

# Stanley Dental Practice Research Report

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investing in children

## Stanley Dentist - Ways to Improve the Service

We were asked if we would like to be involved in a project to improve the Dentist's in Stanley. This work has been carried out by two groups of young people, the first group looked at issues such as - how often do you go to the dentist, what information you need to keep your teeth healthy and is the dentist welcoming and friendly to young people etc.

We focused on the redesign of the waiting room as we felt this was an important issue. Research from both groups is included in this report.

### Young People's issues

- Some young people would like the dentist to come into school.
- Most young people get their information about keeping their teeth healthy from television adverts for tooth paste and sugar free chewing gum.
- Dentist leaflets tend to get thrown away.
- Young people don't get to choose the dentist they go to, parents do.
- Most young people do not make their own appointments, parents do.
- Only a few young people we talked to get nervous when they go to the dentists.

- Most young people knew they were supposed to go to the dentist every 6 months.
- Everyone said it was important to go.
- Most young people thought the staff in the dentist's treated them well.
- Most think there is never anything good to read in the waiting room.

## Redesign of Dentist waiting room

We think the walls need to be painted in brighter colours and we've chosen 'blue babe' and 'sugared lilac' from the Dulux colour chart. There should be more mirrors and plants and maybe some new chairs or recover the old ones.

The posters on the wall are not very good. How about involving a local school in designing new posters. The pupils could get a prize for the best design.

Young people need something to do when they are waiting to see the dentist. There could be a toy box for little kids and magazines for teenagers.

We would suggest something like -

Smash hits

Match of the day

MB UK

Superbike

Mizz

TV Hits

Sugar  
J17  
Comics  
Playstation magazines

Could there be a separate room where young people could go and watch TV or listen to music.

### Other ideas -

Magic eye pictures  
Fish tank

### When you are in with the Dentist

- The dentists gloves taste minging - can you get flavoured ones?
- Music playing while you are getting treatment could help relax you.
- Some of us thought that the dentist should explain what all the instruments are for but some said they don't even want to see them. The dentist should ask young people if they would or would not like to know.

