

REPORT TO CABINET

12 March 2026

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Portfolio Title – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Pauline Beall

Adult Social Care Strategy 2026-30

Summary

The current Adult Social Care Strategy ran from 2021-25 and provided the Council and the public with a clear set of priorities. Having a strong understanding local needs for care and support is now a key requirement of the local authority Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance framework, so having a new set of priorities from 2026 was agreed as essential to support the next phase in the Council's journey to meet the evolving needs of the local population.

This report summarises the process and outcome in developing the new strategy.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

Approval of the new Adult Social Care Strategy 2026-30 to replace the current strategy (2021-25).

Recommendations

1. Cabinet is asked to consider and endorse the final version of the Strategy attached and note the further work that will be progressed to develop accessible formats with support from the Making it Real Board (MIRB).

Detail

2. The draft Adult Social Care Strategy 2026-30 (paragraph 12) was developed in partnership with the MIRB.
3. The plan was originally developed in late spring 2025 in collaboration with the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) who supported the Council in engaging with citizens and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) groups to understand what they believed the priorities for Adult Social Care should be over the next 4 years.
4. Working with the MIRB, this information was reviewed and a set of key priorities developed along with an intentionally slimmed down strategy, acknowledging the Adult Social Care Strategy's place alongside the Stockton on Tees Plan 2024 and Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030. The approved draft version was shared with

key partners during November / December 2025 to gather their views. Engagement included VCSE providers (through a direct Catalyst mailshot and discussions with key partners at the Health and Wellbeing Forum), Healthwatch, NHS partners (North Tees Hospital, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust) and social care providers.

5. Based on this feedback, a revised version was developed and shared at Adult Social Care Senior Management Team and Corporate Management Team for agreement.

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

6. An EPIA has been completed for the Strategy with no identified negative impact on any protected characteristics.

Corporate Parenting Implications

7. The Adult Social Care Strategy includes a priority to “Enhance the support and process for young people in their transition into adult services” where this support is assessed as meeting our duties under the Care Act 2014.

Financial Implications

8. There are no direct financial implications in this report.

Legal Implications

9. There are no direct legal implications in this report.

Risk Assessment

10. There are no significant risks associated with this paper.

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

11. Engagement with Cllr Beall (lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care).

Background Papers

12. Copy of Adult Social Care Strategy 20206-30 attached. *Please note, this is the first version by design and print and several amendments have been identified to the layout / graphics by Communications that will be progressed to ensure it meets the Council's design and accessibility requirements.*

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