**Parliamentary group**

All-party Parliamentary group for dental health awareness has been formed to 'promote a greater understanding of dental issues'. The group is chaired by MP Charlotte Atkins, Labour MP for Staffordshire Moorlands and vice president of the British Fluoridation Society, is planning to visit dental practices to enable practitioners to talk about the issues that really matter to them and their patients.

Part of its role will be to monitor the progress of the Health Select Committee's recommendations for NHS dental services, while investigating and raising awareness of oral health issues in general.

**More complaints**

The Dental Complaints Service (DCS) has seen complaints increase by eight per cent. The DCS logged 1,464 complaints in December 2008. For January – December 2007, the DCS logged 1,417 complaints, an increase of 3.3 per cent over the equivalent period in 2007. The average number of complaints logged since the launch of the DCS in May 2006 is now approximately 32 per week.

A breakdown of the type of complaints made revealed that the highest number concerned indi- rect coronal restorations. Prosthetics were the second most popular reason for complaint followed by direct coronal restorations. Pros.

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**Health award**

Pupils at a school in Halifax in Yorkshire have won a dental health award. West Vale Primary School won the Cate Fruit Plus award for its work in promoting good oral health in young children. The school has a policy on healthy eating and snacking and staff have received training about oral health and prevention of dental diseases. The children are also given milk at break times and public debates.

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**Dr Cockcroft condemns survey**

The Chief Dental Officer for England has condemned a survey, claiming 3m people qui 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 crowns with household glue, bursting ulcers with a pin and sticking down loose fillings with chewing gum.

**Health trauma leads to death**

A 14-month-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 as she stopped eating or speaking, after cracking a tooth on a boiled sweet.

She refused to go to the den-

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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.

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