



Sponsor the
Nation's Smile



Levy donors aren't contributing to a fund...
They're sponsoring real people, real
outcomes, and real community change.



Billions
in apprenticeship
levy funds remain
unused each year

We're at crisis point

Oral health in the UK is deteriorating fast, with children and communities facing the worst outcomes in decades.

National data shows that 26.9% of five-year-olds in England have enamel and/or dentinal decay, and children in the most deprived areas are more than twice as likely to experience decay as those in the least deprived regions. In some areas, up to 60% of young children are affected, highlighting the severity of the crisis. Tooth decay also remains the leading cause of hospital admission for 5–9-year-olds, keeping children out of school for entirely preventable reasons.

At the same time, dental practices face critical workforce shortages that limit access to care. An estimated 4.5 million patients cannot get the treatment they need each year, and up to 96% of NHS practices are not accepting new adult patients, leaving families waiting until problems escalate into emergencies.

At the same time the nation is experiencing an oral health crisis, billions in apprenticeship levy funds remain unused each year, weakening the very workforce needed to support community care.

What happens to your unspent levy?

- Any levy not used within **24 months** is reclaimed by the government. From August 2026, this will be reduced to just **12 months**.
- Since 2017, over **£4 billion** in unused levy has been returned to the Treasury
- Only **3%** of employers use the levy transfer scheme to support other organisations
- Only **4%** of levy-paying employers use all their available funds

Unused levy doesn't disappear.

It disappears from your community.

Instead of supporting apprenticeships, training and access to care, it simply returns to central government.



There is a better way. Sponsor the Nation's Smile.

Your unused levy can transform
the UK's oral health.

- Your unspent levy can support dental apprenticeships that strengthen access to care.
- You are able to donate up to 50% of your levy funds to sectors in need.
- Your levy donation will directly fund skills development in the UK dental sector, which is facing critical shortages.



The Nation's Smile Framework



The apprentice smile

A life-changing route into the dental profession.

The practice smile

More workforce capacity, less pressure on Dentists and Dental Hygienists.



The patient smile

Faster access, better prevention, reduced pain and emergency visits.

The community smile

More oral health education and support for families.



The Nation's smile

A stronger pipeline of dental professionals for the future.

Real people. Real outcomes. Real community change.



“At Riverdale, we are passionate about creating opportunities for early careers. Our apprenticeship schemes provide not only meaningful employment but also funded qualifications that deliver lifelong benefits. Thanks to generous levy gifts, we’ve been able to expand these opportunities beyond our own levy fund, opening doors for even more individuals to grow and succeed.”



riverdale
healthcare



Join us in sponsoring the Nation's smile.

Get in touch with our dedicated levy team to find out how you can make a difference.



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