REPORT TO CABINET

16 NOVEMBER 2026

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Health & Adult Social Care – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Pauline Beall

Local Account for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Summary

This is the second Adults, Health and Wellbeing Local Account to be co-produced with the Making it Real Board, Stockton-on-Tees' strategic co-production Board.

While it is not mandatory under the Care Act (2014) to publish a Local Account, it is considered good practice.

The Local Account is a public-facing document that celebrates achievements from the past year, reflects on challenges, and sets out priorities for the year ahead. Co-producing the report ensures that the views and experiences of people who draw on care and support are central to this process.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

Cabinet is asked to approve the content Adults, Health and Wellbeing Local Account 2025/26 prior to publication. The Local Account has been co-produced with the Making it Real Board and provides an overview of progress against previous priorities, key achievements, current challenges and priorities for the year ahead.

Recommendations

1. The report be noted;
2. Agree and endorse the Local Account for Adults, Health and Wellbeing Local Account 2025-2026

Detail

1. This is the second Adults, Health and Wellbeing Local Account to be co-produced with the Making it Real Board, Stockton-on-Tees' strategic co-production forum. The Board,

comprising people with lived experience of care and support, carers, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and council officers, worked alongside the Directorate and the Council's Communications Team to shape both the content and design of the report.

2. The Local Account presents a positive but balanced assessment of Adults, Health and Wellbeing services. It highlights significant achievements and progress against priorities identified in the previous Local Account, including developments in co-production, housing, public health and community safety. The report also recognises ongoing challenges, including health inequalities, housing affordability and homelessness pressures, supporting people to remain independent, improving transitions for young people moving into adult services, and ensuring a wider range of communities are involved in shaping services. These challenges have informed the priorities identified for the year ahead. Community Safety transferred to the Council's Neighbourhoods Directorate in Autumn 2026; consequently, while the Local Account reflects achievements delivered during the period covered by the report, future Community Safety priorities are not included within the priorities section and will instead be reported through the relevant arrangements within the Neighbourhoods Directorate.

3. The Local Account was developed through ongoing discussions at Making it Real Board meetings, where it was included as a standing agenda item. Officers from across the Directorate completed information-gathering templates and attended meetings to discuss achievements, challenges and priorities with Board members, enabling people with lived experience and carers to shape and refine the content of the report. The report also includes an update on the progress made against the priorities identified in the previous Local Account, allowing the Board to review what has been achieved and influence future priorities.

4. The Council's Communications Team was engaged from an early stage to support the design and publication of the Local Account. Feedback from Making it Real Board members influenced both the content and presentation of the report, ensuring it was shaped by the experiences and needs of people who draw on care and support. This reflects the Council's commitment to putting communities at the heart of what we do by listening to people, particularly those who may experience inequality, and using their feedback to inform decisions about how information is communicated.

5. The Local Account is a public-facing document that celebrates achievements from the past year, reflects on challenges, and sets out priorities for the year ahead. Co-producing the report helps ensure that the views and experiences of people who draw on care and support are central to how progress is reviewed and future priorities are identified.

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

6. The Local Account has no direct impact on any protected characteristics: it is a public report and does not directly change how we provide services.

7. However, the Local Account will be of interest to people accessing services, or providing care (paid or unpaid) in Stockton on Tees and the family/friends of people drawing on care and support.

8. An Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment (EPIA) has not been completed for this report as the Local Account is an information and reporting document. It does not introduce or amend a policy, strategy, service, commissioning arrangement or funding decision.

9. Equality and poverty considerations have nevertheless informed the development of the report through co-production with the Making it Real Board, ensuring the views and experiences of people who draw on care and support, including those who may experience disadvantage or inequality, have helped shape its content and presentation.

10. To promote equitable access to information, the Local Account will be available in alternative formats on request, including large print, audio, Braille and translated versions where required. This will help ensure that people with sensory impairments, learning disabilities or whose first language is not English can access the information.

Corporate Parenting Implications

11. This report does not contain any corporate parenting implications.

Financial Implications

12. There are no identified financial implications.

Legal Implications

13. There are no legal implications.

Risk Assessment

14. The Local Account is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward/Councillors (refer to Concordat for Communication and Consultation with Members)

15. The Local Account will be published for sharing across all of Stockton-on-Tees. It is not anticipated that there will be any specific impact on any specific wards Background Papers.

Background Papers

16. None.

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