

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

Scrutiny Review – Protection of Property	
Achieved since last meeting	A draft scope and plan was presented to, and subsequently approved by, the Committee at the last meeting in July 2026. The main aims of the review would be to determine whether: - Existing Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) arrangements for fulfilling the Care Act duty to protect properties were fit for purpose. - SBC Adult Social Care Financial Services (ASCFS) had the capacity, procedures and resources to manage increasing numbers of properties (including clarity around what was defined as 'property'). - SBC was recovering reasonable expenses (as allowed by legislation). - Risk, accountability and decision-making processes (including those involving Mental Capacity Act decisions) were clear, consistent and auditable. A number of contributors had been identified in relation to this scrutiny topic, including SBC departments (Adult Social Care, Community Safety, and Housing Services), local NHS Trusts, local housing associations, and Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) – an understanding of how other Local Authorities viewed / conducted work around this duty would also be sought. It was anticipated that the Committee's final report would be presented to the SBC Cabinet in January 2027.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	The first evidence-gathering session would be held at the Committee meeting in September 2026 and was scheduled to feature an initial presentation from SBC Adult Social Care.
On track – yes / no	Yes

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees Annual Report 2025-2026: This was presented to the Committee in July 2026 – subsequent discussions covered work undertaken in relation to drugs and alcohol, end-of-life and palliative care, and ongoing system change by University Hospitals Tees (UHT). Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone (TVCHIZ): Further to late-2025 requests by the Committee for more frequent information in relation to this initiative, 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). In March 2026, senior SBC officers proposed that more frequent reports were presented to formal Committee meetings (rather than simplified versions of the minutes from TVCHIZ Strategic Programme Board meetings being shared).

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	The latest formal update was provided at the Committee meeting in July 2026 which highlighted developments in relation to the three workstreams (Research and Innovation; Skills and Workforce Development; Place and Regeneration) – a further update at the meeting in September 2026 was also anticipated which would focus on the role and achievements (thus far) of the SBC Care and Health Recruitment and Training Co-ordinator. SBC Adult Services Complaints Report 2025-2026: The first SBC Adult Services Complaints Report covering the 2025-2026 period was scheduled to be considered by the Committee in September 2026. Overview and Performance Report: Adults, Health & Wellbeing (Public Health): An Overview and Performance Report in relation to the SBC Adults, Health and Wellbeing directorate (with specific focus on the Public Health department) was scheduled to be considered by the Committee in October 2026.
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NHS Updates / Consultations

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	University Hospitals Tees (UHT): Significant strategic developments had seen UHT develop a 'Case for Change' (a requirement for NHS organisations undertaking major service changes). Following input and advice from relevant Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and NHS England, as well as engagement with local communities over their priorities and feedback on its services (see https://www.nth.nhs.uk/news/tell-us-what-we-do-well-and-what-we-need-to-do-better-nhs-trusts-call-on-community-for-views/), UHT had begun the development of the 'Pre-Consultation Business Case' (PCBC) which sets out the specific proposals and options for how it may develop and transform services for patients to address the challenges outlined in its 'Case for Change'. From a scrutiny perspective, updates on this process (and any anticipated proposed changes) continued to be primarily overseen by the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW): In September 2026, CNTW announced a programme of listening and engagement that was commencing across the North East and North Cumbria in relation to specialist mental health services for children and young people. Working collaboratively with its partner organisations, CNTW was reviewing how specialist services could best meet the needs of children, young people and families in the future – this included understanding people's experiences of current services, what was working well, where improvements may be needed, and what good mental health support should look like for future generations (see https://www.cntw.nhs.uk/about-us/news/help-shape-future-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-services/). This review may be further explored by the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee at a forthcoming meeting.
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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 last meeting was held on 23 July 2026 and covered access to Specialist Community Perinatal Mental Health Services, and a UHT 'Case for Change and Strategy' presentation (see PowerPoint Presentation). The next meeting was scheduled for 1 October 2026 (agenda to be confirmed). 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	No updates have been considered by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting. 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

2026-2027 Scrutiny Reviews
• Protection of Property

Remaining 2026-2027 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)	
Tuesday 22 September 2026	Tuesday 19 January 2027
Tuesday 20 October 2026	Tuesday 16 February 2027
Tuesday 17 November 2026	Tuesday 23 March 2027
Tuesday 15 December 2026	