Return on investment of oral health improvement programmes for 0-5 year olds*

Reviews of clinical effectiveness by NICE (PH55) and PHE (Commissioning Better Oral Health for Children and Young People, 2014) have found that the following programmes effectively reduced tooth decay in 5 year olds:

- **Targeted supervised tooth brushing programme**
  - £1 spent = £3.06 after 5 years
  - £1 spent = £3.66 after 10 years

- **A targeted fluoride varnish programme**
  - £1 spent = £2.29 after 5 years
  - £1 spent = £2.74 after 10 years

- **Water fluoridation provides a universal programme**
  - £1 spent = £12.71 after 5 years
  - £1 spent = £21.98 after 10 years

- **Targeted provision of toothbrushes and paste by post**
  - £1 spent = £1.03 after 5 years
  - £1 spent = £1.54 after 10 years

- **Targeted provision of toothbrushes and paste by post and by health visitors**
  - £1 spent = £4.89 after 5 years
  - £1 spent = £7.34 after 10 years

*All targeted programmes modelled on population decayed, missing or filled teeth (dmft) index of 2, and universal programme on dmft for England of 0.8. The modelling has used the PHE Return on Investment Tool for oral health interventions (PHE, 2016). The best available evidence has been used in this tool and where assumptions are made these have been clearly stated.

PHE Publications gateway number: 2016321