

Health and Wellbeing Board

A meeting of Health & Wellbeing Board was held on 28 January 2026

Present: Cllr Lisa Evans (Chair), Cllr Clare Besford, Tracey Carter, Cllr Norma Stephenson (Sub for Cllr Pauline Beall), Sarah Bowman-Abouna, Fiona Adamson, Peter Smith, Katie McLeod (Sub for Karen Hawkins), Lucy Owens, Cllr Lynn Hall, Majella McCarthy and Cllr Jack Miller

Officers: Michael Henderson, Sid Wong, Michael Houghton, Amit Law

Apologies: Cllr. Pauline Beall, Jamie Todd, Karen Hawkins, Matt Storey, Diane Monkhouse

1 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure and housekeeping arrangements for the Council Chamber were noted.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

3 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 17 December 2025 be approved as a correct record.

6 Appointment of Vice - Chair

The Board considered the appointment of a Vice – Chair.

RESOLVED that Karen Hawkins be appointed as Vice- Chair of the Board with immediate effect until the end of April 2027.

7. Neighbourhood Health Improvement Programme

The Board received a presentation outlining the Neighbourhood Health Improvement Programme.

Key points included:

- The programme supported the national ambition to shift care from hospital to community and from treatment to prevention.
- Stockton had been selected as one of 43 areas for Phase One.
- Focus would be on the most deprived areas, particularly Central Stockton and Portrack.
- Emphasis on collaborative working, early intervention, and prevention.

- Initial focus areas included:
 - Frailty (65+)
 - Individuals aged 50–65 with multiple long-term conditions
 - Community-based case finding

Progress to date:

- Programme mobilisation across partners
- Governance structures and decision-making routes established
- Initial cohort identified using shared data
- Engagement with VCSE sector and community groups
- Integrated delivery supported by clear assurance and evaluation processes

Engagement activity included:

- Workshops with over 50 partners
- Establishment of a Community Voice Group
- Reducing Inequalities workshop delivered

Next steps:

- Ongoing testing and scaling of delivery models
- Continued engagement with national programme
- Development of integrated neighbourhood teams
- VCSE and community co production

Discussion

- Members welcomed the focus on prevention, early intervention and reducing inequalities.
- Importance of partnership working and alignment with existing provision to avoid duplication was highlighted.
- Need for meaningful community engagement and visible outcomes for residents was emphasised.
- Members noted differing needs across pilot communities and stressed the importance of building trust over time, avoiding consultation fatigue.
- Members supported building on existing community assets and infrastructure.
- Concerns noted regarding pace of development and reliance on further national guidance.
- Members referenced links to wider initiatives, including Pride of Place, and suggested a future report or presentation to the Board.
- It was noted that an interim Neighbourhood Health Plan would be brought to the Board in March for discussion, ahead of submission.

RESOLVED that the update and discussion be noted/actioned as appropriate

Development of Performance Framework

The Board received an update on the monitoring and accountability framework for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Key points:

- A high-level delivery plan had been developed for Year 1.
- Commitment leads would identify Year 2 milestones by February 2026.
- Deep dive sessions focus on:
 - Healthy weight / good food
 - Early years
 - Social isolation and loneliness
- A Power BI outcomes dashboard is in development:
 - Will align with national and local outcome frameworks
 - Enable benchmarking and trend analysis
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- End-of-year reflections will be gathered via structured self-assessment across:
 - Successes
 - Inequalities
 - Community engagement
 - Partnership working
 - Challenges

Next steps:

- March Board: End-of-year report and reflection session
- April Board: Agreement of future deep dive topics

Key points

- Need for a pragmatic approach to performance monitoring, focusing on key priorities rather than all activity.
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- Use of partner self-assessment aligned to strategy priorities noted.
- Flexibility in format and timing of sessions discussed and would be considered outside the meeting

RESOLVED that the progress and plans be noted/agreed.

8. Health and Wellbeing Board Webpage – Refresh and Update

The Board considered a report on updating the Health and Wellbeing Board webpage.

Key proposals:

- Publication of updated Terms of Reference with explanatory context

- Clear articulation of the Board's role as a statutory committee and strategic partnership
- Updated membership information
- Inclusion of:
 - Overview of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - Summary of the monitoring and accountability framework

Discussion highlighted:

- Importance of clarity, transparency, and accessibility
- Opportunity to strengthen communication and public understanding

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed updates to the webpage be approved.
2. That further options for proactive communication be explored.