

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

29th July 2026

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ACTIVE STOCKTON

SUMMARY

“Active Stockton – Communities on the Move” is the name of the Sport England Place Partnership in Stockton-on-Tees, part of Sport England’s Place Expansion programme. £1.3million has been awarded to the Partnership for the next phase, and through place-based collaboration, partners and communities involved in Active Stockton are not only increasing opportunities to be active but they are also addressing the underlying barriers that prevent people from moving in the first place. This briefing provides an overview of the approach being taken by Active Stockton, and the areas of focus.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Note the details of the Sport England funding award, and the five priority areas of focus.
- Consider how board members can support the work of Active Stockton over the short, medium and long term, as well as how this work can support other priorities that the board have.
- Consider how the learning from ways of working, including with communities, can be shared and embedded.

DETAIL

1. Following a period of development work and strong collaboration across partners, Stockton-on-Tees has been awarded £1.3 million of National Lottery funding through Sport England’s Place Expansion programme, to take forward our local Place Partnership known as “Active Stockton – Communities on the Move”.
2. Sport England’s Place Expansion programme has been developed from learning in earlier pilot areas. The aim is to create long-term change by working differently – starting with communities, building trust, and joining up across organisations.
3. Tees Valley Sport is the lead applicant and funding recipient on behalf of Active Stockton. Tees Valley Sport are one of forty one active partnerships in England, locally based organisations that work strategically and collaboratively to tackle inactivity and inequalities by taking a local, place-based approach.

4. This investment in Stockton-on-Tees will support a long-term, place-based approach to help more people become physically active, particularly in communities facing the greatest challenges.
5. Receiving this award is a significant milestone and reflects the collective effort of partners across the voluntary and community sector, health, leisure, education and local authority, as well as the invaluable insight gathered from local residents.
6. It follows successful development work, focused on listening to residents to understand how physically active people are, what gets in the way and what would make it easier, safer and more welcoming for people to move more.
7. This new investment enables Stockton-on-Tees to deliver a plan, with a long-term focus on tackling these barriers to being active with a focus on five specific geographical areas within Stockton-on-Tees including Stockton Central, Roseworth, Norton South and parts of Thornaby and Billingham.
8. The approved award will focus on five priorities over the next two years:
 - Growing the network of connected partner organisations to create a strong system;
 - Creating a more inclusive, active culture;
 - Creating safe spaces and doorstep opportunities to help people be active;
 - Targeted support for children and young people to increase their activity;
 - Supporting people living with pain and health conditions to be more active.
9. There is a strong focus on ways of working, with learning around how change happens being seen as fundamental to delivering long-term, sustainable outcomes.
10. Involvement of communities is central to the approach being taken by Active Stockton, with an agreed common purpose “Working together to create communities on the move in Stockton-on-Tees”.
11. Each of the five geographical areas of focus will have a community connector based within a local VCSE organisation, building on trusted community relationships and reaching inactive and underserved communities. These connectors are two year posts focused on creating sustainable participation, and connecting organisations to maximise impact.
12. Active Stockton’s long-term aim is a reduction in inequalities and physical inactivity, with Stockton-on-Tees becoming an inclusive, safe and collaborative place where communities feel they belong, have a voice, and naturally lead active, healthy lives.
13. These priorities align with Sport England’s national strategy, Uniting the Movement, which calls for collective action to address deep-rooted inequalities in activity levels and ensure communities most in need are supported first.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Tees Valley Sport, based at Teesside University, is the funding recipient on behalf of the Active Stockton place partnership, and is responsible for allocating funding in line with the approved delivery plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no current legal implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Active Stockton is categorised as low to medium risk. Governance arrangements are in place including a project group and advisory group, and these arrangements alongside existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

The aim of the work is to deliver long term sustainable impact for local communities, with a focus on working differently – starting with communities, building trust, and joining up across organisations.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

Active Stockton will help deliver on many of the principles and priorities within the Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Council Plan.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

There is a focus on the five specific geographical areas outlined, however all wards in the Borough may be impacted by Active Stockton. Updates will be shared with ward Councillors in the five areas to ensure they are kept aware of developments.

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