

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 At its meeting on 3 July 2019 following discussions at the recent Scrutiny workshop the Committee considered a review into oral health. The committee were presented with a detailed scoping document providing the overall aim of the review, proposed terms of reference, scope of the review and timescales.
- 2.2 The title of the review was agreed as Oral Health in Sunderland.

3. Progress on the Policy Review

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 A further session has been 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. The key points from the discussion are attached at **Appendix 1** of this report.
- 3.3 Members of the Committee should also note the following planned activities for the review into oral health:

Tuesday 8 October @ 3pm in Committee Room 3 – evidence session

Wednesday 9 October @ 8:45am - visit to water treatment works

Tuesday 22 October @ 3pm in Committee Room 3 – 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 Members should also note that the visit and tour of a water treatment plant will provide an overview of the Sunderland water distribution network and the complexities of the system zone. There will also be a technical discussion on water

fluoridation. Transportation will be provided from the civic centre on the day of the visit, this will be funded from the dedicated scrutiny budget, and meeting invitations have been circulated.

- 3.6 There are one or two evidence sessions still to be arranged and as soon as they are organised this information will be circulated to the committee. 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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