

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 Further sessions have been held with a variety of oral health professionals and the committee has also visited a water treatment plant.

3. Progress on the Policy Review

- 3.1 The committee have undertaken further evidence gathering sessions in November including with representatives who are opposed to water fluoridation schemes including Joy Warren and Linda and Dave Forrest. A brief summary of the key points is attached at **Appendix 1** of this report.
- 3.2 The Committee has also heard evidence from Professor Emeritus Mike Lennon of the British Fluoridation Society and Dr Colwyn Jones of the ChildSmiles scheme in Scotland. A brief summary of the key points from this visit are attached at **Appendix 2** of this report.
- 3.3 The evidence gathering sessions for the review have now concluded and a session has been arranged, on Wednesday 4 December 2019 at 4pm, to discuss the evidence that has been gathered and to look at the draft report, the findings and consider 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.