



Northumberland  
County Council

# Northumberland Oral Health Action Plan Update

Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny 3rd March 2020

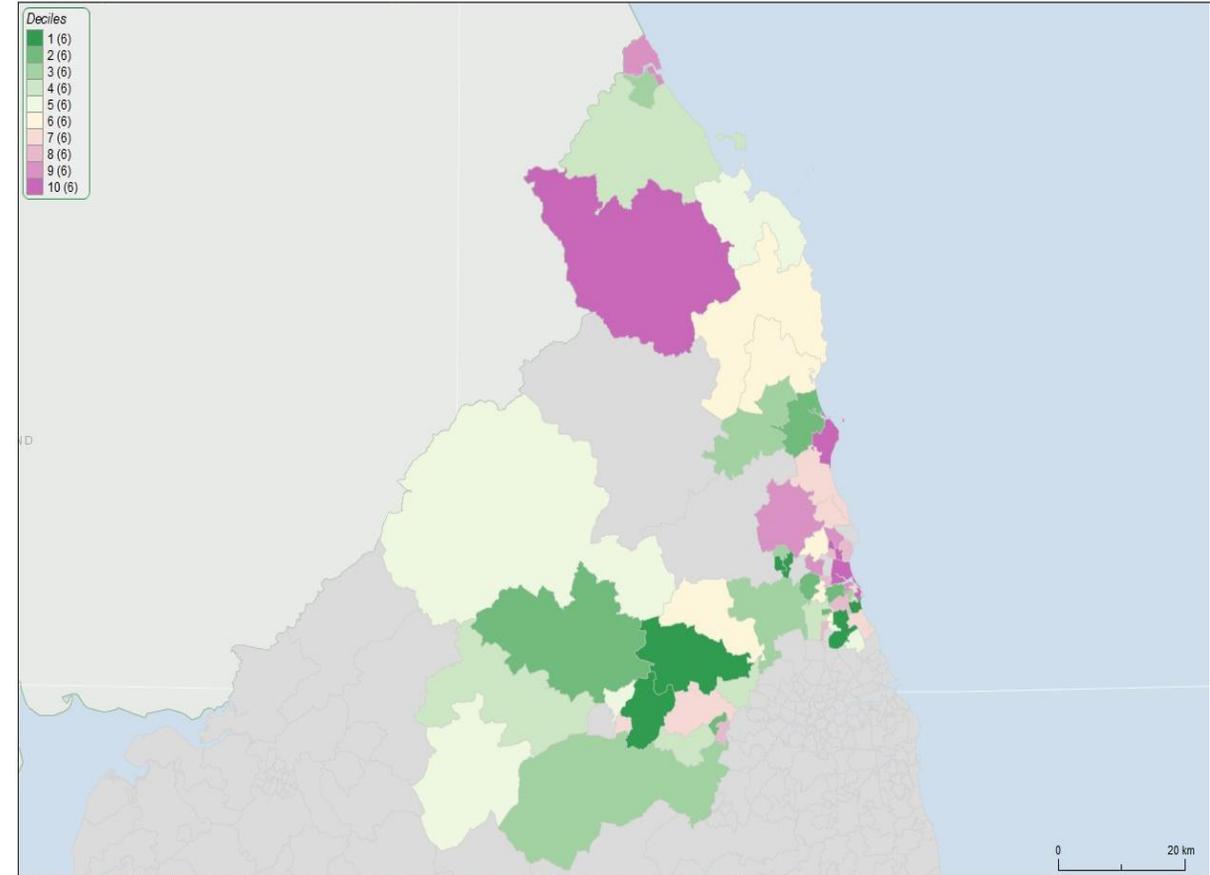
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[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

# Oral health in Northumberland

- 5 years olds had an average 0.64 decayed/missing/filled teeth (2016/17) - better than England
- 22.5% had visually obvious dental decay (2016/17) - about the same as England.
- 635 admissions for dental extractions (2018). 80% for dental caries.

Oral Health 5 year olds Northumberland - source: PHE 2017 5 year old data



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# Oral Health Action Plan 2019 - 2022

## Giving every child the best start in life and best opportunities for oral health:

- Targeted toothbrushes/toothpaste planned, oral health training for CYP workforce (HEE), vary community water fluoridation scheme, promote breastfeeding, Foundation Year dentist projects in community.



## Improving the oral health of older people:

- HEE offer training, support and denture marking; develop oral health champions in care settings; NHSE review of domiciliary dental care



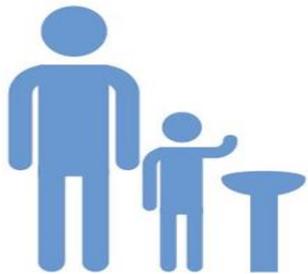
## Partnership working:

- Oral Health Strategy Group, MECC (including oral health/offered to dental staff), data sharing, school oral health promotion and lesson plans, HEE training offer.

## Service development and commissioning:

- Including oral health into routine commissioning, BHAWA

# Return on investment of oral health improvement programmes 0-5 year olds



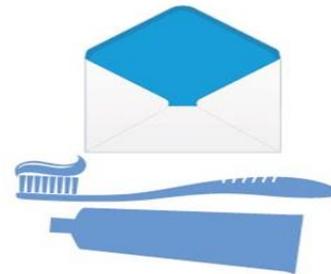
Targeted supervised tooth brushing



Targeted fluoride varnish programme



Water fluoridation provides a universal programme



Targeted provision of toothbrushes and paste by post

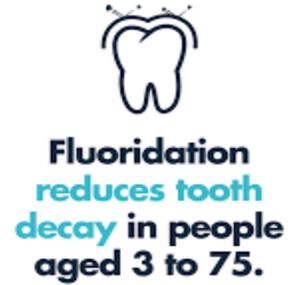


Targeted provision of toothbrushes and paste by health visitors



Source: Public Health England

# Fluoride and fluoridation



- All water contains small amounts of naturally occurring fluoride.
- Fluoride in water at the optimal concentration (one part per million or 1mg fluoride per litre of water [1mg/l]) can reduce the likelihood of tooth decay and minimise its severity.
- Where the naturally occurring fluoride level is too low to provide these benefits, a water fluoridation scheme raises it to one part per million.
- Reviews of studies conducted around the world confirm that water fluoridation is an effective, safe public health measure suitable for consideration in localities where tooth decay levels are of concern
- A 2018 Public Health England (PHE) report, which compared a range of health indicators for local authorities in this country, found lower rates of tooth decay among children from fluoridated areas than those from non-fluoridated areas.
- **No evidence of harm to the health of people supplied with fluoridated water was found.**

# Fluoridated water supplies in the NE

- About 700,000 people in the NE drink artificially adjusted water.
  - Northumberland (see map) - Tyne Valley and NE coast (about 71,000 households and 156,000 people
  - North Tyneside, Gateshead and Newcastle.
  - County Durham - Consett, Stanley, Crook, Lanchester.
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- Hartlepool (naturally fluoridated) - 2nd lowest life expectancy in the NE, best oral health

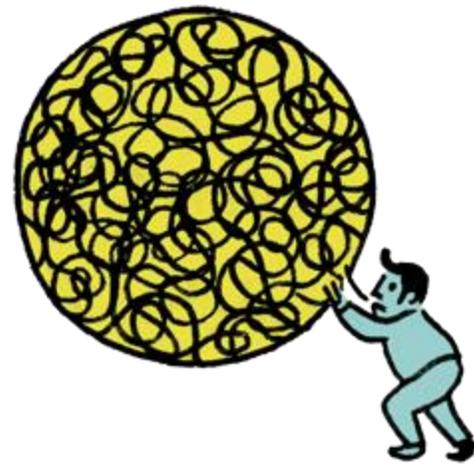


# Legal framework



- Water fluoridation is expressly permitted in legislation by parliament, with decisions made at a local level
- The Health and Social Care Act 2012, by amending the Water Industry Act 1991 returned responsibility for those decisions to local authorities with public health responsibilities.
- Local authorities have to exercise their responsibilities in accordance with legislation governing the way in which a new scheme can be introduced and how an established scheme may be modified or terminated.
- Legislation sets out the process for formal public consultation on a fluoridation proposal
  - for collaborating with other local authorities whose populations may be affected by the proposal
  - for taking account of a range of key factors when making final decisions

# Where are we in the process?



We have:

- A report from Northumbria Water which tells us the proposal (see map) is feasible;
- We have consulted with the SoSHSC and Northumbria Water and received confirmation that the proposal is operable and efficient;
- We have written to LAs who are part of the same community water fluoridation scheme arrangements to seek their confirmation on proceeding;
- Entering into an 'active listening' phase to inform a statutory consultation planned for later this year.

# Consulting the public



- Consultation process is a legal process
- **Listening** phase – publication of issues document and targeting key stakeholders for views to inform development of proposals for consultation
- **Consultation** phase – wide ranging public information on proposals for debate and response
- **Feedback** phase – publication and sharing of feedback from the consultation
- **Decision making** – supporting decision makers to take into account feedback in their final decision

# Public debate on water fluoridation

Debate on water fluoridation tends to focus on a few key questions?

- is it needed?
- is it effective?
- does it cause harm to health?
- does anyone want it or who will benefit from it?
- is it ethical?
- is it cost-effective or what is the return on investment?



# Questions for the Committee



Following the next 4 presentations:

- Do you have any views or concerns that should inform the development of the consultation documents and process?
- What are likely to be the key concerns of affected communities?
- What do you think are the best ways to gain the views of local people?

An issues document and feedback form (or link to it) will be provided in due course to committee members