

# Making Prevention Work in Practice (MPWiP) An innovative workplace learning programme to enhance preventative dental care.

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## Health Education Improvement Wales

### Introduction

Dental disease is preventable and affects disadvantaged groups disproportionately. The document 'A healthier Wales: The Oral Health and Dental Services Response (2018) prioritised workforce transformation focussed on innovation and promoting a preventative focus to deliver a healthier and more equal Wales.

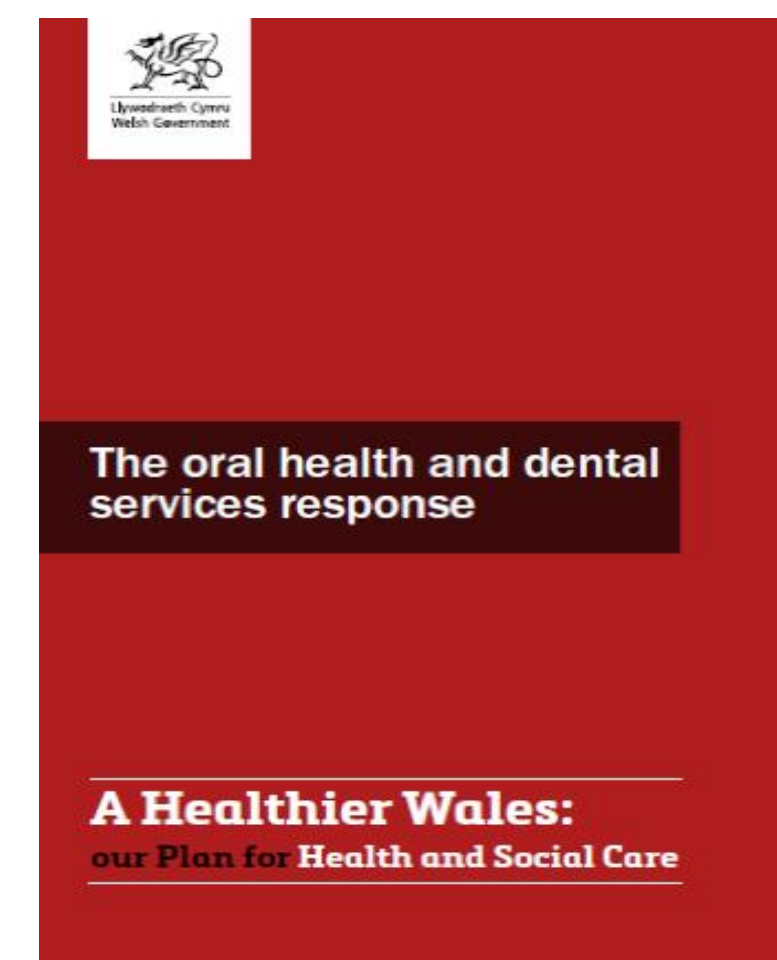
#### What is Making Prevention Work in Practice (MPWiP)?

The MPWiP training course equips dentists, dental therapists and hygienists in general dental practice and community dental services in Wales to teach their dental nurses to deliver preventative care and advice to patients and apply Fluoride varnish as defined in the GDP scope of practice.

It aims to :

- ❖ Strengthen clinical leadership skills for dentists, therapists & hygienists
- ❖ Increase access to appropriate preventative advice and Fluoride varnish
- ❖ Improve patient care
- ❖ Enhance teamwork
- ❖ Utilise skill mix within the dental team
- ❖ Provide extended duties training for dental nurses

“MPWiP provides a unique opportunity for dental professionals to support patients in maintaining good oral health and a push on prevention as set out in the Welsh Governments long term plan ‘A healthier Wales- the oral and dental services response’.”  
Kathryn Marshall – Head of Workforce Development



### Impact

In response to COVID-19 the MPWiP training transitioned from face-to-face to online delivery in June 2020. This shift enabled an increase in training days allowing more trainers to enhance their teaching and leadership skills, resulting in more dental nurses successfully completing the in-practice training. It also improved the overall sustainability and accessibility of MPWiP training across Wales.

Dentists,  
therapists &  
hygienists  
trained  
**270**

Dental nurses  
completed  
MPWiP  
programme  
**350**

### Feedback from MPWiP trainers and dental nurses

“I use my new skills every day, even when I’m on reception I can give advice to parents.” – Dental Nurse

“This course left me feeling excited to commence my training in fluoride application and prevention in practice”. – Dental Nurse

“As a practice we will be able to improve patient options and attendance once I have trained nurses to deliver prevention advice” - Trainer

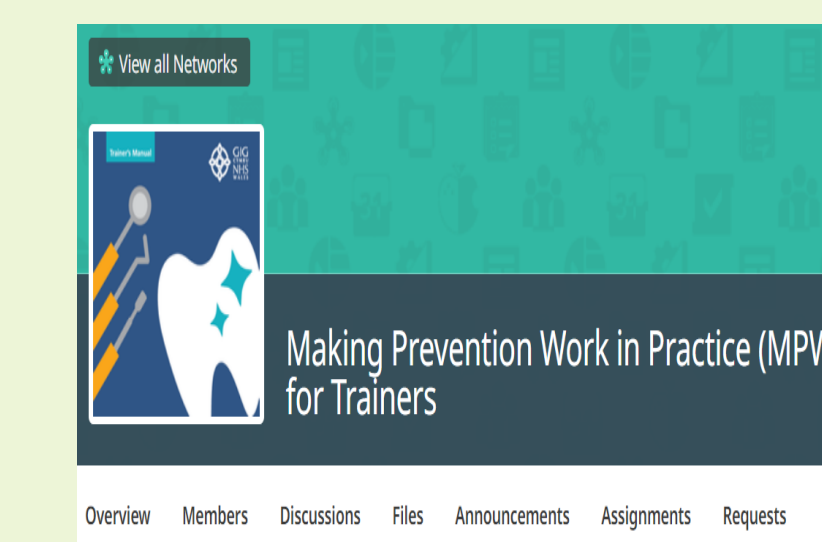
“A positive experience. Enjoyed the interactive element with wider members of the dental team” - Trainer

### Continuous Improvement

Regular reviews of the programme against the QA framework ensure the team are continuously improving MPWiP processes.

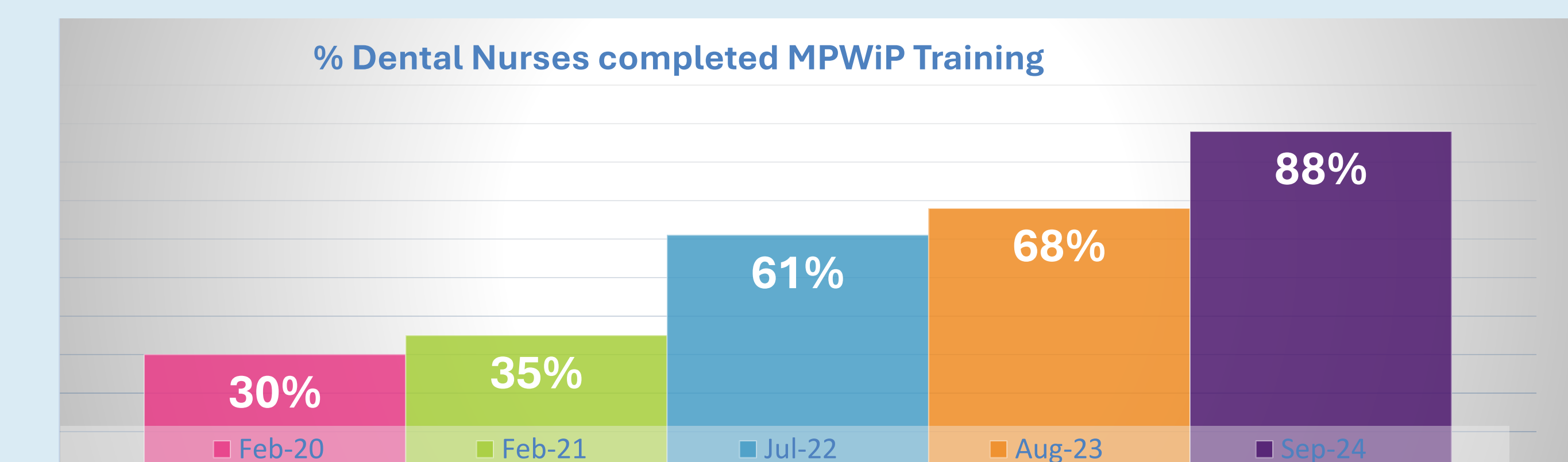
Recent improvements include:-

- ❖ Updating dental nurse case studies to patient prevention plans, ensuring shared decision making and behaviour change models are used when delivering key prevention messages.
- ❖ Updating the interactive element during the training day to improve delegate engagement and peer discussions.
- ❖ Streamlining the assessment process and portfolio completion.
- ❖ Developing MPWiP networks providing additional resources for trainers and dental nurses



### Results

- ❖ Increased the number of patients accessing Fluoride varnish applications in NHS dental practices
- ❖ Increased motivation and job satisfaction for dental nurses
- ❖ Increased access to appropriate preventative advice for patients
- ❖ Upskilling the dental workforce
- ❖ Enhancing leadership skills for the whole dental team



### Conclusion

MPWiP provides a unique opportunity for dental professionals to support patients in maintaining good oral health focussing on prevention to tackle inequity. It has enhanced dental workforce skill mix and developed leadership within the profession.

Webpage: [MPWiP - HEIW \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/health-education-improvement-wales/mpwip/)

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### Method

Dentists, therapists or hygienists are required to attend a one day event with their nominated dental nurse.

