

*March 19th, 2015*

## **Celebration is a reason to smile**

A celebration event will be held at Sunderland's Stadium of Light on Wednesday, March 25th, for a successful oral health education programme involving care homes in Sunderland, Gateshead and South Tyneside.

The 'Mouth Care, We Care' programme began in 2012 and South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's oral health promotion team provides it in all three areas. There are two stages to it and, so far, 45 homes have completed the first stage and three have completed the second.

Oral health promotion lead Joanne Purvis said: "The health of your mouth, teeth and gums is extremely important as it can affect your general health, but it is not always given high priority. The aim of 'Mouth Care, We Care' is to raise awareness among care home staff of its importance for older people and to train them to do the best for their residents, many of whom have some form of dementia, in this regard. After the training, they tell us that they have learned so much – not just about how to improve the oral health of their residents but also about their own."

Health Education North East, along with the Trust, will host the ceremony at the Stadium of Light when care homes which have successfully participated in the 'Mouth Care We Care' programme will be presented with certificates by Malcolm Smith, Postgraduate Dental Dean, Health Education North East.

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Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

For press enquiries on this release, contact 0191 404 1128 or email [kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk](mailto:kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk)