



South Central

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14 March 2011

Cllr Pat West
Chairman, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Room 102, Chief Executives Department
Hampshire County Council
The Castle
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 8UJ

Dear Cllr West

Proposals to add fluoride to drinking water in Southampton and parts of south west Hampshire

Thank you for your letter dated 17 February regarding the proposals to add fluoride to the drinking water in Southampton and south west Hampshire. Following the unanimous South Central Strategic Health Authority Board decision and the result of the judicial review, we are now planning to implement the scheme. We will put a project in place that will specify the stages required in the next few months, and will ensure key stakeholders are aware of the plan.

The dental health of children in the Southampton area remains poor as it has been previously. Hundreds of children a year still require a general anaesthetic for the extraction of diseased teeth and we believe that there is still a need for water fluoridation.

As part of the project, we will be working with Southern Water to get a final agreement on the costs of the scheme. We will review this information with the Department of Health.

We strongly support the move of public health to local authorities and look forward to seeing how local authorities will address the health needs of their populations. Our view is that this scheme has been consulted on in accordance with the current legislation and that we are bound to follow through on the results.

I appreciate that this does not accord with the Members' view you express in your letter, but hope we can continue to engage with you in a positive manner during this year of transition.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Young
Chief Executive

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