Stockton-on-Tees BOROUGH COUNCIL
www.stockton.gov.uk

Cabinet

Agenda

Date:
Thursday 18 June 2026 at 5.00 pm

Venue:
Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive, Thornaby, TS17 6BJ

Cllr Lisa Evans (Leader of the Council)

Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Clare Besford, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Paul Rowling and Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE

Agenda

1. Live Streaming

This meeting will be filmed for live and / or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items, and the footage will be on the website for 12 months. A copy of it will also be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

If you attend and make a representation to the meeting, you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed. When admitted to the Council Chamber you are also consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for livestreaming and / or training purposes. If you do not wish to have your image captured, please contact Democratic Services prior to attending the meeting.

If there are any technical difficulties with the livestreaming, the meeting will still proceed.

2. Evacuation Procedure (Pages 7 - 10)

3. Apologies for Absence

4. Declarations of Interest

5. Minutes (Pages 11 - 28)

Cllr Clare Besford - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

6. Scrutiny Review of Children Not in School (Pages 29 - 62)

Cllr Richard Eglington - Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport

Cllr Clare Besford - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

7. Procurement of Temporary and Supported Accommodation Contracts(Pages 63 - 74)

Cllr Paul Rowling - Cabinet Member for Resources and Regeneration

8. Minutes of Various Bodies (Pages 75 - 102)

Cllr Pauline Beall - Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care

9. Powering our Future: Supporting People to Live Independently (Phase 2) (Pages 103 - 108)

Ged Morton
Director of Corporate Services
Wednesday 10 June 2026

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 Officer, Peter Bell on email peter.bell@stockton.gov.uk

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Key – Declarable interests are :-

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

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance

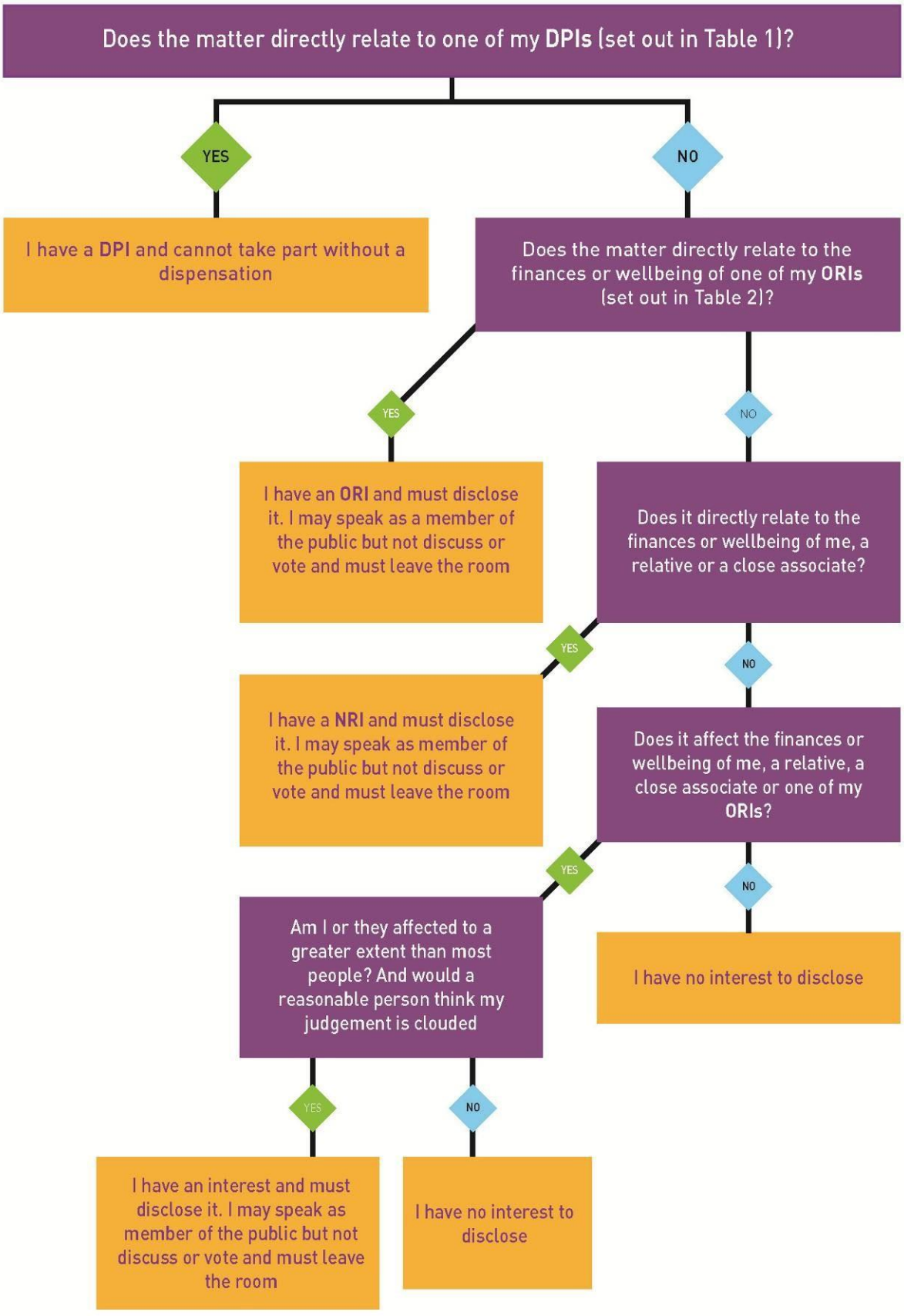

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Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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.

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Table 2 – Other Registerable 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

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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Cabinet

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday 14th May 2026.

Present: Cllr Lisa Evans (Leader of the Council), Cllr Pauline Beall (Cabinet Member), Cllr Clare Besford (Cabinet Member), Cllr Nigel Cooke (Cabinet Member), Cllr Richard Eglington (Cabinet Member), Cllr Paul Rowling (Cabinet Member) and Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Cabinet Member).

Officers: Ged Morton, Peter Bell, Sarah Bowman-Abouna, Julie Butcher, Angela Connor, Tara Connor, Jane Edmends, Simon Grundy, Majella McCarthy, Neil Mitchell, Iain Robinson and Marc Stephenson

Also in attendance: Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Stephen Dodds, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Niall Innes and Cllr Sylvia Walmsley.

Apologies: None.

CAB/129/25 Live Streaming

The Chair announced to those present that the meeting would be live streamed.

CAB/130/25 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

CAB/131/25 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CAB/132/25 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2026.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

CAB/133/25 Place Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Governance of Capital Projects

Consideration was given to a report that presented the outcomes of the Place Select Committee's review of Capital Projects.

The Council had a large-scale programme of capital projects to ensure that it was providing quality facilities for residents, attracting investment, and making Stockton-on-Tees a great place to live, work, and visit. The review aimed to examine the processes, including governance and decision-making structures, in delivering major capital projects and identify if these could be improved thereby ensuring that they provided value for money as well as having a social value and be effective in place shaping of the Borough.

The governance arrangements had been in place since November 2024, and the Committee found that these provided a solid foundation for delivering projects that benefit residents, support regeneration, and met the strategic ambitions of the Borough. The review highlighted a strong appetite to strengthen member engagement and the importance of learning from experience. The need to ensure sufficient skills and capacity to deliver the programme was also highlighted and Members were made aware of the development of the Council's workforce "People Plan". Recommendations therefore focused on communication, including strengthening the communication of risk and sharing of lessons learnt, and ensuring workforce capability, to further improve delivery.

The Committee had taken evidence from the Assistant Director of Town Centre Development, the Highways, Transport and Design Manager, the Strategic Finance Manager, the Capital Programme Manager, the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth, and the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The level of financial delegation given to officers in relation to capital projects be reviewed and any potential changes be taken through Cabinet and Council.

2. When making a decision Cabinet receive information that addresses the following:

- option appraisal
- public and stakeholder consultation and engagement
- benefit identification
- risk management
- financial delegations
- lessons learned from previous projects where appropriate

3. Member information for and engagement of the capital programme is strengthened by:

- Providing regular and consistent updates to members via Cabinet/Member briefings showing progress against approved programme.
- Including training for members on capital programme governance and funding frameworks within the Member Induction.
- Refreshing the Council's Concordat for Communication and Consultation with Councillors to include the flow of information on the progress of capital projects particularly to relevant Ward Members.

4. Consideration be given within the ongoing development of the Council's People Plan of the need to ensure sufficient workforce capacity and skills to support the capital programme.

5. Officers provide a report on the effectiveness of the governance structure to the Select Committee in January 2027, when further projects have been through the process.

CAB/134/25 Powering our Future - Transformation Reviews Update

Consideration was given to a report that gave an update on the Powering our Future - Transformation Reviews.

The Council's Powering Our Future Programme provided a framework to modernise ways of working, focused on improving outcomes for residents, whilst ensuring the Council remained financially sustainable and resilient in the context of rising demand, budget pressures and increasing complexity. Powering Our Future included a Transformation Mission, and a series of reviews that sought to maximise use of resources, whilst continuing to support strong, inclusive and resilient communities across the Borough. Phase 1 of Transformation activity had already identified £9.9m of savings, and a number of key projects were in delivery.

The budget report to Council in February highlighted ongoing financial pressures arising from demand pressures and rising costs across several services, particularly Children's and Adults' Social Care, Home to School Transport and support for children with special educational needs. Demand was growing in both volume and complexity, while funding was not keeping pace with cost pressures, resulting in an estimated budget gap of £6.7m in 2026/27, rising to £13.8m in 2027/28 and £18.4m in 2028/29.

To address this, a second Phase of Transformation Reviews were introduced focused on day to day efficiencies, council wide initiatives and outcome based service reviews. The report provided Cabinet with an update on progress, and the contribution of activity towards closing the Medium Term Financial Plan budget gap. It focused primarily on Efficiency Reviews, where savings were front-loaded. Separate reports wiould be brought to Cabinet on the detail of Outcome-based Reviews as part of a planned approach and key milestones that ensured robust options and impact analysis.

RESOLVED that the progress of reviews to date and the activity towards closing the budget gap across the Medium Term Financial Plan be noted.

CAB/135/25 Yarm Levelling Up Fund (LUF)

Consideration was given to a report on Yarm Levelling Up Fund (LUF).

The report enabled Cabinet to reconsider its decision relating to the Yarm Levelling Up Fund (LUF) public realm proposals following a call in and subsequent consideration by the Executive Scrutiny Committee.

The call in forms part of the Council's constitutional arrangements for scrutiny of executive decision making and enables an executive decision to be paused and reconsidered where concerns were raised about the decision-making process.

On 22 April 2026, the Executive Scrutiny Committee considered the call in and resolved to refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration, having identified matters relating to the clarity and presentation of the decision-making process that Cabinet was asked to have regard to.

The original Cabinet report and decision record were attached to the report.

At its meeting on 12 March 2026, Cabinet considered a report relating to the Yarm Levelling Up Fund (LUF) public realm proposals. The report set out the outcome of a

public engagement exercise in relation to the proposed High Street scheme, the wider financial context, and a range of options for the future use of the remaining funding.

Following consideration, Cabinet resolved to note the outcome of the public engagement, not to proceed with the scheme as originally proposed, and to reallocate the remaining funding. This included retaining a proportion of funding for locally focused schemes, with further development delegated accordingly.

The decision was subsequently called in in accordance with the Council's Constitution. The call in raised concerns relating to the presentation and interpretation of the engagement exercise, the extent to which its outcomes were reflected in the decision, and the clarity with which options and alternative approaches were presented.

On 22 April 2026, the Executive Scrutiny Committee considered the call in. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the call in met the constitutional requirements for validity and that the matters raised were capable of scrutiny within the Council's decision-making framework. The Committee then resolved to refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

In referring the decision back, the Executive Scrutiny Committee identified matters for Cabinet to have regard to when reconsidering its decision. These matters related to the clarity and explanation of the decision-making process.

In summary, they concerned:

- how clearly the engagement exercise was presented and understood;
- how the purpose and status of that engagement were communicated;
- how engagement outcomes were interpreted and taken into account;
- the clarity with which options and alternative approaches were presented;
- the articulation of reasons for the decision; and
- the overall completeness and coherence of the information before Cabinet, including the relationship between engagement outcomes, financial considerations, and the decision taken.

Cabinet thanked Executive Scrutiny Committee for considering the call in and acknowledged scrutiny's legitimate constitutional role.

Cabinet carefully reflected on the matters referred back and gave the following comments:-

- Residents gave a very clear message that they did not support the specific High Street scheme that was consulted upon.

- Cabinet had listened to that message and, importantly, the Council was not proceeding with that scheme.

- This was not a case of Cabinet ignoring consultation feedback. The consultation directly informed the decision not to proceed.

- It was important to remember the wider context of the original Levelling Up Fund programme.

- The LUF allocation for what was then the Stockton South constituency was always a broader regeneration package across Yarm; Eaglescliffe and Preston Park and not simply one standalone scheme in Yarm.

- Significant investment has already been delivered or committed:

• Yarm Town Hall restoration
• Preston Park improvements
• Transport and connectivity infrastructure

- Government's revised funding arrangements explicitly allow flexibility and reprioritisation within the programme.

- Cabinet therefore had to balance:

• engagement feedback
• deliverability
• value for money
• prudence
• and the Council's wider financial position

- It was entirely reasonable and responsible to avoid borrowing where existing funding flexibility allows projects already within the wider programme to be funded directly.

- That is the same prudent approach most residents would expect any organisation to take.

- This did not mean Yarm had lost out. Cabinet deliberated retained funding with Yarm and further engagement would take place regarding local priorities, including such projects as the pontoons.

- If future proposals come forward where borrowing represents a sensible and economically justified approach, clearly those matters van be considered in the future on their merits.

- Cabinet must make decisions based on the circumstances before it and on responsible stewardship of public money.

- It was recognised that some Members and residents would have preferred a different outcome and those views were respected.

Having reconsidered the matter carefully in the light of the issues raised through the scrutiny process, Cabinet remained satisfied that the original decision was balanced, proportionate and in the wider public interest. Therefore, the original Cabinet decision was confirmed.

RESOLVED that the original Cabinet decision was confirmed.

CAB/136/25 Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan

Consideration was given to a report on the Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan.

In January 2024, in accordance with Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, a five-year review of the Local Plan concluded that a full update through a new Local Plan was required. Council agreed that progressing a new Local Plan under the emerging plan-making system was the most robust and cost-effective approach.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026 came into force on 25 March 2026, introducing a new regulatory framework for the preparation of Local Plans, Minerals and Waste Plans, and Supplementary Plans.

The report sought Council's agreement to commence a new Local Plan in accordance with the 2026 Regulations, authorising all required elements to allow for progression through the 'getting ready' stage, including giving a notice of intention to MHCLG by 31 December 2026, and meeting all the necessary requirements to enable the commencement of Gateway 1 by 30 April 2027.

The report also sought approval to establish a cross-party consultative and advisory steering group to support the Local Plan process.

Cabinet RESOLVED that:-

1. The commencement of a new Local Plan be endorsed.

and recommends that Council agrees to the following;

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

2. Council approves the commencement of a full update of the Stockton on Tees Local Plan in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) as amended and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

3. Council delegates the preparation, publication and submission of a 'Notice of intention to commence the Stockton on Tees Local Plan' to the Director of Regeneration & Inclusive Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing and that this will be made available in accordance with the Local Plan Timetable and no later than September 2026.

4. Council approves the preparation and submission of an updated Local Plan Timetable in broad accordance with Appendix 1 and authorises its submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and its publication.

5. Council delegates authority to the Director of Inclusive Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member to update and publish the Local Plan Timetable monthly or as required, to ensure an up-to-date timetable is publicly available in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

6. Council approves the commencement of a Design Guide Supplementary Plan to comply with the requirement of Section 15B and 15F(1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and delegates authority to the Director

of Inclusive Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing to produce a draft document for consultation.

7. Council authorises officers to explore the preparation of a Joint Minerals and Waste Plan with neighbouring Local Planning Authorities and delegate to the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, the responsibility for all matters relating to Stockton-on-Tees Borough, including;

- the commissioning of an associated evidence base (as necessary);
- develop a 'Joint Minerals and Waste Plan agreement' under section 15I of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) as amended;
- develop a Minerals and Waste Plan Timetable;
- undertake a 'scoping consultation' on the joint Tees Valley Minerals and Waste Local Plan; and
- produce all associated documentation to allow to progress the joint Tees Valley Minerals and Waste Local Plan to progress through Gateway 1.

8. Council delegates authority to the Director of Inclusive Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, to agree commencement of the scoping consultation for the Local Plan which will:

- provide an opportunity for residents, community groups, businesses and other interested parties to register to be notified of Local Plan updates, via the Council website;

- consultation taking place in accordance with the Local Plan Regulations;
- consultation material being made publicly available; and
- a consultation plan being produced prior to Gateway 1 after having regard to comments made during the statutory scoping consultation.

9. Council delegates authority to the Director of Inclusive Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, to undertake all necessary steps to inform and prepare the documents for the Gateway 1 self-assessment which may include commissioning evidence, undertaking a call for sites and preparing draft vision, Local Plan content and consultation plan, on the proposed local plan.

10. Council approves the formation of a cross-party consultative and advisory Members working group in broad accordance with the draft Terms of Reference at Appendix 2 to support the Local Plan process.

CAB/137/25 Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document and Article 4 Direction

Consideration was given to a report on Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document and Article 4 Direction.

The report outlined activities undertaken in the preparation and consultation on a Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document and Article 4 Direction following the resolution of Cabinet / Council in January 2026. The report sought adoption of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document and outlined the next steps in relation to confirmation of the Article 4 Direction.

The Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD (Appendix A of the report) had been prepared following the resolution of Council in January 2026 and if adopted would apply to planning applications for new houses of multiple occupation whether that be a new build or through the conversion of an existing property. The document had been produced to ensure proposals for Houses of Multiple Occupation contributed positively to making places better for people, improving standards of accommodation, and reducing detrimental impacts on neighbours. It assisted in the interpretation of policies within the Stockton-on-Tees Local Plan and sets out guidance and good practice for planning applicants to enable the delivery of better planning outcomes.

The SPD had been prepared in accordance with Government legislation and guidance and had been subject to public consultation in accordance with regulations. The public consultation period on the draft SPD took place between 19th March and the 17th April 2026. A total of 13 responses were received on the contents of the draft SPD. These responses could be summarised as falling into 3 categories:

- Organisations- Natural England, Coal Authority, Home Office, Prism Planning, North Yorkshire Council, Historic England
- Local Resident- 6 local residents
- Ward Councillor- one response

A consultation statement (Appendix B of the report) had been prepared which contained comments / main issues raised alongside the council's response to them.

Also provided were screening assessments in relation to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) have been undertaken and are available within Appendix C and D of the report respectively.

It was recommended that the SPD document (Appendix A of the report) and its technical appendices (Appendices B to D of the report), be adopted which would enable them to be a material consideration in planning applications for relevant proposals. Following adoption, the documents would be made available in the Council's main office, on the Council's website and in public libraries across the Borough. Members should also be aware that legislation makes provision for individuals / organisations to pursue a legal challenge regarding SPDs, and this would end 3-months after adoption of the documents.

In accordance with The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (Commencement No. 11 and Saving and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026 the Council can adopt Supplementary Planning Documents until 30th June 2026. Adopted SPDs would continue to be a material consideration but they would cease to have effect upon adoption of a new Local Plan.

Following the resolution of Cabinet in January 2026, notice had been given that the Council had made a Direction under Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended). Notice was given on 18th March 2026, and a period of consultation was undertaken from 19th March and the 17th April 2026.

If confirmed the direction would require planning consent for the change of use of a building within Class C3 (dwelling houses) to a use falling within Class C4 (houses in multiple occupation) through the removal of permitted development rights for this type of development. The Direction would apply to the entire area of the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.

During the consultation period 18 representations were received. These responses could be summarised as falling into 2 categories:

- Organisations- Natural England, Coal Authority, Home Office, Prism Planning, National Residential Landlords Association, Stockton Liberal Democrats, The Canal & River Trust, North Yorkshire Council, Historic England.
- Local Resident- 9 local residents

These representations must be taken into account by the local planning authority in deciding whether to confirm the direction. Having considered and taken into account the representations received (which are available within Appendix H of the report), the local planning authority intends to confirm the Article 4 Direction. Necessary processes would be undertaken, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) to confirm the Direction which would come into force on Monday 22nd March 2027.

Cabinet RESOLVED that:

1. The contents of the report be noted.

2. The comments of Planning Committee in relation to the Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document be noted.

Recommended to Council that:-

3. Council notes and considers comments of Planning Committee in relation to the Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document.

4. The adoption of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document (Appendix A) and its accompanying technical appendices (Appendices B to D).

5. Delegation of the authority to approve non-material and minor alterations to the SPD and its accompanying technical appendices to the Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, prior to publication.

CAB/138/25 Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Consent Street Trading Policy Review 2026

Consideration was given to a report on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Consent Street Trading Policy Review 2026.

The whole Borough had been designated as a consent area for the purposes of street trading. The Consent Street Trading (CST) policy details how the regime was managed. The policy document had been reviewed following a valid petition, a public consultation and comments received from the general licensing committee.

The CST regime had been in place since 1 March 2024. Over 60 consents had been considered and granted across Stockton-on-Tees since the beginning of the scheme.

The CST policy guided the Council when it considered applications for street trading consents. It also served to inform applicants of the criteria against which applications

would be considered as well as setting out the Councils framework and approach for the management of street trading in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.

A petition asking for certain events to be excluded from the regime was received and duly considered at full council on 19th November 2026. It was moved by Councillor Norma Stephenson, seconded by Councillor Naill Innes that the petition be referred to the General Licensing Committee for further consideration.

The CST policy was subsequently reviewed and included several changes in response to the valid petition, operational procedures and comments received from General Licensing Committee including recommendations.

As part of this review, a public consultation was also undertaken to help inform the changes. The responses received to the public consultation were available to Members.

The review also considered the design principals:

- Put communities at the heart of everything we do - sensitive to the needs of residents, provides diversity and consumer choice.
- Has a ‘place-based’ approach - compliments regeneration and business growth.
- Has efficient processes and be digital by design - process reviews and feedback provide efficiencies.
- Uses data and intelligence to inform our decision - consultation drives the policy framework.

The matter was referred to the General Licensing Committee on the 24th March 2026. The committee agreed unanimously on the revised CST policy. The simplification of the CST process was acknowledged along with a new fairer criterion for commercial, charity and hobbyists trading at events within the borough.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

2. The proposed consent street trading policy document be agreed.

CAB/139/25 Anti-Poverty Action Plan Update 2026

Consideration was given to a report on Anti-Poverty Action Plan Update 2026.

The report and appendix outlined the progress made by the Council and partners since the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan were adopted by Cabinet in July 2024. It highlighted the work undertaken across the Council during this time to address poverty in the Borough and gave examples of achievements across the four key areas identified in the Strategy.

The Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan was co-produced with local partner organisations and residents with lived experience; it sets out the Council’s commitment to reducing inequality and poverty in the Borough. Over the last 18 months, the Anti-Poverty Strategy Delivery Group had met regularly to coordinate

actions undertaken by both internal and external partners. The Positive Living Forum, previously named the Anti-Poverty Lived Experience Group, continued to meet six-weekly to feed in residents' experiences and to evaluate the work being carried out by the Council and its partners.

Appendix A of the report provided examples of highlights from each of the four priority areas. A notable achievement for each area is summarised below, with further detail, testimonies and photographs provided in Appendix A of the report.

- Household Poverty: The Bread-and-Butter Thing (TBBT) supports residents at five volunteer run hubs across the Borough. During 2025, residents saved over £339,738 by shopping with TBBT and there has been a significant decrease in the number of emergency food parcels since the scheme's introduction.
- Child Poverty: The Free School Meals Auto-Enrolment Project has resulted in almost 400 pupils being auto-enrolled for free school meals in 2025, with an increase in almost £500,000 in pupil premium for schools across the Borough.
- Participation and Voice: As previously noted the Positive Living Forum meets every six weeks. Their experiences have guided new initiatives and helped the Council shape services.
- Health and Wellbeing: 68 Community Spaces and 10 Warm Welcome venues provide welcoming places across the Borough for residents to connect with each other, try new things and access advice and support. This is helping to reduce social isolation and loneliness, supporting residents to stay well for longer.

Further detail on the ongoing approach was detailed within Appendix A of the report. In summary key actions would include:

- Co-production of an updated action plan (for the remaining 18 months of the strategy). Any outstanding objectives will be carried forward onto the updated plan.

- Continued engagement with our partners, including the Positive Living Forum and the Anti-Poverty Delivery Group, alongside our wider network of Community Partnerships and organisations to identify and agree these renewed actions.

- A further progress report would be presented back to Cabinet at the end of the next 18-month period.

RESOLVED that the report and actions taken to address and alleviate poverty during the 18-month period from July 2024 be noted.

CAB/140/25 Adult Social Care Fees and Charges Consultation

Consideration was given to a report on Adult Social Care Fees and Charges Consultation.

A Council's Adult Social Care Charging Policy outlined how they would charge for care and support, ensuring that charges were fair and based on a financial assessment.

The aims of a Charging Policy that was applied consistently to everyone with eligible adult social care needs were to ensure that people were not charged more than they could afford, and to ensure that the process was transparent and equitable.

Adult Social Care provided a range of financial management services for people in receipt of services at no cost to the individual. These services required a significant amount of resource and capacity to ensure the Council was meeting requirements and managing individual's finances appropriately. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council was one of the last Local Authorities in the region and across the national landscape who did not apply administration and management costs against these services.

The Council already applied charges to individuals who were in receipt of Court appointed Deputyship. Local authority financial deputyship was a court appointed role under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 that authorised the Council to manage the property and financial affairs of an adult who lacked mental capacity and had no suitable person able to act on their behalf. The appointment was made by the Court of Protection and allowed the local authority to undertake ongoing financial management, such as paying bills, managing income and assets, and meeting care charges, within the specific powers granted by the court and subject to statutory oversight by the Office of the Public Guardian. For those people who had a court appointed deputy for property and finance the Council charged the following amounts:

- Application Fee: £421
- Hearing Fee (if required): £259

Deputyship costs

- Deputyship work up to order £745.00
- Subsequent years is £824 for net assets over £20,300.00 and up to 3.5% of net assets below £20,300.00.
- OPG report £216.00.
- Basic HMRC return: £89
- Property management, HMRC, travel and other claimable costs are only where applicable and have very limited scope of when they can be claimed.

As a result, the Council wanted to ensure equity of charging across several financial management services and therefore undertake a public consultation to introduce a new fees and charge policy. As this was a significant change to policy and approach there was a requirement for the local authority to consult with the public to ensure open and transparent decision making. Adult Social Care had had a working group including finance officers exploring this at a national and regional level to ensure any proposed charges were reasonable and appropriate and in line with others.

The consultation would be an open consultation with all residents of Stockton and would be available on the council website, via a survey. This would cover the proposed fees for Appointee charges and deceased estates. Accessibility requirements were being built in, including multiple response formats and support for people who required reasonable adjustments. All people who were being supported with appointeeship within Stockton Council would be advised of the consultation process (via letter or telephone call) and supported to respond if they require it. Drop-in sessions would also be available for the public to attend, and support would be offered at these. All communication was available both in accessible format and easy read format.

These charges would provide a forecasted income of £167,000 in year one rising to £386,000 in year three. The Council was facing a difficult budget gap, and this income would support the sustainability of the service offer in the future.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The commencement of consultation on the proposed introduction of fees and charges as set out in this report be authorised.

2. Authority be delegated to the Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, to agree and introduce a Care Charging Policy subject to the outcome of the consultation.

CAB/141/25 Strategic Commissioning Board – Corporate Approach

Consideration was given to a report on Strategic Commissioning Board – Corporate Approach.

In Summer 2025, Powering Our Future Board (POF Board) approved a review of strategic commissioning across key directorates of the Council. The Project initiation Document (PID) set out the scope and focus for this review, identifying key outcomes including ensuring strategic approach to commissioning were aligned to priorities and medium-term financial plan, a focus on early intervention and prevention, and longer-term reduction of high-cost packages of care, reduced duplication across services, stronger partnerships and collaboration across services where there were mutual agreements, trust and transparency and increased value for money.

A cross directorate working group (colleagues across Children's, Adults, Public Health, Housing & A Fairer Stockton-on-Tees, Procurement and Finance) was stood up in the Summer of 2025 and had completed a baseline assessment of governance, leadership, finance, capacity, capability and maturity against the current strategic commissioning cycle at both a macro and micro level.

This baseline identified areas of good practice and opportunities to strengthen corporate oversight and steer across key areas of the commissioning cycle, including assessment of need, designing outcomes, strategic planning, value for money, service transformation, and monitoring/improvement.

The proposed approach to achieving this was the introduction of a new approach to commissioning, working towards and implementing a new Target Operating Model (TOM). This would be underpinned by a new Strategic Commissioning Board, comprising of senior officers with appropriate decision making authority, that would work within the schemes of delegation and provide the Council with greater management and oversight and commissioning of the local services. Key decisions would remain the decision of Cabinet and regular reports from the Commissioning Board will be presented to Cabinet.

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted and the direction of travel be approved including:

- The Strategic Commissioning Board will be stood up and begin work on identifying priority areas of work. In addition, work will begin on working towards a more integrated model of commissioning for health and care.

- The annual commissioning report will be drafted and produced for April 2027.

- A quarterly report will be presented to the Corporate Management Team for assurance and oversight.

CAB/142/25 Public Health Grant Spend

Consideration was given to a report Public Health Grant Spend.

Through an outcome-based review, £1m of the public health grant had been identified to realign to other areas of the Council. The work builds on existing joint working between Public Health and other services across the Council. Working with Finance, the proposed Council areas to receive realigned funding had been identified. Further work was commencing on specific public health indicators to be achieved through discussion with the relevant service areas. To satisfy Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) assurance requirements, service level agreements would articulate joint working in each Council area, use of funding and indicators which must demonstrate specific public health added value.

DHSC had implemented a new strengthened national assurance process, regarding spend of the Public Health grant (Appendix 1 of the report). To satisfy the assurance process, written evidence in the form of service level agreements (SLAs) was required to demonstrate specific added value through use of the Public Health grant in achieving Public Health outcomes. National guidance stipulated areas / activity the grant cannot be used for, including other areas of Council statutory activity. Through this process, DHSC also sought to determine there was an appropriate balance between funding Public Health core services, and wider Council activity supporting Public Health. All areas across Tees Valley and the North East were putting or had put SLAs in place. Comparison across Councils on wider use of the grant had limited value due to: nationally recognised variation in spend captured in budget reported outturn (RO) categories; and significant variation in set-up, scope and ways of working of wider Council services.

Public Health already worked closely with a wide range of Council areas and public health funding was used across these services. In 2025/26 a total of £4.2m expenditure across other Council services and central overheads was forecast to be funded via public health, with £3.5m being funded through the public health grant and £0.7m funded through public health reserves (Appendix 2 of the report).

The Council areas receiving public health funding had been reviewed through joint working with Finance, to ensure that they were in line with the DHSC assurance requirements and to make sure that the funding could continue through public health grant funding as the public health reserve was drawn down. Some of the existing public health contributions would be reduced and others would increase. The exact amounts of funding for each service would be determined once public health indicators had been specified, to ensure the funding reflected joint working and public health added value but would include:

- Trading standards, enforcement
- Employment & training, inclusive growth, economic and place development
- Parks and green space, active travel
- Homelessness (complex lives) and communities, engagement & consultation
- Workplace health

The public health outcomes linked to these areas were detailed at Appendix 3 of the report.

Some areas funded by Public Health had historically been funded through reserves; these were now being covered through core Public Health grant. The total contribution would increase from £4.2m to £4.5m and this would be funded in full from the Public Health grant in future years. Therefore, the Public Health grant contribution would increase from £3.5m in 2025/26 to £4.5m from 2026/27 (Appendix 4). If £1m of the Public Health grant was not used in this way to fund other services providing public health outcomes then this would create a budget pressure the Council would have to meet from elsewhere.

Discussions would now take place with relevant Directors / Assistant Directors to maximise joint working through the proposed spend, to deliver specific public health indicators. Service Level Agreements (SLAs) would be required for all the spend across areas of the Council beyond Public Health, including both existing areas of spend and proposed new areas.

Discussions were ongoing with neighbouring Local Authorities to share good practice regarding SLAs, to inform our local approach. The SLA would be tested in one or two service areas, in conversation with the Assistant Director / service lead. It was proposed Public Health indicators in the SLA would mirror and complement existing indicators wherever possible and that they would be built in to reporting mechanisms working with the corporate performance team.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The update on delivering the Public Health grant outcomes-based review be noted.

2. The wider Council areas where public health funding is planned to be realigned, to achieve public health outcomes be noted.

3. The mechanism for evidencing outcomes and spend to satisfy national assurance requirements be noted.

CAB/143/25 Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Biodiversity Duty Report 2025/26

Consideration was given to a report Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Biodiversity Duty Report 2025/26.

As part of the Environment Act 2021, all Local Authorities and Local Planning Authorities within England were required to demonstrate how they had met the enhanced Biodiversity Duty.

This ensured that Local Authorities were working towards the delivery of the Environmental Improvement Plan for England, with government commitments to halt the decline in species abundance and protect 30% of UK land and sea by 2030, with greater commitments to be met by 2042.

A requirement to produce and publish a Biodiversity Duty Report every 5 years had been issued by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The report included actions undertaken within the current reporting period, commitments to

deliver within the next reporting period and Biodiversity Net Gain data from the Local Planning Authority.

RESOLVED that the draft Biodiversity Duty Report, including commitment to future actions, be approved for publication.

CAB/144/25 Foster with North East Expansion

Consideration was given to a report on Foster with North East Expansion.

The purpose of the report was to seek Cabinet approval for the Council to take part in the expansion of the Regional Fostering Hub in line with the Department for Education (DfE) expansion programme. This would build on the Foster with North East (FwNE) pathfinder that had been in operation since 2023 and all North East Councils were part of, but also required a move to an 'End-to-End' model encompassing all aspects of the Fostering process.

Children in Care sufficiency was the most significant risk and financial pressure to Councils across the North East and nationally. Following the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in 2022 national policy, supported by proposed legislation in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, had identified regional working as key to addressing these challenges. The Competitions and Market Authority (CMA) had also reported that the current model was dysfunctional driving up costs and delivering poor outcomes.

DfE was progressing at pace on this agenda publishing a blueprint including regional fostering, Renewing Fostering: homes for 10,000 more children, in February 2026 and guidance on the next stage of development for Regional Care Co-operatives (RCCs) in March 2026 Apply to set up a regional care cooperative - GOV.UK along with an Expression of Interest (EoI) for six further regions to become RCC's.

Foster with North East (FwNE) was established in 2023 as the National Fostering Pathfinder, hosted by Together for Children and with all 12 councils in the region participating. An evaluation of FwNE was carried out last year and it was recognised that expansion of the model to an End-to-End approach was essential to achieve the benefits of the regional approach. It was positive that national policy and some additional funding had now aligned with that view.

DfE policy statement sets out seven minimum requirements for an expanded Regional Fostering Hub along with a specification and very tight timelines to establish and implement the model. A fully costed plan needed to be submitted to DfE by 1st June 2026. The work undertaken in the region to develop the model, financial planning and implementation are set out in the body of this report.

DfE provided over £2m of funding to FwNE to establish it and for initial running costs, however in 2025-26 the current model was fully funded by the 12 LAs through a population-based formula. In 2026-27 it's projected that the model would cost approximately £2m with £500k of funding through government grant. A commitment had been made that the financial contributions from individual LA's would be maintained at 2025/26 levels, and the efficiencies would be sought to support the expansion of the Hub. For context in 2023-24 the region spent £540m on children in care placements and costs continued to rise at an exponential rate. Financial details were set out in the body of the report.

To ensure the benefits of regional working were fully realised and operated as efficiently as possible it was proposed that FwNE would be fully integrated into a proposed North East RCC. It was recommended that a regional bid be submitted as part of the RCC EoI by May 22nd, building on extensive work that had taken place regionally over the last 18 months. If successful it would bring at least £1.5m additional funding into the region and enable significant efficiency and benefits by integrating with FwNE.

A high-level structure for regional working through a proposed RCC and delivery of FwNE via a locality model was described in detail in the report. Whilst it would be required to operate across a full regional footprint of all 12 LA's our design is based on 3 Locality delivery teams taking the learning from FwNE pathfinder. It was proposed that the 3 localities were:

- North Locality – Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland
- Central Locality – Durham, South Tyneside and TfC/Sunderland
- South Locality – Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesborough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.

The report presented a clear rationale for the recommendations and the move to regional arrangements to address chronic shortfalls in sufficiency of children in care placements. The risks presented by the current dysfunctional market approach impacting on children's outcomes and the financial sustainability of LA's must be addressed and this work provided an opportunity to do so.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Local Authority enter into an agreement to be part of the expanded North East Fostering Hub in line with national policy and guidance.

2. The Local Authority support a North East Regional bid to become a 'Wave 2' RCC national pathfinder and support submission of a bid to DfE by 22nd May 2026.

3. The Director of Children's Services in conjunction with the Lead Member for Children's Services be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the recommendations in line with National Policy.

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REPORT TO CABINET

18 JUNE 2026

REPORT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

CABINET DECISION

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Clare Besford

Scrutiny Review of Children Not in School

Summary

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Children and Young People Select Committee's review of Children Not in School.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

The topic was included on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2025-2026. The review is now complete, and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Children and Young People Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

Recommendations

The Select Committee recommends:

Home and Hospital (H&H)

1) That staffing capacity is reviewed to ensure provision remains, safe, responsive and broad enough in curriculum and that the staffing model adopted provides flexible and responsive provision in the most cost-effective way.
2) That opportunities are explored and expanded for peer social interaction.
3) That opportunities for partnership working to enhance both curriculum and enrichment are explored.
4) The re-integration pathways are explored.

Electively Home Educated (EHE)

5) That a more relational approach be strengthened with EHE families with identification of dedicated staffing resource to promote this.
6) That clearer information is provided to parents about:
    - Examination entry processes
    - Associated costs

- Available support services

7) That work continues to prepare for legislative changes on compulsory registers and strengthened Local Authority powers.
8) That the range of support shared via EHE networks is broadened.
9) That opportunities for partnership working to strengthen intervention and support are explored.
10) That the capacity for schools to provide early intervention and support in response to emotional and mental health needs is reviewed.
11) That best practice identified at the Attendance Networks on re-integrating vulnerable learners into school is widely and regularly shared.
12) That the support available to children and their families experiencing Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) is widely and regularly shared.
13) That the Team Around the School be fully appraised of the needs of previously Electively Home Educated pupils who are returning to mainstream education to support and nurture them back into school.

Children Missing from Education (CME)

14) That off roll audits are maintained and expanded to prevent inappropriate removal from school rolls.
15) That opportunities to work in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector are fully utilised to gather intelligence.
16) That consideration is given to how the social care reforms can be used to reduce the number of children missing from education.

Educated Other than at School (EOTAS)

17) That multi-agency working arrangements for children receiving EOTAS be strengthened, to ensure earlier, coordinated planning for children with complex needs, with education, health and social care partners jointly developing, owning and reviewing EOTAS packages to improve timeliness, quality and outcomes.

Alternative Provision (AP)

18) That the new QA framework is implemented fully with follow up action plans for providers needing improvement.
19) That AP networks continue to be expanded to promote consistent practice.
20) That action is taken to ensure that all AP placements have a clear education plan, regularly reviewed, with reintegration as a priority where appropriate.

Admissions

21) That processes and capacity for pupils with EHCPs who move into the Borough are reviewed to minimise time out of education.

Safeguarding

22) That caseworker training in professional curiosity is enhanced to seek to ensure that risks are spotted during educational monitoring visits.

23) That multi-agency information sharing for EHE and CME cohorts is strengthened, to compensate for restrictions on direct safeguarding checks.

24) That CME processes continue to involve agencies such as Border Force, Police, Health and Housing to track and protect high risk pupils.

Detail

1. This report outlines the findings and recommendations of the Children and Young People Select Committee's scrutiny review of Children Not in School (CNIS).

2. Children not in school covers a range of scenarios where a child is not accessing a full-time education. The range of reasons a child may not be accessing a full-time education at a school is vast and covers:

    - All reasons for absence from school including authorised absence, unauthorised absence
    - Pupils on reduced/part-time time tables
    - Pupils who are accessing Alternative Provision (AP) not in a registered school (whether arranged by the school or the local authority)
    - Pupils receiving Home and Hospital Provision (H&H)
    - Pupils who are CME (Children Missing Education)
    - Children who are EHE (Electively Home Educated)
    - Children who have no school base and are EOTAS (Educated Other Than at School)
    - Children who move into the borough and are waiting for a school place

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

3. An Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment has been completed, and the recommendations are assessed as having a positive impact.

Corporate Parenting Implications

4. Set out in the Select Committee report.

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

6. Set out in the Select Committee report.

Risk Assessment

7. The review 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 (refer to Concordat for Communication and Consultation with Members)

8. This review is relevant to all wards across the Borough.

Background Papers

9. None

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Scrutiny Review of Children Not in School

Children and Young People Select Committee, June 2026

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Select Committee – Membership

Councillor Carol Clark (Chair)

Councillor Barbara Inman (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Bob Cook

Councillor Ray Godwin

Councillor Jack Miller

Councillor Sufi Mubeen

Councillor Emily Tate

Councillor Sally Ann Watson

Councillor Katie Weston

Acknowledgements

The Select Committee thank the following contributors to this review:

Vanessa Housley - Head of Service Education and Inclusion

Elisha Dyball - Strategic Lead - SEND Practice

Sharon Stevens - Team Manager, Inclusion and Vulnerable Learners

Claire Tiffany - Service Lead – Alternative Provision

Home Tutors

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Foreword

I am pleased to present the report of the Children and Young People Select Committee following its review of Children Not in School.

This topic was proposed for a scrutiny review due to safeguarding concerns that arise when children are not attending school. This report highlights the need to continue to strengthen relationships with families, particularly those who choose to educate their children at home. Building trust, maintaining open communication, and offering appropriate support are essential to ensuring that all children remain visible and receive the opportunities they deserve.

Central to this is the continued emphasis on effective multi-agency working. Strong collaboration between services, supported by timely information sharing and professional curiosity, is critical to identifying concerns early and responding appropriately. These approaches help to ensure that no child is overlooked or left without the support they need.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed invaluable help to our review, including officers from Democratic Services and Children's Services, parents and young people.

Cllr Carol Clark, Chair

Councillor Carol Clark
Chair – CYP Select Committee

Councillor Barbara Inman
Vice-Chair – CYP Select Committee

Original Brief

Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

This work aligns with the Council's priorities to ensure that all children have a bright future and a sense of belonging and giving children the best possible start in life, this is greater achieved when our children are educated and build connections within the borough. It aligns with the council vision to have a sustainable community where everyone belongs and is valued.

The review supports Stockton on Tees Plan Priority One – The best start in life to achieve big ambitions and key move – Giving children and young people the best possible start, in an inclusive community where everyone can thrive.

This scrutiny review would also support delivery of the following design principles:

- reduce inequality and prioritise prevention
- put communities at the heart of everything we do
- use data and intelligence to inform our decision

What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?

Children not in school covers a range of scenarios where a child is not accessing a full-time education. The range of reasons a child may not be accessing a full-time education at a school is vast and covers:

- All reasons for absence from school including authorised absence, unauthorised absence
- Pupils on reduced/part-time time tables
- Pupils who are accessing Alternative Provision not in a registered school (whether arranged by the school or the local authority)
- Pupils receiving Home and Hospital Provision
- Pupils who are CME (Children Missing Education)
- Children who are EHE (Electively Home Educated)
- Children who have no school base and are EOTAS (Educated Other Than at School)
- Children who move into the borough and are waiting for a school place

Strengthened systems for Children Not in School has the potential to:

- improve attendance further
- improve pupil outcomes
- reduce associated anti-social and criminal activity
- reduce demands on community safety resources

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

- What are the scenarios where a child may be or become a CNIS? Why do parents choose to take their children out of school and what difficulties does this create?
- What risks and safeguarding issues arise from CNIS?
- What are the statutory requirements in relation to the different scenarios?
- Who has responsibility and oversight to ensure appropriate systems are in place and there are no gaps?
- What support is provided when a child is not in school?
- How well do partner agencies work together?
- What is the impact on the child of not attending school?

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report outlines the findings and recommendations of the Children and Young People Select Committee's scrutiny review of Children Not in School (CNIS).

1.2 CNIS covers a range of scenarios where a child is not accessing a full-time education. The range of reasons a child may not be accessing a full-time education at a school is vast and covers:

- All reasons for absence from school including authorised absence, unauthorised absence
- Pupils on reduced/part-time time tables
- Pupils who are accessing Alternative Provision (AP) not in a registered school (whether arranged by the school or the local authority)
- Pupils receiving Home and Hospital Provision (H&H)
- Pupils who are CME (Children Missing Education)
- Children who are EHE (Electively Home Educated)
- Children who have no school base and are EOTAS (Educated Other Than at School)
- Children who move into the Borough and are waiting for a school place

1.3 The Committee undertook the following key lines of enquiry:

- What are the scenarios where a child may be or become a CNIS? Why do parents choose to take their children out of school and what difficulties does this create?
- What risks and safeguarding issues arise from CNIS?
- What are the statutory requirements in relation to the different scenarios?
- Who has responsibility and oversight to ensure appropriate systems are in place and there are no gaps?
- What support is provided when a child is not in school?
- How well do partner agencies work together?
- What is the impact on the child of not attending school?

1.4 Contributions were sought from Council Officers and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Select Committee visited the homes of children being educated at home due to illness or being electively home educated.

Key Findings

Children Not in School (CNIS) – Overall

- CNIS covers a wide range of children not accessing full-time education
- Primary absence in Stockton is lower than the national average; secondary absence is higher than the national average
- Persistent absence remains a particular issue in secondary schools
- Illness is the main reason for absence, aligning with national patterns
- At the time of the review 164 children were on reduced timetables, 112 with SEND
- There are rising numbers of pupils moving into the Borough with EHCPs, creating pressure on specialist placements
- Admission timescales are normally 10–15 school days, though delays occur for complex or specialist placements

Home & Hospital Tuition

- Provides support for children unable to attend school due to health needs
- 13 pupils were accessing this provision at the time of the review
- Teaching is tailored, flexible, and welfare-focused
- Pupils are offered a mix of functional skills and GCSE qualifications depending on personal circumstances
- Health needs dictate timetabling
- Student and parent feedback is positive

Elective Home Education (EHE)

- Numbers continue to rise: 476 children were electively home educated at the time of the review
- In Stockton-on-Tees, the main reason for choosing to home educate is mental health
- The Local Authority monitors educational suitability but is legally limited in safeguarding checks
- 42 children were returned to school through statutory School Attendance Orders in the previous year
- Caseworkers rely on professional curiosity to identify risk when conducting educational visits
- Legislative change was anticipated, including possible compulsory national registers

Children Missing Education (CME)

- CME numbers have decreased due to improved data systems and off-roll audits
- In the current academic year, 115 children had been referred from Stockton schools. To date 61 had been traced. 32 enquiries had been made from other Local Authorities and 22 of these had been tracked as in a Stockton school.
- CME pupils face high risks (underachievement, poorer health outcomes, harm, exploitation, radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment, or training) later in life.
- Improvements were being driven by stronger national guidance, better data sharing, and multi-agency cooperation

Education Other Than at School (EOTAS)

- Very small number of children access EOTAS
- Used only for the most complex SEND cases where school is inappropriate
- Provision remains stable, tightly monitored, and legally under the Local Authority's responsibility

Alternative Provision (AP)

- Rising numbers accessing AP, both school-commissioned and Local Authority commissioned
- Reasons include behaviour challenges, medical issues and exclusions
- Growth was particularly noted for primary-aged pupils
- Stockton's AP Framework was expanded in 2025 29; at the time of the review there were 29 approved providers
- There was a strong emphasis on quality assurance
- Regular multi-agency AP networks support consistency and best practice

Conclusion and Recommendations

1.5 Overall, the review highlights the wide range of reasons a child may not be accessing full time education at school and demonstrates that, while Stockton has strong systems in place for quality

assurance, multi-agency working and engagement with families, there are pressures relating to emotional and mental health needs and rising demand linked to SEND. The Committee was also mindful that home visits to electively educated children were limited by legislation to the monitoring of the child's education. Increasing pressures continue to present risks to educational continuity and safeguarding.

1.6 The Committee's recommendations therefore focus on strengthening staffing capacity, consistency and partnership working to reduce time out of education and improve outcomes for vulnerable children. Alongside this, the Committee emphasises the importance of preparedness for anticipated legislative changes, improved information sharing to mitigate safeguarding risks, and early intervention to address emotional-based school avoidance. Collectively, these recommendations aim to ensure that all children and young people are supported to access suitable education safely and in a way that meets their individual needs.

1.7 The Committee recommends:

Home and Hospital (H&H)

1) That staffing capacity is reviewed to ensure provision remains, safe, responsive and broad enough in curriculum and that the staffing model adopted provides flexible and responsive provision in the most cost-effective way.
2) That opportunities are explored and expanded for peer social interaction.
3) That opportunities for partnership working to enhance both curriculum and enrichment are explored.
4) The re-integration pathways are explored.

Electively Home Educated (EHE)

5) That a more relational approach be strengthened with EHE families with identification of dedicated staffing resource to promote this.
6) That clearer information is provided to parents about:
    - Examination entry processes
    - Associated costs
    - Available support services
7) That work continues to prepare for legislative changes on compulsory registers and strengthened Local Authority powers.
8) That the range of support shared via EHE networks is broadened.
9) That opportunities for partnership working to strengthen intervention and support are explored.
10) That the capacity for schools to provide early intervention and support in response to emotional and mental health needs is reviewed.
11) That best practice identified at the Attendance Networks on re-integrating vulnerable learners into school is widely and regularly shared.
12) That the support available to children and their families experiencing Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) is widely and regularly shared.

13) That the Team Around the School be fully appraised of the needs of previously Electively Home Educated pupils who are returning to mainstream education to support and nurture them back into school.

Children Missing from Education (CME)

14) That off roll audits are maintained and expanded to prevent inappropriate removal from school rolls.

15) That opportunities to work in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector are fully utilised to gather intelligence.

16) That consideration is given to how the social care reforms can be used to reduce the number of children missing from education.

Educated Other than at School (EOTAS)

17) That multi-agency working arrangements for children receiving EOTAS be strengthened, to ensure earlier, coordinated planning for children with complex needs, with education, health and social care partners jointly developing, owning and reviewing EOTAS packages to improve timeliness, quality and outcomes.

Alternative Provision (AP)

18) That the new QA framework is implemented fully with follow up action plans for providers needing improvement.

19) That AP networks continue to be expanded to promote consistent practice.

20) That action is taken to ensure that all AP placements have a clear education plan, regularly reviewed, with reintegration as a priority where appropriate.

Admissions

21) That processes and capacity for pupils with EHCPs who move into the Borough are reviewed to minimise time out of education.

Safeguarding

22) That caseworker training in professional curiosity is enhanced to seek to ensure that risks are spotted during educational monitoring visits.

23) That multi-agency information sharing for EHE and CME cohorts is strengthened, to compensate for restrictions on direct safeguarding checks.

24) That CME processes continue to involve agencies such as Border Force, Police, Health and Housing to track and protect high risk pupils.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 This report outlines the findings and recommendations of the Children and Young People Select Committee's scrutiny review of Children Not in School (CNIS).

2.2 Children not in school covers a range of scenarios where a child is not accessing a full-time education. The range of reasons a child may not be accessing a full-time education at a school is vast and covers:

- All reasons for absence from school including authorised absence, unauthorised absence
- Pupils on reduced/part-time time tables
- Pupils who are accessing Alternative Provision (AP) not in a registered school (whether arranged by the school or the local authority)
- Pupils receiving Home and Hospital Provision (H&H)
- Pupils who are CME (Children Missing Education)
- Children who are EHE (Electively Home Educated)
- Children who have no school base and are EOTAS (Educated Other Than at School)
- Children who move into the borough and are waiting for a school place

2.3 The Committee undertook the following key lines of enquiry:

- What are the scenarios where a child may be or become a CNIS? Why do parents choose to take their children out of school and what difficulties does this create?
- What risks and safeguarding issues arise from CNIS?
- What are the statutory requirements in relation to the different scenarios?
- Who has responsibility and oversight to ensure appropriate systems are in place and there are no gaps?
- What support is provided when a child is not in school?
- How well do partner agencies work together?
- What is the impact on the child of not attending school?

2.4 Contributions were sought from Council Officers and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Select Committee visited the homes of children being educated at home due to illness or being electively home educated.

3.0 Background

3.1 CNIS is the overarching term for any child who is not attending school full time and includes children in the following groups: Absentees, accessing alternative provision, reduced timetables, children missing education not on a school roll, children who educated other than at school and children who are electively home educated.

3.2 The termly DfE statutory COLLECT for CNIS focuses on children who are EHE and CME.

Locality Team

3.3 Local authorities have a duty to identify; Children not registered at a school and children not in receipt of education.

3.4 The Locality team main responsibility is the monitoring, and interpreting of absence trends from all schools and education providers in Stockton including alternative provision providers, children listed as EOTAS and children who are electively home educated and not in receipt of their education.

3.5 Also included are the Children who have an Education Health and Care Plan and are educated outside of the borough.

3.6 The Team identify and monitor children missing education, act promptly to provide support and intervention, and apply parental responsibility measures where necessary for unauthorised absence.

Pupils who are recorded as absentees

3.7 The latest DfE data for this academic year shows Primary absence nationally at 4.56% compared to Stockton figure of 4.42%.

3.8 Secondary absence nationally at 7.04% compared to Stockton figure of 7.34%.

3.9 In Stockton overtime primary levels of absence are better than national averages

3.10 Stockton secondary schools are poorer than national averages in particular levels of persistent absence. Last academic year the level of persistent absence improved it remained worse than the national average.

3.11 The main reason for absence is illness and this correlates with the main reason nationally for absence from school.

Pupils accessing part time education

Definition – The amount of education expected that a pupil accesses each week is usually based on 25 hours. There is no legal definition in England of exact hours for each age group.

- Any pupil accessing less hours than the length of day for the home school is accessing part time education.
- The DFE Working Together to Improve Attendance (2024) states that part time timetables must not be used to manage behaviour even with parental consent.

- Part time timetables are a temporary measure and should be carefully planned for the shortest time that allows before a pupil moves back into full time education.
- It should be reviewed very regularly and must have the consent of the parent.
- Part time education impacts on pupils' academic learning and progress and on social relationships
- There are currently 164 children of compulsory school age on reduced timetables, 112 of these children are recorded as having a SEND need.

Pupils who have moved into the Borough and are awaiting a school place

3.12 There are two groups of pupils who this would apply to:

i. Pupils who move into the Borough who have an Education Health and Care Plan and may or may not require specialist education. For these pupils, the process of admission to a school place is carried out by the SEND service following statutory SEND procedures (for example in the last academic year 74 pupils moved into the Borough who had previously attended a specialist school or a mainstream school with a specialist base/provision attached). We have seen a rise over recent years of pupils moving into the Borough who have EHCPs.

ii. Pupils who do not have an Education Health & Care Plan. These pupils would be admitted to school via the usual school's admissions process. The Local Authority Admissions team generally aims to secure an offer of a place and notify the parents of the outcome of their application in writing within 10 school days, some can take up to 15 school days

3.13 Under the Fair Access Process, following on from an admissions request to a school, some pupils may meet criteria to be eligible to be placed through a Fair Access process. In Stockton we have a process that was co-produced with our schools.

4.0 Evidence

Home and Hospital

Definition - where a child cannot attend school because of a physical or mental health need, and cannot access suitable full-time education, the local authority is responsible for arranging suitable alternative provision

4.1 Children who are of compulsory school age who are on the roll of a school and are unable to attend due to a long-term medical condition or are recovering from surgery and cannot attend are taught predominately in the home by one of the two home and hospital teachers. Home and Hospital is a short-term service for pupils who are receiving support from a health professional (e.g. hospital consultants) and specialist services until children are well enough to return to school.

4.2 Children are supported with enrichment as well as academic subjects English, Mathematics, and Science.

4.3 At the time of the review there were 13 children accessing home and hospital tuition. Children who are in school year 11 are supported through to take formal exams in their homes.

The Home and Hospital Team

4.4 The Home and Hospital Team work with pupils of school age unable to attend school due to physical health problems. Pupils with mental health problems are referred to SENDMAP for support. The team have recently worked with the designated clinical officer from health to map out a procedure for schools and agencies to give clarity on referral routes to home and hospital.

4.5 The pupil must have been out of school for at least three weeks (exceptions can be made in some situations for accidents/ planned surgeries). The team:

- **Conduct baseline assessments** in English and Maths to identify starting points and learning gaps.
- **Deliver targeted intervention teaching** based on assessment outcomes to address specific needs.
- **Liaise with the pupil's school** to obtain current work and incorporate it where appropriate, ensuring alignment with baseline results.
- **Include additional subjects** as needed, with a focus on Science for KS4 pupils to support curriculum coverage and accreditation.
- **Use project-based learning** approaches to build engagement and motivation through creative, real-world tasks.
- **Provide teaching through 1:1 sessions or hub-based delivery**, selecting the most suitable model for the pupil's circumstances and reintegration plan.

4.6 Numbers of Home and Hospital pupils are set out below:

	Medical	SEMH/ EBSA	Total	Back into education
22/23	10	15	25	9
23/24	16	27	43	7
24/25	17	18	35	13
25/26 (Sept/Nov)	8	14	22	6

Welfare and Safeguarding - Attendance

4.7 There is daily attendance tracking and all lessons are logged. Home and Hospital teachers attempt to see the child even when not engaging in education. In addition, schools are advised of absence to initiate their safeguarding procedure and review meetings are held at least once every half term all professionals involved attend along with the parent and pupil.

Welfare and Safeguarding - Admission

4.8 There are robust admissions processes involving school, parents, agencies and home and a hospital lead teacher. The team follow the **medical experts' advice** when it comes to lesson duration. For example:

- Students with Chronic Fatigue may only be able to endure short lessons a few times a week.
- Other students' medical needs may require teachers to wear PPE or to teach online
- The range of subjects may be limited to take into consideration the load on the young person
- The timetable is arranged around the needs of the young person. For example: lessons later in the morning due to
- sleeping issues or not teaching on days when there are CAMHS appointments as this can be emotionally draining.

4.9 The team are flexible in their approach to every child offering a service that is tailored to their educational needs and their welfare.

Outcomes GCSE

4.10 Pupils are offered a mix of Functional Skills and GCSE qualifications in English and Maths depending on their personal circumstances.

GCSE 23/24	**Number who sat exam**	**% graded 4 and above**	**Highest Grade**
Maths	9	89%	5
English Language	10	90%	7
Combined Science	5	100%	6:6
GCSE 24/25	**Number who sat exam**	**% graded 4 and above**	**Highest Grade**
Maths	6	67%	6
English Language	7	57%	5
Combined Science	3	100%	5:5

Outcomes – Functional Skills

4.11 Pupils are offered a mix of Functional Skills and GCSE qualifications in English and Maths depending on personal circumstances.

Functional Skills 23/24	**EL1**	**EL1**	**EL3**	**Level 1**	**Level 2**
Maths	1	1	7	3	2
English	1	1		1	0
Functional Skills 24/25	**EL1**	**EL2**	**EL3**	**Level 1**	**Level 2**
Maths			6		
English				2	

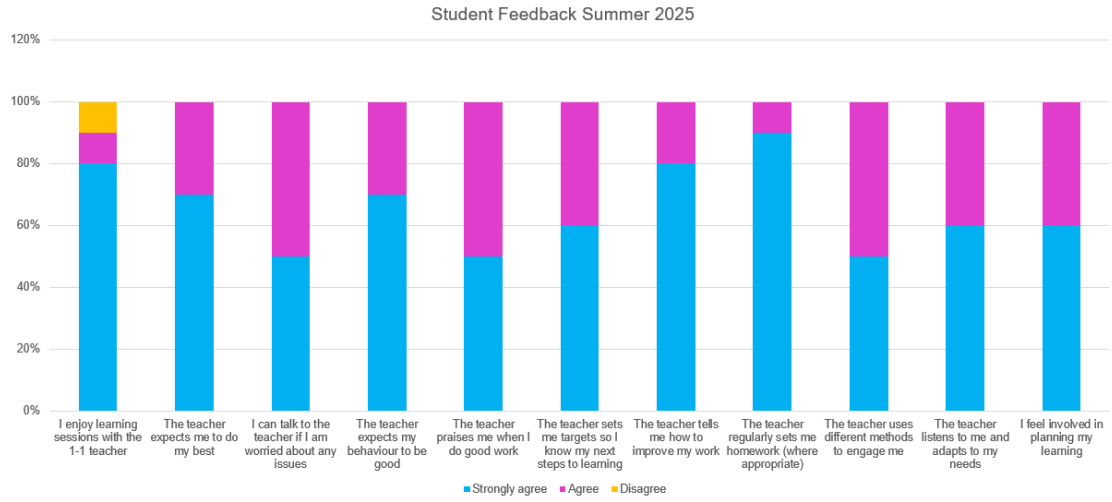
Moving On

4.12 At the end of a Home Hospital placement, a completed exit report is sent to the school along with completed work. Support is provided to return to an alternate provision if appropriate or support with transition to post 16 provision, linking in with the careers team progression advisors.

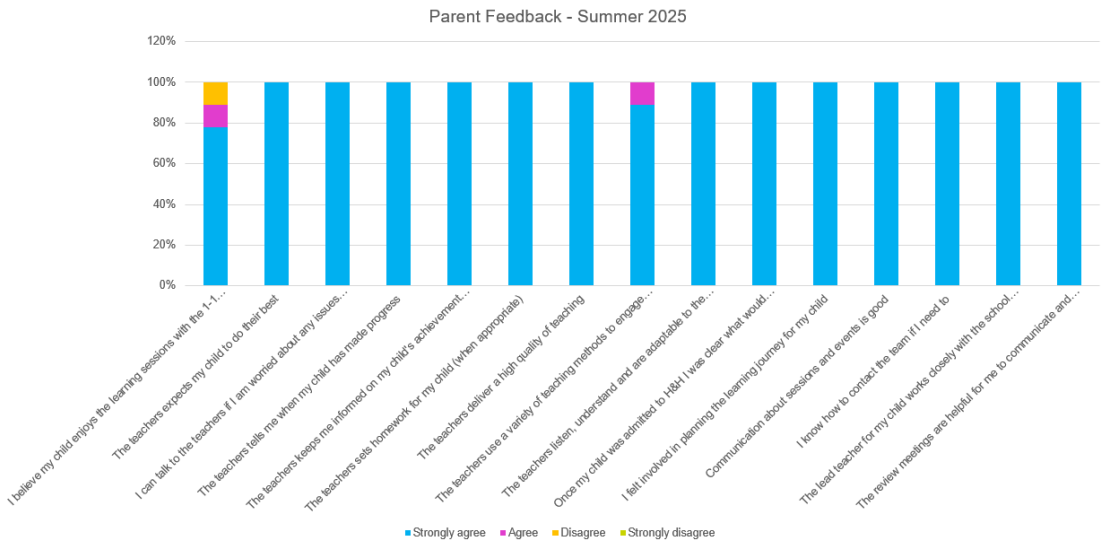
Feedback and Quality Assurance

4.13 Termly satisfaction data is collected from pupils and parents and the team respond to any suggestions for change. Regular meetings with school contacts are held to monitor the effectiveness of processes and support and teachers have lesson observations and book scrutiny. In addition, teachers have access to the CPD offer from the Education Inclusion and Achievement Service.

Student Feedback Summer 2025



Parent Feedback Summer 2026



4.14 Members noted that for home and hospital tuition, the service would respond as soon as they received notification; a child could be referred after missing 15 school days. There must also be medical evidence that the pupils is too unwell to attend school from a suitably qualified medical professional.

4.15 Additionally, numbers of children not attending school due to Emotionally Based School Avoidance appeared to be reducing due to the alternative provision being rolled out across Stockton schools

Member Observations

4.16 Member reflections from the home visit were that there was an overriding feeling of loneliness with this sort of education. Also, the fact that although a teacher is seen daily there is a restriction on the number of subjects taught.

4.17 Members noted that there are only two teachers and at the time of the review 19 students were needing their help Most hospital home education is for Secondary aged pupils – Primary Schools normally cater for their children who can't attend school by providing work to be done at home.

Elective Home Education

Definition - Elective home education is a term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home or in some other way they desire, instead of sending them to school full-time.

4.18 Electively Home Education Children are those whose parents have made the decision to educate them outside of the school system. In this situation, parents take full responsibility for sourcing and funding the child's education.

4.19 The Local Authority has a responsibility to ensure all children are accessing an education and therefore keeping a register, monitoring and tracking progress is carried out by the locality team caseworkers, the Local Authority have a policy and procedure that aligns with DfE national guidance including legal measures to return children to school in cases where education is not meeting the needs of the child. In the last academic year, 42 children were returned to school via school attendance order statutory measures.

4.20 Each year the number of children electively home educated rises. At the time of the review there were 476 children registered as EHE. Of these, 13 children were open to early help services, 6 were child protection and there were no Children in Our Care registered.

4.21 In Stockton the main reason parents gave last academic year for removing children to home educate was mental health. In addition, sometimes parents expressed dissatisfaction with the school. Where a child was home educated, they could return to state provision whenever they wished.

4.22 An annual report is presented to Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children's Partnership in September each year.

Data

4.23 The number of children electively home educated has risen each year.

Academic Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	20243/24	2024/25	Year to date Sept to Dec
No of Pupils	210	158	194	259	418	433	655	514

4.24 Numbers were steadily increasing year on year up until Covid19. It is evident numbers surged when school attendance once again became mandatory and the steady increase continues following the national and local lockdowns.

4.25 DfE collect and publish the data on electively home educated children on a termly basis via the Children not in school (CNIS) COLLECT.

Monitoring children who are Electively Home Educated

4.26 It is important to note that **safeguarding checks in isolation are not routine.** This reflects current legislative limits, but it underscores the importance of vigilance during educational monitoring. While checks cannot be made without cause, caseworkers have all accessed safeguarding training and can recognise signs of harm and escalate appropriately.

4.27 **Home visits made by caseworkers are within the remit of monitoring the child's education.** While the primary purpose is educational monitoring, caseworkers remain alert to safeguarding indicators during visits. Professional curiosity is vital—if anything observed raises concern (e.g., unsafe home conditions, signs of neglect), on education-focused visits escalation to a manager discussion and Children's HUB referral and safeguarding procedures are triggered even though the visit is not a formal safeguarding check.

4.28 This limitation highlights the importance of inter-agency communication and professional curiosity. While proactive safeguarding checks cannot be made without evidence, caseworkers use every interaction (e.g., education monitoring) to identify potential risks and escalate concerns promptly.

4.29 An overview of the process and steps involved are attached at **Appendix A**.

Building Relationships

4.30 The Service was working more closely with parents of elective home educated children to build relationships. Most parents engaged well with the Local Authority and the Information Pack sent to parents clearly set out issues for them to consider prior to making the decision to home educate. A range of activities to build relationships had been introduced including:

- Introduced Parent network for EHE parents to inform of the services and facilities available to children and their families
- Health and immunisation
- Health information newsletters circulated
- Careers information
- KS4 college access
- Library and museum facilities
- Wellbeing information

- Feedback from parents resulted in a rewrite of initial contact letters and reports with a more relational approach
- Feeding families food parcels through the HAF Programme

Considerations and Next Steps

4.31 The EHE policy was due for renewal and would be reviewed when there was greater clarity around the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. At the time of the review, the Bill was going through the House of Lords and would bring in provision for a compulsory register of children not in school and stronger Local Authority intervention powers. A Private Members Bill to establish a register of home educated children was also at Committee Stage in the House of Lords.

4.32 As well as being mindful of the legislative limitations and limited opportunities for professional oversight, other considerations included appropriate support and provision for free school meal children and SEND children and the impact of school place availability.

Member Observations

4.33 Of the families visited during home visits, Members noted that parents were supportive of what the Council provided. The children visited attended lots of clubs, activities and events. One parent used other organisations to access work for her child and supplemented home education with a maths tutor.

4.34 Members observed that the education provided at home was extensive and appeared to be a high standard and that the children visited still socialised personally and on line.

Children Missing Education (CME)

Definition - CME are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school.

4.35 Children Missing Education (CME) are those children not on a school roll. Numbers in Stockton have decreased over the last three years this may be attributed to off roll audits carried out every three weeks by the Locality Team and improved access to timely data by Stockton IMS and the DfE View Your Education Data (VYED).

4.36 In the academic year at the time of the review, 115 children had been referred from Stockton schools. To date, 61 have been traced, 32 enquiries had been made from other Local Authorities and 22 of these had been tracked as in a Stockton school.

4.37 Children missing education was recorded for absences of three weeks or more; the absence was quite often due to house moves. All referrals are actioned by the Locality Team with information sought from a broad range of agencies; investigations are made within Stockton, nationally and internationally when necessary.

4.38 CME are at significant risk of underachievement, poorer health outcomes, harm, exploitation, radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment, or training) later in life.

Referrals

4.39 The number of children referred as CME has decreased in recent years:

Period	Referrals
Autumn 2023/24	212
Autum 2024/25	182
Autumn – to date	132

4.40 Internal Factors which could be attributed to the decreased include:

- **Better access to data and uptake on MIS systems -** Improved integration of Management Information Systems (MIS) allows schools and local authorities to track attendance and pupil movements more accurately. Real-time data sharing reduces delays in identifying pupils at risk of becoming missing from education.
- **More timely discussions on pupils absent/missing education -** Regular multi-agency meetings ensure early intervention for pupils with persistent absence. Enhanced communication between schools and local authority teams helps prevent escalation.
- **Training for school colleagues on expectations and responsibilities -** Clear guidance on statutory duties for both schools and Local Authorities. Training sessions improve understanding of safeguarding implications linked to absence and off-rolling.
- **Off-roll audits to identify errors or immature practice -** Systematic reviews of pupil off-roll cases to ensure compliance with regulations. Identification of patterns that may indicate inappropriate practices or gaps in safeguarding.

4.41 External Factors which could be attributed to the decrease included:

- **Introduction of Working Together to Improve Attendance -** National framework promoting consistent attendance strategies across schools. Emphasis on partnership working between education providers and local authorities.
- **Updated Children Missing from Education Guidance -** Strengthened statutory guidance clarifying roles and responsibilities. Increased accountability for timely reporting and follow-up.
- **National data availability -** Access to comparative data enables benchmarking and identification of trends. Supports evidence-based decision-making at local and national levels.
- **CNIS COLLECT data -** Centralised data collection improves monitoring of pupil movements. Facilitates early identification of vulnerable learners.
- **Focus on links to child exploitation and media exposure -** Greater awareness of safeguarding risks associated with missing education. Media coverage drives public and professional attention to the issue.

4.42 Safeguarding information requested included:

Previous Risks:

- Has the child been subject to a Child Protection Plan? (Yes/No)
- Previous involvement with social care (dates and reasons)
- Historical incidents (e.g., neglect, physical harm, emotional harm)

Present Risks:

- Current safeguarding concerns (nature and severity)
- Any ongoing investigations or plans
- Agencies currently involved (social care, police, health)

Risk Management

4.43 Assurance reports are submitted to Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children's Partnership on an annual basis.

4.44 Robust liaison took place with other agencies including schools, teams within Children's Services and the wider council including housing and revenues and benefits, external agencies (health, other Local Authorities, Border Force, Police, voluntary agencies) and access to DfE sites such as GIAS and S2S.

Education Other than at School (EOTAS)

Definition -Education other than at school (EOTAS) means the education or special educational provision of children or young people outside of a formal educational setting.

4.45 EOTAS is different to Elective Home Education. It is provided for under Section 61 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which gives Local Authorities the power to arrange special educational provision outside of a school if they are satisfied that it would be "inappropriate" for the provision to be made in a school or college setting. If EOTAS is agreed upon, the local authority remains legally responsible for securing and funding the provision. In addition, the Local Authority monitors the provision in the plan, and it is reviewed annually.

4.46 In Stockton the number of pupils who strictly meet these criteria over the past few years has remained low and relatively stable.

4.47 Children with special educational needs who cannot access any educational setting owing to their needs are educated other than at school. It includes a small minority of children with the most complex needs agreed by SENDMAP based on evidence and monitored by both SEND and the Vulnerable Learners Teams.

4.48 At the time of the review, the numbers of EOTAS children were as follows:

- 7 children currently in Stockton who are registered as EOTAS
- 4 ordered by or as a result of the SEND Tribunal Service
- 3 agreed by the service via its SENDMAP, decision making panel
- Short term intervention

Alternative Provision (AP)

Definition - Alternative provision (AP) is education outside school, arranged by local authorities or schools, for pupils who do not attend mainstream school for reasons such as school exclusion, behaviour issues, school refusal, or short- or long-term illness.

4.49 Non School Alternative Provision is a new term promoted by the Department of Education. It means any provision that does not meet the criteria or threshold to legally have to register as a school. There are costs when schools and local authorities commission Alternative Provision and

the commissioners of AP must quality assure, review and monitor the provision to ensure it is safe and provides a quality education and outcomes which are appropriate to the pupil. AP provides tailored learning in settings like pupil referral units, specialist schools, or independent providers, ensuring students continue to receive education suited to their needs.

4.50 In Stockton support is provided to pupils through:

- A team focused on supporting pupils in AP including having education plans for pupils who are accessing NSAP
- Half termly AP networks for schools and agencies and AP providers
- An AP framework of providers and oversight of AP across the Borough
- Quality assurance of AP providers

Non School Alternative Provision (NSAP)

4.51 In Stockton the numbers of pupils accessing NSAP commissioned by schools and the Local Authority has risen. The reasons for the rise in the use of NSAP include managing challenging behaviour and a continued rise in suspensions and exclusions. This included pupils from vulnerable groups.

4.52 At the time of the review there were 34 pupils accessing NSAP since September commissioned by schools. There were 43 pupils in the previous academic year. There has also been an increase in queries regarding AP for primary aged pupils over the past year.

4.53 There are many NSAP's that schools and the Local Authority can access to support Stockton children. They are able to support pupils from KS1 to post 16. They can provide this in different ways including:

- Face to face education in a venue
- Tuition in different venues that are appropriate to the pupil including their home on occasion
- Online education both live and recorded
- Therapeutic support for neurodiverse pupils
- Outdoor and physical activities

Data Snapshot Autumn 2025

- There were 20 requests for AP advice from schools (60% primary and 40% secondary).
- Of the notifications we received in the Autumn term from schools:
  - There were more requests for advice about AP for boys than girls (75% boys and 25% girls)
  - There were 43 pupils who accessed AP from Stockton framework during the Autumn term (86% secondary and 14% primary) and 4 of them returned to school
  - 14 children who have been permanently excluded this academic year are accessing Local Authority organised AP

Stockton on Tees AP Framework

4.54 In 2021 the First Framework was published with a number of providers on. This was used as a school directory for schools to commission providers from an agreed framework. This Framework lasted for two years and had 29 providers on the framework at the start.

4.55 In 2023 - A new framework was agreed. It is open for 10 years and has the ability to add new providers if they meet the criteria at regular intervals. Between 2023 and 2025 there were 12 providers on the framework. Following successful applications in summer 2025 there are now 29 providers on the framework.

4.56 To be approved on the framework, providers must meet a set of criteria and go through a moderation process completed by a number of Local Authority Officers. Once approved, all providers will have an annual quality assurance visit. Providers may request to leave the framework or Stockton on Tees Council can end the agreement if they feel the provider no longer meets the criteria set.

4.57 Pathway Development Centres are Local Authority commissioned AP. They provide short term provision for children who have been permanently excluded in Key Stages 1-4 and include:

- 12-week placements in either a mainstream primary or secondary school or an SEMH special school
- 6 places in total in mainstream primary school
- 10 places in secondary school (from January 2026)
- 80 place Pupil Referral Unit – Bishopton PRU
- 10 places in specialist provision for children with ongoings EHC Needs Assessment

Quality Assurance of AP including Non School AP

4.58 An annual visit takes place to quality assure alternative provision. Local Authority officers who also have qualified teacher status complete the quality assurance of provisions. Quality Assurance (QA) involves a visit either face to face or online (if an online provider). Providers must also provide documents and a range of up-to-date policies, e.g. safeguarding certificates, insurance, policies, first aid etc. Until recently the QA visit focused on 64 different measures. However, following the publication of the new DFE voluntary standards guidance, the QA document was reviewed and is now organised into the four recommended areas for assurance: Health and Safety, Quality of education, Safeguarding and welfare and Admissions, Guidance and Support.

4.59 Whilst some providers have been given further advice to add even further improvements to their provision, only one provider at the time of the review (not on the framework) had not achieved a satisfactory quality assurance judgement within the last year.

AP Networks

4.60 Networks happen each half term and attendees include schools, Local Authority Officers, AP providers, parents, health and third sector representatives. Networks provide national updates and legislation, share good practice and facilitate co-production of guidance for stakeholders in Stockton. A recent network marketplace event saw 14 AP providers attend for a day to meet with schools and talk about what they can offer schools. Feedback was positive from the event from both AP providers and school staff and Local Authority officers. Feedback from the event praised:

- Face-to-face conversations and networking
- Variety and breadth of providers in one space
- High-quality information and clear overviews
- Professional, well-organised setup
- Bespoke offers tailored to learner needs

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Overall, the review highlights the wide range of reasons a child may not be accessing full time education at school and demonstrates that, while Stockton has strong systems in place for quality assurance, multi-agency working and engagement with families, there are pressures relating to emotional and mental health needs and rising demand linked to SEND. The Committee was also mindful that home visits to electively educated children were limited by legislation to the monitoring of the child's education. Increasing pressures continue to present risks to educational continuity and safeguarding.

5.2 The Committee's recommendations therefore focus on strengthening staffing capacity, consistency and partnership working to reduce time out of education and improve outcomes for vulnerable children. Alongside this, the Committee emphasises the importance of preparedness for anticipated legislative changes, improved information sharing to mitigate safeguarding risks, and early intervention to address emotional-based school avoidance. Collectively, these recommendations aim to ensure that all children and young people are supported to access suitable education safely and in a way that meets their individual needs.

5.3 The Committee recommends:

Home and Hospital (H&H)

1) That staffing capacity is reviewed to ensure provision remains, safe, responsive and broad enough in curriculum and that the staffing model adopted provides flexible and responsive provision in the most cost-effective way.
2) That opportunities are explored and expanded for peer social interaction.
3) That opportunities for partnership working to enhance both curriculum and enrichment are explored.
4) The re-integration pathways are explored.

Electively Home Educated (EHE)

5) That a more relational approach be strengthened with EHE families with identification of dedicated staffing resource to promote this.
6) That clearer information is provided to parents about:
    a. Examination entry processes
    b. Associated costs
    c. Available support services
7) That work continues to prepare for legislative changes on compulsory registers and strengthened Local Authority powers.
8) That the range of support shared via EHE networks is broadened.
9) That opportunities for partnership working to strengthen intervention and support are explored.
10) That the capacity for schools to provide early intervention and support in response to emotional and mental health needs is reviewed.

11) That best practice identified at the Attendance Networks on re-integrating vulnerable learners into school is widely and regularly shared.

12) That the support available to children and their families experiencing Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) is widely and regularly shared.

13) That the Team Around the School be fully appraised of the needs of previously Electively Home Educated pupils who are returning to mainstream education to support and nurture them back into school.

Children Missing from Education (CME)

14) That off roll audits are maintained and expanded to prevent inappropriate removal from school rolls.

15) That opportunities to work in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector are fully utilised to gather intelligence.

16) That consideration is given to how the social care reforms can be used to reduce the number of children missing from education.

Educated Other than at School (EOTAS)

17) That multi-agency working arrangements for children receiving EOTAS be strengthened, to ensure earlier, coordinated planning for children with complex needs, with education, health and social care partners jointly developing, owning and reviewing EOTAS packages to improve timeliness, quality and outcomes.

Alternative Provision (AP)

18) That the new QA framework is implemented fully with follow up action plans for providers needing improvement.

19) That AP networks continue to be expanded to promote consistent practice.

20) That action is taken to ensure that all AP placements have a clear education plan, regularly reviewed, with reintegration as a priority where appropriate.

Admissions

21) That processes and capacity for pupils with EHCPs who move into the Borough are reviewed to minimise time out of education.

Safeguarding

22) That caseworker training in professional curiosity is enhanced to seek to ensure that risks are spotted during educational monitoring visits.

23) That multi-agency information sharing for EHE and CME cohorts is strengthened, to compensate for restrictions on direct safeguarding checks.

24) That CME processes continue to involve agencies such as Border Force, Police, Health and Housing to track and protect high risk pupils.

APPENDIX A

EHE Overview of process

STEP	ACTION	SAFEGUARDING FOCUS
Notification	School submits removal form	Identifies professionals involved.
Round-robin	Email to Children's Services & Health	Flags current/previous concerns
12-week visit	Offer home visit, record child's views	Observe environment, listen to child
MIS check	Review professional involvement	Ensure holistic context
Escalation	Refer to CHUB if concerns arise	Multi-agency safeguarding response
CME visit	Verify education provision	Address risk of missing education
12-month visit	Confirm continued education	Monitor long-term well-being

Steps

What we do	Why
Require a notification form from schools requesting information on professionals currently involved	This step is crucial for safeguarding because it helps identify whether the child is already known to services such as social care, health, or early help. Knowing which professionals are involved ensures continuity of care and allows for immediate escalation if there are existing safeguarding concerns. It also helps prevent gaps in support when a child is removed from roll.
On receipt of the notification of removal from roll IVL send a "round robin" email for information on current or previous involvement to children service managers and 0-19 health	This communication acts as an early safeguarding alert. By contacting children's services and health teams, IVL ensures that any historical or current concerns are flagged promptly. This collaborative approach reduces the risk of a child becoming invisible to professionals and enables timely intervention if safeguarding risks are identified.
An information pack is sent to the parent	This includes, information for parents, checklist, signpost to resources other parents have found useful, elective home education policy, and information on when to expect the first monitoring visit.
A contact is made at 12 weeks from removal from roll	a home visit is offered, and at this visit the views of the child are sought and recorded Seeking and recording the child's voice is a key safeguarding principle. It ensures that the child's perspective on their education and well-being is heard and documented. The home visit provides an opportunity to observe the child's living environment, which may reveal indicators of neglect or other risks that would not be apparent through remote checks.
A contact is made at 12 weeks from removal from roll.	a home visit is offered, and at this visit the views of the child are sought and recorded, Seeking and recording the child's voice is a key safeguarding principle. It ensures that the child's perspective on their education and well-being is heard and documented. A home visit can provide an opportunity to observe the child's learning environment.
*A further visit is made at 12 months to ensure the child continues to be in receipt of education, and the child's views are gathered.	This long-term monitoring helps safeguard against chronic educational neglect or failure. By revisiting after 12 months, the caseworker can identify whether the child's circumstances have deteriorated or improved and whether additional support or safeguarding action is required
When information becomes available that a child may be missing education. A home visit is scheduled and can be made under the children missing education statutory guidance to seek evidence an education is in fact taking place.	Missing education is itself a safeguarding risk. Home visits under CME guidance provide an opportunity to verify education and assess whether the child's circumstances suggest neglect, exploitation, or other vulnerabilities.

The home visits made by the caseworkers are solely within the remit of monitoring the child's education as legislation dictates	While the primary purpose is educational monitoring, caseworkers should remain alert to safeguarding indicators during visits. Professional curiosity is vital—if anything observed raises concern (e.g., unsafe home conditions, signs of neglect), this should trigger safeguarding procedures even though the visit is not a formal safeguarding check.
Prior to each visit the Caseworker checks the MIS system to establish if any other children's services professionals are involved	Checking the MIS system ensures that caseworkers are aware of any concurrent safeguarding interventions or concerns. This prevents duplication and ensures that any visit is informed by the child's wider context, which is essential for a holistic safeguarding approach.

Glossary of Terms

AP	*Alternative Provision*: Education arranged for pupils who cannot attend mainstream school for reasons such as exclusion, illness, or other needs.
CAMHS	*Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services*: NHS services that support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people.
CNIS	*Children Not in School*: A local authority term for children of compulsory school age who are not registered at a school and are not receiving suitable education elsewhere.
CME	*Children Missing Education*: Children who are not on a school roll and whose educational provision is unknown.
DfE	*Department for Education*: The UK government department responsible for education, children's services, and skills.
EBSA	*Emotionally Based School Avoidance*: When a child struggles to attend school due to emotional or mental health difficulties, such as anxiety.
EHC	*Education, Health and Care*: Refers to the integrated support framework covering education, health and social care needs.
EHCP	*Education, Health and Care Plan*: A statutory plan setting out a child or young person's special educational needs and the support required.
EHE	*Elective Home Education*: When parents choose to educate their child at home rather than sending them to school.
EOTAS	*Education Otherwise Than at School*: Educational provision delivered outside of a traditional school setting, often for pupils with complex needs.
H&H	*Hospital and Home*: Education services provided to children who cannot attend school due to medical reasons.
HAF	*Holiday are Fun*: A government-funded programme providing activities and meals for children during school holidays.
MIS	*Management Information System*: Software used to manage and analyse pupil, attendance, and school data.

NEET	*Not in Education, Employment or Training*: Young people who are not engaged in formal education, work, or training.
NSAP	*Non-School Alternative Provision*: Educational provision delivered outside of a mainstream or special school setting for children and young people who require alternative arrangements.
PPE	*Personal Protective Equipment*: Equipment such as gloves or masks used to reduce health and safety risks.
PRU	*Pupil Referral Unit*: A type of Alternative Provision for pupils who are excluded or unable to attend mainstream school.
QA	*Quality Assurance*: Processes used to ensure services, decisions, and provision meet required standards.
SEND	*Special Educational Needs and Disabilities*: Support framework for children and young people who have additional learning needs or disabilities.

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JUNE 2026

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

KEY DECISION

Cabinet Member for Housing & Transport – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Richard Eglington

Cabinet Member for Children & Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Clare Besford

Procurement of Temporary and Supported Accommodation Contracts

Summary

This report seeks approval to commence a procurement exercise to ensure that the Council has access to appropriate temporary emergency and supported accommodation for adults (singles, couples and families), children in our care (over 16 years of age), care leavers and 16 and 17 year olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

The provision of temporary accommodation is essential for the Council to meet its statutory duties to those experiencing homelessness, ensuring that interim accommodation is available while individual secure a permanent home. This differs from supported accommodation, which is designed to support individuals who are not yet ready for independent living. Supported accommodation provides targeted support to help individuals develop the necessary skills, resilience and confidence required to sustain a tenancy and transition successfully into independent living. The provision of both temporary and supported accommodation directly contributes to the ambitions set out in the Stockton-on-Tees Plan, particularly in delivery the *Best Start in Life* and *Healthy and Resilient Communities* priorities.

Recommendations

1. To approve the proposal (as detailed in paragraph 12 to 15 of this report) to move forward with the procurement of new contracts for both Temporary and Supported Accommodation for adults (including singles, couples and families).
2. To approve the proposal (as detailed in paragraph 31 to 35 of this report) to move forward with the procurement of new contracts for Supported Accommodation for 16-year-old and over Children in Our Care, Care Leavers and 16 and 17 year-olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

3. Cabinet gives authority to the relevant Director or Assistant Director to make the specific contract award decision and any subsequent contract variation, annual inflationary uplifts (where allowed in the contract terms and conditions) and extension decision.

Detail

Background/context

1. As members will be aware, significant cross cutting work is ongoing at this present time to improve access to affordable housing, particularly to increase the availability of 1-bed properties. In addition (and as detailed within the body of this report) work is ongoing to proactively prevent children entering care and to support the reunification of children with their birth families.

2. These key strands of work will have a positive impact on the demand for temporary and supported accommodation including reducing overall expenditure; however, they will take some time to deliver measurable outcomes. In the interim, it is essential that appropriate temporary and supported accommodation provision is maintained to meet the needs of adults (including singles, couples and families), children in our care aged 16 and over, care leavers and 16–17-year-olds experiencing homeless. It is therefore proposed, subject to Cabinet approval to proceed with the procurement approach outlined paragraphs 12 to 15 and 31 to 35 of this report.

ADULTS (COUPLES, SINGLES AND FAMILIES)

Adults: Current Temporary Accommodation Contracts

3. Existing temporary accommodation arrangements were procured in 2021 based on emergency temporary accommodation only (as detailed in **Table 1**). The existing contract was awarded on an initial term of 3-years, commencing 1st October 2021 with the option to extend for 2 additional 1-year periods.

Table 1 - 2021 contracts

No. of units	*Needs Group*
87 units	**Single adults (including couples) with complex needs.** Includes the provision of 7 hours of housing related support per week* (paid at an hourly rate). *Provided through hostel based accommodation.*
10 units	**Single adults (and couples) low needs.** Includes the provision of 3 hours of housing related support per week* (paid at an hourly rate). *Provided through dispersed accommodation (i.e. a house or flat)*
20 units	**Family accommodation.** Includes the provision of between 4.5 to 5 hours of housing related support per week* (paid at an hourly rate). *Provided in a purpose build temporary accommodation block or dispersed accommodation units.*

> ***Housing-related support:*** includes for example, identifying and addressing barriers to accessing and sustaining housing as well as developing practical skills required to live independently. This may include managing a tenancy, protecting your own front door and the practicalities of living in your own accommodation (including cooking and paying bills) .

Revisions to the 2021 Temporary Accommodation contract:

4. In addition to the temporary accommodation detailed in **Table 1**, further provision has been brought online to respond to emerging needs and service pressures needs, as detailed in **Table 2** (overleaf).

Table 2 - additional units brought online

No. of units	*Needs Group*
12 units	**Single adults** (with complex needs, with a history of rough sleeping). *Provided in a block of 6 units and 6 dispersed (flatted units).* Housing related support costs were initially funded via monies secured from the Governments 'The Rough Sleeper Initiative'. The service is delivered through 2 dedicated support workers for these 12 units. Since MHCLG monies have ceased the support worker costs have been met by the Council.
14 units	The flexibility of this dispersed accommodation (flats and houses) allows it to be used for **families, couples and/or singles**. *Provided through dispersed accommodation (i.e. a house or flat).* Housing related support within these units is provided either through funding secured via the Governments 'Local Authority Housing Fund' or directly by an in-house Support Officer.

5. The total number of temporary accommodation units (**Table 1 & 2**) totals 143; 109 units for singles, 20 for families and 14 which can be used by singles/couples or families.
6. During 2025/26 the total spend on the above contracts was £702,000. Members are asked to note that these costs relates to the 'housing-related support' costs of temporary accommodation and does not include the cost of the accommodation itself (i.e. rent and any applicable service charges). Depending on an individual's financial circumstances housing costs will be met by Housing Benefit or by eligible payments made by the individual.

Other forms of temporary accommodation:

7. Despite the increase in temporary accommodation provision detailed in **Table 2**, demand has exceeded available supply. When all commissioned units are fully occupied, it has been necessary for the Homelessness Service to use non-commissioned accommodation. This has included the use of other interim accommodation options such as bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation.
8. Whilst the use of B&B accommodation may be appropriate in some circumstances (for example where it is unsafe for the individual or family to remain in the borough), in most

cases placements have been made due to the lack of availability within commissioned accommodation. **Table 3** demonstrates the demand for temporary accommodation during the current contract period. Members are asked to note that the Homelessness Service seeks to minimise the use and length of stay in non-commissioned accommodation i.e. individuals are moved into commissioned accommodation or permanent accommodation at the earliest opportunity.

Table 3 – total number of placements in non-commissioned accommodation

Year	*No. of singles placed in non-commissioned or nightly-paid accommodation*	*No. of families placed in non-commissioned or nightly-paid accommodation*
2022/23	270	47
2023/24	200	72
2024/25	374	80
2025/26	418	78

Total spend on temporary accommodation costs:

9. The total cost incurred by the Council during 2025/26 for commissioned and non-commissioned on adult temporary accommodation was £880,000. This was funded through a mix of Council resources and Government grants secured by the Council to address homelessness challenges. Rising expenditure costs incurred on temporary accommodation is not unique to Stockton-on-Tees and is a pressure faced by local authorities nationally.

Adults: Projected Future Needs

10. In determining future accommodation needs the Homelessness Service has considered a range of factors, including:

(a) *Current service demands*:

- The number of households assessed under the Homelessness Reduction Act: in 2025/26 this was 2349 (slightly lower that 2024/25). Of these, 732 were 'relief' cases, where applicants were assessed as being homeless and eligible for assistance.
- The number of placements made in both commissioned accommodation: during 2025/26 310 applicants were placed in commissioned temporary accommodation; 262 singles and 48 families. The number of placements in non-commissioned emergency accommodation is detailed in Table 3.

(b) The wider housing context:

- The current and anticipated supply of affordable move-on accommodation across both the private rented and social rented sectors. This is particularly challenging for those requiring 1-bed accommodation.

(c) The changing needs of those seeking support from the Homelessness Service:

- As with many local authorities, a considerable proportion of those approaching the Homelessness Service, specifically single people are not simply 'roofless', but present with multiple and complex needs. These include histories of drug & alcohol dependency, as well as physical and mental health issues. As a result, tailored housing related support is essential to enable individuals to successfully move on from homelessness and sustain a tenancy.

11. In addition to the above it is recognised that future arrangements must be sustainable and financially viable for the Council, ensuring that value for money is achieved.

Adults: The Proposed New Model

12. Subject to Cabinet approval, the proposal is to proceed with a procurement exercise to secure both **temporary emergency accommodation** and **supported accommodation**. In both cases, the funding model for housing-related support will move away from a fixed allocation of 'hours of support' towards the provision of **on-site Support Officers**. Under this model, one full-time equivalent (FTE) Support Officer will support a caseload of approximately 8 individuals, enabling support to be flexed according to individual needs. This approach is preferable to the existing model (a fixed allocation of housing-related support hours per individual), as individuals did not always engage. In addition, the proposed model allows for the inclusion of supported accommodation to be delivered within the available budget. The proposed new model is summarised in Table 4 below:

Table 4 – The Proposed New Model

Temporary (emergency) Accommodation	
No. of units	*Needs Group*
40 units	Single person accommodation
28 units	Family accommodation
3 units	Flexible accommodation (single or families)
This provision will ensure the Council is able to meet its statutory duty to provide those who are homelessness who are assessed as vulnerable and therefore in priority need (in accordance with homelessness legislation). This accommodate will be used primarily for individuals and families who are 'roofless' ad are able to move on to suitable accommodation as soon it becomes available.	
Supported Homeless Accommodation	
No. of units	*Needs Group*
40 units	Single person accommodation – mixed gender
6 units	Single person accommodation – female only
This provision will deliver targeted support to those who are to not yet ready to sustain a tenancy independently. Housing-related support will be provided to help individuals develop the necessary skills and resilience to transition successfully into independent living.	

13. Whilst the total number of units (**121**) proposed in this new model is lower than the total number of units (commissioned and non-commissioned) accessed during 2025/26, the revised approach has been designed to better align provision with identified need. It places greater emphasis on an appropriate placement (in either temporary or supported accommodation), enhanced support and improved throughput, aimed at reducing reliance on emergency and non-commissioned accommodation. This is expected to deliver improved outcomes for residents and better value for money.
14. To avoid an over-concentration of temporary and supported accommodation in locations which may already have high numbers of private rented and/or transient populations, it is

proposed to limit the number of units which the Council will procure within a single road or street.

15. Finally, to ensure that the proposed model meets the Council's needs, the initial contract award will be for a 2-year term with the option to extend for up by two 1-year extensions.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

16. Children's Services commission supported accommodation models for young people in care and care leavers to meet statutory duties under the Children Act 1989 to:

- take steps to develop accommodation provision to meet the needs of all children and young people in care locally as far as is possible.
- provide both emergency and continued accommodation and support to 16- and 17-year-olds who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.
- provide suitable accommodation to young people leaving care (over 18 years old) unless their welfare does not require it.

17. The aim of supported accommodation is to help young people develop the skills and confidence they need for greater independence while ensuring they remain safe in a homely and nurturing environment. This provision can be appropriate for some young people where it aligns with their wishes, meets their assessed needs and supports a carefully managed transition to independence. Supported accommodation is primarily used for 16 and 17year old children in care to enable them to live semi-independently, and for young people aged 18 and over as care leavers.

18. Supported accommodation for 16 and 17-year-olds is governed by The Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023, which apply to provision supporting 16 and 17 year-old children in care and care leavers. The Regulations include Quality Standards that set out the outcomes providers are expected to achieve and establish a national regulatory framework under which all providers must register with Ofsted, which is responsible for inspection and ongoing monitoring to ensure compliance and safeguarding of young people.

Children's Services: Current Commissioned Services

19. Supported accommodation models currently commissioned by Children's Services range from shared supported accommodation with 24 hour on-site support through to dispersed accommodation (2 bed shared houses) with floating day time support.

Table 5 - Current block contract commissioned services

Number of places	***Support model***	***Contract length***
8	Support and accommodation for 16–17-year-olds. 24-hour on-site support with individual support hours for each young person to develop skills for independent living.	01/02/2024 to 30/09/2026
10	Support and accommodation for 16–21-year-olds 24-hour on-site support with individual support for each young person to develop skills for independent living.	01/10/2020 to 30/09/2026

	1 emergency flat ('crash pad') to support young people who are at risk of homelessness or come into care in an emergency.	
6	Support and accommodation for 16–21-year-olds 3 x 2 bed properties with floating day time support provided for young people to develop skills for independent living.	01/11/2022 to 30/09/2026
12	Support and accommodation for 18–25-year-olds Onsite security 24/7 and individual support each week for care leavers who need low levels of support to develop their independence skills. 1 emergency flat ('crash pad') to support young people who are at risk of homelessness.	01/05/2025 to 30/09/2026

20. During financial year 2025-2026 the total annual spend on contracted commissioned supported accommodation was £934,000. Members are asked to note that this relates to support costs and accommodation costs when a young person is under 18 years. When a young person is aged 18 years or over, depending on their financial circumstances, housing costs are met by Housing Benefit.

21. The cost of commissioned supported accommodation varies significantly depending on the model of provision and the level of need of the young person. Weekly costs currently range from £125 per person per week for care leaver models, up to £947 per person per week for young people under 18 who are not eligible for housing benefit and require higher levels of support. This variation reflects the diversity of the market, which includes provision ranging from 24-hour staffed accommodation to more dispersed or floating support models. As a result, there is a broad spectrum of associated costs linked to property types, staffing ratios and the complexity of individual need.

Children's Services: Other forms of delivering and commissioning supported accommodation

22. In addition to the block contracts referenced in **Table 5**, where a young person's needs require them to live outside of the Borough, or where their needs cannot be met within existing commissioned services, accommodation and support arrangements are arranged through spot purchasing (i.e. placements outside of commissioned services and contracts) by the Children's Brokerage Team. For the financial year 2025-2026 £3,474,000 was spent on individual spot purchased placements, reflecting a structural gap between demand and available commissioning provision, particularly for older young people with complex needs.

23. Projected demand remains high and stable, with children in our care is increasing and demand concentrated in the 16+ age cohort, where need is driven by complexity, care arrangement instability and variable transitions to independence. Forecasting indicates that this demand will not reduce in the medium term, but instead continue at a sustained level, requiring ongoing access to supported and transitional accommodation. To address this, the Council intends to implement a targeted sufficiency programme focused on reducing reliance on off-contract provision over time, through the following key workstreams:

- *Market shaping and capacity growth*: using provider gateway powers and strategic partnerships to increase local supported accommodation and specialist provision aligned to need.
- *Commissioning reform:* further developing a framework and block model to reduce reliance on spot purchasing and improve cost and quality control.
- *Internal capacity pipeline*: delivery of new provision (e.g. Edge of Care home, complex needs homes, supported pathways) to reduce emergency arrangements and out-of-area usage.
- *Demand and pathway management*: strengthening arrangement stability, step-down pathways and transition planning, including targeted work on 16–17-year-olds at risk of living in unsuitable accommodation.

24. In summary, the current £3.47 million plus off contract spend is a direct consequence of demand exceeding local sufficiency. The proposed procurement and wider work programme are designed to address this structurally, however a reduction in off contract spend will be gradual and dependent on the successful delivery of additional capacity.

25. Alongside this, Children's Services deliver 'in-house' supported accommodation through two distinct offers: 4 Staying Close flats linked to our children's homes and 6 Supported Lodgings providers. (Supported Lodgings involve hosts offering a young person a bedroom and access to facilities within their home, alongside support to develop independent living skills and prepare for adulthood).

Children's Services: Activity levels

26. During 2025:

    - 29 (aged 16-17 years) young people were living in Ofsted registered supported accommodation.

    - 38 care leavers (aged 18+) were living in a mix of Ofsted registered accommodation and other supported accommodation (18+ accommodation and support is not required to be registered with Ofsted).

Children's Services: Future need and sufficiency priorities

27. In determining the current and future need for services, Children's Services have used a range of quantitative data, operational intelligence and insight from young people in our care to develop our sufficiency strategy for 2026.

28. The children's services Sufficiency Strategy for 2026 outlines that wherever possible our approach to family support will keep families together and prevent children from coming into care.

29. Where this is not possible, we aim for this care to be with extended family or family friends, and if this is not achievable, through appropriately skilled and experienced foster carers.

30. For young people aged 16 years and over who require supported accommodation we seek to deliver a range of supported accommodation that can meet diverse needs into early adulthood.

Children's Services: The proposed new model

31. The supported accommodation framework will provide Children's Services with the ability to draw off block contracts and individual places via a framework to ensure we have a range of options to meet the needs of our young people through:

    - **Block provision** (direct award or further competition) enabling the Council to secure guaranteed local capacity at a fixed cost. Block provision is where the Council pays for an agreed number of places in a provision (usually all the places available in that provision) over the term of a contract.
    - **Call offs for individual places in supported accommodation** to allow for flexible, needs led decisions so young people receive tailored support aligned with their assessed outcomes, where they may need to live outside of the Borough or their needs cannot be met within provision that is on the block contract. This element will be supported through the Childrens Brokerage team, utilising a pricing schedule template to review and negotiate appropriate costs.
    - **Targeted call offs** for a defined sufficiency need to allow the Council to directly address gaps in local provision, particularly where market capacity is fragile or unavailable. This enables proactive shaping of the market to ensure safe, appropriate options remain available within the borough if required.

32. The block element of the framework will be used to ensure the continuation of current commissioned services that are well utilised and high quality to ensure that there will be no gap in support for young people (please refer to **Table 5**). Block contracts will be called off within the current financial scope of existing services with a defined approach to managing uplift requests in place with finance throughout the life of the contract.

33. Children's Services are working proactively to prevent children from coming into care, and to reunify children with their birth families when it is safe and appropriate to do so, therefore there is an expectation over the lifetime of the contract that the need for supported accommodation will fluctuate. Call-offs against the framework for individual placements will give the Council flexibility to secure provision that best meets the needs of individual young people, while drawing on a pre-approved pool of providers where quality, price and outcomes have been robustly assured. This approach will reduce reliance on spot purchasing and support a more consistent, value-for-money commissioning model.

34. This model is deemed to be the most suitable approach as it combines block stability, individual flexibility and targeted sufficiency action, enabling the Council to secure the right type of provision at the right time and at a predictable cost, while strengthening local capacity, supporting ongoing provider entry and enhancing oversight, quality, and value for money in meeting statutory responsibilities.

35. The new model will maintain the current mix of places and support models that are currently commissioned as block contracts (please refer to **Table 5**) and provide the primary route for commissioning individual places in supported accommodation. To ensure that the proposed models meet the Council's needs, the initial contract award will be for a 2-year term with the option to extend by a further two 1-year terms.

Next Steps

36. Subject to agreement of the proposals detailed within the report it is proposed to move forward with a joint Adults and Children Services procurement exercise.

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

37. Two EPIAs have been completed (one for the Housing Service and one by the Children's Services) to ensure that the Council is following its legal duty to consider equality and diversity during the decision-making process. The conclusion of the EPIAs is that the proposals outlined within the report will have a positive impact on those who experience homelessness, those who experience physical and/or mental ill-health, those who are affected by poverty and those who have experience of care. The assessment has determined that no specific group or protected characteristic will be negatively impacted by the proposal.

Corporate Parenting implications

38. The proposals will have a positive Corporate Parenting impact by strengthening the Council's ability to provide safe, suitable and high-quality supported accommodation for children in our care and care leavers.

39. The introduction of a framework approach will improve placement choice and matching, increase quality assurance by Ofsted-registered providers, and reduce reliance on spot purchasing. This will support greater consistency, stability and better outcomes for young people, including their transition to independence.

Financial implications

40. Under the proposed new model (Adults and Children's), there will be a period of mobilisation and transitioning between existing and new arrangements (i.e. existing some contracts and bringing new accommodation online). On this basis it is anticipated that the new contract will not be fully operational until April 2027.

Adults: temporary emergency and supported accommodation

41. As noted within the body of this report in 2025/26 the cost of commissioned temporary accommodation services was £702,000, and the total cost of commissioned and non-commissioned accommodation £880,000.

42. On this basis it is anticipated that the new contract will not be fully operational until April 2027. For 2027/2028 the new contract cost value will be £648,000 and for 2028/29 £678,000 (reflecting the application of an annual uplift per FTE). Clearly there is a risk of continued reliance on non-commissioned accommodation should temporary accommodation demand outstrip supply or the throughput of accommodation not materialise. Budgets for these services will be maintained at current levels during mobilisation and reviewed once contracts are in place.

Children Services: supported accommodation

43. As noted within the body of this report, within the financial year 2025-2026 the cost of commissioned supported accommodation services was £934,000, and the total cost of commissioned and spot purchased supported accommodation was £4,408,000.

44. For 2027/2028 the new contract value will be maintained at the existing cost envelope of £934,000, which is included within Children's MTFP. Individual call off arrangements being drawn off and spend monitored against the 2025-2026 baseline. The Supported Accommodation budget has experienced budget pressures in 2025/2026. As outlined in the report above work is ongoing to identify ways to reduce the reliance on spot purchases, maximise value for money and reduce spend. Progress on reviews will be

updated through regular POF updates and performance against budget will be reflected in the regular MTFP updates to cabinet.

Legal Implications

45. The Council has a legal duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 to provide advice and assistance to anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness. Where an individual is homeless and appears to be in priority need, the council is responsible for arranging interim accommodation immediately and if the main housing duty is accepted, for securing suitable temporary accommodation until a long-term housing solution is found.

46. The Council has statutory duties under the Children Act 1989 (as amended) to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in its care and to ensure sufficient, suitable accommodation is available for looked after children and care leavers. This includes duties under sections 20, 22 and 23C relating to the provision of accommodation and support. In addition, under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Council must have regard to the Corporate Parenting Principles. Supported accommodation for 16–17-year-olds must comply with The Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023, including requirements for Ofsted registration, inspection and adherence to the Quality Standards. The proposed procurement approach supports the Council in discharging these statutory duties.

Risk Assessment

47. The procurement of accommodation services as detailed within the body of the report are considered **medium risk** (due to the volatility of the market and unknown future service demands). Existing management systems and daily route activities will be undertaken to control and reduce risk.

Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward/Councillors

48. Unknown at this stage and the location of temporary and supported accommodation will not be known until the procurement exercise has concluded.

Background papers

None

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Agenda Item 8

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JUNE 2026

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources and Regeneration – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Paul Rowling

Minutes of Various Bodies

Summary

The attached minutes are for consideration by Cabinet.

Reasons for Recommendation

To enable Cabinet to view the minutes of various bodies.

Recommendations

That the minutes of the meetings detailed in the appendices be received.

Detail

1. In accordance with the Council's Constitution or previous practice the minutes of the meeting of the bodies indicated below are submitted to members for consideration:-

   TSAB – 11 March 2026
   TVCA Cabinet – 24 April 2026
   SSP – 18 March 2026

Consultation and engagement

Not applicable.

Next Steps

None.

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Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board

Meeting Date: **Wednesday 11th March 2026**
Time: **9.30am – 12pm**
Venue: **Microsoft Teams**

Minutes

Attendees			
Name	**Job Role**	**Role**	**Representing**
Sy Agnew	Compliance Business Partner - Safeguarding	Member	Thirteen Group
Cllr Pauline Beall	Lead Member	Member	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Jane Bell	Business Support Officer	Member	TSAB Business Unit
Lindsay Britton-Robertson	Assistant Director of Safeguarding	Member	University Hospitals Tees
Claire Byers	Safeguarding Lead	Deputy	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
Elaine Godwin	Business Support Officer	Member	TSAB Business Unit
Louise Grabham	Director of Adult Social Care	Member	Middlesbrough Council
Adrian Green	Independent Chair	Member	Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board
Jill Harrison	Director of Adult and Community Based Services	Member	Hartlepool Borough Council
Neil Harrison	Head of Safeguarding & Specialist Services	Member	Hartlepool Borough Council
Alyson Longstaff	Advanced Customer Support Senior Leader	Member	Durham Tees Valley Department for Work and Pensions
Darren Longstaff	Temporary SAR Co-Ordinator	Member	TSAB Business Unit
Amy Mahoney	Business Manager	Member	TSAB Business Unit
Caroline McGlade	Chief Superintendent	Deputy	Cleveland Police
Sam Midgley	Project Officer	Member	TSAB Business Unit
Jen Moore	Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Adults	Member	North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Carolyn Nice	Director of Adults and Health	Member	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Lucy Owens **	Chief Executive	Member	Catalyst Stockton
Kayleigh Parris	Associate Director of Nursing	Member	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
Vicky Playforth	Interim Director of Nursing	Member	North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
John Rafferty	Compliance Business Partner - Safeguarding	Member	Thirteen Group
Patrick Rice	Corporate Director of Adults and Communities	Member	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Iain Richardson	Head of Safer Prisons & Equality	Member	HMP Holme House Prison
Angela Storm	Data Analysis and Performance Monitoring Officer	Member	TSAB Business Unit
Chloe Swash	Business Support Officer	Member	TSAB Business Unit
Kellie Woodley	North East Director	Member	People First

Apologies

Name	Job Role	Role	Representing
Angela Connor	Assistant Director Adult Social Care/PSW	Deputy	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Wayne Fox	Temporary Assistant Chief Constable	Member	Cleveland Police
Gina Hurwood	SAR Co-Ordinator	Member	TSAB Business Unit
John Lovatt	Assistant Director	Deputy	Hartlepool Borough Council
Kay Nicolson	CEO	Member	A Way Out
Cara Nimmo	Assistant Director for Adult Care Operations	Deputy	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Julian Penton **	Development Officer	Member	Hartlepool Community Trust
Ann Powell	Head of Stockton & Hartlepool PDU	Member	National Probation Service
Nicki Smith	Associate Director for Nursing (Safeguarding)	Member	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
Stephen Thomas	Development Officer	Member	Healthwatch Hartlepool

Absent (Invited)			
Name	**Job Role**	**Role**	**Representing**
Cllr Gary Allen	Lead Member	Member	Hartlepool Borough Council
Sarah Bowman-Abouna	Director of Public Health	Member	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Lee Brown	Area Manager	Member	Cleveland Fire Brigade
Mark Davis *	Chief Executive	Member	Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency
Natasha Douglas	Healthwatch Manager	Member	Healthwatch Stockton
Rachelle Kipling	Head of Policy, Partnerships & Delivery	Member	Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
Peter Neal *	CEO	Member	Redcar and Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency
Cllr Lisa Robson	Lead Member	Member	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Cllr Jan Ryles	Lead Member	Member	Middlesbrough Council
Linda Sergeant	Project Lead	Member	Healthwatch South Tees
Leanne Stockton	Business Manager	Member	Hartlepool & Stockton Safeguarding Children Partnership
Gary Watson	Business Manager	Member	South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership

* Attends on behalf of MVDA & RCVA,
** Attendance will be shared between Catalyst and Hartlepool Community Trust

Referenced Organisations		
Name	**Role**	**Representing**
Ashleigh Parsons	Inspector	CQC (Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar & Cleveland) ***
Rachel Lucas		North East Ambulance Service

*** CQC Attend the Regional Safeguarding Adults Board Chairs Network Meetings.

Copies: Margaret Blakey, Tami Egonu, Caroline Galilee, Jayne Hardwick, Rebecca Nary, Abbie Smith, Executive Mailbox Cleveland Police, NENCICB Safeguarding.

Agenda Item 1	**Introductions and Apologies**	**Presenter:** Chair
Adrian Green (AG) welcomed members to the March meeting and reminded members that the Board's role is to protect those with care and support needs from abuse and neglect and to be professionally challenging and curious whilst remaining respectful.		

Apologies were noted and AG welcomed Sy Agnew who will take over from John Rafferty as Board representative for Thirteen Housing.

Agenda Item 2	**Minutes from the meeting held on 10th December 2025**	**Presenter:** Chair

Actions from the meeting that took place on 10th December were reviewed and updates provided:

2.1: Invitation to the Rough Sleeping Working Group to be forwarded to Helen Dent
Helen Dent attended the March Rough Sleeping meeting and has been invited to attend the June meeting to provide a further update.

3.1: Analysis of identified care and support needs relating to missing persons to be shared with the Business Unit
Cleveland Police have shared data with Board members in relation to this item, prompting a further query in relation to age distribution by gender.

4.1: Update on work around conversion rates to be provided.
Carolyn Nice (CN) confirmed that work is progressing within Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC).

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

Agenda Item 3	**Thematic SAR (Robert & Sandra) & SAR / DARDR (Sandra)**	**Presenter:** Jill Harrison

This section of the minutes has been removed due to its confidential nature.

Agenda Item 4	**Q3 2025-26 Data Dashboard**	**Presenter:** Angela Storm

A link to access the Q3 Data Dashboard was shared with members via the agenda. Angela Storm (AS) summarised the key points from the data.

Priorities & Aims
Information Engagement & Involvement – There was an increase in both social media activity and website views during the quarter as a result of National Safeguarding Adults Week (NSAW), which took place in November.

Confident, Competent Practice – Q3 was a busy period for SAR notifications, with four notifications received and one notification considered, in this period by the SAR Sub-Group.

Emerging Challenges & Enabling Solutions – Data includes the number of cases referred into the High-Risk Adults Panel (HRAP), and a Multi-Agency Audit has taken place to look at the number of Concerns not progressing to a S42 Enquiry.

Performance Indicators (PIs)
Only one PI is not being achieved, and this has only been missed by 1%. The figures have been impacted by two of the Local Authority (LA) areas. Discussion has taken place at the Performance, Audit and Quality (PAQ) Sub-Group in relation to this and work is ongoing. Whilst the number of repeat cases remains similar to the previous year, the decline in the number of S42 Enquiries is having an impact on the percentages. Good progress has been made in the number of individuals being asked about desired outcomes and PI3 records that 100% were satisfied with the outcomes they received.

Concerns
There has been a 4% increase in comparison to the previous year, with the highest numbers recorded in Middlesbrough Council (MBC) and. The main categories of abuse were Physical, Neglect & Acts of Omission and Self-Neglect. Own Home remained the main location of risk. The average age was 59

and the majority of Concerns received were for females. The top referrers were Care Homes, Social Care and Housing.

S42 Enquiries
The conversion rate of 32% is above the national average and includes variation across the LA areas. The main category of abuse is Neglect & Acts of Omission, and Domestic Abuse has now replaced Physical in second place; driven by the increase in this category within MBC. The average age remains similar to the previous quarter at 57, and the majority of Enquiries involved females. Own Home was the main location of risk with Domestic Abuse, Self-Neglect, and Neglect & Acts of Omission being the main categories. There has been an increase in Enquiries relating to Care Homes during the Quarter with Neglect & Acts of Omission and Physical being the main categories of abuse. Social Care and Care Homes were the main sources of referral.

Outcomes
345 cases were concluded during the quarter. A high number of cases did not proceed to a S42 Enquiry and further work will be carried out by the PAQ Sub-Group to look at this in more depth, in terms of factors such as the type of abuse and location of risk. In 53% of cases, the source of risk was known to the individual. As demonstrated in the PIs good progress has been made in the recording of outcomes.

HRAP
There was an increase in the number of referrals received during Q3, but also an increase in the number of cases declined, with HBC and MBC seeing the highest proportions. The main age group was 30-49 and the majority of cases related to females. Work is planned to carry out a review of the HRAP process going forward.

AS reminded members that further detail on the data is provided within the narrative section of the Data Dashboard.

AG thanked members for the work that has been done in relation to the PIs, noting that there is now only one that is not being achieved by a small margin.

Following discussions at the TSAB Development Session, it was recognised that the Business Unit have experienced difficulties in accessing Police data since the move to the PowerBI system. Work is now underway with Cleveland Police to allow AS access to the relevant dashboards that can provide a wider range of data. AG thanked Cleveland Police for the work being done around this and reminded all members of the benefit of having a dedicated analyst. Ensuring that AS has access to the relevant data will help to provide both the Board and partners with meaningful data and maximise the benefits of this role.

Agenda Item 5	**Cleveland Police - Data**	**Presenter:** Caroline McGlade

This section of the minutes has been removed due to its confidential nature.

Agenda Item 6	**ICB Update**	**Presenter:** Vicky Playforth

Vicky Playforth provided members with an update in relation to the restructure taking place within the ICB.

A revised structure has now been approved and the Executive Director and Director positions are expected to be communicated to partners later this week. Revised arrangements will commence on 1st May 2026 and secondments, including VP's position, have been extended until 4th May to support with this. Some roles may continue into September to cover the transition period.

Early discussion has started with NHS colleagues and Providers to look at reforms and responsibilities, how to inform future arrangements across all partnerships, any challenges and what the approach to delivery will be. An NHS Leadership Group will be formed to take this work forward and move to a more collaborative approach to Safeguarding. There will be a new ICB Safeguarding Assurance Committee to

tighten the Safeguarding Framework, the contracting process and to provide assurance to wider partnerships. VP noted the importance of keeping the Board updated on ways of working and changes that will take place as a result of the ICB becoming a strategic commissioner.

JH noted that although the ICB role is changing they remain a Statutory Partner within TSAB and that proposals to no longer be involved in the HRAP process may require further discussion. AG added that this links to a discussion at the previous Board meeting around whether ICB attendance at HRAP is required.

CN noted that HRAP is for the most high-risk individuals and that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility both statutorily and ethically, voicing concern around all partners not being included within this. AG queried if ICB should attend individual meetings or if their attendance should be at Board level to consider any strategic issues around HRAP. CN responded that there would need to be consistency as to how this would feed in to allow for quick turnaround and decision making, noting that if one partner pulls out of the process this may then lead others to question why they need to be involved.

Correspondence sent to HRAP Chairs implied that representation from health would come via the relevant GP, but that 6 weeks' notice would need to be provided. Members queried if this was realistic due to the nature of the HRAP process. Amy Mahoney (AM) advised that ICB have been asked to be part of the HRAP review to support understanding of the proposed arrangements for representation in the future.

VP advised that HRAP is a local arrangement rather than a statutory duty and noted that more work needs to be done to better understand what the escalation process would be. Whilst ICB would be involved at a strategic level they may not be best placed to attend individual meetings.

JH noted that there have been a number of recent SAR cases which have highlighted the need for links with primary care, and that a 6 week notice period creates a significant gap. CN voiced concerns around primary care being the link to HRAP, adding that primary care are often reluctant to engage in the safeguarding process as this is not seen as a priority. VP responded that ICB are aware of these concerns and are looking at ways to strengthen this.

AG noted that HRAP has come to a natural point where a number of questions are being raised and that the review will provide an opportunity to consider these. AG stressed the importance of involvement from GPs and that as a commissioner of primary care the ICB need to factor this in. AG noted the need for the Board to work with the ICB to find opportunities for savings, but it is important for them to remain an active member of the Board, rather than just an observer. A strength of HRAP is that it's a Teeswide process. Strategic leaders and partners need to support the process and empower HRAP to step outside of normal processes and procedures to support the most high-risk individuals.

VP will provide a further update to April Board.

Action Points	Action Owner	Deadline
1. A further ICB Update to be provided at the next Board meeting	VP	22/04/2026

Agenda Item 7	Sub-Group and Task & Finish Group Update	Presenter: Chairs

Updates were provided from the Sub-Groups that have met since the last Board meeting in December.

Communication & Engagement (CE) – Neil Harrison

The Sub-group met on 2nd February. Discussion took place around campaigns to raise awareness of safeguarding, including the Transitions for Young People into Adulthood Workshop which took place on 17th February in conjunction with the Children's Partnerships. An evaluation of this campaign will be presented at the June Board meeting.

The CE Campaigns plan for 2026/27 was discussed. There will be a Spotlight campaign in each quarter

with quarter 3 including National Safeguarding Adults Week. The campaign plan will take into consideration findings from the Annual Survey and will be agreed at the next CE meeting in April.

Highlights from the TSAB Annual Survey were discussed. An overview of these findings was presented at the TSAB Development Day and a more comprehensive evaluation will feature in this year's Annual Communication and Engagement Report which will be presented to Board in June. This year has seen an increase on last year's submissions from the public although a low response from emergency services was noted, and members considered ways to better engage with professionals in this sector.

Membership of the Sub-Group was discussed and members noted that the VCSE sector remained underrepresented. Discussions have already taken place with Lucy Owens, Chief Executive Officer for Catalyst, around a standing agenda item to be included in her regular meetings with counterparts across Tees regarding the work of the CE Group.

The Evie SAR and Learning Briefing was shared with members and a request was made for partners to review and update relevant webpages to include details of bereavement services.

Members were asked to promote recently reviewed documents including the Practice Guidance for Reporting Medication Incidents Into Safeguarding and Guidance for Commissioners – Safeguarding and Medication Incidents. Discussion took place around the use of X and it was agreed to wait for the outcome of Ofcom investigations and Government guidance to inform the use of the platform moving forward. Recent press interest was highlighted from Teesside Live including a positive overview of the Annual Report and an extensive article on the Evie SAR.

National Safeguarding Adults Week Evaluation Report:

The campaign, led by the Ann Craft Trust took place between 17-21st November 2025. The overall theme for the week was Working in Partnership with key themes set for each day. Highlights included a social media and communications plan, daily social media posts and a dedicated webpage hosting a range of resources.

The TSAB Facebook reach saw a 488% increase and the TSAB website received 4,436 views which included a 39% increase on the Report Abuse page compared to the previous week.

Hits Radio produced an advert and CVFM Radio supported the campaign by sharing TSAB messaging, bilingual adverts and daily segments. They also produced a podcast which featured TSAB Independent Chair, Adrian Green.

Six workshops took place with a total of 180 professionals in attendance across the week. Good feedback was received. This Safeguarding Adults Week was the first time that safeguarding messages were promoted via GP Screens. Awareness stalls and drop-in sessions were set up across various organisations and information was shared in Partner newsletters and internal communications. The campaign generated 30 newsletter sign-ups as well as 18 new Safeguarding Champions.

The campaign was successful in achieving its aim to raise awareness of adult Safeguarding across Tees. AG thanked the Business Unit and wider partners for their involvement during the week.

A copy of the full Evaluation Report was circulated with the agenda.

Operational Leads – Amy Mahoney

Meetings took place in January and March. A wide range of items were discussed across the two meetings including Peer Support and the Enquiry process for agency staff in acute trusts. Work around best practice and lived experience was considered and the resources developed from the Mental Capacity Workshop were shared.

A number of documents are currently undergoing review including work to bring together a lived

experience focus group to review the Making Services Easier To Engage In Guidance following a number of recent SAR notifications highlighting barriers and challenges.

Findings from the HRAP Audits were discussed and the collated report will be presented to Board in April. Some of the findings align with discussions that took place at the Board Development Session, and AM noted that it would be useful for ICB to consider these in terms of direction that the process will take going forward. A themed discussion took place around HRAP data and the audit schedule for 2026-27 was reviewed.

HBC presented their Clean Sweep Pilot relating to Hoarding and Self-Neglect.

The Decision Support Guidance will be reviewed and strengthened and the group discussed producing some referrer's guidance as a result of discussion at the Board Development Session. A draft Tees Persons In Position of Trust (PiPoT) Policy was also considered and member feedback requested.

Under Complex Cases the group discussed reflective practice for staff and the importance of supporting wellbeing, especially in relation to the support for individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts.

A number of out of area SARs and specific actions allocated by the SAR Sub-Group were considered and discussion took place around national training and the National SAB Conference.

A copy of the Multi-Disciplinary Team Guidance was shared with the agenda for final comments and feedback. The main changes to the document have been highlighted which have been updated following recommendations from the JJ SAR and the NB single agency review that took place in MBC. The document was approved by members.

Performance, Audit and Quality – Angela Storm on behalf of Jen Moore

The Sub-Group met on 2nd March. The quality of Concerns received from Cleveland Police and NEAS was discussed, noting that these are received on different forms, which means that the data then has to be transferred onto another form. Issues around missing information and feedback to the referrer on NEAS submissions were highlighted. To try and overcome these, the LAs are providing some example forms that will then be discussed in a meeting with NEAS, the Chair of the PAQ Sub-Group and the Business Unit.

An update on the Q3 data was provided and each LA presented their own data. The high number of Concerns that don't progress to an Enquiry was considered and discussed how this information can be better recorded going forward. A new tab will be added to the Data Dashboard to allow this to be looked at in more depth. Three-tier data reporting was considered following discussion at the TSAB Development Session, with the aim of introducing this for the 2026-27 data reporting. Further discussion will take place at the Performance Leads meeting in terms of what will be required to achieve this.

A new QAF proposal was also discussed, and this will be shared with the PAQ members for feedback.

Rough Sleeping Working Group – Louise Grabham

The group met on 3rd March and continues to be well attended. Updates were provided by each LA on their Target Priority Groups, identifying any barriers and risks. Common themes were noted in relation to engagement and resources needed to support this. This links to the work that the Business Unit are doing to review the Making Services Easier to Engage In guidance and a number of user groups have been identified to assist with this to ensure that the work with rough sleepers feeds into TSAB policies and resources.

Partner updates were provided by Changing Futures, Cleveland Police and Probation. A full evaluation report from Changing Futures will be considered at the next meeting to identify lessons learned and how these can be used going forward. Further work was identified from the Probation presentation linked to prison release, and Cleveland Police are looking to identify if they can provide data in relation to release

from custody where an individual has no fixed address.

A Task & Finish Group will be established to carry out a community mapping exercise to look at wider support for Rough Sleeping and identify any gaps in support. MBC have already done a piece of work around this which has identified over 60 organisations that are involved.

A draft Workplan was shared with members for comments and feedback and will be considered in more detail at the next meeting.

AG thanked the group for the progress that is being made.

Safeguarding Adults Review – Jill Harrison

The SAR Sub-Group met on 14th January. A HBC case was considered and whilst it was agreed that this did not meet the criteria for a SAR a number of Single Agency recommendations were made and will be reported back at the next Sub-Group meeting. Action plans for the out of area SARs conducted by Sunderland were reviewed and cross referenced with learning already identified within previous Tees reviews. A thematic SAR Analysis on Homelessness conducted by Sunderland SAB was presented to the Sub-Group and relevant learning for Tees was identified. A copy of the analysis has been shared with members within the information section of the agenda.

A SAR Notification meeting took place on 18th February and considered 2 new notifications. Recommendations were made that both cases did not meet the criteria for a SAR, but single agency learning was identified in both cases. This will be followed up by the relevant LAs and reported back to future meetings. The group discussed that 'No Further Action' should not be recorded against notifications where a SAR is not agreed, and there is some form of learning to be taken forward. The group will look at better ways to capture this and record any single agency work that is carried out.

A copy of the Susan SAR Action Plan was circulated to members with the agenda for sign off. Members agreed with the sign off of this document.

An evaluation report from the MCA Workshop that took place in December in response to a previous SAR notification was shared with members.

Agenda Item 8	**Feedback from Development Sessions**	**Presenter:** Chair

The Operational Leads Development Session fed into the Board Development Session and these were then followed by the Legal Updates for Board Members session.

AG noted that work is already underway in relation to a number of areas discussed at the Board Development Session.

Discussion took place around S42 Enquiries linking to the data and differences in reporting across the LA areas which impacts on conversion rates and narrative. Whilst there is still more work to do around this, today's presentation by CM has been provided in quick response to this.

HRAP was discussed and debate has continued into this meeting.

Issues relating to survey return rates from emergency services and health were highlighted and how contacts within individual agencies can be better utilised to promote the survey going forward.

A key issue was noted in relation to the Safeguarding Champions and the need to refresh the initiative to ensure that they feel more valued.

Probation highlighted the language used in documentation with reference to victims. The Business Unit will look at this to ensure that it is relevant to all.

Good discussion took place at the Legal Updates session around Transitions and how this links to the

Board's priorities, both for those in care and those on the periphery. AG will consider how to best take this forward on behalf of the Board to link in with Councillors, Chairs of the Children's Boards and Chief Executives.

AG advised that the Regional Chairs Meeting now routinely includes the Business Managers. AG and AM attended the meeting that included a review of SARs across the region and highlighted key issues. This provides a good reference point for the Business Unit and the SAR Sub-Group to identify where existing learning is already being looked at to avoid commissioning SARs where learning has already been identified elsewhere. A better use of SAR funding would be to consider where barriers lie in relation to learning that has already been identified. Looking at SARs more tactically and tightening thresholds may help to provide better value, rather than fuelling what has already been identified. AG highlighted the use of the Mental Capacity Workshop to take forward learning from a SAR. This approach was well received locally and is now being considered both within our wider region and others.

AM advised that the Business Managers Group are taking forward a piece of work to look at the actions collectively. Updates will be provided through the SAR Sub-Group.

Agenda Item 9	**Any Other Business**	**Presenter:** All
AG thanked Nikki Smith for her contribution to the Board and also to John Rafferty for his contribution and support, and to wish him a happy retirement.		

Next Meeting Date: **Wednesday 22nd April 2026**
Time: **9.30am – 12pm**
Venue: **Microsoft Teams**

Minutes approved by Independent Chair:

Date: 19 March 2026

Appendix 1 - Attendance Matrix

The table below reflects named members of the TSAB, although deputies have been shaded.

Company	09/04/2025	11/06/2025	10/09/2025	08/10/2025	10/12/2025	11/02/2026	11/03/2026	7
A Way Out	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	**43%**
Catalyst Stockton / Hartlepool Community Trust	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	**57%**
ICB	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	**100%**
Cleveland Fire Brigade	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	**86%**
Cleveland Police	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	**100%**
DWP	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	**71%**
Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children Partnership	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0%**
Hartlepool Borough Council	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	**100%**
HBC Lead Member	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0%**
Healthwatch Hartlepool	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	**43%**
Healthwatch South Tees	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	**43%**
Healthwatch Stockton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0%**
HMP Holme House Prison	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	**57%**
Middlesbrough Borough Council	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**100%**
MBC Lead Member	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0%**
Middlesbrough VDA / Redcar & Cleveland VDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0%**
National Probation Service Cleveland	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	**43%**
People First	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	**43%**
Public Health	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	**29%**
Office of Police & Crime Commissioner *	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	**86%**
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**100%**
RCBC Lead Member	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0%**
Stockton on Tees Borough Council	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	**100%**
SBC Lead Member	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	**71%**
South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0%**
Teesside University	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	**14%**
Tees Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	**86%**
Thirteen Housing	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	**57%**
TSAB Independent Chair	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	**100%**
TSAB Business Unit	5	6	6	6	6	5	6	**100%**
University Hospitals Tees	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	**57%**
* (committed to 2 meetings per year)								

TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

Friday, 24 April 2026 at 10.00am
Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport, Darlington

These Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next Cabinet meeting and are therefore subject to amendments.

ATTENDEES	
Members	
Mayor Ben Houchen (Chair)	Tees Valley Mayor
Councillor Stephen Harker	Leader, Darlington Borough Council
Councillor Pamela Hargreaves	Leader, Hartlepool Borough Council
Mayor Chris Cooke	Mayor of Middlesbrough, Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Alec Brown	Leader, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Councillor Lisa Evans	Leader, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Officers	
Tom Bryant	Chief Executive, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Sarah Brackenborough	Director of Operations, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Jo Moore	Interim Director of Finance & Resources, Tees Valley Combined Authority (joined on Teams)
Craig Peacock	Director of Inward Investment & Marketing, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Sarah Walker	Director of Business Solutions, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Jeanette McGarry	Interim Monitoring Officer, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Trevor Watson	Executive Director: Economy & Public Protection, Darlington Borough Council
Denise McGuckin	Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council
Matt Wilton	Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council
Erik Scollay	Chief Executive, Middlesbrough Council

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Brian Archer	Chief Executive, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Ged Morton	Corporate Services Director, Stockton Borough Council
Jacqui Banks	Business Solutions Manager – Skills, TVCA
Sally Henry	Governance Officer, TVCA
Jodie Townsend	Governance consultant (joined on Teams)
Also in attendance	
Councillor Ian Blades	Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee

These Minutes capture the key points and decisions of the meeting, but they do not attempt to reproduce every word spoken. The full recording can be found here.

	CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS **The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.**
TVCA 90/25	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies for absence were submitted by Mike Greene and Rose Rouse.
TVCA 91/25	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** The interim Monitoring Officer and the interim Director of Finance & Resources declared an interest in the Governance & Appointment item. All Leaders declared a non-pecuniary interest in the "Skills Programme – Approval of Adult Skills Grant Funded Provider Allocations & Approval of The Process for Awarding The Post-16 Capital Skills Allocations to Providers" item.
TVCA 92/25	**MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2026 were confirmed as an accurate record.

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TVCA 93/25	**TEES VALLEY MAYOR'S UPDATE** The Mayor advised Cabinet members that he had nothing further to update them on which was not covered elsewhere on the agenda. Members were however given an opportunity ask questions. No questions were asked.
TVCA 94/25	**GOVERNANCE & APPOINTMENTS** **Jeanette McGarry and Jo Moore left the meeting at this point.** Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive which provided an update on the recruitment process for the Chief Legal & Monitoring Officer and the Director of Finance & Resources and, given that none of the candidates were considered appointable, sought approval to extend the current interim arrangements. It also sought approval for the proposed new members of the Business Board and Independent Renumeration Panel. Cabinet were also asked to note the resignation of two independent members of the Middlesbrough Development Corporation Board, which is currently under review, and note the recruitment of up to three Independent Persons. Cabinet were invited to **A.** **NOTE** the update on the recruitment process for the Chief Legal & Monitoring Officer and the Finance & Resources Director. **B.** **APPROVE** the extension of Jo Moore as Interim Director of Finance & Resources and Jeanette McGarry as Interim Monitoring Officer through to the end of September 2026. **C.** **APPROVE** the proposed new members of the Business Board; **D.** **APPROVE** the proposed membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), including the Chair appointment. **E.** **NOTE** the resignation of two independent members of the Middlesbrough Development Corporation Board.

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	F. NOTE the recruitment of up to three Independent Persons. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. Councillor Hargreaves supported the decision not to appoint to the vacancies at the last round of interviews as she noted it is important to ensure the correct people are appointed to the roles of Monitoring Officer and Director of Finance & Resources. The Chair concurred and commented it is vital to extend the contracts of the current interim post holders until permanent appointments can be made. Mayor Cooke asked if Cabinet members can be kept updated with the recruitment process and was advised that members will receive informal updates and an update paper will be presented to Cabinet in June. The Chief Executive advised that both interim appointments are committed to staying, providing time for permanent replacements to be appointed. **RESOLVED** that Cabinet:- **A. NOTED** the update on the recruitment process for the Chief Legal & Monitoring Officer and the Finance & Resources Director. **B. APPROVED** the extension of Jo Moore as Interim Director of Finance & Resources and Jeanette McGarry as Interim Monitoring Officer through to the end of September 2026. **C. APPROVED** the proposed new members of the Business Board. **D. APPROVED** the proposed membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), including the Chair appointment. **E. NOTED** the resignation of two independent members of the Middlesbrough Development Corporation Board. **F. NOTED** the recruitment of up to three Independent Persons. **Jeanette McGarry and Jo Moore returned to the meeting at this point.**
TVCA	**GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

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95/25	Cabinet received a report, which was presented by Jodie Townsend, and provided details on the ongoing review of governance arrangements and presented recommendations resulting from that review. The report also explained how Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) plans to improve the way it is governed and make decisions. It outlined the changes being proposed, such as creating a new Investment Committee, and set out why these changes are needed, what they will achieve, and how they support the Combined Authority's wider improvement. Cabinet were invited to:- A. **NOTE** the ongoing review of governance arrangements and the timetable set out in **Appendix A** of the report. B. **APPROVE** the establishment of an Investment Committee and its terms of reference as set out in **Appendix B**. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. No comments or questions were raised. **RESOLVED** that Cabinet:- A. **NOTED** the ongoing review of governance arrangements and the timetable set out in **Appendix A** of the report. B. **APPROVED** the establishment of an Investment Committee and its terms of reference as set out in **Appendix B**.
TVCA 96/25	**SINGLE ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK** Cabinet received a report, which presented for consideration the draft Single Assurance Framework (SAF). The report, which was presented by Jodie Townsend, set out the benefits of a SAF and why it is needed. He advised that it will put TVCA on a footing for devolution compliance and is fundamental to governance improvement. If approved by government, it can be taken that government are aware of the improvements we have implemented. Cabinet was asked to consider the report and approve that it be submitted to Government for clearance, which is required prior to the Combined Authority adopting and then implementing the Single Assurance Framework.

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	Cabinet were asked to consider that by providing approval for submission to Government they are providing a commitment to adopt and implement the Single Assurance Framework, although formal adoption will require a subsequent Cabinet decision to be taken following approval by the required Government Departments. Cabinet were invited to:- A. **Consider** the report and the draft Single Assurance Framework and approve its submission to Government for clearance consideration. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. No comments or questions were raised. **RESOLVED that Cabinet:-** **Considered** the report and the draft Single Assurance Framework and approve its submission to Government for clearance consideration.
TVCA 97/25	**LOCAL GROWTH PLAN UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF LOCAL GROWTH FUND PRIORITY ALLOCATION.** Cabinet were provided with an update on the Local Growth Plan and asked to note progress, next steps and timescales. They were advised that the full Plan will be brought back to a future meeting for adoption. Cabinet were also provided an update on the Tees Valley Investment Pipeline and asked to note progress, next steps and timescales. They were also advised that the Pipeline will be brought back to a future meeting for adoption. Cabinet was also provided an update on the development of a proposal for the Local Growth Fund and their approval was sought to allocate funds to support Business Growth. Cabinet were recommended to:- A. **NOTE** the plan and timeline for the Tees Valley Local Growth Plan;

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	B. **NOTE** the progress in the development of a Tees Valley Investment Pipeline; C. **APPROVE** the prioritisation of the £34m Local Growth Fund to support Business Growth. D. **APPROVE** delegation to complete and submit the Local Growth Fund Investment Plan and Outcomes Framework to MHCLG to the TVCA Director of Business Solutions in consultation with the TVCA Statutory Officers, the Tees Valley Mayor and Portfolio Holder. E. **NOTE** that all activity and financial commitments will be subject to proportionate Business Cases in line with the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework and these will be reported to Cabinet for approval in June 2026. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. Mayor Cooke enquired when Cabinet will receive a view from Government and was advised that they have been very supportive of the process to date and an update will be brought to June Cabinet. **RESOLVED that Cabinet:-** A. **NOTED** the plan and timeline for the Tees Valley Local Growth Plan; B. **NOTED** the progress in the development of a Tees Valley Investment Pipeline; C. **APPROVED** the prioritisation of the £34m Local Growth Fund to support Business Growth. D. **APPROVED** delegation to complete and submit the Local Growth Fund Investment Plan and Outcomes Framework to MHCLG to the TVCA Director of Business Solutions in consultation with the TVCA Statutory Officers, the Tees Valley Mayor and Portfolio Holder. E. **NOTED** that all activity and financial commitments will be subject to proportionate Business Cases in line with the Combined Authority's Assurance Framework and these will be reported to Cabinet for approval in June 2026.
TVCA 98/25	**SKILLS PROGRAMME – APPROVAL OF ADULT SKILLS GRANT FUNDED PROVIDER ALLOCATIONS & APPROVAL OF THE PROCESS FOR**

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	AWARDING THE POST-16 CAPITAL SKILLS ALLOCATIONS TO PROVIDERS. Cabinet were asked for their approval for the Adult Skills Fund grant allocations and Post-16 Capital and CTEC capital arrangements. Cabinet were also provided an update on the adult skills procurement process and the development of LSIP 2. Cabinet were recommended to:- A. **APPROVE** the recommended allocations for the Grant Funded Providers for the 2026/27-2028/29 academic years, as set out in **Appendix 1** of the report. B. **APPROVE** the recommended allocations for the Post 16 Capacity Capital funding and Construction Technical Excellence College (CTEC) Capital funding as set out in **Appendix 2 and 3** of the report. C. **DELEGATE** the process for allocating the remainder of the CTEC (Project Based) capital funding from DfE in the 2026/27 financial year to the Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer and the Section 73 Officer), the Tees Valley Mayor and Portfolio lead. D. **NOTE** the update on the Local Skills Improvement Plan (2026-29). The Director of Business Solutions provided Cabinet members with a brief overview of the report. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. Councillor Evans expressed her thanks to the team at TVCA for all the work that has gone into this. There have been workshops and a collective agreement was reached by all stakeholders. This should be recognised as best practice. Mayor Cooke asked that the population data is kept under regular review as there is a rising number of young people. This was acknowledged and he was advised that it is under review. Councillor Hargreaves endorsed the approach taken and the comments from Councillor Evans. All the delivery partners worked together as a sector which has made Cabinet's endorsement of the programme easier.

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	The Chair thanked Councillor Evans for all her work. **RESOLVED that Cabinet:-** A. **APPROVED** the recommended allocations for the Grant Funded Providers for the 2026/27-2028/29 academic years, as set out in **Appendix 1** of the report. B. **APPROVED** the recommended allocations for the Post 16 Capacity Capital funding and Construction Technical Excellence College (CTEC) Capital funding as set out in **Appendix 2 and 3** of the report. C. **DELEGATED** the process for allocating the remainder of the CTEC (Project Based) capital funding from DfE in the 2026/27 financial year to the Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the Combined Authority Monitoring Officer and the Section 73 Officer), the Tees Valley Mayor and Portfolio lead. D. **NOTED** the update on the Local Skills Improvement Plan (2026-29).
TVCA 99/25	**YOUTH GUARANTEE TRAILBLAZER YEAR 2 APPROVAL** Cabinet was presented with a report from the Director of Business Solutions, which advised that the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer was originally launched as a one-year pilot. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has now confirmed funding for a second year to build on the insights and learning from Year 1. It is a nationally funded DWP initiative being delivered locally by Mayoral Combined Authorities to test innovative, place-based approaches to supporting young people into employment, education and training. The report asked Cabinet for a decision for Tees Valley Combined Authority to continue as accountable body for the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer for Year 2 of the programme (Apr 26 – Mar 27). The Year 2 delivery has been accepted by DWP, and funding has been confirmed by a Grant Funding Agreement received 24 March 2026. Cabinet were invited to:- A. **APPROVE** Year 2 of the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer and accept £5m from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) into the Investment Plan for the period April 2026 – March 2027. B. **APPROVE** continuation of the Year 1 delivery model with Stockton Borough Council acting as Programme Manager on behalf of the

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	Combined Authority and all five Local Authorities delivering locally, supported by enhanced programme management support from TVCA C. **DELEGATE** authority to the TVCA Chief Executive, in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to approve any future extension of the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer Pilot programme, subject to confirmation of funding from DWP. D. **NOTE** The advanced delegated decision that was taken in March 2026 to mitigate the risk of any pause in programme delivery. The Director of Business Solutions provided Cabinet members with a brief overview of the report. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. . There were no questions or comments. **RESOLVED that Cabinet:-** A. **APPROVED** Year 2 of the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer and accept £5m from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) into the Investment Plan for the period April 2026 – March 2027. B. **APPROVED** continuation of the Year 1 delivery model with Stockton Borough Council acting as Programme Manager on behalf of the Combined Authority and all five Local Authorities delivering locally, supported by enhanced programme management support from TVCA C. **DELEGATED** authority to the TVCA Chief Executive, in consultation with the Section 73 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to approve any future extension of the Youth Guarantee Trailblazer Pilot programme, subject to confirmation of funding from DWP. D. **NOTED** the advanced delegated decision that was taken in March 2026 to mitigate the risk of any pause in programme delivery.
TVCA 100/25	**DELEGATED DECISIONS**

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	Cabinet was presented with a report from the Interim Monitoring Officer, which advised of all the Delegated Decisions made since Cabinet last met on 20th March 2026. Cabinet was invited to **NOTE** the Delegated Decisions. Members were given the opportunity to comment or ask questions. There were no questions or comments. **RESOLVED that Cabinet noted the** Delegated Decisions made since Cabinet last met on 20th March 2026.
	CHAIRS CLOSING COMMENTS. **The Chair welcomed Matt Wilton to his first TVCA Cabinet meeting.** **The Chair then expressed his thanks to Denise McGuckin for her contribution to TVCA over the years and noted that she will be missed.** **DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS** • Friday 26th June 2026 at 10:00am.

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Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday 18th March 2026.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair), Alan O'Donoghue (Vice-Chair), Adam Bateman, Jamie Bell, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Clare Besford, Marc Besford (sub for Lucy Owens), Sarah Bowman-Abouna, Graeme Fuller, Darran Hope, Vicky Japes, John Lathan, Leanne Maloney-Kelly, Errol Parks, Madie Rowlands, Claire Spencer, Marc Stephenson, Joy Switherbank, Anthony Trattles, Dawn Tyreman, Barry Whitton.

Officers: John Devine, Junita Agyapong

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Louise Brown, Steven Harris, Karen Hawkins, Molly Larkin, Majella McCarthy, Kay Nicolson, Lucy Owens, Ann Powel, Kevin Tyerman, Anna Waddington, Kelly Wigley.

SSP/67/25 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation Procedure was noted by Members.

SSP/68/25 Recorded Crime & Disorder Report

Members were presented with the Recorded Crime & Disorder report, the report focused on the recorded crime in the Stockton on Tees Borough over a 12-month period starting in February 2025 to February 2026.

Officers highlighted the following sections of the report to Members:

- Overall Theft Offences was up 5.9%
- Vehicle Offences showed a reduction of -13.8% and Death or serious injury caused by illegal driving had also seen a reduction.
- Stalking and Harassment had also shown a reduction, but Officers noted that Sexual Offences had increased over the same period.
- Arson had decreased by -3.7%
- Robbery overall had increased by 50.9% during the 12 month period.
- Criminal Damage had decreased by 4.8%

Officers noted that ASB was a big concern across all communities and it was discussed every morning at Police briefings. Members noted the update and stated that they hoped the joint work being done would prove to be a solution for Sex Offences.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/69/25 HOTH

Members were presented with a report on the Harm Outside the Home (HOTH) Strategy 2024/27. The strategy is aimed at ensuring a consistent approach to harm outside the home, to improve understanding, prevent harm as early as possible and protect children. This was underpinned by a child centred decision-making trauma informed practice, with the partnership of families and transitional safeguarding into adult servicers when necessary.

The HOTH team attend the daily Police Partners District meeting in which incidents are reviewed, information and intelligence from the pervious 24 hours to identify emerging risks. HOTH also chairs a daily multi-agency triage, considering intelligence from PPDM, missing-from-home episodes, screening tools, CHUB dashboard requests and partner information.

HOTH works closely with CHUB, making referrals where required, contributing to decision-making, sharing intelligence on persons and locations of concern, and attending CHUB Strategy Meetings.

Officers highlighted the Adolescent team which comprised of one team manager and five social workers who work directly with young people, and their families. They work to deliver interventions addressing healthy relationships, online safety, exploitation awareness, and emotional support using trauma-informed practice.

Officers informed members that over 2025 they had 209 referrals into HOTH, workforce pressures were noted, with the team supporting approximately 60 children at significant risk while maintaining regular reviews.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/70/25 Trailblazer

Members were presented with a report on the Trailblazer Project, in September 2025 the Government announced that the Central Stockton and Portrack areas had been chosen as part of a nationwide initiative called Pride in Place.

Over the next ten years a funding pot of £19.6m would be available for those areas, the project is aimed at putting power into the hands of local people so they can decide how to regenerate their local area.

A Neighbourhood Board would require the local areas MP and Ward Councillors to sit on it, with other members being made up of engaged people of the local area e.g. Business owners.

The three overarching aims of the Neighbourhood Board would be:

- Stronger Communities
- Thriving Communities
- Taking back control

Officers were keen to engage with Partners on any work that had been undertaken or was currently being done that could inform the Board approach. They didn't want to waste any resources duplicating work.

Members were pleased with the project and looked forward to seeing it develop, but some discussion was had that Officers would need to be clear with the public on what the funding can be used for. Partners didn't want the public to build up their hopes on an idea only to find out it wouldn't be covered by the fund.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/71/25 Prevent (CT) Update (Nothing by Exception)

Members were informed that referrals to had remained static since the last meetings update. Stockton Council had recently finished its inspection from the Home Office and Officers were pleased to report that they had passed or exceed in all areas.

A more detailed report would be available at a later date for Partners.

Members AGREED to note the update.

SSP/72/25 Any Other Business

Officers from Cleveland Fire Brigade gave a brief update to members regarding an increased number of house fires. Officers wanted to link with all partners to target areas of high risk. Officers would circulate a list of the data with partners to coordinate on prevention.

Members noted the report.

SSP/73/25 PSPO

This report was restricted due to the links to Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/74/25 IQuanta Report

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on crime comparisons against other similar CSPs utilising iQuanta.

This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool for partnerships until released by the Home Office.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/75/25 DARDR

This item was restricted due to the sensitive victim information and multi-agency intelligence contained within Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/76/25 CSP Action Plan

Due to the connection to an ongoing Police investigation this Agenda Item was restricted.

AGREED that the report be noted.

Chair: .....

Agenda Item 9

REPORT TO CABINET

18 June 2026

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Heath and Social Care – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Pauline Beall

Powering our Future: Supporting People to Live Independently (Phase 2)

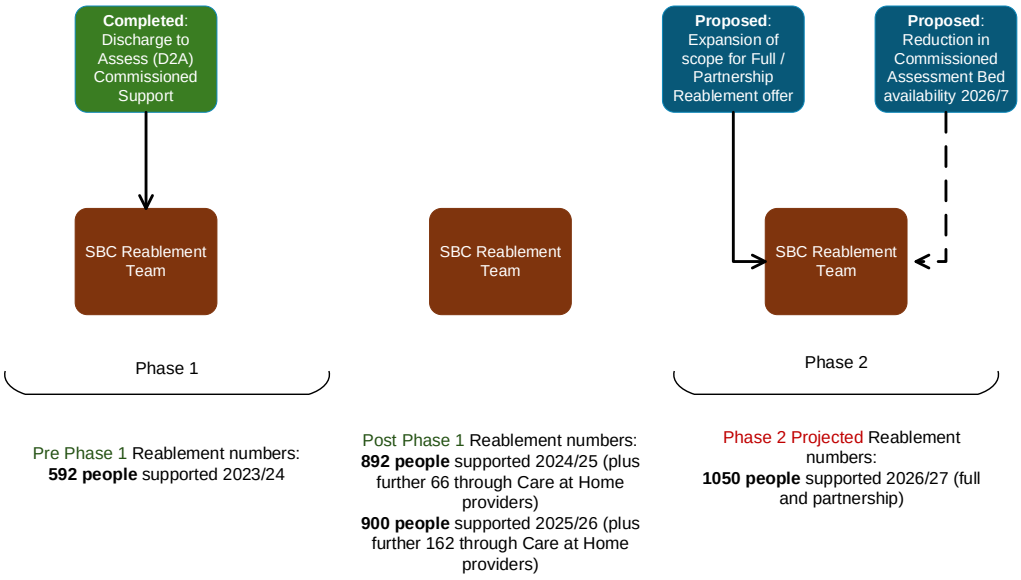
Summary

In October 2024, the Council completed the Phase 1 of this Powering Our Future (POF) review with the decommissioning of our contracted Discharge to Assess (D2A)[1] service and the transfer of this capacity into the Council's reablement service. This was fully implemented in 2025/6 and (as illustrated in Figure 1 below), Phase 1 delivered significant growth in the numbers benefiting from reablement support.

Phase 2 was to consider what additional opportunities there were for further development. During 2025/26, the Council worked with Peopletoo (independent consultancy firm with expertise in Adult Social Care & Integrated Health) to look at opportunities for greater reach for the Reablement Service alongside supporting Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH) Scrutiny Committee (see Appendix 1) who undertook a scrutiny review of reablement (published December 2025).

Figure 1: Supporting People to Live Independently (Reablement and Assessment beds) – Phase 1 and 2

[1] Discharge to Assess (D2A) is a system that allows people who are medically fit to leave hospital and continue recovery in a community or care setting while their long-term needs are assessed.



Consistent with the Council's design principles (reducing inequality and prioritise prevention, having efficient processes and use data and intelligence to inform our decision) we have reflected on the findings from Peopletoo and ASCH and, working with stakeholders (including the NHS) developed an outline plan for Phase 2 that will maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the processes and pathways to support people being discharged from hospital and those living in the community.

A key element of Phase 2 is expanding the scope for the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Reablement service alongside the commissioning of assessment beds. This is intended to strengthen alignment with One Call and commissioned services, reduce reliance on bed-based rehabilitation, and increase our ability to positively impact a greater number of people.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

Changes proposed in the report will ensure current services are optimised to support more people with reablement support in the most suitable location.

Recommendations

1. Cabinet are asked to agree the direction of travel for the proposed service improvements planned under Phase 2.

Detail

1. The Supporting People to Live Independently Programme focusses on the support offered to people through D2A hospital discharge (pathways 0 -2)[2] and in those in the community.
2. The focus of the review is to re-able more people at home (or in a residential bed-based setting in some cases) as a short-term, goal-focused approach that helps people regain skills, confidence, and independence in daily activities following illness, injury, or decline.

[2]

Pathway	Description
Pathway 0	Independent discharge, returning home without additional health or social care support.
Pathway 1	Discharge home with temporary support and possible reablement services to aid recovery.
Pathway 2	Transfer to a short-term bedded rehabilitation setting with ongoing assessment.

Under the Care Act, local authorities are required to provide or arrange services that contribute to preventing, reducing, or delaying the need for care and support. Reablement services fit this criterion perfectly. By focusing on short-term interventions that help individuals regain essential life skills, these services align with the Act's objectives[3].

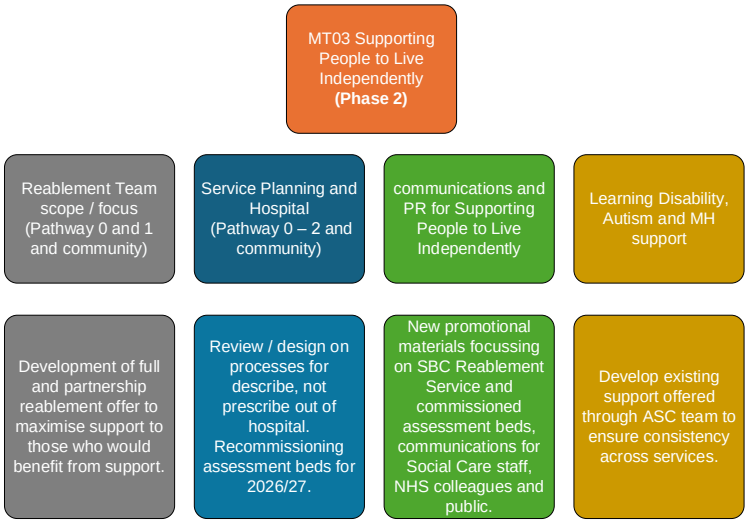
3. The Council's Reablement Service and Rosedale Service (bed-based service) have both maintained a "good" rating with the Care Quality Commission. 87% of our commissioned older people care homes (who deliver our assessment bed provision) are rated as good or outstanding by the Care Quality Commission.

4. The integration of a commissioned community D2A service within an expanded reablement offer from October 2024 was the output of phase 1 in developing an improved service offer for the people of Stockton-on-Tees with a commitment for more collaborative working as part of a wider health and social care system, alongside all its key stakeholders. This more inclusive Reablement offer allows more people to be offered a reablement service who would normally have been supported directly by an independent sector care at home provider. This allows people routine access to a period of Reablement (up to 6 weeks depending on an individual's needs / agreed outcomes).

5. As shown in Figure 1, Phase 1 increased access to reablement services by 50%. Although reablement is not appropriate for everyone, the volume of referrals to Pathways 0 and 1 indicates that the work planned for Phase 2 will further reduce both the level of care-at-home support required and the number of long-term residential care placements. This will be achieved by supporting people to live independently, or with support that is proportionate to their individually assessed needs.

6. Reflecting the Council's design standards, throughout phase 2 we will develop and use data dashboards as part of the Adult Social Care Performance Framework to better understand and manage the granular detail of performance through this POF review to ensure processes and pathways are effective and people are getting the service that best meets their assessed needs. The focus for Phase 2 is set out in figure 2.

Figure 2: MT03 Phase 2 focus



[3] The Council does not have to offer a reablement service for everyone, only where it is genuinely not appropriate following an assessment of needs.

7. The Council led a multi-agency process mapping event in February 2026 to gain a shared understanding of existing workflows and identify areas for improvement. Building on the work of ASCH and Peopletoo, the MT03 Steering Group have developed an outline work plan, agreed with Corporate Management Team Extra (CMTE) that will address the following key areas as set out below:

Ref.	What	How	Expected impact
1	Improve the quality of information on reablement / Reablement Service to the public and professionals	Improved public and online information. Clearer support and guidance in hospital settings.	More people are directed to a community offer (at home) with clearer expectations of outcomes (with technology) and prevent avoidable bed-based discharges.
2	Expand the community reablement service offer.	Maximise staff capacity and reach by using their time and expertise more effectively.	A reduction in the number of people accessing assessment beds in care homes, alongside a corresponding increase in the number of people supported at home.
3	Ensure there is an accessible reablement “offer” to support people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health needs to maximise their independence.	Develop an enablement offer through the ASC teams for people with a learning disability, autism, or mental health needs.	People (with learning disabilities, autism, or mental health needs) living at home, facing a change in circumstances as well as those discharged from hospital have access to a service tailored to their specific needs.

8. By improving the way decision on appropriate services are made and ensuring services such as commissioned care at home, Community Integrated Assessment Team[4] (CIAT) and SBC reablement team collaborate and work together and optimise efficiency, the review will positively impact on the volume of people accessing care at home and accessing long term residential care.

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

9. Each project within the overarching programme “Supporting People to Live Independently (Phase 2)” will have an Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment to inform decisions following a thorough assessment of any significant positive and/or detrimental impact for people with protected characteristics.

Corporate Parenting Implications

10. N/A.

Financial Implications

11. The review of reablement eligibility criteria is intended to improve financial sustainability by targeting resources more effectively and ensuring more people benefit from a period of reablement support.

[4] CIAT is a North Tees Foundation Trust service made up of therapists, nurses and therapy assistants that provides people with care, support and rehabilitation within the community.

Legal Implications

12. The Council must comply with its statutory duties under the Care Act 2014. Reviewing the eligibility criteria for the reablement service will not result in the adoption of any blanket restriction or as a substitute for individual assessment and professional judgement. The Council will also have due regard to its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

13. Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment will be completed to support all decisions for Phase 2.

Risk Assessment

14. The Care at Home providers commissioned to support people living at home compliment the reablement service. Any changes to referral numbers could impact on the markets sustainability so this will need close monitoring as part of the Councils market management duties.

Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward/Councillors (refer to Concordat for Communication and Consultation with Members)

15. The paper reflects a borough wide service and is not ward specific.

Background Papers

16. N/A

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