

## **North East Lincolnshire Oral Health Community Survey**

### **Introduction**

In order to gain the views of the local population an oral health community survey was carried out by the local community dental department. The survey was made available online via SurveyMonkey from the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The survey was widely promoted by the community dental department, and by partner agencies through their various networks. The survey could also be accessed from the North East Lincolnshire Council website consultation page.

Overall, 378 North East Lincolnshire residents took part in the survey, with the majority (97%) responding via the online survey, and the remaining 3% responding via a paper version of the survey that was used at a North East Lincolnshire college. Survey respondents were from a wide range of ages. Not all questions were answered by every respondent and for some questions multiple responses could be made.

The survey included both quantitative and qualitative information with questions regarding behaviour and satisfaction. As a number of questions were subjective, it should be remembered that views are based on opinion, and the responses are not necessarily representative of the North East Lincolnshire population as a whole, but are individual stories. However, from the responses, overarching themes were identified. The online survey allowed the survey to be carried out within the time constraints and enabled easier data processing, however it is acknowledged that with only being available online and publicised by certain channels, this does introduce a potential sampling bias.

### How often do you attend the dentist? (n=350)

Just over half of respondents report that they attend the dentist every 6 months, with an additional 33% of respondents reporting that they attend the dentist every 12 months, which in effect equates to 84% of respondents attending the dentist at least every 12 months. Just over 8% of respondents reported that they do not attend the dentist.

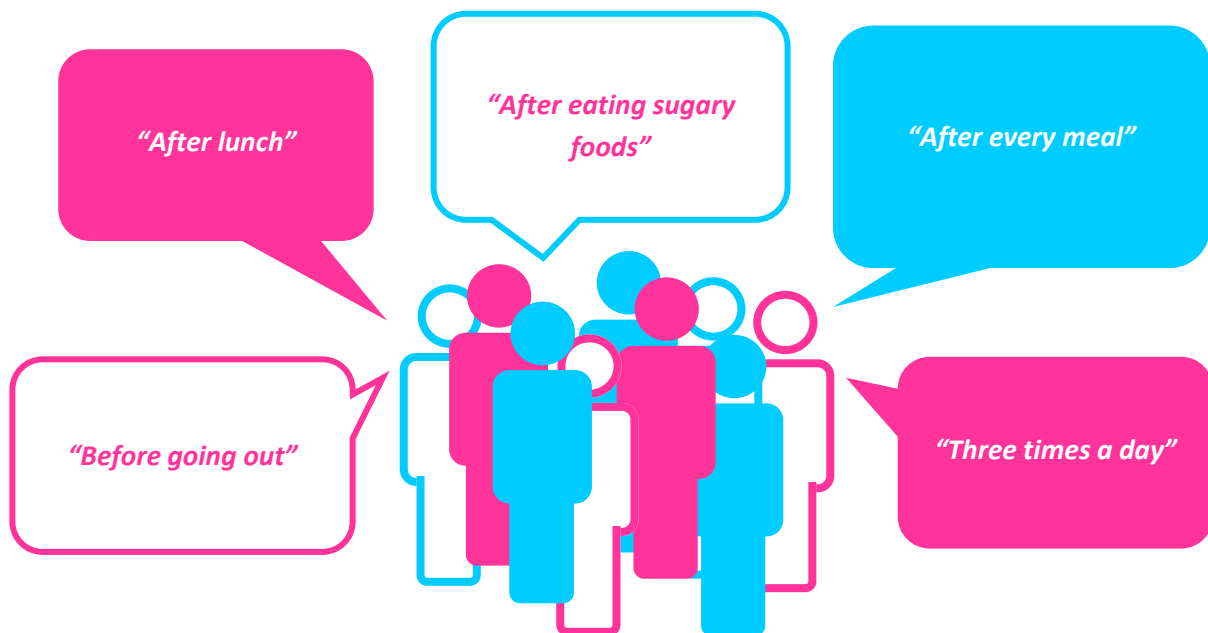
### Was your last dental appointment with an NHS or private dentist? (n=349)

Around three quarters of respondents last visit to a dentist was to an NHS dentist. Those who do not visit a dentist obviously did not answer this question, and there were a small number of respondents who did not know whether their last visit was to an NHS or private dentist.

### When do you usually clean your teeth? (n=378)

A high percentage (94%) of respondents reported that they clean their teeth in the morning, with 82% of respondents also reporting they clean their teeth at night.

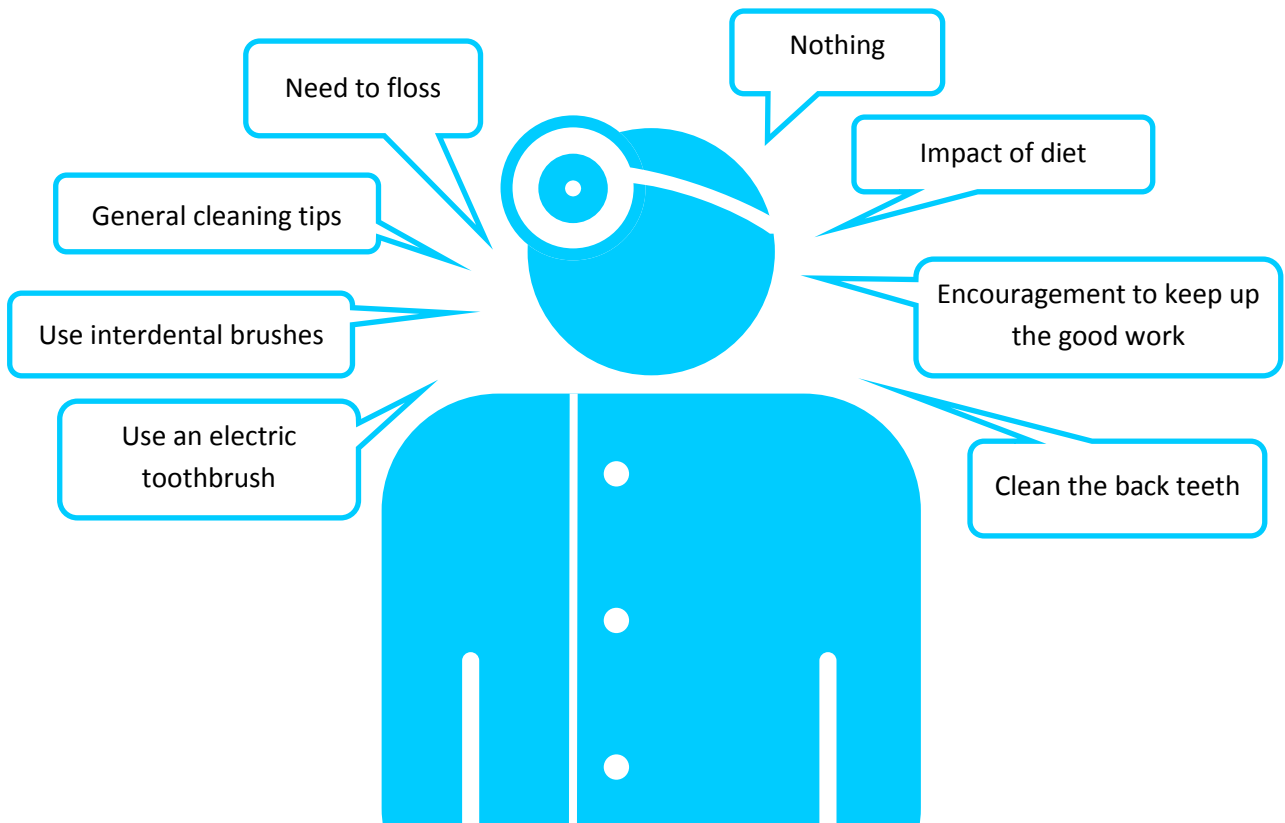
A number of respondents offered additional free text information regarding when they clean their teeth:



### In what ways do you keep your teeth clean and healthy? (n=378)

A high percentage (94%) of respondents reported that they brush their teeth daily. The next highest methods used to keep teeth clean and healthy, were visiting the dentist (71%), and using a fluoride toothpaste (61%). The lowest percentages were methods associated with diet and using dental floss.

**What sort of advice and information does your dental practice give to you? (n=311)**

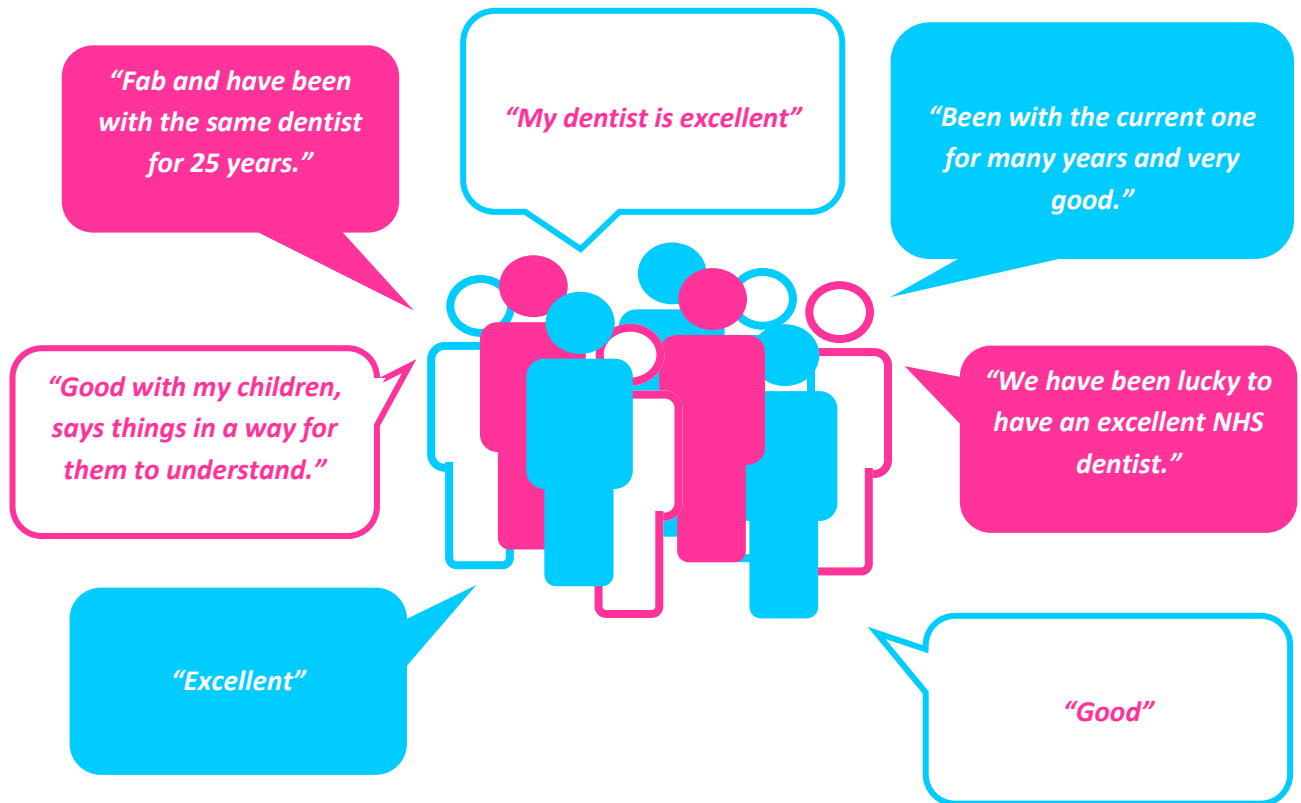


There were a wide range of responses to this question, with many people reporting their dentist offering advice on multiple issues, however many other people reported their dentist provides no or little advice or information. The most common advice given is around the need to floss and general cleaning advice.

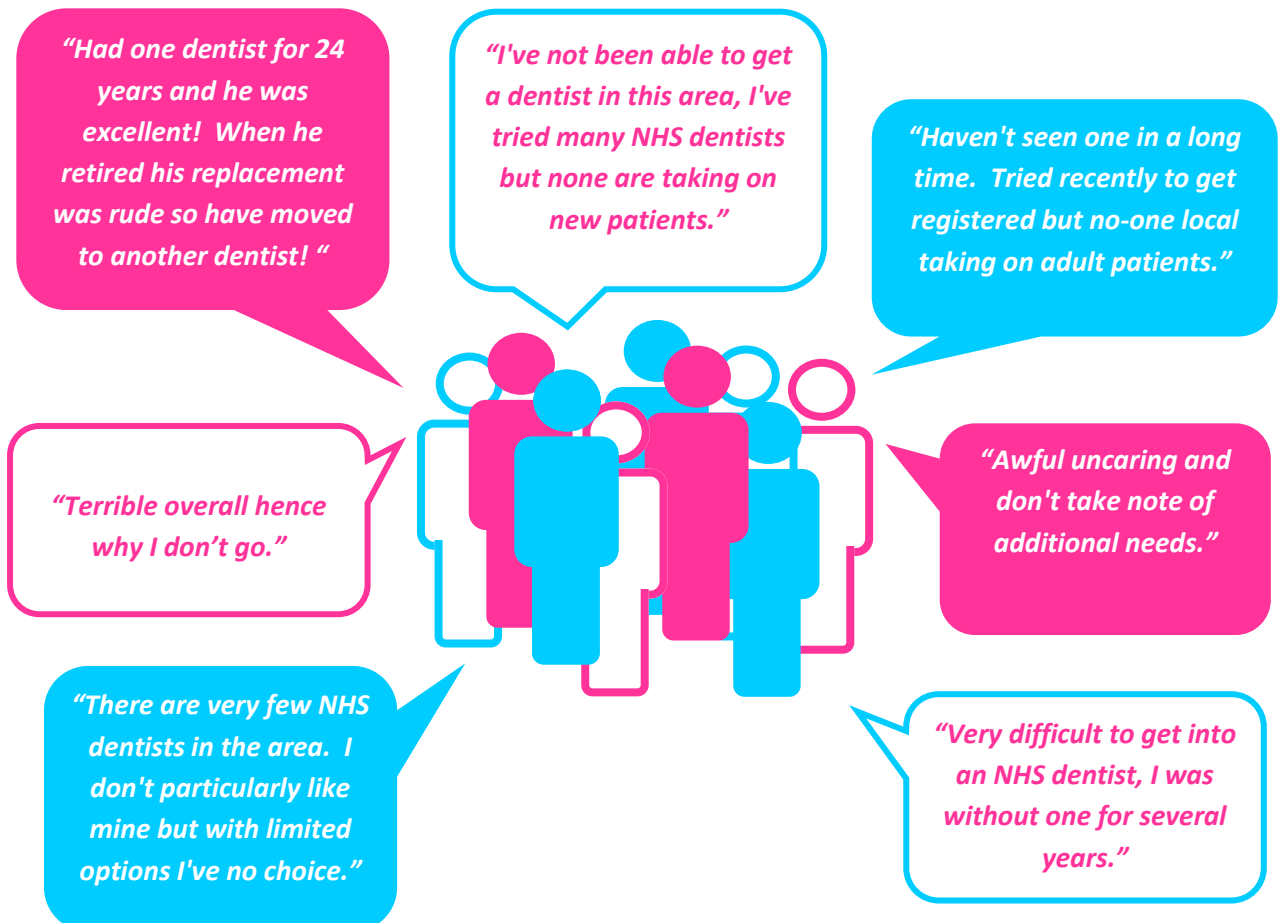
**What has been your experience of dentists in this area? (n=341)**

There were a wide range of responses to this question however a number of key themes were evident. Overall 65% of responses were positive.

Positive experiences of dentists:



Negative experiences of dentists:



### What other health professionals have offered dental advice and support? (NEL n=378)

Dental advice does not appear to be given frequently by other health professionals with just 14% of respondents reporting receiving dental advice from their doctor. Just under 10% of respondents reported receiving dental advice from a nurse. Additional health professionals listed by respondents were school / college nurses and health visitors but the numbers were small.

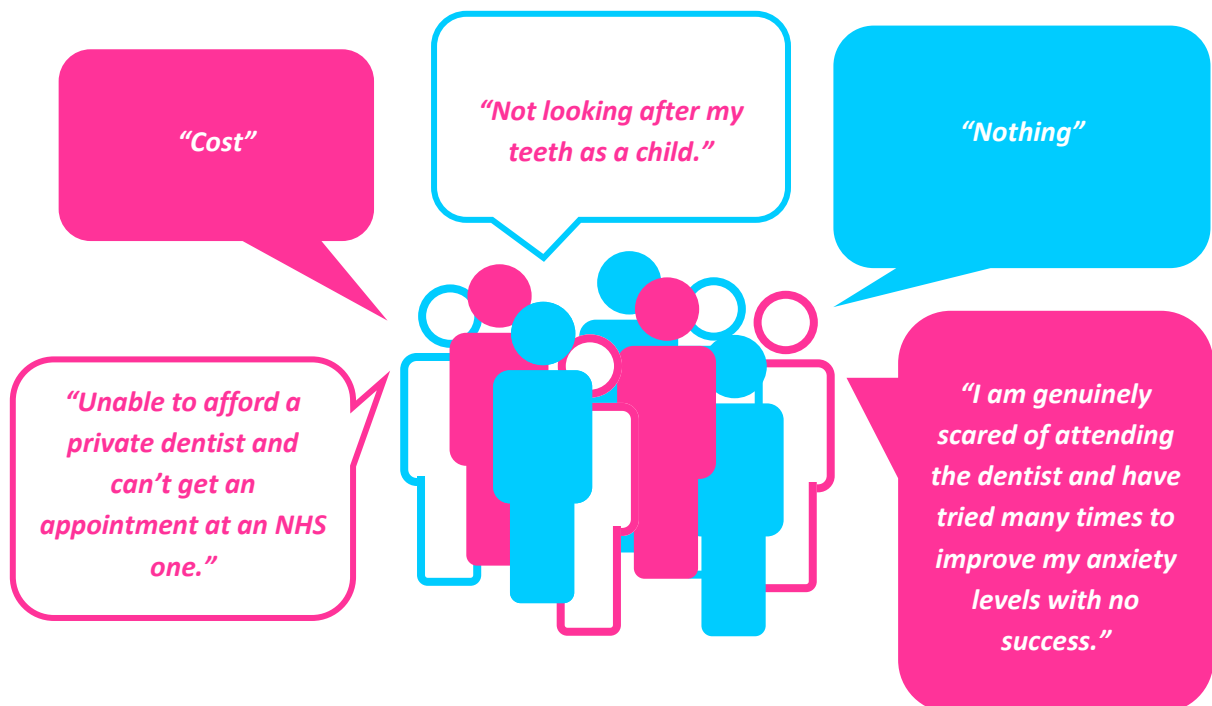
### How would you rate your dental health at the present time? (n=376)

Just over 63% of respondents reported their dental health as either 'excellent' or 'good', just over 25% as 'average' and just over 10% as either 'poor' or 'very poor'.

### Is there anything which prevents you from having good dental health? (n=376)

Dental access was reported as a considerable barrier to good dental health, with 28% of respondents reporting either access to a dentist or access to dental appointments as impacting good dental health. Fear should not be underestimated with 18% of respondents reporting fear as preventing good dental health. Having an unfriendly dentist was reported by just under 8% of all respondents.

A number of respondents offered additional free text information regarding what prevented them having good dental health:



**Is there anything else which would support you with your oral health? (n=101)**

Of those who responded to this question, recurrent themes of accessing an NHS dentist, the cost of private treatment, fear, and dental practices needing to be friendly, were evident.

