

## Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2025

Scrutiny Review – Reablement Service	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	<p>This review was paused following the Committee's agreement in April 2025 that its final report to Cabinet should be delayed until it had received the full findings of the Peopletoo (external consultants) report on local reablement provision, as well as the outcome of the late-2024 Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of SBC adult social care services.</p> <p>Whilst still not sighted on the CQC report, the Committee did receive the Peopletoo findings on the 4 July 2025.</p>
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	As raised in previous Chair's Updates, the availability of necessary information for the Committee to scrutinise has been a challenge during the course of this review.
<b>Planned this / next month</b>	Revised timelines for concluding this review will be discussed at the next meeting in July 2025. However, the Committee's final report will not be able to be presented to Cabinet until September 2025 at the earliest.
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	No – see above.

Scrutiny Review – Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service	
<b>Achieved since last meeting</b>	Officer discussions on the draft scope and plan for the Committee's next in-depth review of Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service took place in June 2025 before an initial tri-partite meeting was held at the start of July 2025 to firm-up proposals.
<b>Problems or concerns</b>	None
<b>Planned this / next month</b>	A final draft scope and plan document will be presented to the Committee at its July 2025 meeting for approval.
<b>On track – yes / no</b>	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p><b>North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) Quality Account 2024-2025:</b> Senior NTHFT representatives delivered their annual Quality Account-related presentation at the ASCH Select Committee meeting in May 2025. The Committee's third-party statement of assurance for inclusion in the Trust's final Quality Account publication was then collated, agreed by the Committee, and submitted to the NTHFT – this can be found via <a href="https://www.nth.nhs.uk/resources/quality-accounts-2024-2025/">https://www.nth.nhs.uk/resources/quality-accounts-2024-2025/</a> (see pages 116-118).</p> <p>During discussions at the May 2025 meeting, the Trust invited the Committee to visit its Discharge and Command Centre – this is</p>

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	<p>likely to take place at the end of July 2025 (subject to confirmation).</p> <p><b>Norton Medical Centre:</b> The Practice Manager and a GP Partner addressed the Committee in May 2025 to respond to concerns raised by the CQC. An Action Plan in response to the inspection findings was included in the presentation for information – this demonstrated the issues identified by the regulator across each of its key domains, the action taken to date, and planned actions for the future. Specific achievements included the introduction of a new care navigation system, improvements to triaging and patient access, the appointment of a new Practice Manager, and the implementation a new management structure (job descriptions and roles / responsibilities were being reviewed to ensure accountability and oversight).</p> <p><b>PAMMS Annual Report (Care Homes) – 2024-2025:</b> The Committee was presented with the PAMMS Annual Report (Care Homes) for 2024-2025 at its meeting in June 2025. Members heard that 2024-2025 had seen a general improvement in ratings when set against the outcomes of inspections from the previous two years. In response, the Committee raised questions in relation to the uploading of PAMMS-related material on Stockton Information Directory (SID), providers who owned multiple homes moving managers around in order to get improved inspection outcomes, medication oversight within settings, and the promotion / uptake of medication training.</p> <p><b>Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone:</b> Following last year's (June 2024) presentation, relevant SBC officers have been invited to update the Committee on developments around the proposed Care and Health Innovation Zone – this is scheduled to take place at the July 2025 meeting.</p> <p><b>Care Quality Commission (CQC):</b> Following consideration of the latest CQC / PAMMS quarterly inspection update report in June 2025, the Committee noted that a total of 19 reports had been published by the CQC during the year following inspections of Stockton-on-Tees providers (10 adult services; seven primary medical care services; two hospital / other health care services) – this compared to 46 in 2019-2020. Members again expressed concerns about this reduced output, as well as the fact that many CQC inspections in recent years only focused on two ('Safe' and 'Well-Led') of the well-established five domains. Allied to the reluctance of CQC representatives to attend the Committee to give an annual update on the national and local state of care, this was yet further evidence of a disappointing downward trend in the reliability of the regulator to supply intelligence on the performance of health and care providers. The Committee requested that a letter be sent by the Chair to relevant CQC representatives reflecting ongoing frustrations.</p>
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NHS Updates / Consultations	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p><b>Arrival Medical Practice and Riverside Medical Practice (Merger):</b> In May 2025, confirmation was received (and subsequently shared with the Committee) on the merger between Arrival Medical Practice and Riverside Medical Practice. Following an engagement period, the NHS North East and North Cumbria ICB (NENC ICB) subsequently approved the application along with the subsequent closure of the Arrival site. The merger took effect as of 1 June 2025, with the new merged practice known as Riverside Medical Practice.</p> <p><b>Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025:</b> Further to a presentation on the PNA 2025 to the Committee in February 2025, a statutory 60-day consultation on draft proposals began in April 2025 (ending on the 22 June 2025).</p> <p><b>NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB):</b> May 2025 saw health experts in the North East and North Cumbria warn people about the risks of using weight loss medicines bought from private clinics or online (see <a href="https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/patients-advised-to-speak-to-their-gp-before-using-private-weight-loss-medication/">https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/patients-advised-to-speak-to-their-gp-before-using-private-weight-loss-medication/</a>). GP practices across the region were reporting cases where patients had become unwell after using weight loss treatments, or 'skinny jabs', from private clinics or online providers, which may not be safe for them because of existing health conditions.</p> <p>In June 2025, NENC ICB unveiled its new medicines strategy, to help improve healthcare, cut down on unnecessary prescriptions, and make the best use of NHS resources. The plan is a key part of the ICBs 10-year vision to tackle the region's biggest health problems, reduce health inequalities, and ensure high-quality care for everyone. For more information, see <a href="https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/new-nhs-plan-to-use-medicines-better-waste-less-and-help-people-stay-healthy-for-longer/">https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/news/new-nhs-plan-to-use-medicines-better-waste-less-and-help-people-stay-healthy-for-longer/</a>.</p> <p><b>NHS 10-Year Plan:</b> The UK Government published its 10-year health plan for England ('Fit for the Future') in early-July 2025 – the executive summary and full plan can be found at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-year-health-plan-for-england-fit-for-the-future">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-year-health-plan-for-england-fit-for-the-future</a>.</p>

Regional Health Committees	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p><b>Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee:</b> The chair and support function for the Committee sits with Redcar &amp; Cleveland Borough Council for 2025-2026. The first meeting of this municipal year was held on 8 May 2025 where the Committee considered Quality Account-related presentations for both North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) – third-party</p>

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	<p>statements for inclusion in both Trusts' final published documents were then collated, agreed and submitted.</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 17 July 2025 (agenda to be confirmed).</p> <p><b>Southern Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee:</b> No meetings are currently scheduled.</p> <p><b>North East Regional Health Committee:</b> No meetings are currently scheduled.</p>
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### Monitoring

<b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>	<p>No updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting.</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care (September 2025)</li> </ul>
<b>Requests for more information</b>	None

### 2025-2026 Scrutiny Reviews

- Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service
- Adult Education and Skills

### Remaining 2025-2026 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)

Tuesday 22 July 2025	Tuesday 16 December 2025
Tuesday 23 September 2025	Tuesday 20 January 2026
Tuesday 21 October 2025	Tuesday 17 February 2026
Tuesday 18 November 2025	Tuesday 17 March 2026