

## **Building a Network of Health and Social Care Professionals to help meet the oral health needs of Asylum Seekers in Kenmare, Co. Kerry.**

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**KENMARE  
FAMILY DENTAL**



## Building a Network of Health and Social Care Professionals to help meet the oral health needs of Asylum Seekers in Kenmare, Co. Kerry.

- What is the Direct Provision/Asylum ?
- Atlantic Lodge – Kenmare (why is it different)
- Initial support : KASI, TIRC, HSE-Social inclusion
- Comprehensive approach:
  - Triage and identifying dental needs
  - Liaison and cooperation between the services
  - Ongoing communication and coordination

# The Challenges

- No nationally agreed approach- ad hoc arrangements
- Limited knowledge of oral health needs of group other than Safetynet screening
- Likely acute and severe oral health needs due to possible lack of dental care, poor oral hygiene, chronic stress and trauma (particularly periodontal needs)
- Language barriers
- Dental management issues secondary to trauma e.g. PTSD
- Dental Treatment Services Scheme alone insufficient to meet demands
- Tension between providing services to group and entitlements of existing Irish citizens

# The Response

- Initial health service guide in multiple languages given to all residents supported by face-to-face information from HSE Community Work and KASI
- Emergency dental treatment organised for urgent cases flagged by Safetynet
- All children <16 offered appointments with school dental service
- Extended DTSS schedule offered to all adults as considered high-risk
- HSE Dental Service provided additional clinical support in most severe cases (periodontal)
- HSE Social Inclusion supported translation services in early stages
- Work underway to produce information in multiple languages on public dental treatment entitlements in Ireland

# Experiences of Kenmare Family Dental

- 100 new people arrive to DP in Kenmare with no initial plan for dental treatment
- Communication takes place with HSE Dental Services and Community Work
- Patients welcome, including no probing of their personal circumstances, other than information that was clinically required
- Communication was difficult at times, and translation required- Tigrinya translation hard to access

# Experiences of Kenmare Family Dental

- ANUG was present for a number of patients and the most severe seen in 40 years of practice
- Referral to HSE Dental Hygienist team
- Other presentations: trauma, fractures to non vital teeth, root canal treatments and other routine treatment needs
- One of the issue is that fees for medical card patients is the same as 2006-07; so much of our work is with no profit
- ***“It has been a pleasure to care for these people, who came across as appreciative, patient and polite. We hope that their future is bright”  
Kenmare Family Dental; September 2019”***

# Thank You

## Any Questions?

