

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee
Review of Reablement Service
Outline Scope

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Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

The review will contribute to the following Council Plan 2023-2026 key objectives (and associated 2023-2024 priorities):

A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm

- Support people to remain safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible and offer help to people who are feeling lonely.
- Engage with individuals, families, carers and communities when developing adult social care support and continue to collaborate with the NHS to ensure health and care services work effectively together.

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

‘Reablement’ is a short period of rehabilitation which usually takes place in a person’s own home.

National evidence suggests that supporting early and safe discharge from hospital into a reablement-type service delivers better outcomes for individuals when compared to longer periods of hospitalisation or immediate transfer into care at home. It is also cost-effective for health and adult social care services, both reducing pressure on bed-capacity in hospitals and the need for large packages of ongoing community or residential or nursing care. Research has continued to evidence that most people prefer to remain in their own homes and communities.

Locally, the Reablement Service provides support for people with poor physical or mental health to help them manage their illness / condition by learning or re-learning the skills necessary for daily living (so that they can remain in the community). The service seeks to ensure that people can maximise their independence when they need it – this can include both ‘step-up’ care (escalation of need for people already supported to live independently) as well as ‘step-down’ (to avoid hospital admission or ensure safe discharges). It also promotes and supports people to be more independent and reduce the need for long-term service provision for as long as possible.

The offer is provided free (as mandated by the Care Act 2014) for the person receiving support for up to a maximum of six weeks. A person with ongoing care and support needs following this six weeks will be financially assessed for their ongoing contribution to their care.

There are a number of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) *Powering Our Future* (POF) projects that link to this review; 'Supporting People to Live Independently' and 'Early Intervention and Prevention'. The final report produced by the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee will be submitted to these workstreams for their awareness.

The aim of the review is to identify whether the Reablement Service offered by the Council is:

- 1) maximising independence for people being discharged from hospital and living in the community.
- 2) reducing the need for ongoing, more intensive support in people's own homes and reducing the need for admission into 24-hour care.
- 3) working effectively with NHS provision that supports people on a reablement pathway.
- 4) using technology as effectively as possible.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

Which organisations are involved in the planning and delivery of the existing local Reablement Service and what role do they play?

How much does the service cost the Council and its partners, and how is it funded? Is current funding sufficient for future projected provision?

What is the previous / current / anticipated capacity and subsequent demand for use of the service?

How is the service promoted and how do people access it / how are they identified as potentially benefitting from it?

How does the Council and the NHS monitor the impact and effectiveness of the service?

What technology is used within current service provision? What options are there to incorporate technology in future service provision?

Is there an opportunity to involve the VCSE more in the reablement pathway.

Feedback from service-users and their families / carers – how easy was it to access; did the service help an individual's independence; was Council and NHS provision provided in a seamless way?

Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?

Council, Cabinet, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB), local NHS Trusts, social care providers, public.

Expected duration of review and key milestones:

6 months (report to Cabinet in March 2025)

What information do we need?

Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):

- Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE): Role and principles of reablement (<https://www.scie.org.uk/integrated-care/intermediate-care-reablement/role-and-principles-of-reablement/>)
- NHS: Care after illness or hospital discharge (reablement) (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/care-after-a-hospital-stay/care-after-illness-or-hospital-discharge-reablement/>)

- Care Quality Commission (CQC): SBC Reablement Service (latest inspection – May 2021) (<https://api.cqc.org.uk/public/v1/reports/40ab9f3d-8d99-463f-a538-6e615a29fb73?20210521120000>)

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

- Adults, Health and Wellbeing (Strategy and Transformation)
 - Legal requirements regarding reablement
 - Existing service structure, costs and funding
 - Access / promotion of service and levels of demand
 - Impact of service and current / future challenges
 - Views on planning and delivery of existing service
- Reablement Manager and staff
- Service Managers for Reablement / Social Care Teams / Social Workers
 - Role within reablement provision
 - Views on existing local service / feedback received

North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

- Role within reablement provision
- Partnership-working with the Council
- Views on existing local service / feedback received

Local NHS Trusts

VCSE Sector

- Potential for involvement in reablement pathway

Service-Users and Families / Carers

- Views on experience of service / ways to improve

Other Local Authority Areas

- Any alternative approaches to reablement provision

How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)

Committee meetings, reports, research, reviewing existing / seeking provider and service feedback, site visits (TBC)

Communities Powering Our Future: How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?

Committee meetings, information submissions, analysis of historical / new feedback on services.

How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. This review will be mindful of these factors.

How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

Stockton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): Information gathered will contribute to the ongoing development of the JSNA.

Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023: Maximising health and wellbeing.

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and / or transformation:

- Maximising independence and reduced need for more intensive support at home or within 24-hour care provision.
- The use of technology is an effective enabler for people's independence and supports people to live their lives as independently as possible.

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	June / July 2024	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	09.09.24	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	17.09.24	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	TBC	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	SBC Adults, Health & Wellbeing NENC ICB Local NHS Trusts Peopletoo Catalyst / VCSE sector Service-user / family feedback Other Council approaches	22.10.24 19.11.24 17.12.24 21.01.25 18.02.25	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	18.03.25	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	March 2025	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	TBC	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	22.04.25	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	[20.05.25]	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet / Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	15.05.25	Cabinet / Approving Body