

Date:

Wednesday 24 September 2025 at 6.00 pm

Venue:

Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 6BJ

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 10)
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Minutes** (Pages 11 - 34)
To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 23 July 2025.
5. **Public Question Time** (Pages 35 - 38)
6. **Appointments to Committees, Joint Committees & Outside Bodies**(Pages 39 - 40)
7. **Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Plan** (Pages 41 - 72)
8. **Health and Wellbeing Board: Revised Terms of Reference** (Pages 73 - 82)
9. **Motions to Council** (Pages 83 - 86)
10. **Members' Question Time** (Pages 87 - 94)
11. **Forward Plan and Leader's Statement**

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please.

Contact: Democratic Services Manager, Judy Trainer on email judy.trainer@stockton.gov.uk

Key – Declarable interests are :-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance

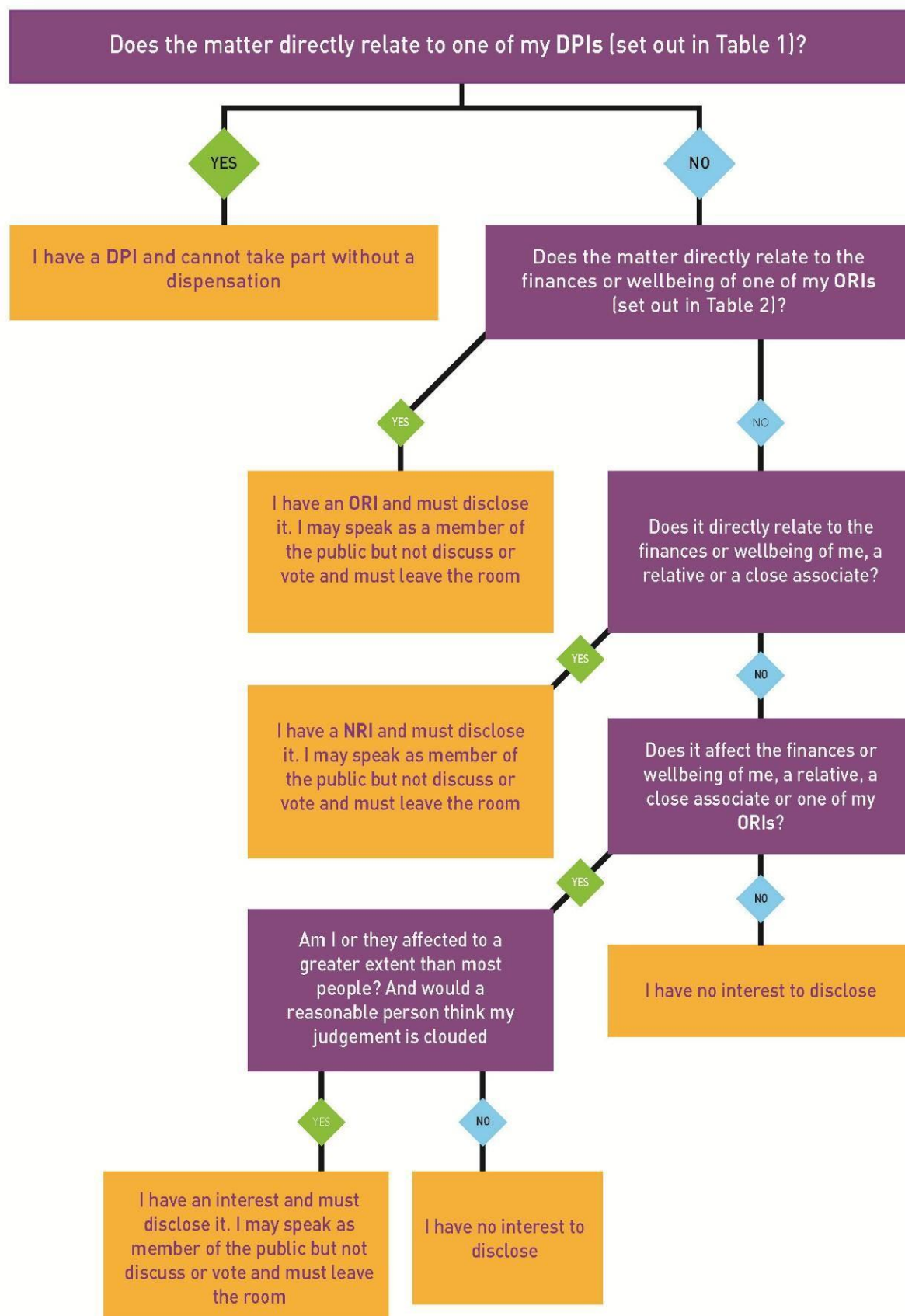


Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2 – Other Registrable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

a) any unpaid directorships

b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority

c) any body

(i) exercising functions of a public nature

(ii) directed to charitable purposes or

(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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Council Chamber, Dunedin House Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

Entry

Entry to the Council Chamber is via the Council Chamber Entrance, indicated on the map below.



In the event of an emergency alarm activation, everyone should immediately start to leave their workspace by the nearest available signed Exit route.

The emergency exits are located via the doors on either side of the raised seating area at the front of the Council Chamber.

Fires, explosions, and bomb threats are among the occurrences that may require the emergency evacuation of Dunedin House. Continuous sounding and flashing of the Fire Alarm is the signal to evacuate the building or upon instruction from a Fire Warden or a Manager.

The Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point is in the overflow car park located across the road from Dunedin House.

The allocated assembly point for the Council Chamber is: D2

Map of the Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point - the overflow car park:



All occupants must respond to the alarm signal by immediately initiating the evacuation procedure.

When the Alarm sounds:

1. **stop all activities immediately.** Even if you believe it is a false alarm or practice drill, you MUST follow procedures to evacuate the building fully.
2. **follow directional EXIT signs** to evacuate via the nearest safe exit in a calm and orderly manner.
 - do not stop to collect your belongings
 - close all doors as you leave
3. **steer clear of hazards.** If evacuation becomes difficult via a chosen route because of smoke, flames or a blockage, re-enter the Chamber (if safe to do so). Continue the evacuation via the nearest safe exit route.
4. **proceed to the Evacuation Assembly Point.** Move away from the building. Once you have exited the building, proceed to the main Evacuation Assembly Point immediately - located in the **East Overflow Car Park**.
 - do not assemble directly outside the building or on any main roadway, to ensure access for Emergency Services.

5. await further instructions.

- **do not re-enter the building under any circumstances without an “all clear”** which should only be given by the Incident Control Officer/Chief Fire Warden, Fire Warden or Manager.
- do not leave the area without permission.
- ensure all colleagues and visitors are accounted for. Notify a Fire Warden or Manager immediately if you have any concerns

Toilets

Toilets are located immediately outside the Council Chamber, accessed via the door at the back of the Chamber.

Water Cooler

A water cooler is available at the rear of the Council Chamber.

Microphones

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when invited to speak by the Chair, to ensure you can be heard by the Committee and those in attendance at the meeting.

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Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday 23rd July 2025.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Stephen Richardson)
Cllr Stefan Barnes, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Michelle Bendelow, Cllr Clare Besford, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Diane Clarke OBE, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Lisa Evans, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Nathan Gale, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mohammed Mazi, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Jack Miller, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Hugo Stratton, Cllr Ted Strike, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Emily Tate, Cllr Jim Taylor, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Marcus Vickers, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Alan Watson, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Katie Weston, Cllr Paul Weston and Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Officers: Reuben Kench, Iain Robinson, Peter Bell, Julie Butcher and Ged Morton

Also in attendance: Members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Dan Fagan, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Vanessa Sewell, Cllr Andrew Sherris and Cllr Laura Tunney

COU/35/25 Welcome and Evacuation Procedure

The Worshipful the Mayor welcomed everyone and outlined the arrangements for the meeting.

COU/36/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

COU/37/25 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2025.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Worshipful the Mayor as a correct record.

COU/38/25 Minute's Silence Honorary Alderman Jeremy Atkinson

Members held a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Honorary Alderman Jeremy Atkinson who had recently passed away.

COU/39/25 Public Question Time

The following question was submitted by Janet Clancy for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

“What is the council doing to free up derelict properties? For example, two houses in Norton, 66 Norton Avenue and 68 Norton Avenue. They were converted into Council offices over 25 years ago and have been left empty.”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:

“The properties in question are owned by a local Registered Housing Provider, the Council is in contact with them to understand their plans for future use.

The Council works proactively with property owners to support owners return their properties to use. If appropriate we will also use our enforcement powers to ensure that properties are secured.

We will also proactively seek funding opportunities for monies which can be used to bring empty properties to use. For example, in the North Thornaby Area, Town Deal monies have been used by the Council to support a partnership with a local Registered Housing Provider (North Star) which has recently to date resulted in 5 properties being returned to occupation, 3 further properties have been purchased and are undergoing repair before occupation with a further 7 planned.

In addition, long-term empty properties are also subject to a Council Tax ‘empty homes premium’ (with the aim of encouraging owners to return to use).

The process of taking control of empty housing and properties and returning them to use without the agreement of the owners is fraught with difficulties as highlighted in the Place Select Committee report on Affordable Housing. Contained within that report was a recommendation for the Leader of the Council to write to central government to highlight the issues of properties being left empty and the obstacles to local authorities to take control and bring the properties back into use.

Janet Clancy asked the following supplementary question:-

“So how many homes across the Borough are empty?”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

“I will have to get back to you with that figure. It was in the Place Select Committee report.”

The following question was submitted by Nathan Sizer for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing:-

“What is happening with the derelict Newtown Social Club on Durham Road? The building is falling into further disrepair and stone cladding is now starting to fall off the building into the public footpath and road below. It needs demolished. Also a source of constant anti-social behaviours.”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

“Newtown Social Club is in private ownership. The Council is in contact with the owner to ensure that the building is secured.

A meeting has recently been held between the MP for Stockton North (Chris McDonald) Councillor Surtees, representative from the local resident’s association, the council and 3 local Registered Housing Providers. Each of the Registered Housing Providers have agreed to consider exploring whether they can potentially use the building or land for residential development. During this meeting, it was also emphasised that the building owner remains responsible for this building and is required to ensure it is secured. The property is a clear

anti-social behaviour hotspot and Councillor Surtees has been working hard to try and find a solution to the situation. A meeting is taking place now to on the larger issue of bringing the site back into use.”

Nathan Sizer asked the following supplementary question:-

“The talks have fallen through so where do we go from here?”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

“I will go back to officers and look at a way forward for this issue.”

The following question was submitted by Nathan Sizer for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

“What is gonna be done about all these HMO properties that are popping up all over Stockton? They are destroying the town and causing massive issues with anti-social behaviours etc, we need a cap on them.”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

“Not all HMOs require a planning approval to convert a property. Under planning legislation, a small HMO (defined as a dwelling which contains between 3-6 residents who share a main residence, and basic amenities generally do not require a planning permission from the Council.

With regard to the management of HMO's the Council operates a Mandatory HMO Licensing scheme for HMO's that are occupied by 5 or more persons. In addition, the Selective Licensing scheme which came into force in Nov 2024 which covers the Stockton Central, North Thornaby and Newtown areas will require 'smaller' HMO's along with all private rented properties in the area to also require a license.”

The following question was submitted by Nathan Sizer for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture.

“Will the Leader of the Council come to Newtown for a walk around and see the mess of the area? We are being ignored by the Council and we need investment in this area as we are seeing a big decline around here.”

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

“I'm sure the Leader of the Council as she has done on many occasion would be pleased to visit Newtown along with yourself. We are no strangers to Newtown area and we do regularly walk about the area with Councillor Surtees.

As noted in the previous answer the Council has implemented a Selective Licensing designation which covers the Newtown area. This designation came into force in November 2024 and requires all private rented properties within the designated area to apply for a license. This scheme has been implemented as the Council is committed to improving the condition and management of all private rented properties within the area.”

The Council's Care For Your Area team undertake regular work in Newtown. The Newtown area of the Borough has allocated a dedicated street cleansing barrow round covering the bypass road, Durham Road, A177 and Primrose Hill Park Monday-Friday 7am 14:30, and is also supported by a street cleansing operative in a small van. We also see the mechanical sweepers visiting this area on a 6-8 week programme to sweep the channels, although like other areas there are times when some areas would not get swept due to parked cars. Due to the type of housing in the area and the need for rear lane collections for refuse, gated rear lanes are swept weekly by a small sweeper following a total clearance following refuse collections on a Friday.

Following some concerns about anti-social behaviour and illegal activity within Primrose Hill Park, the Council and partner organisations recently carried out a crime prevention environmental assessment, which resulted in the Council along with Probation Services planning vegetation removal and cleansing works at key points in the park.

Newtown is subject to programmed highways safety inspections, to identify and have repaired any defects that create a significant risk or serious inconvenience to highway users. We have also recently undertaken some white lining works, refreshing junctions from Craigwell Crescent to Dundas Street, including the remarking of speed cushions as all the lining was faded.

This is a brief overview of some of the work ongoing and I hope you can see the Council's commitment to the Newtown Area."

The following question was submitted by John McDermottroe for response by the Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety .

"Will the Leader of the Council commit to formally writing to the Police and Crime Commissioner to request increased resources in Billingham, in response to growing public concern about balaclava-clad youths on off-road bikes and individuals prowling the streets in the early hours trying car doors? These issues have persisted for some time, yet residents feel little has been done to protect them or deter this criminal behaviour."

The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety responded with:-

"Recent crime data shows that Billingham continues to experience lower overall crime rates compared to other areas in Stockton-on-Tees.

Nonetheless, reports of anti-social behaviour, including groups of balaclava-clad youths on off-road bikes and individuals trying car doors in the early hours, are a concern to the Council and something we are most certainly addressing with our partners including Cleveland Police.

The Council and partners are actively working to address these issues already. Neighbourhood policing teams are in place across Billingham's wards, engaging regularly with residents and hosting local drop-ins to set community policing priorities. Further to this regular proactive Civic Enforcement patrols are in place, complimented by the use CCTV in key areas. Specific partnership initiatives to tackle the illegal use of off-road bikes as part of Operation Endurance are also on going in the Billingham area.

At a strategic level, Stockton's Community Safety Partnership brings together Cleveland Police, the Council, and other partners to coordinate responses to crime and disorder. While the statistical data shows Billingham is not among the highest-crime areas in the Borough, the nature of the concerns being raised, particularly relating to youth disorder, off-road bike use, and vehicle-related opportunistic crime highlight the need for the greater attention we have in place to ensure Billingham remains a safe and welcoming place to live and work.

The Commissioner will be launching project Salace over the next two weeks that will be focussing hotspots around the Borough with issues that need to be dealt with. There will be regular patrols going on. There will be a meeting with the PCC the week after next and the two Billingham Central Councillors will be in attendance."

John McDermottroe asked the following supplementary question:-

"Given these issues have been on-going for months with no noticeable improvement will the Council also consider publishing a public action plan in co-ordination with Cleveland Police outlining specific steps to address anti-social behaviour to improve physical policing in Billingham."

The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety responded with:-

"I think I have answered the bit about improved physical policing in Billingham and if you stay for the full meeting, you will hear a motion on off-road bikes and youths in balaclavas."

The following question was submitted by John McDermottroe for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing:-

"It has now been almost a year since 87 households were forced to leave Dawson House in Billingham. Residents were originally told they would be displaced for just 2 to 3 days — yet many remain in limbo, facing prolonged disruption and distress. This is simply unacceptable. Will Stockton Borough Council commit to writing to Thirteen Group to demand a clear update on the current situation specifically, when, or even if, residents will be allowed to return to their homes?"

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

"The Council has been in contact with Thirteen Group about the future of Dawson House following the identification of significant concerns regarding fire safety which prompted Thirteen Group to relocate tenants. I will follow up this conversation to ensure that tenants are given an update on the progress of the issues. In the meantime officers are working with Thirteen Group to look at the long-term future of Dawson House as part of the regeneration of the adjacent Billingham town centre."

John McDermottroe asked the following supplementary question:-

"Will the Council commit to publishing any correspondence or update they have received from Thirteen Group so the affected residents and the wider public can be kept properly informed so there is greater transparency and accountability around this on-going situation?"

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

"I have got a statement from Thirteen Group that I will read out.

"We have permanently rehoused 82 of the 86 customers who required rehousing (3 properties were empty) of the 89 properties in the block, all tenants have received home loss payments of £8,100. We had two leaseholders and have bought back these properties and rehoused where required.

Only 3 customers left to move into permanent homes.

1 customer who has been temporarily rehoused will be moving into their permanent home once repair work is completed.

1 customer is living with friends and family, with a property identified and now ready to move into and we are currently liaising with this customer.

1 customer remains in Dawson House, with a property accepted and will transfer once the repair work has been completed.

Where customers have moved into new homes, we have ensured that we provide an enhanced empty home offer, including carpets and white good if required by our customers.

In allocating homes, we have rehoused customers where they wished to move, with the vast majority remaining within the Billingham area.

We remain committed to working with the remaining 3 customers who require a permanent move and are pleased that all 3 know where their new home will be. We are committed to working closely with SBC officers on the future of the building."

And I of course will be helping as much as I can along with every other officer."

The following question was submitted by Terry Chapman for response by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport:-

“How long must the residents of Yarm be inconvenienced, and business viability undermined, until Stockton Council accepts that the abolition of the free hour parking on Yarm High Street was a big mistake?”

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport responded with:-

“Parking charges were introduced in Stockton and Yarm as part of the council’s empowering our future missions. When the decision was taken the cabinet was mindful that the council’s car parks need up to date machinery that accept modern payment methods, as well as regular maintenance. When the decision was taken, the cabinet at the time committed to a review after twelve months.

Upon becoming leader in April, Cllr Evans made it clear that it was one of her priorities to review the impact. At the last meeting of full council in May, a motion calling for a review was passed unanimously. Since then, we have worked at speed to get a review underway, and I can report that last Thursday cabinet a review into parking charges in Yarm and Stockton. This has happened sooner than the original twelve-month promise.

This will be a meaningful review that will give the opportunity for those impacted to give their views, this includes businesses, residents, high street users and local councillors. The leader and I have also pledged to meet with businesses that want to speak with us.

We will use data over a six-month period to track the impact, and I can also confirm that the first three months of data collection will be the last three months. Initial data collection does show an increase in footfall; however, I want to look at this in more detail as initial data can often be misleading.

Cabinet will consider the findings later this year and any potential changes will made to fit in with the council’s budget setting process.

I welcome Cllr Innes, the shadow cabinet member for Resources and Transport for his willingness to work across party lines on this, and Cllr Coulson for his admission that this is not straightforward and that we could look at a compromise such as thirty minutes free.

We have heard the message from many residents and businesses on this issue and understand their concerns. We get it, and as I have set out, are already underway in reviewing the issue.”

Terry Chapman asked the following supplementary question:-

“I’m re-assured and pleased to hear at what was said there and my question is will the Council take into account the broader impacts on Yarm High Street in the fact that people meet there with their dogs. It is a shopping area yes but also serves many other purposes and I just want to emphasize that point so that we can all enjoy the delights of Yarm High Street.”

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport responded with:-

“Yes the town centres across the Borough are the beating heart of our local communities. I totally accept what you have said about people meeting up and other leisure activities. I think prior to Covid we took meeting up with people for granted. It is important we have places to do this. This will be a thorough review.”

The following question was submitted by Mo Waqas for response by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport:-

“Stockton’s Q2 2024/25 report shows a £6.6 m overspend covered by ‘Powering Our Future’ reserves. What is your Minimum Working Balance if grants fall 20 % and adult-care costs rise 10 %, per CIPFA resilience index, and what reserve trigger (<3 % of net spend?) forces you to issue a Section 114? Outline stage-gate scrutiny, external audit steps and how you’ll alert residents if a £5–10 m gap emerges mid-year?”

As Mo Waqas was not in attendance at the meeting he would receive the following written response:-

“Issuing a Section 114 notice is a decision for the Section 151 officer when they believe that expenditure will exceed all available resources, or that the Council is unable to set a balanced budget. External audit’s role is to assess the accuracy of the annual statement of accounts and comment upon the Council’s Value for Money arrangements.

The Council has very robust financial management arrangements in place. Thorough budgetary control processes frequently review performance against budget within year. Any factors that may indicate deviation from the approved budget, are identified as soon as possible and discussions undertaken to identify any potential corrective action where necessary. Budget managers, the finance team and senior leaders are all engaged throughout the process.

Medium Term Financial Plan updates are reported to members of Cabinet on a quarterly basis. This is then presented to members of the Executive Scrutiny Committee on the same frequency, to allow scrutiny of the content. The reports include an update on the projected financial position for the current financial year, which would highlight to members and residents any projected variance against the approved budget.”

The following question was submitted by Mo Waqas for response by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport:-

“Draft accounts reveal IFRS 16 lease debt and a capital plan reliant on PWLB borrowing plus £20 m capital-receipt flex. If the 2026/27 Fair Funding reset cuts retained business-rates 15 %, PWLB rates spike 100 bps, and IFRS 16 pushes usable reserves below CIPFA’s red-flag, what quantified threshold freezes all new capital, who authorises it, and how is the S25 robustness statement escalated to full Council within statutory deadlines?”

As Mo Waqas was not in attendance at the meeting he would receive the following written response:-

“The Section 25 statement is produced by the Council’s Section 151 Officer and included within the Medium-Term Financial Plan Report to Council when setting the annual budget and council tax precept.

Within the Section 25 statement, the Section 151 Officer reports to members of council on

- the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations, and
- the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

In preparing the statement, the Section 151 Officer will consider risks and any other factors that may impact upon the council’s budget; including cost drivers such as inflation, interest rate levels and demand.”

The following question was submitted by Paul Dolan for response by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport:-

“We heard at the last meeting that the purchase of Dunedin House was in excess of £3m can you advise how much was paid for the refurbishment, how it was funded and who the contractors were?”

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport responded with:-

“Dunedin House delivers a modern workspace that facilitates the Council’s ambition to provide a more collaborative and flexible work environment to support staff retention and recruitment. The building’s workspaces have been designed to create a productive, efficient and collaborate working environment that encourages creativity, innovation and a sense of

community. Each neighbourhood space is different in size and layout to meet the needs of the service areas located within them.

Dunedin House forms part of the Council's accommodation review and in February 2020, Cabinet approved the consolidation of its administration buildings from ten down to two. By moving most employees into one location, it allows the council to rationalise its office accommodation and reduce its ongoing maintenance and running costs. It also fits in with modern working practices that have come in since the Covid pandemic.

Dunedin House includes energy efficient lighting, heating and ventilation, and includes a solar panel scheme on the roof which is reducing the Council's energy costs for the building, whilst reducing its CO2 emissions.

The contractors for the delivery of the Council's new headquarters were Northeast based Esh Construction Limited, and the refurbishment costs were £8.15m, plus £2.1m for furniture, fittings and equipment, plus £1.25m for the delivery of a new Council Chamber that we are sat in this evening. By comparison, the original plan to build a new civic building on the waterfront was estimated to be £32.3m.

The refurbishment is funded by £5m prudential borrowing, £2.05m Revenue Funding, and £1.1m in Capital Receipts.

Dunedin House is located at the heart of the Central Stockton and North Thornaby Blueprint area and is situated in the Tees Valley Care and Healthy Innovations Zone. The Council's move to the Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone has been a catalyst for investor confidence in the area, where we are seeing a reduction in vacancy rates, and an increase in businesses and other public sector associated businesses moving to the zone.

Paul Dolan asked the following supplementary question:-

"What selection process was used to approve and appoint the contractors?"

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport responded with:-

"As with every other public sector organisation in this country we have strict procurement and tendering processes and I'm happy to supply you with information on that."

The following question was submitted by Julie Dolan for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture:-

"In April 2026 the Council are to change the way our waste is collected with the introduction of kitchen waste food caddy and bags, outdoor waste food caddy, white recycling bags and blue recycling bags to be delivered to 90,000 households. In addition new bin wagons are required to accommodate the separated waste. What is the total cost of this change and how is it funded?"

Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

"The associated cost implications for the Simpler Recycling reforms were captured in the Powering Our Futures Report to Cabinet in October 2024. These forecast a reduction in budget envelope of c.£500k in 25/26 and c.£2.8m in 26/27. The performance against these budgets will be monitored and reported through the Council's regular budget monitoring processes, linking into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)."

Julie Dolan asked the following supplementary question:-

"How would I get hold of that information?"

Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

"Some of that information will be in Council documents and I'm sure that officers can get that information to you on my behalf."

The following question was submitted by Julie Dolan for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture:-

“At the last meeting we heard that brown bins had brought in revenue of £800,000 across the Borough but what was the cost of the bins themselves, the additional bin wagons and staff to operate the wagons? Essentially how do the costs compare against the £800k received?”

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

“The Council were already delivering a Green Waste collection service and as such there aren’t additional staff and vehicle costs. At present the Council have spent approximately £475,000 on the new garden waste bins.”

The following question was submitted by Stephen Fryer for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture:-

“Stockton Globe is the quietest ATG operated venue in the UK. Was the decision for ATG to operate Stockton Globe as a "music focused arena" a barrier from bringing more performances to our town, or are the current performance levels acceptable?”

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

“Stockton Council is pleased to be able to collaborate with an international company of the scale and sophistication of ATG. The Council wouldn’t be able to attract or create the shows that ATG brings to Stockton and to the UK. We are keen to see a variety of types of entertainment at the Globe, reflecting the preferences of our diverse communities. The venue presents a broad programme including music, musical theatre, comedy and dance. The Council doesn’t place any restriction on the type of shows ATG select.

I have got some additional information from ATG have forwarded to me and I will take the opportunity to read that out:-

“Stockton Globe is part of the ATG portfolio and operates similarly to our other music focused venues in terms of programme levels and quality content.

Established, nearby competitors Newcastle City Hall and Hull Connexin Live (formerly Hull Bonus Arena) both typically deliver between 100 and 120 events annually, after many years of operation. The Globe benchmarks against these after just 3 full years’ operation.

The Globe has a big focus on the growth of non-ticketed functions and events and well as community and creative learning. Its core artistic programme however will always focus on quality content as opposed to number of shows.

Whilst it takes time to establish a venue, since opening the Globe has secured world class artists such as Queens of the Stone Age, Nick Cave, Robert Plant and Paloma Faith, with more artists soon to be announced.” Thank you.”

Stephen Fryer asked the following supplementary question:-

“We have been told continuously that the Globe will bring £18 million back into the local economy every year. I’m guessing that this figure comes from the 2017 document estimating that the social and economical impact of the Globe development proposals. Based on figures released this month. I believe that the money brought back into the local economy is currently about £3.5 million per year, far less than the £18 million per year we were promised, I’m happy to give you the figures if you want. How much do you believe is being brought back into the local economy by the Globe based on the current performance levels? and if it is more than £4 million can you please break down those figures and tell us how you arrived at those figures and if you are closer to the £3 or £4 million per year why were the projects of £18 million so far out?”

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

“The figures we have with regard to extra added value to the Tees Valley economy are as follows:-

“In 2024, the Tees Valley saw:

£475million generated by overnight visitors – up 1.3% on 2023, and 3.9% higher than 2019, before the covid-19 pandemic.

£906million from day visitors – up 5.4% on 2023, and 0.6% above 2019 levels.

23.4million visitor days and 20.4million individual visits, offering increases of 4.5% and 5.0% respectively on the previous year.

Tourism directly supported 10,035 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs, rising to 12,919 when indirect employment is included.

The food and drink sector provided a total of 4,758 FTE roles, up 3.1% from the previous year.

With the largest growth in Stockton for all sectors.

So I’m very pleased with performance of the Globe and that added value of visitors bring to our economy and extremely pleased with the jobs that have been created.”

The following question was submitted by Stephen Fryer for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture:-

“Why have Stockton Borough Council not been open and transparent with residents, hiding the fact that we CAN put garden waste in the green bin? The SBC Website still states "From Tuesday 01 April 2025, if you need your garden waste to be collected you will need to pay a £40 subscription fee". "If you don't sign up to our new service you can either home compost your garden waste or take it for free to Haverton Hill Household Waste Recycling Centre"

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

“Stockton Council continues to promote recycling and to follow national Government guidance on waste and recycling services. We do not say that people cannot put their garden waste in their residual waste bin, but we do discourage them from doing so.

If residents put garden waste in the green bin it adds to the weight and cost of waste that is incinerated, ultimately costing local people more and releasing more greenhouse gas into the atmosphere.

It’s great to see so many of our residents signing up for the new garden waste collection services. I think that shows that people want to help us recycle more, save money and do their bit for the environment. I have done all I can as the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture to motivate as many people as possible to continue to recycle.”

Stephen Fryer asked the following supplementary question:-

“The Council have not said that you can put your garden waste in the free bin. I’m all for recycling but you haven’t been open and transparent. The law is very clear you have the legal right to a refund if you were misled about a product or service. Companies and organisations who are selling a product or service you should not keep information about that product or service hidden or obscured. The Citizens Advice website even if the seller sells by mistake it counts as misleading the service. So will SBC refund everyone who has paid the £40 fee for the brown bin service as it has been miss sold and if not why have SBC broke the law?”

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

“I will refer Mr Fryer back to my response to his first question. We do not state that people can not put their garden waste in their residual bin but we continue to discourage it. The brown bin service is a subscription service that people can chose or chose not to subscribe to.”

COU/40/25 Appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies 2025/27

Consideration was given to a report that presented the following, for consideration:

- amendments to committees (Appendix 1 of the report)
- vacancies on outside bodies (Appendix 2 of the report)
- vacancies on vice chairs' positions (Appendix 3 of the report)

Appendix 1 of the report provided details of political groups' wishes, in line with their allocations under political proportionality regulations.

Appendices 2 and 3 of the report provided details of nominations received, to date, for outside bodies and vice chairs' positions.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The amendments to the committees, at Appendix 1 of the report be noted:-

Place Select Committee - Remove: Cllr Bob Cook Add: Cllr Steve Nelson
Children and Young People Select Committee - Remove: Cllr Stephen Richardson
Add: Cllr Jack Miller

2. The nominations at Appendix 2 of the report be approved:-

Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE) - Cllr Clare Besford

3. The nominations, to Vice Chairs' positions, at Appendix 3 be approved:-

Community Safety Select Committee - Cllr Katie Weston
Place Select Committee - Cllr Steve Nelson

COU/41/25 Appointment of Acting Section 151 Officer (Chief Financial Officer)

Consideration was given to a report that sought Council's endorsement and confirmation of the interim arrangements for the statutory role of Section 151 Officer, following the recent retirement of the previous postholder. The decision is necessary to ensure compliance with legislation.

Under s151 of the Local Government Act 1972, every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs

The appointment of a Section 151 Officer was a statutory requirement and a non-executive function reserved to Full Council, as set out in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000.

Following the retirement of Garry Cummings, Clare Harper, previously appointed as Deputy Section 151 Officer had continued to discharge the statutory responsibilities of

the role in accordance within the established internal delegations. While this continuity fits with the expectations of the Deputy role, it was considered appropriate for Full Council to formally endorse the interim arrangement.

To reflect the significance of the role and ensure consistency with the Council's management structure, the interim post would be styled Chief Financial Officer. The Acting Section 151 Officer would also hold delegated authority to appoint a Deputy Section 151 Officer, in line with statutory provisions and internal governance arrangements.

The Council's Appointments Panel would be requested to consider options for the permanent appointment and bring forward a recommendation to Full Council.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The retirement of Garry Cummings, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Transformation & Performance be noted and appreciation for his service be expressed.
2. The appointment of Clare Harper, Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer, as Acting Section 151 Officer, effective from the date of Mr. Cummings' retirement be endorsed and confirmed.
3. For the purposes of the Council's Constitution and associated schemes of delegation the following be agreed:
 - a. The Acting Section 151 Officer shall be granted the standing and authority equivalent to that of a Director in respect of all decision-making responsibilities;
 - b. The Acting Section 151 Officer shall be deemed to hold a Chief Officer position for the duration of the interim arrangement;
 - c. The Acting Section 151 Officer shall have delegated authority to appoint a Deputy Section 151 Officer, in accordance with statutory requirements and the Council's internal governance framework.
4. It be noted that the interim role will be styled Chief Financial Officer for the purposes of internal reporting, organisational communication and external engagement.
5. It be noted that the Council's Appointments Panel will consider and bring forward a recommendation to Full Council in due course regarding the permanent appointment to the Section 151 Officer role.

COU/42/25 Treasury Management Practices Update

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update to the delegations for treasury management activities included within the Treasury Management Practices.

Following the recent retirement of the Council's Section 151 Officer, the delegations for treasury management activities required updating.

In accordance with CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services the Council had regard to the key recommendations when determining the current Treasury Management Strategy.

Accordingly, the Council created and maintained, as the cornerstones for effective treasury management:-

- A treasury management policy statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities.
- Suitable Treasury Management Practices (TMPs), setting out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities.

The Council (i.e. full Council) would receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities including, as a minimum, an annual strategy and plan in advance of the year.

The Council delegates responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of its treasury management policies and practices to the Audit and Governance Committee and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions to the nominated Section 151 Officer (the officer with Responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972) will act in accordance with the organisation's policy statement and TMPs and CIPFA's Standard of Professional Practice on Treasury Management.

The Council's Treasury Management Strategy was last approved by Council in February 2025 as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy Report.

The Treasury Management Practices were last approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Strategy Report in February 2023 and cover the following topics:-

- | | |
|--------|---|
| TMP 1 | Risk management |
| TMP 2 | Performance measurement |
| TMP 3 | Decision-making and analysis |
| TMP 4 | Approved instruments, methods and techniques |
| TMP 5 | Authority, clarity and segregation of responsibilities and dealing arrangements |
| TMP 6 | Reporting requirements and management information arrangements |
| TMP 7 | Budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements |
| TMP 8 | Cash and cash flow management |
| TMP 9 | Anti Money laundering |
| TMP 10 | Staff training and qualifications |
| TMP 11 | Use of external service providers |
| TMP 12 | Corporate governance |

TMP 5; Authority, clarity and segregation of responsibilities and dealing arrangements, delegates responsibility for day to day treasury management activities to nominated officers within the finance service. Following the retirement of the Council's existing Section 151 Officer (the officer with responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972), the delegations had been updated. The updated TMP5 was attached to the report.

RESOLVED that the updated TMP5 included at Appendix A of the report be approved, including the updated officer delegations relating to treasury management activities.

COU/43/25 Motions to Council

The following motion was moved by Cllr Ross Patterson and seconded by Cllr Kevin Faulks:-

“The UK Government website states: ‘The historic counties are an important element of English traditions which support the identity and cultures of many of our local communities, giving people a sense of belonging, pride and community spirit. They continue to play an important part in the country’s sporting and cultural life as well as providing a reference point for local tourism and heritage. We should all seek to strengthen the role that they can play.’ Government has inserted a hologram of the historic counties inside the back cover of the blue coloured British Passport. Paragraph 3.47 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 issued by the Department for Transport allows the signing of historic county boundaries on the highway network. However the requirement to install these has been placed on local authorities, but it is only optional.

The Borough of Stockton on Tees incorporates 6 towns, 3 north of the River Tees in the historic county of Durham and 3 south of the River Tees in the North Riding of Yorkshire. Each of these towns are seeing exciting developments to enhance and improve them. The Council has also taken a keen interest in the last decade to ensure that the Historic County boundary at the River Tees is marked on its highway network, as well as kindly offering guidance and advice to other local councils wishing to do the same. However, progress elsewhere is frustratingly slow, and we risk losing our heritage if nothing is done.

Therefore, please would the Leader of the Council write to the Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and request:

1. The Traffic Sign Regulations are amended to make it compulsory that Historic County boundary signs must be installed on all the following categories of roads on the Highway Network: motorways; dual carriageways / trunk roads; Category A, B and C roads, by the relevant highway’s authority, whether it is a local authority, Highways England, or the Department for Transport.
2. She visits the Borough of Stockton on Tees, to see the exciting developments which are enhancing and improving our 6 towns, and the work the Council has done in the last decade to mark the Historic County Boundary at the River Tees on its highway network, demonstrating why Stockton Borough Council is an outstanding forward thinking authority which also respects and preserves the heritage of our country.”

A vote took place and the motion was agreed.

The following motion was submitted by Cllr Niall Innes and seconded by Cllr Tony Riordan:-

“Council notes that:

Off Road Bikes are causing Havoc on the streets of Stockton.

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced several new tools and powers for use by councils and their partners to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) in their local areas. These tools, which replaced and streamlined a number of previous measures, were brought in as part of a government commitment to put victims at the centre of approaches to tackling ASB, focussing on the impact behaviour can have on both communities and individuals, particularly on the most vulnerable.

For the sake of this motion, Mechanically Propelled Vehicles (MPV's)" includes, but is not limited to:

Motorbikes (road going and off road) including mini "pee-wee" bikes Electrically propelled motor bikes

Scooters

Quad Bikes and mini quad bikes

Vehicles for use by a person with a mobility impairment and being used by someone with a mobility impairment would be exempt under the proposed motion.

Council believes that:

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) are vital tools available to local authorities that seek to tackle anti-social behaviour in public spaces, aiming to ensure everyone can use and enjoy these areas without experiencing nuisance or harm.

Residents in our borough deserve to know that their local council, which they pay handsomely towards, are doing everything they can to tackle the scourge of Off-Road Vehicles in our Borough.

PSPOs, used as part of a wider strategy and by working with key external stakeholders, allow local areas to counter unreasonable and persistent behaviour that affects the quality of life of its residents. They can send a clear message that certain behaviours will not be tolerated and help reassure residents that unreasonable conduct is being addressed.

The use of PSPOs have been successfully rolled out in Rochdale and Rossendale councils, using them to tackle Motorbikes (road going and off road) including mini "pee-wee" bikes Electrically propelled motor bikes Scooters, Quad Bikes and mini quad bikes.

PSPOs can have a powerful impact. Breaching a PSPO is a criminal offence subject to, up to a level three fine on prosecution (up to £1,000).

Council resolves:

Council requests that the Cabinet consider the introduction of a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) enforcing that MPV's are prohibited from being used on any publicly owned land in the borough, or on any other land without express or implied permission.

A person is prohibited from having a MPV in their possession but not being ridden when in a public space or on a highway or pavement, unless they can produce appropriate insurance for use of the MPV on a public highway. The only exception will be granted for persons wheeling a MPV to a clearly identified van or trailer for onwards transportation.”

A vote took place and the motion was agreed.

COU/44/25 Members' Question Time

The following question was submitted by Cllr Niall Innes for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing:-

“To ask the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing for a progress update on the investment works to Billingham following a recent press statement stating works have been further delayed.”

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

“I refer Cllr Innes to the July cabinet report which sets out the significant progress made on the regeneration of Billingham Town Centre .

50. As reported to Cabinet in May 2025’ a signed funding agreement for the £20m Levelling Up Fund grant was received in April 2025. Since the last update to Cabinet, the final details of legal agreements between the Council and Evolve are being finalised to enact the decisions taken at Cabinet in June 2024 in regard to the acquisition of part of Queensway South, West Precinct and former Library site of the centre and the key principles of relocation of tenants and demolition to enable residential-led redevelopment alongside commercial investment by Evolve.

51. The approach presented to Cabinet in June 2024 saw the Council acquire part of Queensway South at vacant possession and then undertake demolition of the building. As drafting of legal agreements has progressed, the opportunity for Evolve to manage demolition of Queensway South prior to the partial disposal to the Council has been proposed. This approach will make for a more efficient demolition process as Evolve manage a single contractor on their land, as opposed to the more complex approach of the Council undertaking demolition and requiring access across Evolves land at different points.

52. This approach represents a deviation from the position previously reported to Cabinet and Cabinet are therefore asked to endorse this revised approach and allow for it to be reflected in drafting legal agreements that are already delegated by Cabinet in June 2024.

53. Feasibility work is also underway to explore options for repurposing the disused Council office, Wynyard House, as a public sector hub. The feasibility work has been funded through One Public Estate and is expected to conclude in autumn 2025.

54. The next stage of the project will be to develop plans for residential development on the cleared site, in line with the principles of the agreed masterplan. Options for securing a development partner for the West Precinct and former library and clinic site will be explored, including exploring the opportunity to broaden a partnership with Evolve to enable wider redevelopment, potentially incorporating, where appropriate Council assets within and adjacent to the town centre as a means of increasing investment, unlocking residential growth and safeguarding existing and traditional town centre uses. Discussion with other stakeholders in the vicinity of the town centre will also take place to explore additional opportunities to increase redevelopment potential in the area.”

Cllr Niall Innes asked the following supplementary question:-

“The basis for asking that question because it is not just me or the press asking but also residents, this scheme seems to be doing the same course as many other project SBC have been involved in whether it be the Globe going over budget and way over time, issues at

Preston Park £1 million extra, Riverside Road, all with a lack of foresight. There seems to be a growing trend of projects for SBC that have problems. The only project that hasn't had any delays is the Diagnostic Centre and that wasn't SBC had any responsibility for. Can the Cabinet Member agree with me and with the vast majority of residents in the Borough that this is just the same old from SBC, further delays with public money provided by the previous Conservative government and true to form wasted by Labour incompetence?"

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

"The answer is no."

The following question was submitted Councillor Jason French for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

"At full Council on the 21st of May 2025 the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, following a question by a member seeking a comprehensive update regarding the programme of works, about demolition of the Golden Eagle, provided an update on the Golden Eagle at Thornaby, detailing that the demolition work would begin in June. On the 29th of June it was reported in the local media that the demolition process had been delayed until August.

Does the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing think it appropriate for members to discover the further delay for the start of the demolition works to the Golden Eagle via the local media?"

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

"Apologies to Council that the progress on the demolition of the Golden Eagle has been fast moving and a full update was included in the POF report to Cabinet in July. In May we were still awaiting the tender responses for a demolition contractor. When these were received it became clear that a further cabinet decision was needed, and a report was added to the forward plan. This and a statutory demolition notice meant that the press picked up on the story in advance of the publication of the cabinet report which contains a full explanation. After seeing the tenders from the contractors and finding out the extent of the asbestos and finding out the shocking way that it had been installed it was clear that further funding was required to bring down the Golden Eagle. This has now been approved by Cabinet and the process forward is now to appoint a contractor and handing the site to them. They will then take charge of the site and work will begin to bring the building down."

Councillor Jason French asked the following supplementary question:-

"Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that the Labour Group approach briefing the press on key issues before briefing members has been a complete shambles and what action will he take to ensure this doesn't happen again?"

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing responded with:-

"There are briefings scheduled on a regular basis, but the Conservative members never turn up."

Member Question submitted Councillor Tony Riordan for response by the Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety:-

"Stockton Borough Council is in receipt of the Asylum Dispersal Grant from Central Government. Can the Leader detail,

- How many Asylum Seekers are presently housed in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees?
- How many of the Asylum Seekers are male, and how many are female?

- What were the numbers of Asylum Seekers housed in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees for the years, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024?
- What was the amount of Government grant made payable to Stockton Borough Council, for the years, 2019,2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?
- Does Stockton Borough Council financially contribute to the support of Asylum Seekers in the Borough, and if so, what is the value, for the years 2019, 2020, 2021. 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?

The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety responded with:-

“Thanks for this question, Cllr Riordan which requires 23 points of technical data. I will therefore provide this in a separate written response rather than reeling off all the detail.

However, in summary, I will remind members that the provision of support to asylum seekers is a statutory duty established by the previous government when they introduced the National Dispersal Scheme in 2022. The number of asylum seekers in Stockton has remained pretty static over the last few years and represents approximately 0.55% of our population. The costs of supporting and resettling asylum seekers is entirely covered by government grant.

Data not held before 2022 when the The National Dispersal scheme came into being and Government restrictions apply to the release of the gender and location of asylum seekers.

I can however give you the costs of the grant that we have received for asylum seekers which is as follows 2022/23 £229,000 23/24 £671,500 24/25 £1,702,870 25/26 £960.200.”

Councillor Tony Riordan asked the following supplementary question:-

“You used the word static in your response but would you agree that in the year 2022/23 we received £229,000 and then in 24/25 we received over £1,702,870 in grant would indicate a rise rather than static numbers and further prior 2022 what was the Council’s position in supporting asylum seekers? Was it an opt in or opt out?”

The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety responded with:-

“I would have to check out those figures I can however explain that the rise isn’t in relation to the number of asylum seekers in 2022 the Council received £250 for every asylum seeker that came into the Borough between then and now it has slowly risen, we now receive £1250 for every asylum seeker that comes into the Borough.”

The following question was submitted Councillor Niall Innes for response by the Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety:-

“Stockton Borough Council has recently sought to recruit 2 x Support and Integration (Migration Support) Officers on a salary range of £31,067 - £32,654 per annum, and 1 x Service Development (Migration Support) Officer on a salary of £37,035 - £39,513 per annum. A Freedom of Information Request, and response, showed that the 3 roles are new.

Why does the Leader of the Council deem it necessary to recruit these roles?”

The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety responded with:-

“As outlined in my response to the previous question, the support of asylum seekers and refugees is a statutory duty and when right to remain has been established this requires resource to effectively support and integrate them into our Borough and the communities to which they now belong. These posts are entirely funded by government grant.”

Councillor Niall Innes asked the following supplementary question:-

“Isn’t this just a case of SBC using the taxpayers’ funds to fill roles regardless of whether it is grant money, it is still taxpayers money, that are so vague and non-descript it is not clear what role they are supposed to provide? The job descriptions are extremely vague, isn’t this just

further proof that this Council's priorities are so far removed from priorities of the residents of this Borough?"

The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety responded with:-

"The priorities of this Council are the same priorities of the government. We need to support asylum seekers, we need to move them on after they have had the right to remain, we need to support them in the community, we need to support them into work because once they get the right to remain they have the right to work and they can contribute to the town and the Borough as a whole."

The following question was submitted by Councillor Jack Miller for response by the Leader of the Council.

"At full Council on the 21st May the Council Leader responded to a question regarding a previously resolved motion (That the Leader of the Council engages with local stakeholders and meets with them alongside other Group Leaders to discuss what this Council can do to robustly support and protect young people of this Borough most at risk).

Following the publication of the Casey Report, and the humiliating U turn of the Labour Government to now undertake a National Inquiry into Grooming Gangs, will the leader reflect on her previous response and accept that dismissing concerns by members in the manner she did has eroded all confidence she may have had on leading on this most important of matters."

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

"As I explained previously, this Council already engages actively with local stakeholders on issues affecting children and young people, including those most at risk. That engagement takes place regularly through established multi-agency arrangements with our key public sector partners, including police, health, education and the voluntary sector.

What was unusual about the motion was its proposal that these engagements should include Group Leaders. There is no formal role for Group Leaders in those safeguarding discussions, and it would not normally be appropriate for political group representatives to attend those operational forums.

However, I did say previously—and I will repeat now—that if Group Leaders had particular suggestions in mind as to how such involvement might work, I would be happy to consider them and take that forward where appropriate. No such suggestions have been brought to my attention.

I am content that the work I and others are doing with our partners to address the challenges facing vulnerable young people is both serious and ongoing. If you or your Group have a specific issue or proposal in mind, I would encourage you to raise it—either directly with me, through your Group Leader, or with the relevant Cabinet Member.

I will reiterate that your Group have received several offers, not just on this subject, but on anything. I meet with Group Leaders on a regular basis. Your Group have always declined the offer. Furthermore, your shadow Cabinet, including yourself have had an offer to meet with Cabinet members. You raise this issue around children and young people and yet you sit here as the shadow cabinet member for children and young people. You may have been better taking up the opportunity of a meeting with the Cabinet member rather than trying to score cheap political points using vulnerable young people to do so.

I also do not see the Labour Government changes as either a U turn or humiliating. I always reflect on my responses, thank you. As you well know following the publication of the Casey Report, the government agreed to have a full national inquiry.

At the time of the motion to Council, this report wasn't published. What was published was the Jay report. My comments were based on this. This report was the result of a 7 year

investigation ending in 2022 when a conservative government was in power. I'm surprised you dare to ask me this question when at this time your government did not do a single thing to address the 20 proposals made by Alexis Jay.

We all have the power to reflect and change our minds.

I stand by my comments as Cabinet Member at that time based on the Jay inquiry.

Now that the Casey report has been published, more recommendations have come to light and I am confident that the current government will address the recommendations unlike the previous one."

Councillor Jack Miller asked the following supplementary question:-

"Baroness Casey concludes her 12 recommendations contained within the report, while there maybe further action arising from this audit the victims of child sexual exploitation in England and Wales deserve nothing less than full implementation of these 12 recommendations. Decisive leadership and a collective determination to fix past failings and build a strong approach to the future. The resolution agreed by this Council was clearly in-line with Baroness Casey's view but not yours or the Labour Group you lead. Will you do the right thing and step down allowing decisive leadership and a collective determination to fix past failings and build a strong approach for the future?"

The Leader of the Council responded with:-

"Councillor Miller I would gently suggest that you avoid politicising something so serious to the children. It is important we don't undermine confidence in our safeguarding partners by suggesting that concerns have been dismissed when in fact significant work is being done behind the scenes every day. If you real intention is to strengthen that work I would encourage you to come forward with constructive ideas. The safety of children should never be political scoring point. You will find if you read the report further which I'm sure you will have done, you will also not that there was a change of mind in that report by Baroness Casey and so we can have a change of mind of this Council and we can have a change of mind of government, I'm happy to reflect on past decisions but on this one I do not accept that I spoke wrongly and I stand by what I said at that time."

The following question was submitted Councillor Lynn Hall for response by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:-

"Recruiting and retaining social workers is a significant financial challenge for this Labour Led Council. Difficulties in recruitment, coupled with the high costs associated with agency social workers.

Can the leader provide an update on the work undertaken with the academy to reduce the number of agency workers employed by Stockton Borough Council and what financial savings have been made because of this work?"

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:-

"At Stockton Borough Council, both Children's and Adults Services are committed to a sustainable and strategic approach to social work recruitment and retention. A key element of this strategy is the adoption of a "Grow Your Own" model, which has proven highly effective in building a resilient and skilled workforce. This approach encompasses multiple entry routes into the profession, including Apprenticeships, Step Up to Social Work, and traditional university pathways. By diversifying recruitment channels, we are not only broadening access to the profession but also ensuring a steady pipeline of talent aligned with our values and service needs.

Adult Services currently maintain minimal social work vacancies, a testament to the effectiveness of our recruitment and retention practices. Any vacancies that do arise are

addressed through established recruitment processes, ensuring continuity of care and service delivery. The stability in staffing allows the service to focus on quality improvement, professional development, and innovation in practice.

Children's Services are undergoing a strategic expansion in 2025/26, with a deliberate increase in the intake of social work students and Newly Qualified Social Workers (NQSWs). This proactive measure supports long-term workforce sustainability and aligns with national recommendations from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care. Recognising the additional support required for early-career professionals, the Learning Academy has significantly strengthened its infrastructure by increasing the number of Senior Practitioners dedicated to mentoring and supervision.

Support for NQSWs is comprehensive and multi-faceted, including 1:1 mentoring and supervision, structured group learning sessions, targeted workshops on core practice areas and formal training aligned with the Knowledge and Skills Statements and Post-Qualifying Standards.

This robust support framework ensures that social workers are not only well-prepared for the demands of frontline practice but also feel valued and invested in from the outset.

One of the most significant outcomes of this strategy is the reduction in reliance on agency social workers within Children's Services. By investing in permanent staff and supporting their development, we are projecting a cost saving of nearly £1 million in agency spend for the current financial year compared to 2024/25 which represents a major efficiency gain.

Retention of experienced staff remains a priority across both services. We are committed to creating a working environment that supports professional growth, wellbeing, and job satisfaction. Key initiatives include a comprehensive and evolving training offer, high-quality, reflective supervision, access to wellbeing incentives and flexible working arrangements, these measures are designed to foster a culture of support and recognition, ensuring that staff feel empowered and equipped to deliver high-quality service across Stockton."

Councillor Lynn Hall asked the following supplementary question:-

"How many vacancies does the Council have and how many of them are agency social workers and how do these figures compare with the wider Tees Valley and can we learn from the wider region who definitely use fewer agency staff?"

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded with:-

"I don't have those figures to hand but I will get you a written response."

Councillor Jason French submitted the following question for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture:-

"On the 4th June 2025 Stockton Borough Council's Planning Committee refused planning permission to demolish a lodge at the entrance to Preston Park and replace it with a steel/alloy sculpture.

Can the Leader provide an update as to the cost of bringing the application forward to the Planning Committee, and what costs were incurred for the design, and fabrication if undertaken, for the steel/alloy sculpture."

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

"The total cost to date on professional fees for the development and submission of the designs for the area of Preston Park within which the South Lodge sits, is estimated to be £36,500.

This includes architects, structural design, historic building recording and archaeology, Planning application and listed building consent production/submission. This also includes

design for the intended interpretation of the Stockton & Darlington Railway in that location. This expenditure is not wasted as the majority of the material produced will be used in the revised planning application.

No money has been spent on fabrication.”

Councillor Jason French asked the following supplementary question:-

“That application before the Planning Committee also sought permission for a feature to commemorate the bicentenary of Stockton to Darlington railway. Can Councillor Cooke update Members of the plans going forward for this feature to commemorate the bicentenary of Stockton to Darlington railway in Preston Park? As I’m aware this takes place over September and time is pressing. What are the plans for the funding £320k funding that was provided by the previous government?”

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture responded with:-

“Clearly the bicentenary is an event that a lot of people in Stockton will want to celebrate. There are a lot of events planned and there are exhibitions going forward. All of that information is available to Councillors and I believe press releases have gone out to Councillors as well as the public with regard to those events. With regard to the application around South Lodge as I said in my original answer that application wasn’t granted by the Planning Committee and I respect the independence of the Planning Committee. I look forward to a revised application and work will be on-going on that. So we will respect those due processes and see where we are at the end of the process.”

COU/45/25 Forward Plan and Leader’s Statement

Since Council had last met on 21 May Cabinet had convened on 12 June and again on 17 July. As always, the minutes from those meetings are available on the SBC website.

Looking ahead, Cabinet was next scheduled to meet on 18 September. As there was no Cabinet meeting in August, the Forward Plan for September is not yet fully populated. Officers will bring forward additional items in due course. Members would be aware that the Forward Plan was available online and was regularly updated. One key item already scheduled for consideration is the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2025–2030).

The Leader of the Council had the pleasure of accompanying the Mayor on visits to both Preston Park Museum and Parkfield Community Centre, where they were joined by the Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham, Dame Sue Snowdon.

Dame Sue was due to retire after a remarkable period of service as the King’s representative in the Durham Lieutenancy. The Leader of the Council was sure the whole Council would want to join her in recognising her exceptional dedication to the role, her unwavering commitment to public service, and in particular, her strong support for our Borough over the years. The Council sent her very best wishes as she steps down from the Lieutenancy and thanked her sincerely for all work she had done.

Before the next meeting of Council there was a fantastic summer of events to look forward to across the Borough.

Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF) would return on 1 August. This world-renowned outdoor arts festival was a true highlight of the cultural calendar, promising surprise, skill, and spectacle for all the family. The Leader of the Council was incredibly proud that SIRF the North East’s largest free outdoor arts and street theatre

festival would once again transform the streets of Stockton with music, circus, dance, and more.

The spectacular launch show, Lifelines, would see world-class parkour performers reimagine Stockton's architecture as a dynamic stage scaling buildings and defying gravity in a breathtaking display of movement and creativity.

The Leader of the Council looked forward to seeing members at the festival, and again at the next full Council meeting on 24 September.

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COUNCIL – 24 SEPTEMBER 2025
PUBLIC QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1
<p>Public Question submitted by Paul Frank:-</p> <p>“Is there a plan to house migrants (with or without criminal records) above any existing shops in Billingham Town Centre, and will the people of Billingham living close to the Town Centre be consulted and informed if or when such a plan comes to light by the Council?”</p> <p>Received 4 September 2025 13:17</p>

QUESTION 2

Public Question submitted by Paul Frank:-

“When can the people of Billingham expect to see actual progress made in the redevelopment of Billingham Town Centre?”.

Received 4 September 2025 13:17

QUESTION 3

Public Question submitted by John McDermottroe:-

“Given that Stagecoach are currently introducing 67 Electric buses locally, which are much heavier than their diesel predecessors, were any surveys carried out to determine their impact on the Boroughs already badly, potholed damaged roads?”

Received 10 September 2025 16:28

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2025/27

SUMMARY

This report presents the following, for consideration:

- A change to the Council's representation on Cleveland Police and Crime Panel
- A vacancy on the North East Regional Employers' Organisation (NEREO)

DETAILS

The Labour Group has indicated that it wishes to remove Councillor Paul Rowling from the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel and replace him with Cllr Ann McCoy. This seat is allocated to Labour under proportionality regulations.

Councillor Bob Cook intends to stand down from the North East Regional Employers' Organisation (**NEREO**) and Councillor Paul Rowling has been nominated to take his place. Group leaders have been contacted to ask if their group wishes to make a nomination.

RECOMMENDED that Council

1. Note and endorse the amendment to Cleveland Police and Crime Panel
2. Considers the vacancy and nomination(s) to NEREO.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Certain seats must be allocated to political groups, as prescribed by the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

Consultation has taken place with political group leaders.

Jonathan Nertney
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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 SEPTEMBER 25

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

STOCKTON-ON-TEES YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

SUMMARY

Local authority partnerships have a statutory duty to submit a Youth Justice Plan relating to their provision of youth justice services (YJSs). Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnerships responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, in consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how YJSs in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Youth Justice Plans, in England only, must be signed off by the full Council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities England Regulations 2000).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council sign off Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Plan for 2025/26.

DETAIL

1. The Youth Justice Plan reports on our vision, strategy, governance, leadership and partnership arrangements. It reflects and builds upon our good performance against key national performance measures. It also documents key themes around child first principles, evidence-based practice, prevention and diversion and our work with victims.

BACKGROUND

2. The Youth Justice Plan was produced after consultation with the partnership which includes the Police, Probation, Health and Education.
3. The Plan builds upon the work we have done throughout 24/25. The document outlines six key strategic objective for the forthcoming year. These are:
 - 1) Help children stay out of the criminal justice system.
 - 2) To reduce reoffending.
 - 3) Reduce the use of custody and prioritise effective resettlement.
 - 4) Continue to strengthen our response to Serious Youth Violence and Child Exploitation.

- 5) Focus on reducing exclusions, improving school attendance and provide post 16 opportunities.
- 6) To continue to develop our interventions and our child friendly space.
- .
4. Cabinet will consider this matter on 18 September 2025.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

5. The primary aim of a youth justice plan is to prevent offending and re-offending by children by working with them, their parents and carers. Youth Justice Teams support victims of crime and work to contribute to keeping communities safe.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no direct corporate parenting implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no direct legal implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. The Youth Justice Plan is overseen by the Youth Justice Board and Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Management Board. Strong partnership arrangements are in place to monitor progress against our strategic objectives.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. Stockton-On-Tees Youth Justice Plan 2025/26

Name of Contact Officer: John Lathaen
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Youth Justice Plan Stockton-on-Tees

2025-2026



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Introduction, Vision, and Strategy



Welcome to the Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Plan for 2025-26. The plan looks back on our achievements to date and ongoing challenges. The plan will set out our ambitious priorities for the forthcoming year. This plan has been developed and agreed by the Youth Justice Partnership.

The Youth Justice Management Board are committed to our children and the principles of Child First practice. Across the partnership we have the ambition of wanting our children to thrive and achieve the best outcomes they can. We aspire to promote positive outcomes, reduce crime, and make our community safer.

As a Management Board we continue to be inspired by the Youth Justice Team (YJT) and the service they deliver. The session on participation helped the Board understand the lived experience of the children the team work with. In the last 12 months the Management Board have also received presentations on the speech and language work the team are doing with children and their families and the excellent work they are

doing in engaging victims in a restorative process.

We recognise we need to continue with our work around reducing serious youth violence and school exclusions. We also have work to do around reducing our custody numbers as they remain too high.

In 2024-25, the YJT relocated to sit within Early Help, Youth Justice and Youth support in Children's Services to refocus efforts to work with children and families at the earliest opportunity to prevent escalation into statutory services. The move to our central base at Dunedin House has allowed the YJT to form even closer links with our Social Work teams and Care Leaver Service.

These are exciting times for Stockton-On-Tees Children Services as we start to shape our services in response to the Families First Partnership Programme. We have also embarked on embedding a systemic model of practice across all teams and this fits well with Child First and trauma informed principles.

Majella McCarthy, Chair of Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Management Board & Director of Children's Services

Local Context

Stockton-on-Tees is a diverse area of six towns covering mainly urban areas, with some rural villages. Its population is around 200,000 and growing. A total of 8% of the population are from a black or other minority ethnic groups. The population of 10–17-year-olds is just over 20,000.

There are areas of great affluence alongside some of the most deprived in England, with some significant differences around life and health outcomes. We know that socio-economic factors profoundly influence the lives and available opportunities for children. Many of the children who come into the justice system are from our most deprived communities.

Over the last ten years there has been a significant reduction in the number of children in the justice system. The current profile holds a small group of children who are considered to have complex needs, coupled with their experience of trauma, which renders them vulnerable to criminal exploitation. Children in the justice system are predominantly male and white British. A substantial number of children in the justice system are also known to Children Services.

Stockton-on-Tees YJT are currently working with an equal number of children subject to Court Orders and Out-Of-Court Disposals (OOCd). The volume of statutory work is consistent with high levels of deprivation in the area and children being vulnerable to exploitation. Violence against the person is the most common offence for both statutory and OOCd work. We have recently seen an increase in driving related offences. Referral Orders continue to be the most common disposal for Court Orders while Triage is most used for OOCd.

Governance, Leadership and Partnership Arrangements

Youth Justice Management Board

The Management Board delivers strategic direction and coordinates the provision of local services. There is a clear focus on holding those functions, and the wider youth justice partnership to account for performance at both an operational and strategic level.

The membership and terms of reference for the Management Board were reviewed and refreshed in 2024 to ensure its continued effectiveness and compliance with 'Youth Justice Service Governance and Leadership, December 2021'. The main objectives of the Board are:

1. To ensure the preparation and implementation of the annual Youth Justice Plan; to consider and act upon feedback from the Youth Justice Board (YJB).
2. To determine how the Youth Justice Team is to be composed and funded, how it is to operate and what functions it is to carry out.
3. To agree measurable objectives linked to key performance indicators as part of the youth justice plan and evaluate service delivery to improve understanding of 'what works' in preventing offending and reoffending, including consideration of thematic inspections.
4. To influence other strategies and programmes from a youth offending perspective.
5. To agree annual funding arrangements and ensure the effective use of resource. To monitor quarterly financial position statements. To seek opportunities to gain additional resources which add value to core funding.
6. To oversee the appointment and designation of the Head of Service.

The Board is chaired by the Director of Children's Services. Board membership is comprised of representatives from statutory partners including the Local Authority; Police Service; Probation Service and the Integrated Health Board; and from local partners: the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), voluntary and community sector: and the courts. Management Board attendance throughout the last year has been good.

The Board meets quarterly as well as monitoring youth justice outcomes, the Board takes account of emerging trends, policy directives, legislation, research, and inspections. Information on compliance with the conditions of Youth Justice Board grant funding is overseen through the review of performance reports and quality assurance activity.

Location

The YJT is located in our Early Help, Youth Justice and Youth Support division within Children's Services.

The YJT sit alongside Family Hubs, Family Support Team, Family Group Conferencing, Therapeutic Services and Youth Support. There are two Services Leads one for Early Help and the other for Youth Justice and Youth Support.

The team are centrally located within the same building as Early Help and Statutory Teams, which provides opportunity for daily discussions where there is active Social Care involvement.

The Youth Justice Head of Service role is delivered by the Head of Service for Early Help, Youth Justice and Youth Support, with line management by the Assistant Director for Early Help, Safeguarding and Children in Our Care.

Resources and Value for Money

Resourcing for youth justice services comes from the Youth Justice Board and the local partnership. Youth justice functions are compliant with the minimum staffing requirements set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and a structure chart is presented on page 26.

A 100% of the youth justice grant is allocated to staffing costs within the YJT, accounting for over half of the employee costs for practitioners delivering statutory youth justice work in the courts, community and custody. The costs of seconded staff are met by their employing agencies. There is robust supervision and management oversight of case managers and other YJ staff. A management database is used to extract and track performance data.

The YJT has a diverse workforce comprising staff on substantive permanent and temporary contracts and community volunteers.

We are committed to delivering services that represent value for money. A significant amount of time has been spent on understanding the 'value' of services that are delivered, in terms of cost, outcomes and savings created through prevention and 'invest to save' approaches.

We will be delivering a range of services in partnership with others, to avoid duplication and to draw upon the skills and expertise of partners to maximise use of resources and expertise.



Partnership Arrangements

Youth justice services in Stockton-on-Tees have developed a range of strategic and operational linkages; outlined below:



The range of partners will be further expanded in the coming year as we consolidate arrangements to embed our Harm Outside the Home Team and jointly tackle and respond to serious youth violence across the Borough.

Most statutory youth justice interventions are delivered 'in house' or in partnership with key stakeholders. Our commissioned arrangement for speech, language, and communication services with Tees, Esk, Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust will continue.

Joint working arrangements with the Office of Police Crime and Commissioner (OPCC) funded Liaison and Diversion Service and Custody Navigators to support children in the police station are continuing; these are significant not only to ensure that children are properly supported but also to ensure a presence during those critical 'reachable moments'.

There is a close working relationship between the YJT and Children's Social Care for those deemed to be a Child in Need, Child in our Care and Care Leavers. Working protocols are in place. The reduction of criminalisation and offending by Children in our Care are corporate priorities and is well understood and embedded in local decision making by our partners in Police, Crown Prosecution Service, and the Courts.

Multi-agency pathways have been developed to support the 'Prevent' and Modern-Day Slavery legislation. The YJT is also an integral part of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). When a multi-agency approach is required to protect people from serious harm, information sharing agreements ensure information is available to support holistic assessments and planning for young people. All information is managed sensitively in accordance with Data Protection principles.

Update on the previous year

Help children stay out of the criminal justice system.

During 2024/25 we firmly established our 'Child First' bespoke OOCd panels. We invite professionals who have more knowledge from working with the child to contribute to the discussion and decision making. In the last year, the panel has diverted over 100 children away from the criminal justice system. We have also embedded the YJB Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool (PDAT) into practice and it is used for all OOCd and Turnaround.

The OPCC have agreed to provide a continuation of funding for Triage disposals and interventions to children for 2025/26. This is an essential component in our work as in the last 12 months we have delivered 112 OOCd. Triage continues to be our most widely used OOCd (79), followed by Outcome 22 (18) and Restorative Interventions (13). Although we have diverted significant numbers of children our FTE rate has increased from 125 to 173. This has been driven by children committing high gravity offences and charged straight to court.

The Ministry of Justice gave our Turnaround programme a target of delivering successful interventions to 97 children by March 2025. We have dedicated staff committed to the programme and subsequently we were able to achieve this goal by working with 98 children. Turnaround has provided a range of interventions which have included family work, positive activities, and support with Education, Training and Employment (ETE).

Reduce the use of custody and prioritise effective resettlement.

Our custody rate has continued to remain high over the last 12 months. It is currently at 0.28 which equates to six custodial sentences. This relates to four children of whom two received two terms of imprisonment. The main contributory factor behind these rates has been serious youth violence, child exploitation and the influence of Organised Crime Groups across the Borough. We have worked hard to keep our custody rates at a minimum and this was recognised during our YJB National Standards validation visit in January 2024. The YJT have worked closely with YJB Northeast Head of Oversight and reviewed the Pre-Sentencing Report's (PSR's) written where the children received custodial sentences. This was an exercise proposed at the Management Board meeting in January 2025. The review found that although all reports were strong, it was difficult to say if the custodial sentence could have been avoided. Nevertheless, there was some learning for the YJT. The team need to ensure PSR's have a consistent child focus lens, document the emotional and psychological impact of a custodial sentence and ensure it is balanced and accounts for positive aspects of the child's life, regardless of how small.

At the point of sentence, we hold bi-monthly resettlement meetings to ensure support is available on release. All children are subject to a range of licence conditions which include where appropriate electronic tags with trial monitoring. Our CAMHS, Speech And Language Team (SALT), Education To Employment (ETE) and support workers have been involved to ensure each child has consistent and individual support throughout the whole sentence. All

children have been released into suitable accommodation; however, we have had challenges in motivating the children towards appropriate ETE.

To reduce reoffending

We endeavour to ensure all children have a dedicated worker. Children who are receiving a Turnaround intervention will continue to have the same worker if they are charged with any offence. We have continued to review and develop our interventions. We have purchased two Virtual Reality Headsets and have extended learning packages for knife crime, gangs, and peer influences. The feedback from the children about these focused interventions has been very positive. In the last year we have also started a girl's group which focused on healthy relationships, self-esteem and keeping safe. Our interventions are under continuous review. Across Early Help, Youth Justice and Youth Support and Children's Social Care we have brought staff together to develop a range of interventions which incorporate all age ranges, styles and learning needs. The initial focus is on knife crime, peer influences and online safety, by bringing together a range of experts across all services, we in turn hope to produce innovative and effective interventions that resonate with children and reduce the risk of future offending. We have also strengthened our transition process and have undertaken a joint development session with our local Probation team, ensuring that young adult's transition seamlessly into the service.

We have continued to employ an ETE Worker to ensure children have intensive support to secure and engage them within appropriate ETE opportunities. We have a comprehensive health offer, with SALT and CAMHS workers, they have monthly health hub meetings where we can coordinate interventions. The SALT worker has worked with 41 children in a six-month period from April – September 24. All the children received comprehensive assessment along with at least two intervention sessions. We have reconfigured our trauma informed pathway and Tees Esk Wear Valley NHS Trust provide specialist workers that offer weekly consultations to staff on children with complex needs.

Strengthen our responses to Serious Youth Violence and Child Exploitation

The Youth Justice Management Board have advanced and shaped our multi-agency response to Serious Youth Violence. Nine partners completed the Joint Targeted Area Inspection Self-Assessment. This documented the wide range of work across the partnership and identified some gaps in provision. Consequently, we have worked in partnership with public health to complete a Rapid Needs Assessment which will establish local needs and identify best practice. The Management Board following publication of the needs assessment will meet in July 2025 to identify our priorities and to formulate a co-produced Serious Youth Violence Strategy. We have continued to work closely with Cleveland Unit for Reduction Violence (CURV) as they received further funding for the Custody Navigators scheme at Middlesbrough Custody Suite, where Children from Stockton-On-Tees are taken when arrested. This has ensured children have support at the earliest opportunity and trained staff can facilitate support. Research by Crest Advisory in November 2024 has indicated a promising impact the scheme has had on

first time attendees at the Police Station. We work closely with youth services across Stockton and are working with them to apply for funding from CURVE Knife Crime Action Fund so they can raise awareness amongst children of the consequences of carrying a knife, support families to strengthen relationships and improve communication. Our Turnaround Programme has continued to work with those children who have been arrested for violent offences but who have not been formally charged. Again, this early intervention response will have benefits of steering children away from becoming involved in serious youth violence.

To reduce the number of School Exclusions

We have worked closely with our colleagues in education to reduce the number of school exclusions. The Assistant Director of Education delivered a presentation to the Management Board in July 2024. He was able to provide an overview of the current work and initiatives. These include an attendance strategy, two risk of exclusions projects (St Michaels and Northfields), Pre-Exclusion Panels, governor training, Department for Education change programme and fair access policy. The YJT have also supported children to remain in education. This area of work remains a challenge as the above work has only slightly reduced the level of school exclusions. We acknowledge that there is further work to be done in this area.

To refresh our practice in our victim work and restorative practice.

Over the last 12 months we have refreshed our practice regarding victim work and restorative justice. We have appointed a Youth Justice Coordinator and have built some capacity with two support workers, who have also undertaken victim work. We recently refreshed our victim policy and have developed an action plan where we will continue to develop our practice in relation to a dedicated victim leaflet, victim safety plans and the creation of an audit tool for victim work. We are proud of the progress we have made in this area and details of our activity are documented in the restorative approaches and victims' section of this plan.

To Develop a Participation Model of Practice

The YJT created a participation group in June 2024, and they meet on a bi-monthly basis. The group has collated children's experiences of exploitation. We have developed a photography project so children can tell their stories in an innovative and creative way. We have gathered children's feedback about the resources they would like us to purchase for our child friendly space – the No limits Hub. Consequently, we are in the process of developing music, art, and podcast studios, to engage with children in a more creative and interest driven way.

We also delivered a participation workshop to the Management Board in July 2024, where a child attended and talked about his experience at Wetherby Young Offenders Institute. We are in the process of creating a 'mock' video of a Referral Order panel so this can be shared with children and families, so they know what to expect. We feel we still have work to do in this area and aim to build a participation group of children where we can regularly consult with them to

Performance over the last year.

First Time Entrants (FTE's)

The rate of FTE's has increased in the last year. The latest published YJB data currently has our rate at 173 and this is an increase in the last year from 125. The actual numbers of children who have become FTE's is 37 compared to 26 previously. Although our OOC Panel has contained this number (only two children received Youth Cautions) we have had 31 children who have been sentenced to Court Orders for high gravity offences. The other four children were sentenced at Court to either a Conditional Discharge or Compensation Order.

Although the rate has increased, we are lower than the Region of 186 and Cleveland PCC area of 218. However, we are higher than Family 156 and England and Wales 148.

Reoffending Rate

The latest reoffending rate is 47.4% which is a small increase on the previous year of 44.4%. The current rate is higher than other comparisons of the Region 38.9%, Cleveland PCC area 43.6%, Family 29.2% and England and Wales 31.6%. Our reoffending rate has fluctuated as in the period January - March 23 the rate was 41.7%. The YJB Youth Justice Statistics 2023/24 Insight Report (May 2025) documents that nationally there has been a rise in reoffending rates for the second consecutive year.

The current cohorts consist of 19 children, where nine reoffended. This is compared to last year of a cohort of 12, where five reoffended.

Reoffences/Reoffender

The current rate of reoffences/reoffender is 3.3 which is lower than the rate 12 months ago of 3.75. The latest rate is lower than all other comparisons. The rate for the Region 3.79 Cleveland PCC area 4.38, Family 4.75 and England and Wales 4.25. The reoffences/reoffender Rate is from nine reoffenders who committed a further 30 offences.

Use of Custody

The latest use of custody rate is 0.28, this is the same as the previous year. Our rate is higher than all other measures. The rate for the is region 0.16, Cleveland PCC 0.27, family 0.07 and England and Wales 0.10. The custody rate comes from six custodial sentences being given in the past year. All sentences were for violent offences, with two children being sentenced to two custodial sentences during this period.

Risks and Issues

Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice partnership continues to function in an ever-evolving landscape with the streamlining of services and pressures on resources.

It is evident the children in the youth justice system in Stockton remain some of the most vulnerable in our communities, particularly those in custody with links to exploitation. Reoffending behaviour by children in Stockton of a reducing cohort remains a challenge both in Stockton and nationally.

Serious Youth Violence continues to be a challenge in Stockton along with school exclusions. Our plan for 2025/26 documents how we are planning to address these issues.

The YJB grant allows us to maintain a comprehensive and effective service to the children we work with. We need to ensure we have sufficient resources in place to meet demand and expectations. This needs to be kept under constant review. Any reduction in the YJB grant would have serious implications. There are also risks with the Ministry of Justice Turnaround grant and OPCC Triage funding. Both funding streams are only for 2025/26 and if these do not continue beyond this period, we would need to redesign the services we offer.

The YJT moved to Pathways our new case management system in September 2024. We have worked hard to ensure any disruption is kept to a minimum. However, there are ongoing risks about our ability to fulfil our data reporting. Our provider NEC will be providing an upgrade in August 2025, and this should facilitate our KPI reporting by embedding the PDAT into the case management system.

The YJT along with many other teams from across Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council moved into Dunedin House (a big open office environment) in August 2025. The team has settled into this environment and have embraced co-location work and the benefits this brings. Last year we were concerned about not having a centralised venue for appointments with children and families. This was resolved in March 2025 when we were able to access the No Limits Hub in Stockton town centre.

Plans for the forthcoming year

Child First

The Child Focus¹ approach has 4 tenets, which are summarised as:

As children

Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.



Building pro-social identity

Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.

Collaborating with children

Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.

Diverting from stigma

Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.

The Child First approach means that all staff consistently refer to our cohort as children and not young people. This is more effective when gaining access to appropriate services. We talk to children in a positive way about their strengths and ability for positive change.

We have promoted diversion throughout the team and partners and consequently have seen a significant number of children been dealt with by way of OOCR. We aspire to avoid criminalising children unnecessarily. We adopted the PDAT assessment at an early stage, this has promoted better planning and use of language. We consistently talk about behaviours rather than offences, and safety for others rather than risk to others. The YJT strives to promote children with a pro-social identity.

In the past year we have collaborated with children and listened to their voices about experiences of the criminal justice system, purchased fidget tools and VR headsets. Intervention plans are more child friendly using language children understand and relate too.

We have continued to build a strong partnership approach to our work so we can continue to develop personalised child focus work. Our support workers have been creative in how they engage with children and have assisted children to attend music studios, bike projects and photography projects. We have speech, language and communication, health and education and training workers in place along with support workers who can work with children to develop inclusion, positive relations, interests, and activities.

We have started to use QR codes to make it easier for children and families to provide feedback. Children have consequently provided feedback about our Turnaround Programme and have helped to design resources for our children's space the 'No Limits Hub.'

We are committed to ensuring that children and their families have a voice; that they have an influence on their individual intervention programmes and in broader approaches to service delivery and developments. We aspire to deliver motivational, respectful, and strength-based approaches to promote desistance from crime.

Resources and services

Regular financial reports are presented to the YJ Management Board with recommendations for the board to discuss and agree. The income and projected expenditure represent finance estimates based upon the YJT structure, agreed funding and service initiative from a national and local level. As in previous years, staff costs will continue to constitute most of the expenditure. All monies carried forward in reserve are earmarked for planned Youth Justice business, and all future spend of the reserve would be agreed by the board.

There is currently no requirement for Stockton-on-Tees Youth Justice Service to contribute to remand costs, but this may change if the numbers increase.

We use 100% of our grant, partner contributions and available resources to deliver these services and we believe they produce improved benefits and outcomes, and our performance will be improved in 2025–26 by understanding and working with the diverse communities in Stockton. This will be delivered with a joined-up problem-solving approach, focusing on our response and long-term support, using a consistent approach in working with our most vulnerable, complex, and high-risk children and enhancing our offer for First-Time Entrants.

The table on page 26 represents the closing financial position for 2025-26. The budget has seen a slight increase in the YJB grant, due to an uplift in 2025.

The Ministry of Justice Turnaround programme financial profile will be presented as a separate report in the 2025-26 financial year. We have continued to receive payment in kind for Police, Probation and Health workers. The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner has committed further funding for our Triage programme for 2025/26.

Workforce Development

We updated our workforce development policy in November 2025 to ensure all YJT employees and seconded workers have sufficient skills to enable them to carry out their job effectively. Staff receive monthly supervision and yearly appraisal along with completing a range of mandatory training. All YJT in 2024-25 staff have received training on the YJB PDAT, Virtual Reality headset training, Harm Outside the Home, SALT, and Harmful Sexual Behaviour. The YJT has a monthly Effective Practice session with all staff. The sessions are designed to develop knowledge and skills. In 2024-25 we completed work on Court Skills, GPS tagging, Resources, and a Participation workshop. Our CAMHS worker has also continued to undertake reflective practice sessions with staff.

In the last year we worked in partnership with Family Action to recruit and train an additional three Referral Order volunteers. Consequently, we have a total of 10 panel members. Referral Order panel member meetings take place on a quarterly basis and an element of training is provided during these sessions. Panel members are also offered two 1:1 sessions each year. They also have access to Stockton Borough council training. We have continued to support our two apprentices, and one has found work in Children's Social Care.

In the last year we have had several new members of staff joining the team. All staff have received our two-week induction programme which includes meetings, training, and shadowing opportunities. Our training plan for 2025-26 covers such areas as systemic practice, transitions to probation and masterclasses in effective case management.

Evidence-based practice and innovation

Stockton-on-Tees YJT always seek to improve practice to ensure we achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families. Consequently, we continually work towards improving the services we provide and extend our offer based on best and evidence-based practice. We have built upon good practice over many years and desistance theory is embedded into our way of working. We ensure children have consistency of case managers so we can form relationships with the children and families we work with. We use trauma informed practice along with a child first mindset and restorative approach to engage children and families.

Over the last year we have had some excellent examples of good practice. These include a child's mother becoming a referral order panel member. A child created a lasting memorial for a family member and a child who won the Cleveland OPCC Christmas Card Competition. The participants of our Girls group provided excellent feedback. Our partnership approach/offer is an example of our current good practice. We have Police, Probation, ETE, SALT and CAMHS workers all in place and we are responsive to children's needs and is evident throughout our work with children.

Evaluation

During the last year we have undertaken an audit of 20 closed Turnaround cases. The audit found proactive engagement, a high level of contact and only a small number of children had gone on to commit an offence. However, there were also some areas of development where the screening tool and planning document we were using was not fit for purpose and staff needed to focus work on providing children with skills to manage difficult situations more effectively. Consequently, we introduced the use of the YJB PDAT for all Turnaround cases. We also ensured workers were encouraged to deliver programmes, for example, work on peer influences. Early Help, Youth Justice and Youth Support service area undertake a range of audits which include dip sampling, collaborative, and direct observations. Youth Justice cases are included in this work where learning is disseminated and acted upon.

Priorities for the coming year

1. Help children stay out of the criminal justice system.

We will:

- Continue to promote diversion principles at our OOC panels and use of Triage, Outcome 22, and Restorative Interventions.
- Continue to provide comprehensive interventions for children identified through our Turnaround programme.
- Continue to deliver Triage services in partnership with the Office Police Crime Commissioner.
- Co-ordinate quarterly meetings with the Police to review all cases where children became First-Time Entrants.
- Develop an action plan from the above to address any themes/patterns which emerge from these meetings.
- Work closely with Youth Support Team to ensure we identify children who may come into contact with the criminal justice system.

2. To reduce reoffending.

We will:

- To develop more modern programmes in relation to driving offences.
- Facilitate staff workshops on social skills training.
- Continue to develop our transition offer with Probation.
- Continue to focus on health needs with all children assessed for SALT, CAMHS and ETE needs.
- Continue to provide a comprehensive offer to the youth justice cohort regarding sports and physical activities.

3. Reduce the use of custody and prioritise effective resettlement.

We will:

- Continue to hold a pre-sentence meeting in all possible custody cases to ensure comprehensive Community Sentences are recommended to court. To ensure all reports are produced with a 'child first' lens emphasizing the child's difficulties and achievements.
- Propose appropriate Intensive Supervision and Surveillance with trial monitoring as this will promote confidence to the Court that children can be managed safely in the community.
- All resettlement cases will be discussed at Management Board meetings to ensure any gaps in provision are known and escalated to Board members whose seniority can make key decisions.
- Ensure early planning is in place for those children leaving custody. This will be monitored by monthly resettlement meetings.
- In appropriate cases liaise with Courts and defence solicitors to facilitate one sentencing exercise for children having multiple offences going through court.

4. Continue to Strengthen our responses to Serious Youth Violence and Child Exploitation.

We will:

- Identify children through the HOTH screening process to ensure they receive the appropriate level of support.
- Head of Service to sit on the Stockton Safer Partnership meetings.
- To continue to work closely with our Adolescent Social Work Team to develop positive pathways for children to steer them away from Serious Youth Violence and Child Exploitation.
- The YJ Management Board to develop our Serious Youth Violence strategy on completion of the Rapid Needs assessment.
- Work in partnership with CURV to develop Young futures Prevention Partnership panels.
- Work in partnership with Youth United Stockton Alliance to see funding opportunities to address serious youth violence for example, CURV Knife Crime action programme.
- To identify children at risk of serious youth violence at the earliest opportunity through our work with Custody Navigators and Turnaround Programmes and provide them with support.

5. To Focus on Reducing the number of school exclusions, improving school attendance, and providing opportunities for post 16 children.

We will:

- To continue to monitor school exclusion across the youth justice cohort.
- To work with education leaders to increase the capacity of alternative educational provision.
- To work with senior education leaders on strategy to increase school attendance.
- To work with Tees Valley Youth Trailblazer initiative to identify NEET children to provide support and work experience opportunities.
- Work with UK Youth to develop summer jobs project.

- Utilise Youth Justice child focused ETE meetings to raise concerns and find solutions around school attendance and exclusions.

6. To Continue to develop our Intervention programmes and our child friendly space.

We will:

- Develop our No Limits Hub and continue to work with our children to design the space.
- To explore a venue that would facilitate children's interest and creativity (arts, craft, and upcycling).
- Develop a range of resources on knife crime, peer influences and online safety.
- To deliver VR headset interventions.

National priority areas

Children from groups which are over-represented.

It is paramount Stockton-On-Tees YJT are aware of issues of disproportionality and take appropriate action. It is recognised that nationally children from some ethnic minority groups are more likely to be criminalized. We have continued to provide the Management Board with quarterly reports which document the ethnicity and diversity of the youth justice cohort.

The report compares information to the latest census data (2021) where Stockton's population in terms of ethnicity is 92% White, 4.6% Asian, 3.3% Other. Our current caseload consists of 95% white compared to 93% the previous year, which suggests a small over representation of this group. Although the numbers are relatively small, we are committed to continued scrutiny and analysis of data. We are not complacent about children facing discrimination and staff will use their professional curiosity to explore children's experience of racism. The YJB Ethnic Disparity tool 2025 has documented over representation is not statistically significant in Stockton. It does however state it is white children who are most likely to commit a serious offence and most likely to be sentenced at court rather than receive youth cautions or youth conditional cautions. In terms of gender the current caseload consists of 88% male and 13% female. This concurs with the national average of 85% male and 15% female. We also have a high percentage of children who are CIOC, Child Protection, Child in Need or Early Help. Over the last year this has ranged from 40-50% of children the YJT are working with.

Prevention

Our prevention offer mainly comes from our Youth Support Team. The team are responsible for direct work with children where there are risks or vulnerabilities. They also provide a dedicated response to children who go missing from home. Youth Support deliver interventions to prevent or reduce concerning behaviours that have been identified within the home or community, building social and emotional resilience. These are key parts of our work to prevent offending, safeguard children, identify risks and prevent further missing episodes.

All engagement with the Youth Support Team is voluntary and they prioritise face-to-face contact and direct work, taking full opportunity of any reachable moments presented between them and the child. All direct work is aimed to be individual to each child's needs, innovative and using evidence-based practice tools, which underpins our good practice and quality assurance framework.

Youth Support aims to reduce the need for statutory involvement by responding to the early indicators of concern and to prevent the need for social care intervention. Both YJT and Youth Support have close links with SBC Community Safety team who can identify children who are displaying anti-social behaviour in the community.

Diversion

Stockton-on-Tees YJT is committed to a diversionary approach in our work. We believe we should avoid unnecessary criminalisation of children and deal with them at the lowest possible level. The YJT are keen to ensure where there is a linked offence children receive an alternative outcome that does not result in a criminal record, avoids escalation into the formal youth justice system and associated stigmatisation. Our OOC framework has a range of disposals (Restorative Interventions, Outcome 22, Triage and Triage 2) that avoid children having a criminal record so we can, through assessment and intervention, help them form/maintain a pro-social identity. In the last 12 months we have had 112 children subject to one of the above and all children have been provided with an intervention. Only two children out of the 112 received either a Youth Caution or Youth Conditional Caution and became FTE's. This is compared to 13 out of 116 OOC the previous year. We have therefore embedded our diversionary principles into practice.

Education

Access to opportunities for ETE for the youth justice cohort is fundamental for their prospects. The YJT have developed individual child focused meetings to consider children who are not fulfilling their potential. Colleagues from Careers Services, SEND and Education Improvement attend these meetings. Many children have low self-esteem, poor educational attainment, low attendance and motivation, SALT and SEND needs. The YJT has had a dedicated ETE worker in place since October 2023 to provide specialist advice and support. Our SALT worker has undertaken numerous assessments on children and has completed reports giving clear advice to parents and schools/training providers about how best to communicate with the child and provide strategies to engage them in their education / training. All YJT staff now have access to Stockton's Education department database EYES, and this provides 'live' information on children's schools, attendance, and educational needs. Our current ETE performance is 71%. There is, however, a contrast between school age and post 16 of 86% to 43%. It is acknowledged our post 16 ETE rates remain a significant challenge. Our ETE worker continues to explore opportunities with local providers such as NACRO and Princess Trust. We have also identified several children who have applied for the summer jobs programme through UK Youth.

Restorative approaches and victims

The YJT has a dedicated Youth Justice Coordinator role, and this post has responsibility for restorative justice and victim intervention. Most victims are contacted and an offer of involvement in a restorative process is initiated. This offer includes direct mediation, ensuring the voice of the victim is heard, direct/indirect reparation and letters of apology/explanation. During the last year we have made progress in gaining good victim information. From July 2024 to March 2025, we have had 113 victim referrals. A total of 66 victims shared their views and experiences of crime. It is therefore positive 58% of victims contacted engaged in the process and their views were heard. A total of 40 victims have had updates on the child's engagement with the YJT. Another 12 victims have been provided with specialist support, for example, VCAS, domestic violence or mental health. The Youth Justice Coordinator in the last six months has undertaken 49 victim awareness sessions with 24 children. This has allowed the

victim's experience to be incorporated into this work. We have also built capacity as two support workers can now undertake victim and restorative work.

We have also developed a portfolio of reparation projects, for example, Family Hub and allotment projects. We have also focused on more themed projects such as white ribbon day to raises awareness about ending violence towards women and girls and VE celebrations.

Serious violence and exploitation

The link between the exploitation of children and serious organised crime gangs and the connections with the supply of drugs and serious violence is well understood in Stockton, as is the intrafamilial harm whereby family members of children are involved in OCG and serious violence. It was evident the partnership in Stockton continues to develop a coordinated response to criminal exploitation and youth violence. We have robust information sharing processes and forums in place across the partnership. Stockton has responded to concerns by strengthening its response and building on its Harm Outside the Home (HOTH) with a dedicated service area with the creation of the Adolescent Team in December 2023.

The Adolescent and HOTH teams sit in Children's Social Care. The Adolescent Team has at its core the safeguarding of children who are being exploited or at risk of exploitation. They will work with children from the age of 10-18 years of age who are likely to suffer harm from exploitation, although this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The Service can work with children for as long as necessary or whilst there is consent, with regular Child Protection or Child in Need reviews taking place between 4-6 weeks (depending on the risk) to assess the effectiveness of the plan. The Adolescent Team and YJT have formed close working arrangements and will co-ordinate appointments and interventions for children at risk.

We continue to work in close partnership with Police, Health, Community Safety, Police Custody Navigators, health navigator from hospitals, Virtual School, and Youth Support (who co-ordinate our response to children Missing From Home).

In bringing together the knowledge, expertise and resources of all partners, the team can share information swiftly, create a full picture of risk and need and provide a creative and effective response that is always guided by the needs and wishes of the individual child, young person, and their family. A morning meeting is held each day where nominated staff from the Police, Adolescent Team, HOTH, YJT and Youth Support discuss 'live' cases, share information and coordinate a multi-agency response.

This is underpinned by our core principles which are: youth voice and experience, development and transitions in their lives, intervene early and help prevent further harm, intervention, disruption and information sharing and data analysis.

The HOTH arrangements provide assessment and risk management responses to those persons and locations where exploitation harm is present for children. Persons and locations of concern are managed in partnership through the Community Safety led Joint Action Group and Police led MARSOC management of which YJT are partners. As such, the partnership is

collectively responsive to support disruption of the contextual risks for children at risk of exploitation harm. In addition, there is the oversight of National Referral Mechanism (NRM) submissions through the Tees Strategic Exploitation Group (TSEG), as YJT work in partnership with HOTH and Adolescent Team to ensure appropriate referrals are made, and information is shared to support identification of children at risk of Modern Slavery and Trafficking.

The YJS partnership facilitates the seamless transfer of information on risk and vulnerabilities across a range of forums which include, the strategic HOTH Meetings, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). We continue to work closely with CURV, and the funded custody navigators scheme provides a holistic approach in engaging and intervening with children at the earliest opportunity.

We recognise serious youth violence and exploitation continues to be a significant challenge for Stockton. The YJB data on serious violence published in April 2025 showed an increase in the rate of serious youth violence in the year ending December 2024 with 14 offences compared to the previous year of 12. Stockton's rate of 6.6 is higher than other comparisons, for example, Northeast 4.8 and England and Wales 6.2.

Detention in police custody

We have established arrangements in place for children detained in custody. Youth Support Team provides an Appropriate Adult (AA) service during office hours 9 -5 and the Emergency Duty Team provide an after-hours service. All staff undertaking AA work have been PACE trained. Staff will work with the Police to facilitate that a parent/carer will attend in the first instance. If this is not possible, we will act as AA and ensure the child understands the process and any interview is conducted fairly. Furthermore, we will provide updates to parents/carers and relevant professionals.

Cleveland Youth Justice Services continue to hold a monthly Children in Custody meeting. This is aligned with a business priority for the YJB to ensure custody is used appropriately. The meeting is attended by the Police, Emergency Duty Team and Custody Team. We focus on all children who were held for more than 12 hours. Stockton on average has 10 – 12 cases each month which meet this criterion. The meeting looks for assurance that these children have support in place. We have found in most cases the reason children are held for over 12 hours is because a 'live' investigation is ongoing, or the child is not fit for interview due to intoxication. We have also had an agreement in place with Aycliffe Secure Home where they will provide a PACE bed if one is available. Over the last 12 months we have had four children who were placed in a PACE bed before attending court the following day.

In partnership with CURV, Hartlepool and South Tees YJT we launched a Custody Navigator scheme in April 2023. The scheme has been further funded for 2025/26 and trained staff available six days a week to support children in custody. Good communication channels are in place, so information is shared across partners in a timely fashion, so children's needs are addressed.

Remands

The YJB National Standards validation visit in January 2024 felt our work in this area was outstanding. In the last 18 months we have reviewed our bail and remand policy, and this has formed part of an effective practice session with staff. The YJT provides a trained and specialist

Youth Justice Officer to attend each day, if required. We have an extensive range of bail packages available to the Court including Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS). Good partnership relationships are in place with Police, CPS, defence solicitors, Children Services, and others. We work closely with Children Services, so appropriate support is provided if children have any accommodation issues. We have had high numbers of children appearing before Court who were at risk of being remanded in Custody. Over the past year we have had two children who have been remanded to custody. These were for serious offences which include Murder and Section 18 Wounding offences. However, within this period the YJT have provided robust bail packages to the Court which included the use of Bail Supervision and Support (BSS) and ISS. We have had 12 children subject to bail packages where either a remand or extensive bail conditions have been actively pursued by the CPS.

The Ministry of Justice issued the Remand Concordat in February 2025 for Youth Justice Partnerships to improve the outcomes of children on remand. The document was discussed at our Management Board meeting April 2025. We have also held a partnership benchmarking exercise with the Police and Children Services. Consequently, we have formulated an action plan which includes meeting more regularly with the Courts and CPS to discuss relevant issues.

Use of custody

In last year's plan we had proposed how to reduce the use of custody in Stockton-on-Tees. We developed clear mechanisms which included, holding a pre-sentence meeting in all possible custody cases to ensure comprehensive community sentences were recommended to the court. In appropriate cases we have proposed ISS and the use of electronic monitoring. Our custody rate is currently at 0.28 which is higher than all other comparisons. The figure currently relates to six custodial sentences. All the custodial sentences relate to serious violent offences. The feedback from the YJB validation visit said Stockton-On-Tees YJT are 'making every effort to steer children away from custody.' We recognise that two children received two custodial sentences in a short period. However, the children were remanded at the time of the first custodial sentence and the Court wanted to progress matters.

Constructive resettlement

Over the last 12 months Stockton-on-Tees YJT has continued to focus attention on resettlement. We have considered the learning from HMI Probation thematic report into resettlement in 2019 and Case Management Guidance – Custody and Resettlement and YJB – How to Make Resettlement Constructive (Sept 2018). We recognised the importance of appropriate accommodation and ETE intervention on release to build a positive identity for the child. Since our last Youth Justice plan, we have had three children released from custody. Two children returned home to live with their family, and one was found a suitable placement. Our YJT ETE worker has provided specialist support to explore suitable options. Our CAHMS worker has also provided seamless support by liaising with health professionals in custody to ensure appropriate appointments were made for their return to the community. We have also ensured we have a range of personal development sessions in place, and this can range from cooking to going to the gym. We have also embedded bi-monthly resettlement discussions between the Team Manager and Youth Justice Officers for each resettlement case. The meetings are designed to provide an update on the plan and to overcome any potential barriers to effective resettlement.

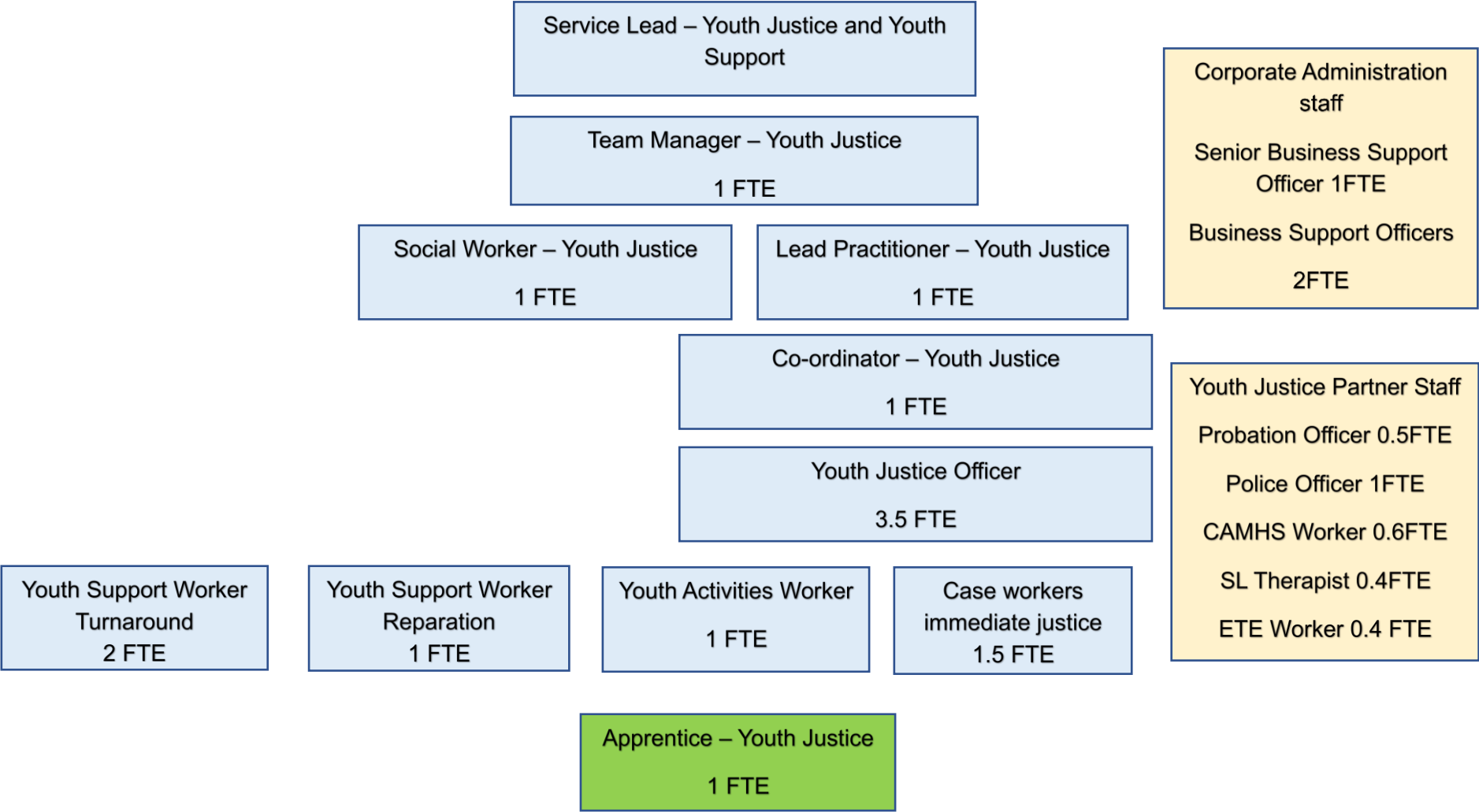
Standards for children in the justice system

The last YJB National Standards self-assessment was on standard two - At Court. The self-assessment determined our strategy as good and reports and process as outstanding. The YJB selected Stockton-On-Tees YJT for a validation visit. The YJB rated our work at court as outstanding across strategy, reports and process. They remarked, 'Outstanding practice is evidenced.' The YJB said in terms of an area of development Stockton needed to work with partners to re-establish a court user group. Consequently, we have achieved this although we still have an issue with the frequency of meetings. There was no requirement for a National Standards self-assessment for 2024-25. As the YJT have moved to Early Help, Youth Justice and Youth Support we have adopted the Service area approach to audit. This includes themed and collaborative audits. The latter cover key areas of work such as assessment, planning, intervention, and voice of the child. We anticipate undertaking 15 youth justice audits each year and we will aggregate our findings to continually develop and improve youth justice practice.

Appendix 1A: Staffing Demographics

Youth Justice Team staff demographics		
GENDER	Female	17
	Male	4
	Other	0
ETHNICITY	White	95.2%
	Asian	04.8%
	Black	0%
	Mixed	0%
	Other	0%
DISABILITY	YES	0
	NO	21

Appendix 1B: Youth Justice Team structure chart



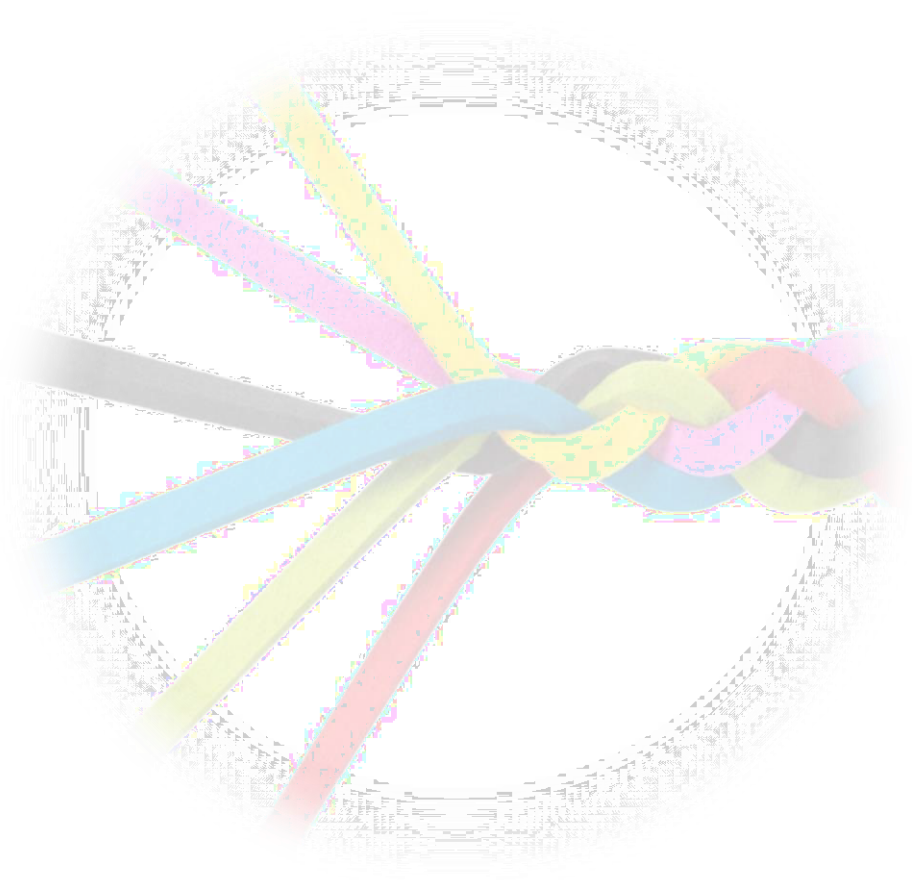
Appendix 2: Budget Costs and Contributions

Below is a summary of the YJT's financial profile for 2023-24. As in previous years, the majority of expenditure was on staffing costs.

BUDGET 2024/25	budget	outturn 2024/2025	outturn variance
Staff	832,086	832,086	0
Premises	42,778	42,778	0
Professional Services	31,500	31,500	
Indirect Staffing Costs (Transport & Training)	12,000	12,000	0
Office Costs	33,420	33,420	0
Central recharges	53,000	53,000	0
Total Expenditure	1,004,784	1,004,784	0
Income	1,004,784	1,004,784	0
Net Expenditure	0	0	0

Glossary

AssetPlus	A strengths based structured assessment tool based on research and developed by the Youth Justice Board looking at the child or young person's offence, personal circumstances and factors affecting desistance from crime
Child Exploitation	Safeguarding activity which focuses 'beyond the child's home and families,' to target those adults who are exploiting (targeting, tricking, and coercing) children for their own purposes and needs.
CURV	Cleveland's Unit for Reduction of Violence
ETAC	Exploitation Team Around the child.
ETE	Education, training, and employment; work to improve educational and learning outcomes
FTE	First-time entrants to the criminal justice system
HOTH	Harm Outside The Home
HMIP	HM Inspectorate of Probation
Justice System	Involves any or all of the agencies involved in upholding and implementing the law: police, courts, youth justice, probation, and custody providers.
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
OPCC	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Pathways	The new YOT case management system
PDAT	Prevention and Diversion Assessment Tool
Restorative Justice	The use of restorative approaches within a justice context. Brings those harmed by crime (victims) and those responsible for the harm (the offender) into communication, with a view to repairing the harm caused
Safety & Wellbeing	Terminology introduced by the YJB / AssetPlus to describe potential adverse outcomes where concerns exist that the young person's safety and well-being may be compromised through their own behaviour, personal circumstances or because of the acts / omissions of others
Safeguarding	Action taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm
YJB	Youth Justice Board
YJT	Youth Justice Team



For more information on this Plan, please contact the Youth Justice Team

youthjusticeadmin@stockton.gov.uk

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

24 SEPTEMBER 2025

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Health and Wellbeing Board: Revised Terms of Reference

SUMMARY

Since spring 2024, alongside developing the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Board has undertaken a structured development programme to review its purpose, role, responsibilities, and effectiveness. This process generated a set of recommendations which have directly informed the revised Terms of Reference for the Board.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

The review and subsequent revision of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Terms of Reference were undertaken to ensure the Board remains fit for purpose and effective, with a clear role and defined responsibilities to oversee and drive delivery of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve and adopt the revised Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

DETAIL

1. The review of the Health and Wellbeing Board generated a series of recommendations across four key thematic areas:
 - The Board's purpose, role and responsibilities
 - Strategy development, priority setting and agenda planning
 - Membership and representation
 - Ways of working, partnership culture and support arrangements
2. These recommendations have directly shaped the revised ToR for the Health and Wellbeing Board. The updated ToR incorporate the following key changes:
 - **Reaffirmation of the Board's role:** While the Health and Wellbeing Board remains a formal statutory committee, it will operate primarily as a **strategic partnership**.
 - **Clarification of purpose:** The Board is not an executive decision-making body, nor does it function as a scrutiny committee.
 - **Streamlined membership:** The number of elected members has been reduced to support a more focused, partnership-led model. The new composition of elected members:
 - Leader of the Council

- Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
- Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
- Shadow Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
- Shadow Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

- **Introduction of a Vice Chair:** A new Vice Chair role, nominated from a partner organisation, has been created to promote shared leadership across the system.
- **Expanded membership:** The Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth has been added to the Board, strengthening the Board's focus on the wider determinants of health.
- **Place-based focus:** Greater emphasis is placed on developing a strong sense of place and a shared identity across the partnership.
- **Clarity of remit:** The Board's statutory functions and responsibilities are clearly articulated.
- **Defined relationship with other governance structures:** The revised Terms clarify the Board's distinct role in relation to other local groups, partnerships, and committees.
- **Strategic alignment:** The Board will actively support the alignment of local strategies, reduce duplication, and drive greater system integration.
- **Shared ways of working:** A common set of expectations has been agreed to underpin collaborative working and effective partnership behaviors.

3. Cabinet will consider this matter on 18 September 2025.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

4. A specific community impact assessment was not undertaken. However, the community impact has been incorporated into the development process of this new revised TOR.
5. The revision of the Health and Wellbeing Board's ToR presents an opportunity to sharpen the Board's focus, enhance clarity of purpose, and increase its effectiveness in improving population health and reducing health inequalities. The updated ToR is designed to strengthen collaboration across system partners, ensure greater strategic alignment, and reaffirm the Board's leadership role in addressing health inequalities and the wider determinants of health.
6. In addition, the revised ToR aims to create space to embed a stronger community voice and improve representation, while also enhancing transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to local needs and priorities.
7. The revision of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Terms of Reference has been undertaken in parallel with the development of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, ensuring consistency between the two and incorporating consideration of the anticipated positive impacts for the residents of Stockton.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

8. The revision of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Terms of Reference does not directly address corporate parenting. However, the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which the Board is responsible for driving forward, includes corporate parenting as a priority commitment area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. In developing the revised Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board, legal implications have been considered to ensure compliance with relevant legislation. Statutory membership and functions have been maintained, and the revisions uphold transparency and accountability requirements.

RISK ASSESSMENT

10. This revised Health and Wellbeing Board TOR is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

11. The revised Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board will have a borough-wide impact across Stockton-on-Tees. Their development was informed by a series of workshops involving all current members of the Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

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Stockton-on-Tees Health and Wellbeing Board

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Stockton-on-Tees Health and Wellbeing Board serves as the principal and statutory **strategic partnership** for improving health and wellbeing and tackling inequalities across the borough. It brings together senior leaders from health, social care, public health, the voluntary and community sector, and wider partners to provide collective leadership, support integrated working, and oversee the implementation of priorities set out in the joint health and wellbeing strategy. The Board plays a vital role in strengthening collaboration across the system and ensuring that local population needs and resident priorities inform the design and delivery of services.

2. Objectives

The Stockton-on-Tees Health and Wellbeing Board will:

2.1 Develop and maintain a joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA)

Maintain a robust, evidence-informed understanding of the current and future health, care, and wellbeing needs of the local population, including wider determinants, health inequalities, and system pressures, to inform shared priorities and guide the development and delivery of the joint health and wellbeing strategy.

2.2 Develop and drive delivery of the joint health and wellbeing strategy (JHWS)

- To create a shared strategic vision and a set of evidence-informed priorities to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities in Stockton-on-Tees. The JHWS will serve as the overarching framework for coordinated system-wide action, co-produced with partners and communities, and will guide the planning, commissioning, and delivery of services across the local health and care system.
- To provide strategic oversight of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) implementation through the establishment of a robust monitoring and accountability framework. This framework will drive delivery, track progress, and support continuous improvement. It will include a high-level action plan reviewed annually, a programme of in-year review sessions, and an outcomes dashboard to monitor progress against the strategy's key outcomes.
- To identify and commit to a limited number of key priority areas within the joint health and wellbeing strategy (JHWS) for which the Board will take a proactive role; to drive action and champion system-wide advocacy in support of the delivering on the objectives.

2.3 Approve the local Better Care Fund (BCF) plan

Ensure that the local BCF plan aligns with the JHWS, reflects local priorities around prevention, integration, and reducing inequalities, and provide formal approval of the plan.

2.4 Align strategic plans and resources

Provide strategic influence over partners' commissioning intentions and plans to ensure alignment with agreed local priorities. Ensure that services and investments are guided by population needs, evidence-based practice, and avoid duplication.

2.5 Promote a 'Health in All Policies' approach

Embed health and wellbeing considerations across all local policy, decision-making, and service planning, recognizing the impact of social, economic, and environmental factors on health and wellbeing outcomes.

2.6 Champion Prevention and Early Intervention

Promote a proactive focus on prevention by supporting strategies and interventions that address the root causes of poor health outcomes, improve quality of life, and reduce reliance on reactive and crisis services.

2.7 Engage and Involve Residents and Communities

Champion the voice of residents by embedding lived experience, community insight, and co-production into the planning, commissioning, and evaluation of services, strategies and plans.

2.9 Inform and Influence NHS Commissioning Plans

Work collaboratively with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to shape and inform the development and review of NHS commissioning plans, ensuring alignment with the joint health and wellbeing strategy and responsiveness to local needs.

2.10 Assess Pharmaceutical Needs

Oversee the production and regular updating of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA), which informs the commissioning of local pharmaceutical services.

3. Membership and chair arrangements

3.1 Membership

Membership of the Board reflects its role as a strategic partnership, bringing together senior leaders from a wide range of organisations to provide collective leadership on health and wellbeing. The Board will include representation from all relevant statutory partners, alongside key local stakeholders whose contributions are essential to improving population health, reducing inequalities, and delivering the priorities set out in the Stockton-on-Tees joint health and wellbeing strategy.

The composition of the membership will be kept under regular review to ensure it remains inclusive, representative, and aligned with the strategic aims of the Board and the evolving priorities of the JHWS.

The core membership includes senior representation from the following organisations:

- **Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (elected members and officers)**

- **Elected members:**

- Leader of the Council
 - Cabinet Member for health and adult social care
 - Cabinet Member for children and young people
 - Shadow Cabinet Member for Health and adult social care
 - Shadow Cabinet Member for children and young people

- **Officers:**

- Director of Public Health
 - Director of Children's Services
 - Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing
 - Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth

- **Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**
- **Hartlepool and Stockton Health (HASH)**
- **Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees**
- **Catalyst Stockton-on-Tees**
- **Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner**
- **North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust**
- **Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust**

The Board may invite individuals or representatives of organisations, either on a temporary or standing basis, to provide specific expertise, representation, or insight in relation to specific agenda items or priority areas within the JHWS.

3.2 Chair arrangements

The Health and Wellbeing Board is chaired by the **Leader of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council**. The Chair leads the Health and Wellbeing Board, ensuring it operates effectively as a strategic partnership to fulfil its statutory duties and drives delivery of the joint health and wellbeing strategy. They facilitate inclusive and effective meetings, promote collaborative decision-making, and act as an advocate for system-wide action to improve health and reduce inequalities across the borough.

A Vice-Chair will be nominated by the Board and must be a representative from a partner organisation other than Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The appointment will be confirmed by consensus of Board members. The Vice-Chair will support the Chair in their duties and act in their absence to ensure continuity of leadership. The Vice-Chair appointment will be reviewed annually. In the event of the resignation of the Vice Chair, the Board shall appoint a successor at the earliest meeting following the vacancy.

3.3 Substitutes

Board members will nominate a **named** substitute to attend meetings on their behalf when they are unable to do so. Substitutes must be senior and authorised to act and make decisions on behalf of the organisation they represent. Substitutes for Elected Members must also be Elected Members of the local authority.

Except for the Chair and Vice Chair, substitutes attending meetings shall carry the full rights and responsibilities of the member they represent, including voting rights where applicable. Substitutes for the Chair or Vice Chair shall retain voting rights but shall not undertake the full duties of those roles.

The use of substitutes should be **by exception** and limited to ensure continuity and consistency of representation across the Board.

3.4 Members commitments

All members are expected to contribute constructively to a culture of trust, mutual respect and shared purpose, supporting the Board in operating as an effective strategic partnership. Members agree to:

- **Prioritise attendance** at Board meetings and contribute actively to discussions, decision-making, and the delivery of agreed actions.
- **Act as senior representatives** of their organisations, with the authority to commit to partnership priorities and influence strategic direction.
- **Support collective leadership** and system-wide thinking in the interests of improving population health and reducing inequalities across Stockton-on-Tees.
- **Promote collaboration and integration** within and across organisations, and support alignment with the Stockton-on-Tees joint health and wellbeing strategy.
- **Communicate and cascade relevant information** within their organisations and ensure follow-through on Board decisions and commitments.

4. Governance and Accountability

The Health and Wellbeing Board is a statutory committee of the local authority, established under Section 194 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Functionally, it will operate as a **strategic partnership**, bringing together senior leaders to drive collaborative action on shared priorities within the joint health and wellbeing strategy.

The Board is not an executive body and does not hold direct commissioning responsibilities. However, it plays a vital strategic leadership role, shaping and influencing decisions on health, care, and wellbeing spending to ensure alignment with local needs and the priorities set out in the joint health and wellbeing strategy.

The Board is not a scrutiny or regulatory body. Its purpose is to set strategic direction, promote collaboration, and support system-wide improvements. In contrast, scrutiny committees provide independent oversight, examine decisions, and promote accountability and transparency. The Health and Wellbeing Board will maintain a constructive working relationship with relevant scrutiny committees to support shared learning, complementarity, and alignment across the system.

While the Board does not have executive authority over partner organisations, all members are expected to:

- Commit to and support collective decision-making
- Act as ambassadors for the Board's agreed priorities
- Promote alignment within their own organisations
- Ensure delivery through their respective governance and accountability structures

5. Place within the local governance landscape

The Health and Wellbeing Board sits within the wider local governance landscape as a system-level partnership, providing strategic oversight and direction across health, care, and wellbeing. It informs and aligns the work of related statutory and partnership bodies, ensuring that plans, commissioning activity, and delivery across the system are shaped by shared priorities and a robust understanding of local population needs, as set out in the JSNA and joint health and wellbeing strategy.

The Health and Wellbeing Board maintains a strategic interface with the Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS), specifically through the ICB and any place-based partnership operating in Stockton. The Board will collaborate with ICS structures to ensure place-based priorities influence system-level decisions, and that ICS delivery is locally responsive.

6. Meetings and ways of working

6.1 Quorum

A meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board shall be considered quorate when at least 50% of the total membership is in attendance, including a minimum of three representatives from partner organisations.

If the meeting is not quorate, discussions may proceed informally, but **no formal decisions** shall be made until a quorate meeting is convened.

6.2 Decision-Making

The Board operates on a principle of **consensus decision-making**. Where consensus cannot be reached, the Chair may call for a vote. In such instances:

- Each member present will have **one vote**.
- Decisions will be determined by a **simple majority** of those present and eligible to vote.
- In the event of a tie, the **Chair shall have the casting vote**.

6.3 Frequency and Format of Meetings

The Board will hold **quarterly public meetings**. Additional **closed or informal sessions** may be convened, where appropriate, to support the development of strategic priorities, organizational development or conduct confidential discussions.

Agendas and supporting papers will be circulated to all members at least five clear working days in advance of each meeting.

All reports and documents submitted to the Board should be:

- Clear and concise, avoiding unnecessary jargon.
- Accompanied by an executive summary that outlines key issues, recommendations, and actions required.
- Prepared in a way that facilitates informed discussion and effective decision-making.

7. Sub-working groups and working arrangements

To support the delivery of the joint health and wellbeing strategy and the Board's objectives, the Board will establish sub-groups or task and finish working groups focused on specific priority areas. These groups will:

- Operate under clear terms of reference approved by the Board.
- Be time-limited or standing, depending on the scope and nature of their work.
- Report to the Board, through the agreed monitoring and accountability framework for the delivery of the JHWS.

Each sub-working group will be accountable to the Board for its activities and outputs. The Board will maintain oversight of these groups to ensure coherence, avoid duplication, and support a joined-up approach.

8. Review of Terms of Reference

- The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an **annual basis** to ensure they remain current and fit for purpose in line with evolving legislation, local priorities, and organisational arrangements.
- Any proposed changes to the Terms of Reference will be subject to agreement by the Health and Wellbeing Board and formal approval and adoption by Cabinet and full Council.
- The Board will also undertake periodic reviews of its effectiveness, including membership, governance arrangements, and delivery against its strategic objectives, to identify areas for improvement.

COUNCIL – 24 SEPTEMBER 2024
MOTIONS TO COUNCIL

MOTION 1
<p>Motion submitted by Cllr Ted Strike, to be seconded by Cllr Tony Riordan:-</p> <p>“Council welcomes the Leader’s recent announcement confirming that the Shambles will continue to be used for its existing small businesses, and that Cabinet will bring forward plans to further support local independent retailers in the town centre.</p> <p>Council further notes the historical and cultural significance of the Shambles. Built in 1825 as a covered market hall, the Grade II listed building stands immediately south of the Town Hall and Market Cross at the heart of Stockton High Street. With its Flemish bond brickwork, arched windows and decorative cornice inscribed “Erected A.D. 1825, John Wilkinson Esq Mayor”, the Shambles has for two centuries provided a distinctive civic and commercial landmark for the town centre. This year we rightly celebrate Stockton’s historic role as the birthplace of the railways, but we should also not forget our other cultural assets of equal age, such as the Shambles, which continue to play an important role in the identity and vitality of the town centre.</p> <p>Council recognises that maintaining accessible and high-quality facilities within the building is important both for the businesses who trade there and for the visitors who generate essential footfall in the heart of the town centre.</p> <p>Council therefore requests that Cabinet gives further consideration to whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• refurbishment and upgrading of the existing toilets within the Shambles could provide a more effective solution than the development of a separate new facility in Waterfront Park; and• investment in the Shambles building itself could be prioritised to strengthen its role as a central part of the town centre offer.” <p>Received 13 September 2025 9:12</p>

MOTION 2

Motion submitted by Cllr Niall Innes, to be seconded by Cllr Tony Riordan:-

“Council notes that:

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, filming, photographing and making an audio recording of all public meetings is permitted. Council meetings are public meetings. Elected representatives and council officers acting in the public sphere should expect to be held to account for their comments and votes in such meetings. The rules require councils to provide reasonable facilities for any member of the public to report on meetings. Councils should thus allow the filming of councillors and officers at meetings that are open to the public.

Stockton Council has spent £9000.86 of public money on the installation of 2 Cameras in the council chamber.

Council believes that:

In the interest of transparency and openness, the council should ensure that its public meetings, which includes Committee Meeting’s, Cabinet and Full Council should be fully recorded and where possible live streamed to allow our residents to fully engage in local democracy.

The cost associated with the installation of the cameras can only be justified, if they are there to aid residents in viewing proceedings. Furthermore, the recording of proceedings will ensure an accurate account to be taken of the meeting and assist with accurate minutes.

Council resolves:

- That all Council meetings held in the Council Chamber that are open to the public, specifically Full Council, should be recorded and livestreamed;
- That Cabinet be requested to ensure that Cabinet meetings held in the Council Chamber are both recorded and livestreamed;

on the Council’s website, to provide the greatest level of accessibility and inclusivity for residents.”

Received 14 September 2025 16:27

MOTION 3

Motion submitted by Cllr Niall Innes, to be seconded by Cllr Tony Riordan:-

“Council notes that:

Government Guidance on the flying of the Union Flag, put forward by Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and updated in March 2025 dictates that ‘There are designated days when the Union Flag must be flown on UK government buildings by command of His Majesty The King. However, UK government buildings **are encouraged to fly the Union Flag all year around.**

This guidance is aimed at UK government buildings. However, we would encourage local authorities and other local organisations to follow suit where they wish to fly flags’.

Council believes that:

Following the guidance put forward by Government, our National Flag should fly from Council Premises.

Council resolves:

That Cabinet be requested to fly the Union Flag all year round on all Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council office premises.”

Received 14 September 2025 16:27

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COUNCIL – 24 SEPTEMBER 2025
MEMBER QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1
<p>Member Question submitted by Cllr Jack Miller:-</p> <p>“Following the recent and damning investigation report by the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman in which this council was found to have sent nearly 100 mendacious letters to the families of vulnerable children, saying review meetings regarding their Educational, Health and Care Plans had taken place, when the council were aware that they had not, the Ombudsman made several recommendations, one of which was,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council should consider the report at its full Council, Cabinet or other appropriately delegated committee of elected members and we will require evidence of this. <p>Why did the leader decide that the report should be considered by the Cabinet, rather than the full Council?”</p> <p>Received 14 September 2025 16:27</p>

QUESTION 2

Member Question submitted by Cllr Tony Riordan:-

“Stockton Globe Theatre recently installed a retractable floor. The revolutionary new flooring allows the auditorium to seamlessly transform from traditional tiered seating to a completely flat space, opening up possibilities for even more live experiences such as seated gala dinners and conferences.

Can the Leader confirm that the new retractable flooring system was not funded by the local taxpayer?”

Received 14 September 2025 16:27

QUESTION 3

Member Question submitted by Cllr Niall Innes:-

“At 3.51pm on Wednesday 10th September 2025 the Leader of the Council emailed the traders in The Shambles to inform them that the building will not be repurposing the building. At 4pm the same day the Leader of the Council issued a press release on the Councils Facebook page along the same lines.

Once again members have had to discover the decisions made by the present Labour Cabinet via social media.

Does the Leader of the think this is now the appropriate method to keep members updated of their decision making?”

Received 14 September 2025 16:27

QUESTION 4

Member Question submitted by Cllr Tony Riordan:-

“In September last year the then Council Leader, stated that “productive discussions with potential tenants” for were ongoing for the £500k plus Debenhams building the Council had purchased. In November, the Cabinet member for Regeneration and Housing informed members “I can inform council tonight that the council is in advanced negotiations with a potential tenant for the rear portion of the ground floor of the building...”

Can the Leader of the Council confirm members that this is now not the case, and what is the net cost to date for the local taxpayer?”

Received 14 September 2025 16:27

QUESTION 5

Member Question submitted by Cllr Marcus Vickers:-

“In 2019 the Cabinet member for Housing and Regeneration said “Whilst owning Wellington Square will actually make us money that’s not why we’re doing it. The financial performance for the Wellington Square for 24/25 was an overspend of £353,000 against the allocated budget.

Does the Leader of the Council acknowledge that the Labour Groups folly of buying up retail units in Stockton Town Centre using local taxpayers’ money has failed?”

Received 14 September 2025 16:27

QUESTION 6

Member Question submitted by Cllr Jason French:-

“Following the previous Conservative Governments’ financial support for our fantastic Borough, in particular the millions of pounds provided through levelling up funding to build the museum extension and café at Preston Hall, which have recently opened to the public.

Can the Leader of the Council provide the details of the consultation that took place with members to decide on naming the extension and café as ‘The Spence Building’ and ‘The Spence Café?’

Received 14 September 2025 16:27

QUESTION 7

Member Question submitted by Cllr Nathan Gale:-

"Could the cabinet member tell us more about the 20 million boost for our communities in Stockton and Portrack announced by the government?"

Received 14 September 2025 17:47

QUESTION 8

Member Question submitted by Cllr Paul Weston:-

"Could the cabinet member update us on the recent exciting news that Stockton has been named as one of the national health implementation vanguard programme areas?"

Received 14 September 2025 19:46