Life changes
Opening your own business is the ultimate goal, but it is also a massive, life changing decision says Simon Hocken.

Dental trauma leads to death
A 14-year-old girl starved herself to death after developing a fear of dentists, an inquest heard.

Sophie Waller, from St Dennis in Cornwall, had an operation to remove her milk teeth after she stopped eating or speaking, after cracking a tooth on a boiled sweet.

The Chief Dental Officer for England has condemned a survey, claiming 3m people in the UK have tried DIY dentistry, as ‘ludicrous’.

The survey for Which? magazine found eight per cent have tried DIY dentistry and the same amount of people knew someone else who had tried it.

Around a quarter of those had attempted to remove a tooth with pliers. Three in 10 had tried to whiten their own teeth using household products, while 12 per cent had attempted to take a tooth out using a string tied to a door handle.

The survey revealed that DIY techniques included fixing decay, replacing broken teeth and treatments such as fixing crowns with household glue, bursting ulcers with a pin and sticking down loose fillings with chewing gum.

Which? carried out the poll to publicise more detailed research it is carrying out into the state of dentistry in the UK.

It is asking members of the public to submit their own experiences of dental treatment to collate evidence which will be submitted as part of a Government review in April.

Which? polled 2,651 adults aged over 16 in England online from January 19 to February 4 2009. It extrapolated the figures to suggest that three million people have tried DIY dentistry.

However Dr Cockcroft criticised the survey and questioned its credibility.

He said: ‘These findings come from an online multiple choice survey that has no statistical credibility. It is ludicrous to suggest that three million people are doing DIY dentistry. DIY dentistry is dangerous and unnecessary. Thanks to our investment of over £2 billion in NHS dentistry, there are now lots of new NHS dental practices expanding and opening around the country.’

Shadow health minister Mike Penning called the survey results a direct consequence of the introduction of Labour’s botched dental contract.

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