

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Chair's Update – March 2026

Scrutiny Review – Reablement Service	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The Committee's final report was presented to, and subsequently endorsed by, SBC Cabinet in December 2025.</p> <p>A draft Action Plan relating to the report's recommendations was collated and presented to the Committee in February 2026 – this was approved by Members, who then requested that the first update on progress of these actions be provided in approximately six months (September 2026).</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	n/a
On track – yes / no	Yes

Scrutiny Review – Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The third evidence-gathering session for this review was held at the Committee meeting in November 2025 which featured submissions from Eastern Ravens Trust (focusing on young carers transitioning into the adult service) and Mobilise (external organisation working with SBC). Prior to this, Committee Members visited the LiveWell Dementia Hub and spoke to staff and carers.</p> <p>Final evidence was considered in December 2025 which included a SBC presentation on engagement with / feedback from carers, other approaches to / good practice in supporting carers, and external carer-related scrutiny of SBC adult social care.</p> <p>An informal 'summary of evidence' session was held in January 2026 to consider all the information received and formulate draft recommendations. A draft final report was then presented to, and subsequently approved by, the Committee in February 2026.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	The Committee's final report will be presented to SBC Cabinet in March 2026.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>CQC / PAMMS Inspections – Quarterly Update: A report was presented at the Committee meeting in November 2025 detailing the findings of both CQC and PAMMS inspections that had been published in the second quarter (July to September 2025) of 2025-2026. The SBC Quality Assurance and Compliance (QuAC) Manager highlighted the continuing positive trend of PAMMS inspection outcomes across the Borough, with more</p>

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services receiving improved ratings as a result of the work of the QuAC Team. Following this, the Committee's attention was drawn to a recent BBC investigation which revealed that many care homes in England rated as inadequate or requiring improvement were not being re-inspected for over a year (raising concerns about the effectiveness of the CQCs inspection processes).

SBC Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024-2025: This was considered by the Committee in November 2025.

Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) – Annual Report 2024-2025: Presented by the TSAB Independent Chair to the Committee in December 2025, Members expressed encouragement around the stated training data and sought clarity over the suggestion of potential data collection issues.

Stockton-on-Tees Independent Complaints Advocacy – Annual Report: A new item for the Committee, this was presented at the meeting in December 2025. The NHS ICA service was a statutory requirement commissioned by the Local Authority, and provided free, confidential and independent advocacy support to people wishing to raise a complaint about their NHS-funded treatment or care. Regarding complaints, 30 themes were recorded in the first year of the contract, with the top 10 listed within the presentation. The top two (multiple aspects of clinical treatment, and attitude of staff) accounted for 37% of all complaint enquiries.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council – Local Authority Assessment: In December 2025, the Committee considered a presentation regarding the outcomes from the recently published Care Quality Commission (CQC) report following the late-2024 inspection of SBC adult social care services. The Committee drew attention to the CQCs finding around the need for an increased understanding and support offer for self-funders, with further queries raised on support for young people transitioning from children's to adult services, and the location of SBC Adult Social Care services.

Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone (TVCHIZ): The Committee had received an annual update on developments involving the TVCHIZ since 2024 – however, in late-2025, Members repeatedly requested more frequent information in relation to this initiative. Senior SBC officers were therefore asked if informal updates (summarising the work of the Strategic Programme Board and the three working groups that were now in place) could be provided and shared with the Committee via email. A simplified version of the minutes from the TVCHIZ Strategic Programme Board's meeting in October 2025 was subsequently provided – it was envisaged that further updates would be made available each quarter (aligned to the meetings of the Board).

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NHS Updates / Consultations	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB): Following the early-2025 announcement requiring ICBs to reduce running and programme costs, recently received guidance from NHS England had enabled ICBs to progress with their consultation processes, supported by guaranteed funding that would contribute towards the redundancy costs. The guidance stipulated that ICBs were required to develop transition plans for 2025-2026, implement restructuring within the financial year, and achieve both the mandated operating model and cost savings targets, which for the NENC ICB was a reduction of £32.5 million (or 32%). A staff consultation was launched which ran until 16 January 2026.</p>

Regional Health Committees	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: The chair and support function for the Committee sits with Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council for 2025-2026. The last meeting took place on 11 December 2025 and included an update on the Tees Respite Care / Short Breaks Service, the Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy, and the University Hospital Tees' clinical services strategy – regarding the latter, it was noted that there were likely to be significant changes around service structure / delivery being proposed in 2026 which would require appropriate consultation and engagement with the public, as well as with scrutiny functions, across the Tees Valley. The next meeting is scheduled for 12 March 2026 (agenda to be confirmed).</p> <p>Southern Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.</p> <p>North East Regional Health Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.</p>

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>No updates have been considered 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"> • Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care (May 2026) • Reablement Service (TBC – likely September 2026)
Requests for more information	None

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2025-2026 Scrutiny Reviews
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service• Adult Education and Skills

Remaining 2025-2026 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)
Tuesday 17 March 2026 (cancelled)