

POLICY REVIEW 2019/20: ORAL HEALTH IN SUNDERLAND - DRAFT FINAL REPORT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with a draft report of the review into oral health in Sunderland.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee development session held on 22nd May 2019 provided Members, officers and partners with the opportunity to discuss a variety of scrutiny topics, compiling a shortlist of potential issues for review during the coming year. At its meeting on 5 June 2019 the committee agreed to undertake a review into oral health.

3. The Policy Review

- 3.1 The title of the review was agreed as 'Oral Health in Sunderland'. The full draft report is attached at **appendix 1** of this report.

- 3.2 Activities included a number of opportunities which included the following:

- Desktop research
- Evidence presented by key stakeholders
- Evidence from members of the public at meetings or focus groups
- An expert evidence gathering event
- Site visit.

- 3.3 The review gathered evidence from a variety of sources as follows:

- (a) Kathryn Bailey – Public Health Specialist;
- (b) Lynne Bennett - Governance Law Specialist – Sunderland City Council;
- (c) Lisa Brownbridge - Dental Lead Sunderland 0-19 Service;
- (d) Rachael Fitzsimmons – Health Education England – North East;
- (e) Pauline Fletcher – Local Lead NHS Commissioner for dental services;
- (f) Dave Forrest – Fight Against Fluoridation;
- (g) Linda Forrest – Fight Against Fluoridation;
- (h) Dr Marie Holland – Clinical Director of the salaried dental service;
- (i) Dr Colwyn Jones – NHS Health Scotland Dental Public Health Consultant
- (j) Diane Jones - Service Manager Sunderland 0-19 Service;
- (k) Dr Peter Knops – Chair of Sunderland Local Dental Committee;
- (l) David Landes – Public Health England Consultant;
- (m) Professor Emeritus Mike Lennon OBE – British Fluoridation Society;
- (n) Dr John Morris – Senior Lecturer in dental public health;
- (o) Brian Plemper – Senior Network Analyst – Northumbrian Water;
- (p) Joanne Purvis - Oral Health Promotion Lead/Manager South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT;
- (q) Tom Robson – Chair of Local Dental Network;
- (r) Eric Rooney – Public Health England;

- (s) Malcolm Smith - Post Graduate Dental Dean Health Education England;
- (t) Dr Simon Taylor – Chair of Local Dental Network;
- (u) Dr Christopher Vernazza – Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry;
- (v) Joy Warren – UK Freedom From Fluoride Alliance (UKFFFA);
- (w) Alice Wiseman – Director of Public Health – Gateshead.

3.3 The review deals with a number of issues across a selection of headings including the current state of oral health in Sunderland, dental access, key oral health interventions and water fluoridation.

4. Conclusions

4.1 Despite the improvements in oral health that have been seen over recent decades Sunderland still performs poorly when compared to regional and national indicators. Levels of tooth decay in Sunderland 5-year-olds remains higher than national averages. The review also acknowledged how the mouth is often viewed separate from the rest of the body despite poor oral health being linked with poor general health.

4.2 The review hopefully highlights some key areas for consideration including a number of interventions and strategies that can contribute to improving the oral health of the population. Reducing dental decay and improving oral health in a population requires activity at all levels. The effects of interventions, preventions and strategies should not be viewed as competing alternatives but seriously considered as a collective approach to reducing tooth decay and improving oral health across the population.

5. Recommendations

5.1 That the committee notes the draft report and provides comment on the review and recommendations.

5.2 That subject to amendments the report is agreed and submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings
Scrutiny Officer
Email: Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk
Telephone: 0191 561 1006