

Table 1 – Vulnerable adult population groups

People with physical and/or sensory disabilities
People with intellectual disability
People with severe mental illness
People with complex medical conditions and co-morbidities
People living in temporary accommodation or street homeless
Prisoners
Migrants and asylum seekers
Sex workers
People with severe alcohol and/or drug dependence
Indigenous populations
Older people living in care/nursing homes
Long term unemployed
Travellers

Table 2 – Key issues in dental service delivery for vulnerable adult groups

Respecting choice and autonomy of patients – ensuring patients wishes are respected
Training of primary dental care teams with appropriate diverse range of clinical, patient management and communication skills and knowledge
Working in close partnership with patients, their carers and families to deliver responsive dental services to meet the oral health needs of patients
Importance of prevention and control of disease progression – making every contact count to promote oral health
Need for regular practice based access and equity audits to monitor accessibility, acceptability and equity of dental care
Further development of local care pathways and networks to improve coordination of dental care across dental providers
Closer integration of dental care and support across other health, social care and voluntary sectors