

ORAL HEALTH IN SUNDERLAND : PROGRESS REPORT

Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an ongoing progress report in relation to the review into oral health in Sunderland.

2. Background

- 2.1 The first session for the review took place on 28 August 2019 and was an introductory session to set the context for future review activities. The session focused on defining oral health, the key challenges for the city, the current oral health policy, what is currently in place and interventions to improve oral health.
- 2.2 A further session was held with a number of oral health professionals on 11 September 2019 where Members discussed a number of issues including education, dental health promotion, interventions, dental access in Sunderland, tooth decay and community water fluoridation schemes. The session provided an informative and fully interactive discussion adding to the reviews evidence base.

3. Progress on the Policy Review

- 3.1 The committee have undertaken further evidence gathering sessions in October including with John Morris from the University of Birmingham, David Landes from Public Health England and Alice Wiseman from Gateshead Council. A brief summary of the key points is attached at **Appendix 1** of this report.
- 3.2 The Committee has also visited a water treatment plant in the North East to discuss how water is treated, the distribution network and what is involved in fluoridating the water from a technical perspective. A brief summary of the key points from this visit are attached at **Appendix 2** of this report.
- 3.3 Members of the Committee should also note the following planned activities for the review into oral health:
- Monday 11 October @ 1pm in Committee Room 5 – evidence session
- Tuesday 12 October @ 1pm in Committee Room 1 – evidence session
- 3.4 The evidence gathering sessions will again feature expert witnesses with particular specialities that will help the committee and members in their research and evidence gathering.
- 3.5 Following this there will be a session arranged to discuss the evidence that has been gathered and to look at the draft report, the findings and to look at potential

recommendations as a result. The review remains on course for completion by December 2019.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That members note and comment on the progress in relation to the policy review.

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