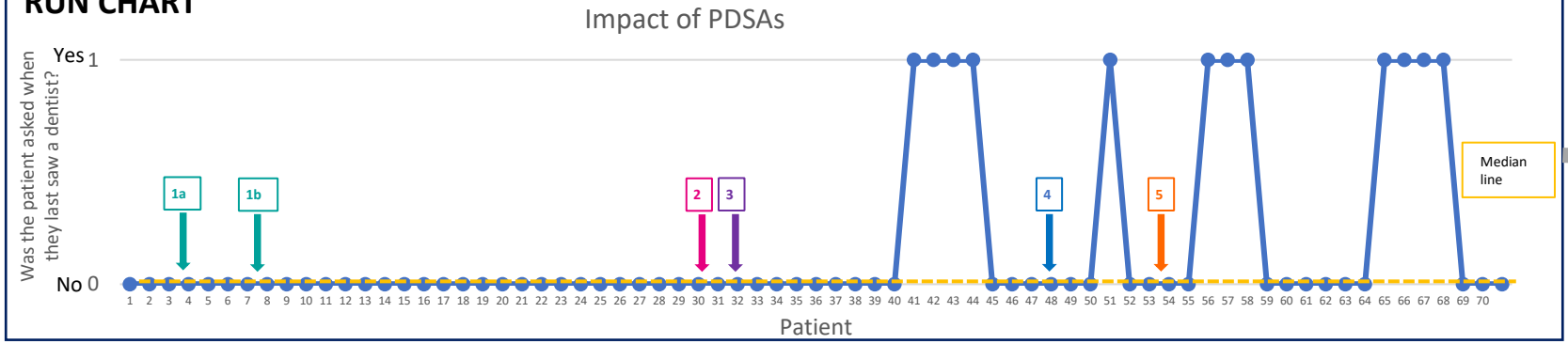


PDSAs

10 PDSAs were performed during a one-month period. Six of the main interventions are shown below



RUN CHART



REFLECTIONS & LEARNING

This was a multi disciplinary project that involved patients and carers. It shows that A+E is an ideal place for health promotion with staff interacting with large numbers of children every day.

Whilst we have not yet show a statistical change what we noticed was that staff started talking about oral health and based on self reported numbers and the amount of leaflets given out, a clear change has occurred within the department.

The next stage is to explore further with parents to see if increased awareness results in increased attendances to see a dentist.

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