Denplan launches its Excel accreditation programme for children in Manchester earlier this month. The programme was developed with advice and assistance from Professor Raman Bedi, former chief dental officer for England who spoke at the launch.

Last year Denplan developed the new programme specifically aimed at the oral health needs of children. It was successfully piloted by 45 practices. Denplan Excel for Children has two objectives: that when the children turn 18 years-old they will have no cavities and will be confident they will require no major restorative treatment as adults.

Denplan Excel for Children sits alongside Denplan Excel (for adult patients) as a component within this clinical governance programme. Commenting at the launch, Roger Matthews, Denplan’s chief dental officer said: ‘Recognising that children have different oral health needs from adult patients and drawing from latest research in the field, Denplan Excel for Children aims to redefine children’s oral health care by offering support and guidance to dentists on the best approach to children’s dentistry and also to influence parents in choosing the best dental care for their children. It has been welcomed by the profession at a time when children’s oral wellbeing is never far from the headlines.’

The programme is simple and easy to use in general practice — acting as a support to dentists’ current activities. It consists of a number of unique elements, including The Oral Health Score for Children and The Oral Wellbeing Score for Children.

The Oral Health Score for Children lets dentists provide a personalised treatment plan for each child based on more than the presence of active disease, and will allow children and their parents to more accurately monitor the changes in their oral health over time.

The Oral Wellbeing Score for Children is made up of four components measuring dental anxiety, oral health quality of life, oral health awareness and oral health confidence.

Together, they provide the dentist and parent with a comprehensive analysis and monitoring tool for children as well as providing the clearest ever indication of the state of their dental health — something adults have been able to do with the Oral Health Score in recent years.

Denplan’s Excel for Children also includes an ongoing paediatric dental education programme for the whole dental team (and is CPI verifiable), allowing practices to keep up to date on the latest research and best practice in paediatric dentistry.

Asked at the launch whether the programme had any relevance to the millions of children treated under the NHS, Roger Matthews said: ‘I would be happy to discuss it with any primary care trust that approaches me.’