

---

Press Release

## **Tooth fairy shares dental tips in Rural Dungannon**

15 May 2014

The tooth fairy joined children, teachers, classroom assistants and parents to share dental tips and to highlight the importance of regular visits to the dentist at a dental information event held last week in Clogher Valley Community Centre.

Three dental students from Queen's University, Belfast, were also on hand to give advice on preventing tooth decay, caring for teeth and gums, the importance of attending the dentist, the sugar content in certain foods and drinks, and ideas for healthy snacks. During the event children enjoyed a visit from Peppa Pig who promoted brushing teeth twice a day, as well as a puppet show, arts and crafts, and storytelling sessions aimed at helping children understand why they need to look after their teeth and gums.

The event was organised by a sub group of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Rural Dungannon Locality Planning Group and involved Early Years, Closing the Gap (Dungannon Council), and local schools, with assistance from an oral health educator from Portadown Dental Practice, DJ Maguire and Associates, and Clogher Valley Sure Start. The Dairy Council of Northern Ireland kindly contributed milk and yogurts to this worthwhile event.

Speaking at the event the dental students from Queen's University, Belfast, said: "This is an extremely successful and worthwhile tooth fairy event for both the children and for ourselves as dental students. Over 170 local children had the chance to learn a few simple lessons about how to look after their teeth in a fun and interactive environment. As we are nearing the end of our studies we found having the opportunity to participate in the tooth fairy event invaluable. Preventative advice for children and parents is very important and we were delighted to share our top tips. We thoroughly enjoyed the day and would hope that Queen's students will be able to continue to participate in these events in the future."

Julie Bolton, CYPSP Rural Dungannon Locality Development Officer, said: "The Rural Dungannon Locality planning group decided to run this event after studying local statistics on the number of extractions/fillings for children aged 0-17 year. Pupils from primary 1 and 2 from five local primary schools - St Joseph's, Aughnacloy, St Macartan's, St Brigid's and Augher Central Primary school, along with Woodland Playgroup, attended the event. Pupils, parents, teachers and classroom assistants received information from the dental students from Queen's on how to prevent tooth decay while Elaine Devlin, Investing for Health Officer across

Armagh and Dungannon, provided tips on healthy eating. Each child received a tooth brush as well as having fun and learning about good oral health.”

The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) is a multi-agency partnership, led by the Health and Social Care Board, that includes the leadership of key statutory agencies and community and voluntary organisations that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

If you would like to hear more about Locality Planning Groups or get involved, phone Julie Bolton on 028 3741 4456 or visit [www.cypsp.org](http://www.cypsp.org)

**END**

### **Media queries**

For further information contact Lee McArdle, Communications, Health and Social Care Board on 028 95363278.