

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO HEALTH
AND WELLBEING
BOARD**

29TH OCTOBER 2025

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR
OF ADULTS, HEALTH &
WELLBEING**

CARE AND HEALTH WINTER PLANNING UPDATE

SUMMARY

This briefing provides an update to Health and Wellbeing Board on care and health Winter planning work across the Council, working with partners. This includes measures in place across Adult Social Care (ASC) to respond to Winter pressures and the associated increase in service demands.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board notes the update report and consider it in the context of the Board's assurance role.

DETAIL

Winter Planning

1. As in previous years, local communities are experiencing significant challenges as we head into Winter 2025 including the ongoing cost-of-living pressures, seasonal illness, the impact of Covid, and significant financial and workforce pressures across organisations.
2. A range of activity is underway, having commenced in late Summer, to plan for and mitigate the impact of Winter. As in previous years, the Tees Valley Local A&E Delivery Board (LAEDB) has oversight of NHS planning and coordination with partners, feeding into regional (Northeast and North Cumbria) arrangements and has Local Authority representation. As with last year, the LAEDB are compiling a comprehensive overview of Winter plan arrangements and plan to share this with the wider system in November.
3. The Health and Wellbeing Board seeks assurance on the systems in place to mitigate and respond to the impacts of Autumn and Winter at a local level, as the statutory body with oversight of the health and wellbeing system.
4. The North East Health Protection network continues to meet to consider the impact and mitigation of infectious disease and feed into regional and local arrangements including emergency planning discussions.

5. The key Adult Social Care services (Care homes and care at home services) are required to update and share their Winter preparedness plan in Autumn to assure the Council and NENC ICB that they have plans in place to manage Winter events (i.e. snow, extreme cold, power outages, etc.).
6. Cleveland Local Resilience Forum (LRF) also continue to support wider system resilience as needed. The borough's Major Incident Plan, updated in 2025, ensures that an appropriate response can be put in place in the event of a major incident due to adverse weather. A national desktop emergency planning exercise (Exercise Pegasus) is also underway, to test readiness both nationally and locally, for response to a further pandemic. Local partners including the Council are participating.
7. Through our links to the national weather warning systems and communications resources through the UK Health Security Agency, our usual arrangements are in place to communicate key messages to our communities when we are warned of adverse weather events. For example advice on keeping warm and checking on vulnerable neighbours in the event of sudden cold snaps.
8. As part of the review of governance structures reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board (under its revised Terms of Reference), the local Health Protection Collaborative will be reviewed, in the context of the LRF, local NHS-lead Winter planning infrastructure and regional and Tees health protection infrastructure.

Integration

9. The work undertaken throughout 2024, particularly around admissions avoidance and Home First, has been assimilated into existing joint working discussions between the Council, NHS and partners. There is also the opportunity to build further on joint working to proactively identify and support those at risk of poor health, through the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme. Stockton-on-Tees was successful in our partnership application to become a wave 1 site for the programme, which initially focuses on 50-64 year olds with existing chronic conditions (3 or more).

Infectious Disease Surveillance

10. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) maintains the national monitoring system for Influenza, RSV and COVID-19. Ongoing population surveillance across the North East is observed via weekly UKHSA Regional Acute Respiratory Infection Reports.
11. As expected for Autumn, North East Influenza A infections (0%) and Influenza B infections (0%) remain low (for week commencing 15th September 2025). National Influenza A positivity was slightly higher (1.3%) whilst national Influenza B positivity was 0% (**Appendix 1**).
12. Similarly, North East RSV infections (0.3%) remain low (for week commencing 15th September 2025). National RSV positivity was slightly higher at 0.4% (**Appendix 1**). Higher RSV and Influenza rates are more common between December and February.
13. COVID-19 continues to have an unpredictable pattern of peaks and troughs of cases and currently does not have a seasonal pattern. As of week commencing 15th September

2025, 9.3% of people in the North East had COVID-19. National COVID-19 positivity was slightly lower at 8.6% (**Appendix 1**).

Covid, flu and vaccinations

14. The Tees Valley Vaccination Board continues to have oversight of the flu and Covid vaccination programmes and reports into the regional ICB immunisation board. Locally, SBC Public Health continues to monitor population vaccination coverage and works with the ICB to identify and plan targeted vaccination clinics for areas with lower vaccination coverage and higher risk groups.
15. National influenza vaccination rates were lower in Winter 2024/5 in comparison to Winter 2023/4 across all age groups and clinical risk groups¹. Similarly, COVID-19 vaccination rates in recent campaigns have declined compared to uptake in the height of the pandemic.
16. To protect vulnerable groups at greater risk, the national decision was taken to start staggered flu vaccination (commencing for some groups 1st September 2025) and wider flu and COVID-19 rollout on 1st October 2025. **Appendix 2** sets out eligible groups. Vaccines are being evolved constantly in response to these viruses.
17. The NHS have started inviting people for their COVID-19 vaccination in priority order of risk and those who are eligible will be able to book an appointment through the National Booking Service website or by calling 119. The borough is well covered for COVID-19 vaccinations across the Primary Care Networks (PCNs – groups of GP practices) and the local GP Federation (Hartlepool and Stockton Health).
18. Community pharmacies also offer flu and COVID-19 vaccinations to those who are eligible. Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations may also be purchased from pharmacies by population groups who are not eligible for free vaccinations through the NHS. A list of participating pharmacies offering flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be found in **Appendix 3**. Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations can be administered together, where this is available.
19. Public Health and the GP Federation are working together to explore delivery of some bespoke clinics in deprived areas and with vulnerable groups which are typically associated with lowest uptake.
20. The national vaccination programme for RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) continues; it is recommended during pregnancy and for adults aged 75-79yrs. RSV can make babies and older adults seriously ill and is a key reason for people seeking healthcare support (GP and hospital) in the Winter months.
21. National communications messaging to promote flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccinations has been disseminated widely, supported by local joint working between SBC and the NHS. SBC is also supporting messaging on flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines through our Community Wellbeing Champions network.
22. Joint efforts between SBC and the NHS to improve vaccination uptake include GP Practices and local Pharmacies promoting targeted outreach communications within their settings. SBC liaises closely with the GP Federation to share intelligence i.e., vaccination

uptake data, which supports tailoring targeted campaigns for groups with the lowest vaccine uptake. Other examples of ongoing community engagement include Community Pharmacy representation at a Community Wellbeing Champions network meeting, providing advice on how to access Winter vaccinations. Additionally, the GP Federation has been invited to share information about the importance of, and accessing, Winter vaccinations at a Winter Wellness event on 5th November 2025.

23. Occupational health flu and COVID-19 vaccination programmes have started in NHS trusts and primary care. The NHS is undertaking proactive work to increase vaccinations among staff and among patient groups (e.g. pregnant women, long stay patients, people with a learning disability) with a particular focus on clinicians being a 'trusted voice' (based on evidence).
24. Free flu vaccinations for SBC employees are again provided this year by the Council's Occupational Health team with the aim to vaccinate 600 staff starting in October 2025. To reflect the changes in eligibility in the national flu programme, all SBC staff are eligible, but vaccination of frontline health and social care workers are prioritised. Ongoing promotion of staff vaccination continues through our forums and links with the local care sector.

Health Protection work with key settings

25. People most at risk in Winter and more vulnerable from cold weather include:
 - people aged 65 and older
 - babies and children under the age of 5
 - people on a low income (so cannot afford heating)
 - people who have a long-term health condition
 - people with a disability
 - pregnant women
 - people who have a mental health condition
26. Work continues with the care sector through provider forums and updates with adult social care managers as needed. This provides the opportunity to disseminate key messages and resources, 'temperature check' with providers on impact of Winter illness and provide support as required.
27. Key relevant Health protection messages (including infection prevention control and vaccinations for young people) are regularly shared with school settings via the schools' newsletter and also as needed directly with schools.

Local health protection response

28. General health protection principles and measures apply into the Autumn and Winter, regarding the management of Covid-19. Though it is not yet established as a 'seasonal' illness, national policy now means that prevention and response reflect guidance for other respiratory illnesses. Should there be a new variant that warrants considering a step-up of response, SBC Public Health will liaise closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) on this and any further action needed. In the meantime, we continue to

monitor the position, liaise with UKHSA and offer support and advice particularly to our care sector as required.

29. Dissemination of consistent and clear messages on keeping well in Winter remains important and includes:

- Good hand and respiratory hygiene
- Avoid passing on infections – Stay at home if you are unwell
- Flu, Covid and RSV vaccinations – Get vaccinated; Be Wise, Immunise
- Keeping warm and getting help with heating
- Getting advice if unwell (pharmacy, 111, GP)
- Looking out for others

Adult social care support

30. To collaborate effectively with North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Systems (ICS) to alleviate anticipated winter pressures facing the health and social care sector for 2025-2026, Adult Social Care (ASC) will continue to deliver a range of key services and step up support in several areas where pressure in the system is identified.

Demand and capacity management

31. The Council monitors the care market to understand capacity and quality pressures to ensure we can meet our statutory duties. The market has evolved since the 24/25 care and health winter planning update was submitted with an expansion of nursing provision to address to projected shortfall and a reduction in the waiting times to access care at home.

32. The change to care at home is largely due to the introduction of the new framework in November 2024 and expansion of the reablement service in October 2024. These changes have been central to the significant reduction in waiting times and has introduced a greater level of stability and assurance.

33. The Council continues to engage with all providers contractually and through our scheduled provider meetings that offer a forum for discussing a range of operational and development topics.

34. Contractually, all commissioned providers are required to submit Winter Contingency plans by 31st Oct each year and will continue to monitor compliance and use these plans to support our management of pressures over the period.

35. From a quality perspective, we aim to ensure all providers are operating effectively and able to provide care and support to those people who need that support. Managing the quality of care provision is an essential element of winter preparedness. For 24/25 we continued to deliver a full PAMMS schedule for all 30 care homes on the Older Persons Care Home framework. (PAMMS = Provider Assessment and Market Management Solution, an electronic assessment tool enabling the Council to monitor and evaluate quality developed by the Access Group). In addition, we have capacity to undertake up to a further 6 assessment of services which intelligence indicates may be at risk, to ensure we can support proactively. PAMMS aside, All providers are monitoring monthly through the Quality and Assurance Dashboard (QuAD) which pulls all market intelligence together to inform a monthly conversation and agreed response to concerns. In addition,

those providers that do not get a PAMMs assessment will receive a contract monitoring visit in 25/26.

Ensure adult social care teams have sufficient staff and access to care capacity to continue supporting people to live independently in their own homes wherever possible in line with Care Act 2014 principles

36. ASC introduced monthly performance meetings in March 2024 to monitor staff capacity and demand. The Performance meeting enables and supports contingency planning across operational teams, this has included the deployment of our peripatetic social work staff to meet areas of most need and the reallocation of work between teams where capacity issues are identified. Where capacity is identified in the wider market (care at home provision and residential care), commissioning staff are involved in the discussion and take these issues forward through their contractual networks.
37. The Operational Performance meeting is part of the Performance Framework which enable capacity and staffing issues to be escalated through to the Strategic Performance group and where required through to Performance SMT and the Directors Performance Dashboard.

Ensure a home first approach

38. The Virtual Frailty Wards (Hospital at Home) implemented in 2023 continue to operate in Stockton-on-Tees. The current system has capacity to support people in their own home, negating the need to be taken to hospital, when safe.
39. The Council has continued to develop services to support people to live independently. We have been introducing assistive technology (activity monitoring in the home) to support the assessment process and to provide assurance and support for people to live at home. This was piloted at the start of the year and we have been working with a consultancy firm (Channel 3) to map out option for deploying this at scale.

Monitor the impact of winter on local people and the social care workforce

40. ASC have established processes which support the day-to-day management of activity in the system. The Holding List procedures allow managers to risk assess and priorities any referrals awaiting allocation and alongside the regular monthly performance meetings (where teams share information around capacity and waiting lists), provides a clear and current picture of the waits across the service and potential bottlenecks because of demand and/or capacity in the system.
41. Alongside the weekly meeting to review outstanding placements or POC, this provides a clear route to support the escalation process in place for any urgent cases and options / resources needed to ensure people are kept safe.
42. The Adult **Safeguarding** Team has well established processes in place to address concerns and section 42 enquiries, including daily with the Police, Housing and CGL. The Team is currently fully staffed at present and can manage ongoing demand across the system and this is supported by regular meetings across the service to monitor work pressures and capacity within teams with the ability to move resources across teams to meet any increased demands in any areas.

Housing

43. The Council's Homelessness Service includes a Rough Sleeper Team who both respond to reports of rough sleeping and visit areas where rough sleeping may previously have occurred, with the aim of identifying those who may require advice and support. Whilst this is an all-year-round service, it is vitally important in the Winter months. In addition, the Council is committed to adopt the SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency) Protocol. SWEP is a universal offer to provide temporary accommodation for people sleeping rough in periods of severe weather (extreme cold, wind, snow, rain and heat).

Supporting our communities

44. The annual Winter Health Conference was held on 3rd October 2025, attended by over 50 people. The event provided a platform for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, healthcare staff, Councillors and colleagues from across Stockton Borough Council to share information and best practice to support residents over the Winter months. The event encouraged improved collaborative and integrated working across organisational boundaries to safeguard against financial insecurity, fuel poverty, and impacts of physical and mental health over the Winter period.
45. The draft [Anti-Poverty Strategy](#) was co-produced in 2024 in partnership with the Positive Living (lived experience group) to understand how residents can help themselves and where the support of the Council is required. The Fairer Stockton-on-Tees (FSOT) team are working through the [action plan](#) with a range of internal and external partners, with many of the objectives relating directly to Winter support (food insecurity, income maximisation, fuel poverty etc.). The Positive Living Forum continues to meet on a six weekly basis where they use their voice to influence and shape Council delivery. Recently, the group have suggested the need for support around school prom affordability and this has led to a large-scale preloved clothing collection and a range of events to support our young people. They have invited Council colleagues such as the HAF team, Warm Homes, Healthy People and the Recycling Team to meetings and continue to feedback their experiences as residents.
46. The third Stockton Health and Wellbeing Festival will take place on Thursday 23rd October 2025 at Thornaby Pavilion. This event is jointly organised by the FSOT and Community Engagement teams, and in partnership with Tees Active. Over 50 organisations will provide health and wellbeing support, advice and activities alongside entertainment from the Globe Community Choir and Arc Ukelele Band. Free refreshments will be available, and attendees will be able to take home free products from the winter essentials and hygiene stall, with products supplied by the Multibank.
47. As part of the Here to Help programme of events, 'Something New for You' was held in Billingham Forum on Tuesday 21 January 2025. The focus of the Something New for You event was to create positive opportunities for people at what is often a difficult time of year – the weather can be cold and dark, the festive period is over and finances are often stretched. 250 residents attended and accessed support via around 40 organisations on topics from mental health to benefit maximisation, energy efficiency to food support.

48. Middlesbrough Rotary Club have provided Winter coats for residents via our Homelessness team over the last two winters. This year, Stockton Rotary Club is doing its own collection and the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees team have supported them to get collection points set up across the Borough in Tees Active venues. The collected coats will be distributed via local Stockton based charities.
49. The third annual Community Christmas Gift will take place during December 2025. Residents, Council staff and local businesses donate to the gift appeal and hampers are distributed across the borough via requests from schools, VCSE organisations and the Stockton Food Power Network. In December 2024, 750 hampers were distributed across the borough. Included within these hampers are items which help to keep residents warm over the winter such as gloves, hats and scarfs.
50. There are 9 weekly Warm Welcome sessions that take place across the borough to address social isolation and loneliness. These are free and open to all, offering a space to meet and have a 'cuppa and a chat'. Initiatives include a community physiotherapist attending regular sessions, Thornaby and Salters Lane Warm Welcome have secured funding to offer attendees hot soup during the winter months, wellbeing craft sessions with Learning & Skills have been planned, there have been chair-based exercises run by Shape the Play and Tees Active have undertaken health checks. Utilita have also attended some sessions to offer hints and tips on how to stay warm and save money.
51. Since the launch of the [Multibank](#) in Nov 2024, the number of items distributed to the LA area to date is 423,752, of which 291,452, 68% are distributed by organisations distributing in this LA area only and so are likely to be local organisations. The number of referral partners who have signed up to distribute in this LA area is 495. Stockton has the second highest number of referral partners signing up to distribute in the area.
52. We also organise an annual event with the homeless community before Christmas to ensure that they are fully vaccinated with any flu/COVID vaccinations, as part of the wider offer of support for this community. As always this is a great opportunity to access this vulnerable group, which helps reduce outbreaks that can spread rapidly in shelters and impact the broader community and help prevent severe illness reducing emergency room visits and hospitalisations. In addition they are also provided with coat, clothes and a wider offer of advice and support.
53. The Warm Homes Healthy People programme in the borough (funded through Public Health) offers support with boiler repairs, emergency heating, energy saving as well as debt and benefits advice: <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/Warm-Homes-Healthy-People>.

Information and advice

54. Information and advice is provided through a range of means including:

- A [Cost of Living Booklet \('Here to Help'\)](#) providing an extensive range of information on both Council and partner services.
- A central ['Here to Help Hub'](#), a one-stop shop of information on the Council's website.

- Regular features in Stockton News promoting cost of living and winter wellbeing support services. This is a screenshot from last November's edition.

A FAIRER STOCKTON-ON-TEES

The Council is working with our partners to make sure our communities are supported as the cost of living continues to have an impact.
Did you know that there are a whole host of activities going on across the Borough that can help you?

Free or low cost food
A range of support is available including food banks, pantries and low cost food.
Find out more at www.stockton.gov.uk/food-insecurity-and-poverty

Warm Welcome
Weekly social events are open to anyone in our communities across seven venues to have a cuppa, meet friends, play games and have a friendly chat.
Find a 'Warm Welcome' at www.stockton.gov.uk/warm-welcome

Positive Living Forum
A group of residents of different ages and backgrounds meet every six weeks to share their experiences and influence how we tackle poverty.
If you would like to join us, please email fsot@stockton.gov.uk

Community Spaces
More than 60 venues are open to our communities all year round and offer a great way to meet others and get support on a range of issues.
Find a Community Space at www.stockton.gov.uk/community-spaces-directory

Fun at Parkfield Community Centre

Parkfield Community Centre
Bizi Studios CIC now run Parkfield Community Centre and are working hard to provide a range of activities and support for local people. A slow cooker course has been held and dance and art workshops take place every Thursday.
If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer, please contact bizjane@yahoo.co.uk
The re-opening of Parkfield Community Centre has been made possible because of partnership working between the Council, Bizi Studios, Thirteen and Esh Construction.

The Positive Living Forum - "a place of hope and belonging"

Find out more at www.stockton.gov.uk/a-fairer-stockton-on-tees



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- FSOT staff have met with the North Tees Discharge and Enhanced Care Teams to provide a range of information and leaflets on cost-of-living support and community activities. This information will be passed on to other staff and patients and staff there have signed up to the Multibank to access the support they offer. The team have also given presentations to various internal teams and forums e.g. Care Homes Providers Forum, Adult Safeguarding Team or Social Work teams, with the aim of sharing vital information to help colleagues support the residents they work with.
- A Winter Wellbeing [webpage](#) has also been updated which will be supported through a social media campaign.

Food support

55. We have five The Bread-and-Butter Thing hubs which opened between September 2023 and March 2024, with capacity to support up to 400 families per week with this low-cost, nutritious food offer. 14,712 sets of shopping were sold between Sept 2024 and August 2025. Based on an average spend of £8.50 for a three-bag set and an average value of around £25, this makes a saving of £242,748 for our residents. This has led to a continued reduction in foodbank usage, helping people to move away from crisis when it comes to food. Comparing the 6-month period from Jan to June 2023 to the same period in 2025, total food parcels in the Borough have reduced from 10263 to 4641. This equates to a 55% reduction from 2023 to 2025. Working on an average of 8 volunteers per hub, 3 hours each per session, across 5 hubs, the scheme in Stockton operates using approximately 6240 volunteer hours over the year. The scheme has had an impact on residents' diets, providing a wide and varied range of foods with 79% of members nationally saying that since joining the Bread-and-Butter Thing, they now eat more fruit and vegetables. A range of support agencies continue to attend hubs with partners such as Thirteen Housing supporting clients with housing and employability.
56. The Food Aid Fund is an SBC grant that offers financial help to projects that provide food and personal hygiene products to Stockton-on-Tees residents. These include foodbanks, food clubs, food pantries, community cafés, VCSE organisations and churches. For the Food & Hygiene Winter Fund 24/25 we supported 54 organisations with a grant of up to £450 (total of £20k) to be spent by 31st March 2025. The next round of funding for the Food Aid Fund 25/26 opened in August 25 and 43 applications were received.
57. The Community Engagement Team received £2,000 Household Support Funding to undertake 'Cooking in the Community' sessions. These are ran in partnership with Learning & Skills who provide the tutor time and participants take home either an air fryer or slow cooker depending on the course. From October 2024-October 2025, 16 sessions have been held with 120 residents taking part.

Community Transport

58. Since its introduction in April 2024 the Stockton Volunteer Driver Service (SVDS) has completed 2880 journeys for 265 residents; these journeys have been delivered by 26 volunteer drivers. This has ensured many residents are able to access medical appointments, social groups and events for example our Community Spaces /Warm Welcomes. This service removes barriers to travel, and the caring volunteers help people to feel more confident to socialise and connect with others. Drivers build strong relationships, enabling them to offer more holistic support and link service users to other services.

Community Spaces (previously known as Warm Spaces)

59. The Council's network of 78 Community Spaces play a key role in supporting the Council's commitment to addressing inequality and poverty. Each venue offers a non-judgemental 'warm welcome' to residents who may be struggling with the cost of living or social isolation. Community Spaces are a key component of the Powering Our Futures Communities mission, helping to build community capacity and community resilience. The Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Team and Public Health have committed to continue to work collaboratively to support those experiencing social isolation.

60. All five '*The Bread and Butter*' hubs are also registered as Community Spaces and nine Warm Welcome social sessions take place weekly across the Borough. A [directory](#) of Community Spaces is promoted on the Council's website.
61. To ensure the Community Spaces scheme continues to effectively support the Borough's residents and VCSE partners, coordination of the scheme has been incorporated into a wider Social Isolation and Loneliness Working Group. This group is a formal multi-stakeholder sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It has delegated responsibility for providing oversight, strategic direction, and coordination in relation to **social isolation and loneliness**, identified as a priority commitment within the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
62. A draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group will be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in October 2025. A deep-dive session on social isolation and loneliness will also be held at the October meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
63. Annual monitoring of the Community Spaces scheme has continued in 2025. 78% of Spaces responded to this year's evaluation. Overall, venues still value the scheme and the support and funding provided by SBC. The key reasons that people attend a Community Space remain loneliness, social isolation, the cost of living (fuel, food etc.) and mental health and addiction issues. The key challenge for venues in 2024-2025 has been sourcing funding. Venues also requested further support with promotion of activities taking place, and the FSOT team will action this request.
64. The following case studies highlight the extent of the support the Community Spaces provide to those accessing them across the Borough:
- *"I never really left the house but now I try to never miss a session. This session has helped me to find out about other sessions and gets me out even more"*(West End Bowling Club)
 - *"One lady suffers from Arthritis and didn't leave the house for a couple of years, her husband volunteers for The Bread and Butter Thing. He brought her to our group ,and she now attends weekly and said she is so happy as she was a recluse and now feels like she has a new lease of life. Another lady struggles to hold a pen and often misses numbers in bingo. One of her new friends in the group noticed and brought her a dabber. Small acts of kindness like this are displayed weekly in this group."* (Newtown Warm Welcome)
 - *"A mother attends all the children/toddler sessions and was socially isolated but has been able to form friendships and she feels like she has a support network here."* (Teesside Vineyard Church)
 - *"A lady over the age of 65 has early onset dementia and physical disabilities living in supported housing. She cannot access the community without care support but the package of care she receives does not include this. The only place she can access is Norton Grange Community Centre once a week on a Wednesday as the manager of the housing and Kelly have a trusted relationship knowing the lady will be looked after and cared for whilst she attends the venue. This is the only time she leaves her accommodation each week."* (Norton Grange)
65. In recognition that funding is still necessary to support the continuation of the Community Spaces scheme, Public Health has committed an annual fund of £30,000 for the scheme. This will be distributed through a funding panel in November 2025. The FSOT and Community Engagement teams are still committed to support organisations with accessing external funds as opportunities arise. The FSOT team are also working with

the Council's new Social Value Officer to access additional funds via corporate social responsibility for VCSE partners managing Community Spaces.

Consultation and Engagement

66. During March-May 2025 a Warm Welcome survey was conducted with attendees of the Warm Welcome sessions. This survey was to identify the difference that attending the Warm Welcomes has made to residents and the impact it has had on their lives.

Next Steps

67. Beyond continuing the work described in this briefing, key updates or proposed changes in approach (e.g. in response to a new threat to population health) will be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board and on through to Cabinet as needed.

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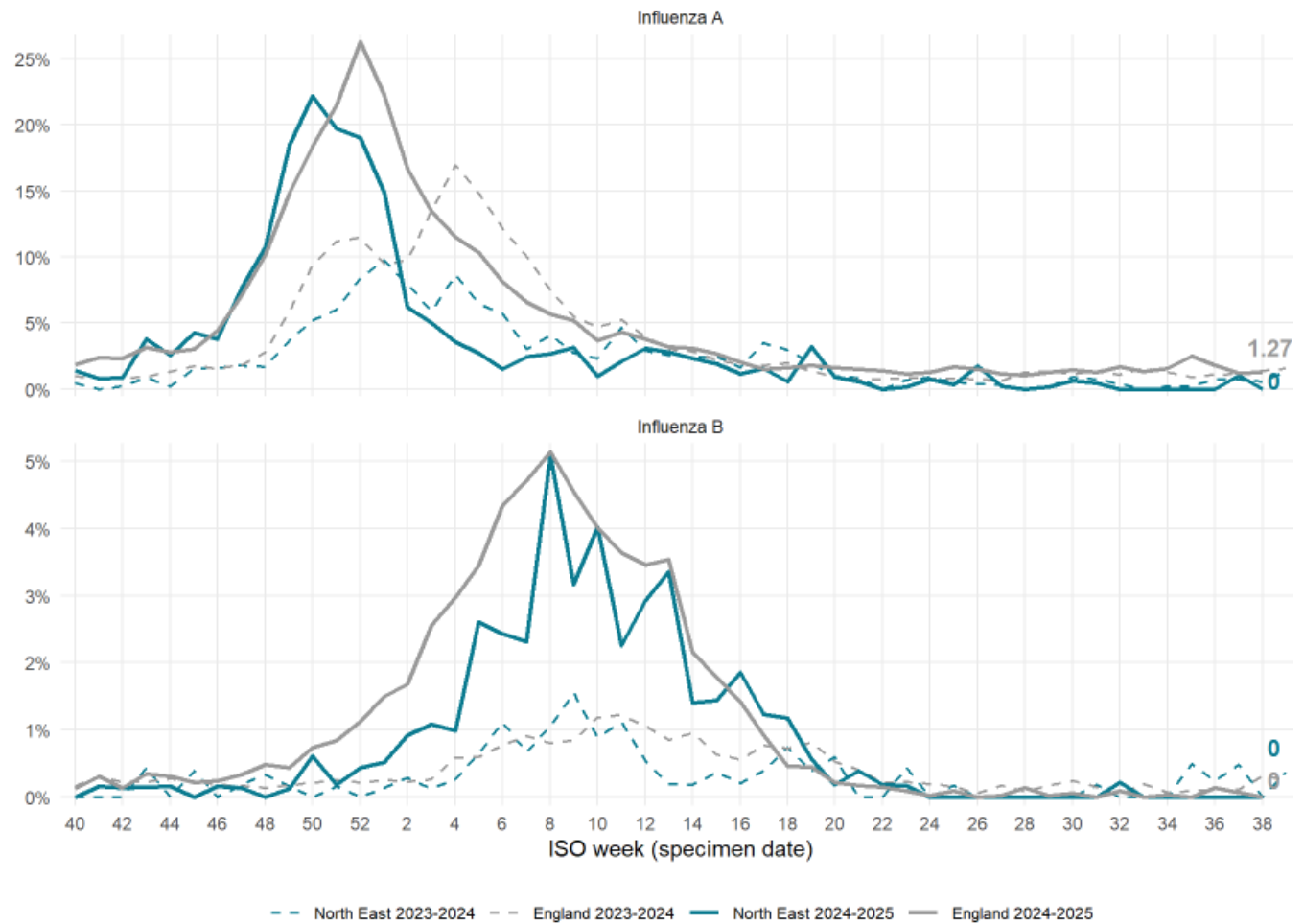
References

1. UKHSA: [Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake in GP patients in England: winter season 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

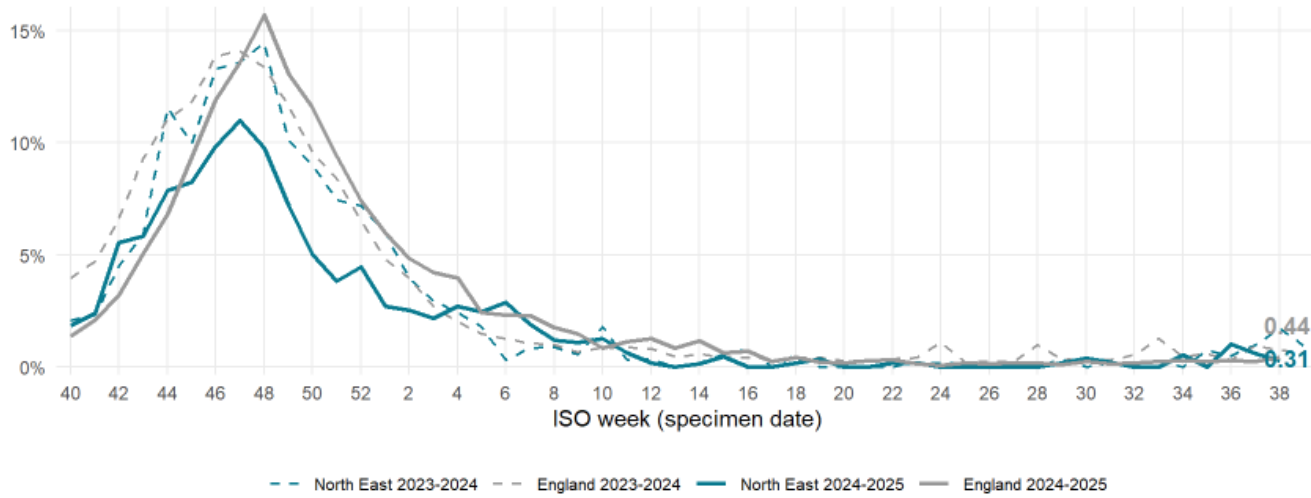
APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 Communicable disease update (week commencing 15th September 2025)

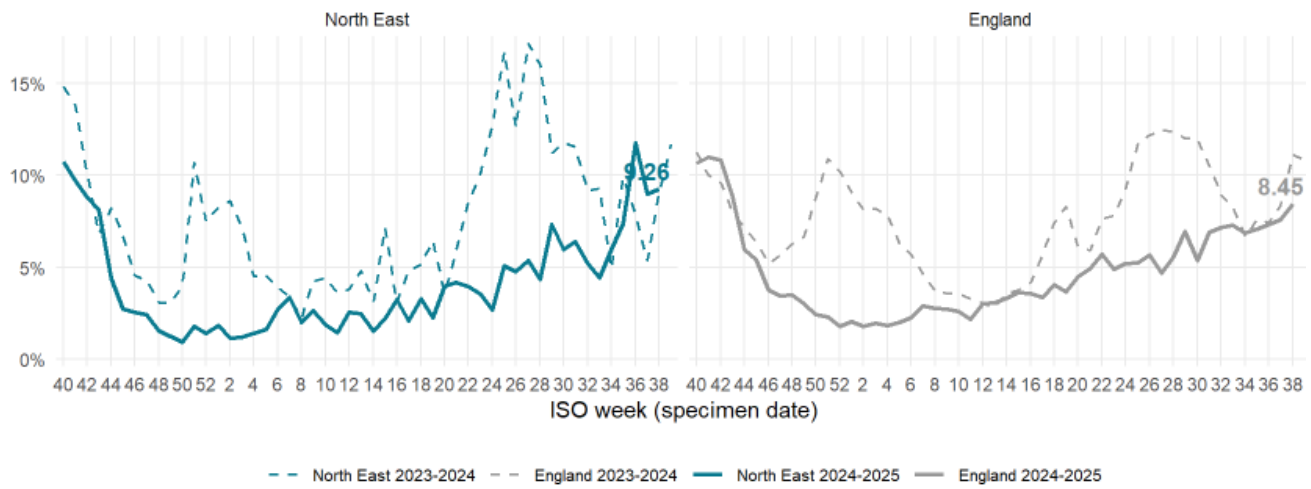
Reported cases of Influenza A and B in the North East and England.



Reported cases of RSV in the North East and England.



Reported cases of COVID-19 in the North East and England.



APPENDIX 2: Flu and COVID-19 vaccination eligible groups Winter 2025/6

Eligible Cohorts (Covid & Flu)

Eligible Cohorts for Vaccinations	Seasonal & Year-Round				Seasonal	
	Covid				Flu	
	Spring Apr to Jun-25	Year-Round (Interseason)	Autumn Winter Oct-25 to Jan-26	Year-Round (Interseason)	Autumn Winter	
					Sep-25	Oct-25 to Mar-26
Age 80+	✓		✓			✓
Age 75-79	✓		✓			✓
Age 65-74						✓
All Residents in Care Homes which includes Older Adults	✓		✓			✓
All Residents in Other Care Homes						✓
Housebound	✓ Immuno suppressed		✓ Immuno suppressed			✓
People with Severe Weakened Immune System 6 months+	✓	✓ *New Immuno suppressed	✓	✓ *New Immuno suppressed		✓
Clinical Risk 6 months+					✓ under 18 years	✓
Pregnant women	✓ Immuno suppressed		✓ Immuno suppressed		✓	✓
All children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August					✓	✓
School aged children 4-16 (Reception to Year 11)					✓	✓
Frontline health and social care workers						✓
Staff working in care homes for older adults						✓
Close Contacts of people with immunosuppression 12-64						✓
Carers aged 16 to 64 years						✓
Surge Response (Cohorts / Timeframe as determined by NHSE in event of Variant of Concern and Vaccine Rollout to Population)	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Who is eligible this year?

Flu - In line with advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, those advised to have a flu vaccine this year include: (1.6m across NENC)	COVID-19 - In line with advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, those advised to have a COVID-19 vaccine this year include: (401k across NENC)
From 1 Sept - anyone who is pregnant - all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2024 - primary school aged children (from Reception to Year 6) - secondary school aged children (from Year 7 to Year 11) - all children in clinical risk groups aged from 6 months to less than 18 years From 1 October - people aged 65 years and over - those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups (as defined by the Green Book, chapter 19 (Influenza)) - people in long-stay residential care homes - carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person - close contacts of immunocompromised individuals - frontline health care workers - front line social care workers	- people aged 75 years and over people aged 18 years to under 75 years in clinical risk groups (as defined by the Green Book, Influenza Chapter 19) - people in long-stay residential care homes - carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person

APPENDIX 3: Community pharmacies offering flu and Covid-19 vaccinations (Winter 2025/6)

Pharmacy	Address	Telephone	Vaccine Offer
Allied Pharmacy Fairfield	26-28 Glenfield Road, TS19 7PQ	01642 587625	Flu & COVID-19
Allied Pharmacy Tennant Street	Tennant St Medical Centre, Tennant Street, TS18 2AT	01642 616123	Flu & COVID-19
Allied Pharmacy Varo Terrace	4 Varo Terrace, Yarm Lane, TS18 1JY	01642 676127	Flu & COVID-19
Allied Pharmacy Yarm Lane	106 Yarm Lane, TS18 1YE	01642 607036	COVID-19 only
Asda Pharmacy	Asda Superstore, Portrack Lane, TS18 2PB	01642 623300	Flu only
Asda Pharmacy	Allensway, Thornaby, TS17 9EN	01642 768410	Flu only
Boots (Billingham)	25 Queensway, Billingham, TS23 2ND	01642 553263	Flu only
Boots (Norton)	12-14 High Street, Norton, TS20 1DN	01642 553101	Flu only
Boots (Norton)	Norton Primary Healthcare Centre, Billingham Road, Norton, TS20 2UZ	01642 553970	Flu only
Boots (Thornaby)	Teesside Retail Park, TS17 7BW	01642 360400	Flu only
Boots (Thornaby)	Thornaby Medical Centre, Trenchard Avenue, TS17 0EE	01642 763803	Flu only
Boots (Yarm)	Unit 1, 44 High Street, Yarm, TS15 9AE	01642 787396	Flu only
Cohens Chemist	Yarm Medical Centre, 1 Worsall Road, Yarm, TS15 9DD	01642 788060	Flu only
Davidson Pharmacy Ltd	3 Station Road, Billingham, TS23 1AG	01642 360145	Flu & COVID-19
Eaglescliffe Pharmacy	Unit 4 Orchard Parade, 18 Durham Lane, TS16 0EH	01642 782676	Flu only
Expert Care Limited	Unit 6, Hanover Parade, Glebe Centre, TS20 1RF	01642 360400	Flu only
Harry Hill Chemists	8 Kenilworth Road, Billingham, TS23 2HZ	01642 553184	Flu only
Hepworth Chemist	20 Greenside, Lowfields, Ingleby Barwick, TS17 0RR	01642 760609	Flu only

Lawson Street Pharmacy	Lawson Street Health Centre, Lawson Street, TS18 1HU	01642 613533	Flu only
Kelly Chemist	32 Myton Road, Ingleby Barwick, TS17 0WG	01642 751110	Flu only
Morrisons Pharmacy	Teesside Retail Park, TS17 7BP	01642 607074	Flu only
Newham Pharmacy	9-10 High Newham Court, Hardwick Estate, TS19 8PD	01642 608838	Flu only
Pharmacy Express	113 Lanehouse Road, Thornaby, TS17 8AB	01642 676842	Flu & COVID-19
Pharmacy Express	Unit 9 Sunningdale Drive, Eaglescliffe, TS16 9EA	01642 787337	Flu only
Pharmacy World	45 Redhill Road, Roseworth, TS19 9BX	01642 677999	Flu only
Rowlands Pharmacy	Billingham Health Centre, Queensway, TS23 2LA	01642 553846	Flu only
Stockton Pharmacy	70 Bishopton Lane, TS18 2AJ	01642 616940	Flu & COVID-19
Synergise Pharmacy	56 Yarm Lane, TS18 1EP	01642 616930	Flu & COVID-19
Tesco Instore Pharmacy	Leeholme Road, Billingham, TS23 3TA	01642 911501	Flu only
Tesco Instore Pharmacy	Durham Road, TS21 3LU	0191 693 4081	Flu only
WELL (High Street)	161-162 High Street, TS18 1PL	01642 633433	Flu & COVID-19
WELL (Farrer Street)	Queens Park Surgery, Farrer Street, TS18 2AW	01642 674300	Flu & COVID-19

Information retrieved from:

[Find a pharmacy that offers free flu vaccination - NHS](#)

[Find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site - NHS](#)