Statement of Purpose

The Community Dental Service (CDS) serves the community by providing direct patient care and preventive programmes to people who, because of their special care needs, are unable to access appropriate dental services elsewhere. These services are provided in both Community and Hospital settings. We will be a model of best practice in providing oral healthcare which is high quality, evidence-based and timely.

Values

In order to ensure that we achieve our statement of purpose we will:

- Ensure that we have the necessary skills and competencies to deliver a quality service
- Ensure that our delivery of oral healthcare service enshrines best practice and the available evidence-base and is open to innovative approaches to working
- Ensure that we have robust accountability arrangements
- Manage our resources, including our time, as efficiently and effectively as possible
- Demonstrate a commitment for fairness, equality and respect for each other and our patients
- Promote team-working and working in partnership with others both inside and outside the health sector

1. Scope of Service

(a) Providing oral care, including GA/Sedation, for people with Special Care Needs:
   i. a learning disability
   ii. a compromising medical condition
   iii. a mental illness
   iv. physically disabled
   v. housebound/ institutional resident
   vi. patients with significant anxiety or behavioural difficulties who cannot be treated in a general dental practice
   vii. children identified as high risk by demographic or health indicators who are not suitable for general dental practice

(b) Evidence based oral health improvement programmes
   i. evidence-based Caries Reduction Programme (EBCRP); for the following groups: young children, the elderly, special care needs
   ii. all Oral health education and oral health improvement programmes should be agreed with the Northern Ireland Oral Health Improvement Group (NIOHIG)

(c) Needs Assessment (Epidemiology)
   i. screening groups identified as part of the local Service Agreement (SA)
   ii. undertaking national and local surveys as directed by the HSCB/DHSSPS

(d) Research
   undertaking/facilitating agreed research

2. Governance & Accountability

(a) Production of annual business plan in line with the SA
   i. defining long and short-term objectives
   ii. setting targets
   iii. identifying milestones
   iv. producing activity returns and management information

(b) Governance
   i. develop a sound system of internal control that supports achievement of targets and objectives
   ii. review the adequacy of clinical governance, risk management and standards compliance.
   iii. participate in an annual accountability review with the HSCB to review performance against the SLA.
   iv. take part in uni- and multi-disciplinary audit/peer review as required

† The SA is an agreement between the HSCB and HSC Trust