

Adult Social Care Strategy

2026 - 2030



Foreword

Pauline Beall, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

This strategy for Adult Social Care at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council sets out what we want to achieve by working as a team with partners, residents and communities across the six townships over the next three years. We want people in Stockton on Tees who have care and support needs and their carers to have the best possible quality of life, with the opportunity to make choices and do those things that are most important to them and make their lives worthwhile.



Our vision for Adult Social Care continues to ensure:

That people can get the right level and type of support at the right time to help, prevent, reduce or delay the need for ongoing support and maximise their independence.

Our approach focuses on building on the strengths of individuals and communities to help them grow and succeed. We will provide high-quality support that adapts to different needs while working with people to include them in decisions about their care. We will make sure that our services are safe and fair and invest in a skilled team that can offer the very best advice and support. We will use feedback, data and information to support our decisions and will collaborate closely with people, communities and partners across all sectors to achieve the best outcomes.

Carolyn Nice, Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Adult Social Care is at a pivotal moment nationally and here in our Borough. As our communities and townships continue to grow and evolve, so too must the ways in which we support people to live safe, independent and fulfilling lives. The Stockton-on-Tees Adult Social Care Strategy 2026-2030 sets out our shared vision for the future of Adult Social Care. One that is person-centred, inclusive, and sustainable.



We are committed to working collaboratively: listening to the voices of those with lived experience, partners and stakeholders and embracing the opportunities that innovation can provide to meet the challenges ahead. Working with people, partners and communities to set out the priorities in the Stockton-on-Tees Adult Social Care Strategy 2026-2030. We will be reviewing progress against local priorities and what people tell us is important to them. Together we want to build a system that values wellbeing as much as care and ensures our approach is rooted in dignity, respect, and empowerment, ensuring that every individual receives the right support, at the right time, in the right place.

Where needed we will provide high-quality support that adapts to different needs, and places people at the heart of decision making. We will make sure that our services are safe and fair and invest in a skilled team that can offer the very best advice and support. Our decisions will be based in evidence from data and feedback at a local and national level. We need to work together to ensure that we are using the strengths of people, their loved ones and our communities to ensure we are sustainable now and for the future.

Together, we will create a future where Adult Social Care is a cornerstone of enabling thriving, resilient people, families and communities in Stockton-on-Tees

Adult Social Care context

What is Adult Social Care?

Adult Social Care in Stockton-on-Tees covers a wide range of activities to help people live independently, support wellbeing and help people to stay safe. It can include:

- supporting people within their own homes, also known as care at home or domiciliary care
- supported accommodation, which is housing that has an element of on-site support, such as Housing with Care or Supported Living Schemes
- support in day centres which offer recreational or community activities
- 24-hour care provided in residential and nursing homes
- services that help people to retain or regain their skills and confidence after a period of illness or hospital stay, such as reablement or rehabilitative services
- providing assistive technology, aids and adaptations for people to use in their homes
- providing information and advice and preventative services to help people stay safe and well and independent for longer
- providing support to unpaid carers in our communities
- supporting people to engage in work, training, education or volunteering and to socialise with family and friends
- providing safeguarding services for people with care and support needs who may be at risk of abuse, neglect or harm



Our Borough

What do we know about living in Stockton-on-Tees for those people who need care and support?

Population: 195,562



Moderate growth (above national average of all local authorities)



167,094 are aged 18 or over



Our average age is 41 years



20% of the population are over 65



3% are over 85 years

Population is growing older with the largest single age group being those aged 45 and 64 and the steepest increase in population are the older age groups of over 65 years and over 80 years

Life Expectancy

Our males and female life expectancy is very similar at

56.9  56.5

Both are below the average of all local authorities

Adult Social Care:



Requests for support from 11,170 people in 2024-2025



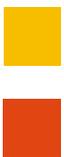
Of those residents requiring support, 1775 received short term support and 3525 receive long term support



Over 1600 unpaid carers were supported

Market:

Commission with 53 care homes of which



6% are rated as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission

81% are rated Good

We have no care homes rated inadequate

Priority 1: Working with people

Our ambitions:

- Ensure people receive a timely assessment of their care and support needs.
- Continue to develop early intervention services and outreach support, including community-based activities to prevent isolation.
- Help people stay independent and avoid long-term care where possible. Services will be focused on promoting wellbeing, confidence, and independence.
- Provide information and advice that is easy to find and accessible to all.
- Continue to invest in valuing and supporting carers in unpaid caring roles and will continue work with them to understand their concerns and priorities.



Priority 2: Providing support

Our ambitions:

- Providing suitable housing and accommodation for people with care and support needs.
- Continue to work with the wider market and ensure consistent quality of care being delivered.
- Ensuring the care market has sufficient capacity and is sustainable.
- Ensure that co-production is embedded in all that we do when designing and commissioning services, including policy updates and new strategies.



Priority 3: Keeping people safe

Our ambitions:

- We will keep adults safe from harm.
- Enhance the support and process for young people in their transition into adult services.
- Work with people and listen to their feedback on the process and outcomes and continue to improve their experiences around safety.



Priority 4: Leadership



Our ambitions:

- Capture the voice of the person who uses services to support people who enable them to have an active role in informing the current and future delivery of Adult Social Care
- Delivering person-centred and strengths-based practice.
- Ensure all people who provide care and support are competent and well trained.
- Technology is used as an enabler to deliver effective and efficient ways of working and people are supported to use it.
- Improve the use of data and intelligence used in commissioning decisions.
- Work with the NHS services to improve care and ensure people get the care they need quickly and easily.



We want to enable all the residents of Stockton on Tees “to live in the place we call home, with the people and things we love, in communities where we look out for each other, doing the things that matter to us”. #socialcarefutures

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