

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

Scrutiny Review – Protection of Property	
Achieved since last meeting	Initial meetings to discuss the scope of this review were held in May 2026 (officer) and June 2026 (tri-partite). In order to avoid the evidence-gathering phase being interrupted by the August recess, it was agreed to present the draft scope and plan to the Committee for approval at the July 2026 meeting (evidence sessions would then start in September 2026).
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	As above, a draft scope and plan will be presented to the Committee for approval at the July 2026 meeting.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) Quality Account 2025-2026: The annual NTHFT Quality Account item was considered at the Committee meeting in May 2026. Senior University Hospitals Tees (UHT) personnel presented a summary of the first (draft) UHT Quality Account which gave an overview of both NTHFT and neighbouring South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) performance against the joint 2025-2026 quality priorities – the intended priorities for 2026-2027 were also shared. Focusing on NTHFT-related information, subsequent Committee questions were raised on: - the timeline for anticipated service changes across the UHT footprint to be announced - whether there were plans to add a DEXA (Dual-Energy X-ray Absorptiometry) scanner to the local Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) so bone density checks could be offered - ensuring quality of discharge letters - the further rise in the number of patients waiting over 12 hours in A&E - the ageing University Hospital of North Tees estate - the latest staff Friends & Family Test results - cancer-related targets / lack of data - violence towards staff - recent media regarding potential job losses Following the meeting, the Committee agreed its third-party statement for inclusion in the Trust's published Quality Account document – this was sent to UHT on 3 June 2026 and can be found at https://www.nth.nhs.uk/resources/quality-accounts-2025-2026/ (see pages 142-144). CQC / PAMMS Inspections – Quarterly Update: A report was presented at the Committee meeting in June 2026 detailing the findings of both CQC and PAMMS inspections that had been published in the fourth quarter (January to March 2026) of 2025-2026. Members welcomed what was a very positive quarterly

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	period, with all contracted providers being rated 'Good' following recent CQC (2) and PAMMS (12) inspection outcomes. PAMMS Annual Report 2025-2026: The latest PAMMS Annual Report covering the 2025-2026 period was presented to the Committee in June 2026. Outcomes of assessments for contracted care homes (covering nursing, residential, learning disabilities, and mental health) showed that, of the 29 inspections carried out, two services were rated 'Excellent' overall, 26 services had received a 'Good' overall PAMMS rating, and one service had been graded 'Requires Improvement' overall – this was an improvement when compared to 2024-2025. Norton Medical Centre: In March 2026, the CQC published its latest view of Norton Medical Centre following an inspection in October 2025. The practice's overall rating remained 'Requires Improvement', but whilst the 'effective' and 'responsive' domains had been upgraded, the 'well-led' domain was downgraded to 'Inadequate' (prior to the publication of these findings, the CQC served a warning notice on Norton Medical Centre on 17 November 2025 for failing to meet the regulations relating to safe care and treatment). Following a subsequent Committee request, representatives of Norton Medical Centre attended the June 2026 meeting to provide its response, with Member questions focusing on concerns raised by practice staff, the composition of / value placed on the Patient Participation Group (PPG), medication management, the results of a recent staff survey, and role of / support from other relevant organisations (e.g. NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB), Primary Care Network (PCN), Cleveland Local Medical Committee (LMC)).
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NHS Updates / Consultations

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB): Early-May 2026 marked an important milestone for the NENC ICB as it brought its transition programme to a close and started a new chapter as a strategic commissioning organisation. In line with national NHS guidance and the Model ICB Blueprint, the NENC ICB had reduced both running and programme costs while reorganising to support its new role and operating model. The five-year strategic commissioning plan sets out how the NENC ICB will work with partners to plan and commission services for the 3.2 million people it serves, building on its shared ambition of Better health and wellbeing for all. NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB): The NENC ICB was working with the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS), Healthwatch, and other partners to improve NHS patient transport services and consider ways to make it fairer, clearer and more consistent. People who used patient transport in the North East, along with carers and family members, were encouraged to take part in a survey and share their experiences and views before any decisions were made.
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Regional Health Committees	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: Middlesbrough Council was hosting the Committee in 2026-2027. The first meeting of the new municipal year took place on 2 June 2026 where agenda items included the appointment of the new Chair, a NHS England / Northern Neonatal Network presentation on the delivery of neonatal care across the North East and North Cumbria region, and a Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) update on its review of Adult Eating Disorder Services. Senior University Hospitals Tees (UHT) personnel also presented the joint (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT), and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT)) Quality Account 2025-2026 and gave details of planned workforce reductions across the UHT footprint. The next meeting was scheduled for 23 July 2026. Although the agenda was still to be confirmed, a request was made at the June 2026 meeting for an item to be included on access to specialist community perinatal mental health services. Southern Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) / Integrated Care System (ICS) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled. North East Regional Health Committee: No meetings are currently scheduled.
Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	The following update was considered by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting: Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care: The second update on progress of outstanding actions in relation to recommendations from the Committee's previously completed review of Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care was considered in May 2026, with subsequent discussion points covering access to / use of digital health records and NHS app content. Given one recommendation still had associated actions that were yet to be deemed 'fully achieved', it was agreed that a further update on this would be provided to the Committee in around six months. Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows: • Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care (TBC – late-2026) • Reablement Service (September 2026) • Stockton-on-Tees Adult Carers Support Service (TBC – early-2027)
Requests for more information	None

**Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee
Chair’s Update – July 2026**

2026-2027 Scrutiny Reviews	
Protection of Property	
Remaining 2026-2027 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)	
Tuesday 21 July 2026	Tuesday 15 December 2026
Tuesday 22 September 2026	Tuesday 19 January 2027
Tuesday 20 October 2026	Tuesday 16 February 2027
Tuesday 17 November 2026	Tuesday 23 March 2027