

Service Level Agreement

Public Health South Tees and Middlesbrough Council Environment and Community Services Directorate

1. Introduction

The purpose of this Service Level Agreement is to establish a framework for collaboration between Public Health South Tees and Middlesbrough Council Environmental and Community Services Directorate to deliver public health outcomes which contribute to reducing health inequalities across Middlesbrough, specifically the Public Health objective of creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities and protecting the public's health as contributors to reducing health inequalities.

Partners in the SLA are:

- Public Health South Tees
- Middlesbrough Council Environment and Community Services Directorate

2. Background

The Local Authority, via the Director of Public Health, has a duty to improve public health under **Section 12** of the **Health and Social Care Act 2012**. Under the provisions of the Act, Middlesbrough Council has a duty to improve the health and wellbeing of the population. This means the council should pay regard to the evidence of need and identify services, approaches or interventions to improve health outcomes and address inequalities.

To support this duty the Director of Public Health is accountable for the delivery of Middlesbrough Council's public health duties and is an independent advocate for the health of the population, providing leadership for its improvement and protection. The duty is expected to be executed via the delivery of mandated and non-mandated functions (Appendix 1) that best meet the needs of the local population, including having regards to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

To support these responsibilities the DPH is responsible for a public health grant. The level of the grant is set by the Treasury and is ring-fenced for specific uses with its requirements set out in the grant determination letter.

3. Principles of Public Health Grant Allocation

The council needs to demonstrate that the public health grant has been used to improve the health and wellbeing of the population in line with evidence of need and in accordance with the legislation and requirements set out in the grant determination letter.

The DPH and Chief Executive/s151 officer must be able to confirm that expenditure of the grant is in line with the legislative requirements and will assure that:

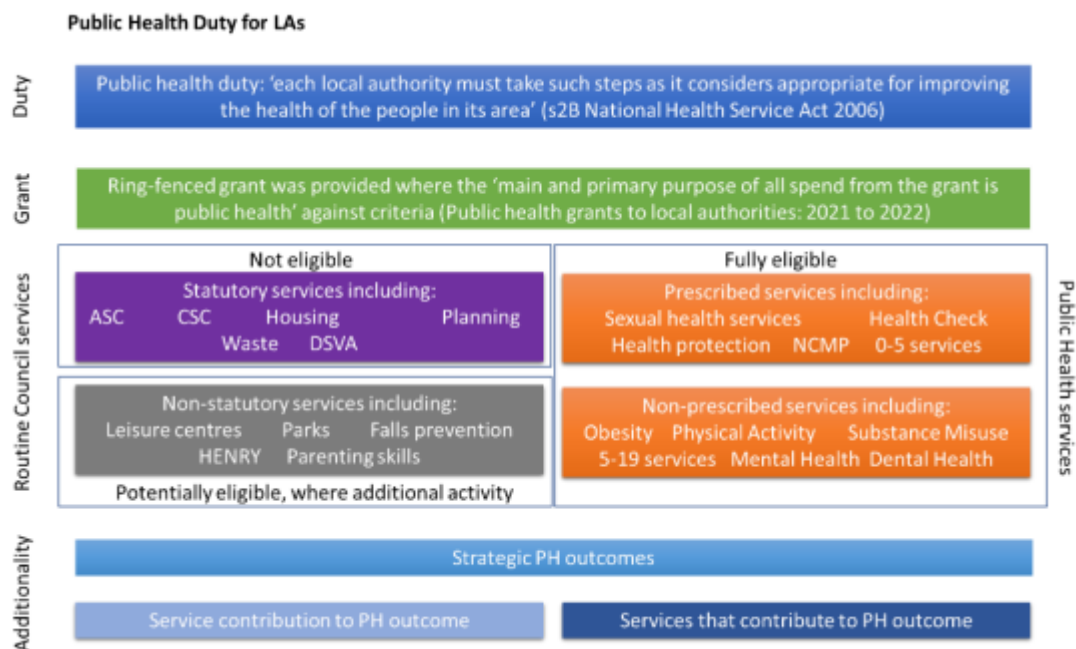
- The main and primary purpose of any spend against the public health grant is in support of the delivery of strategic public health outcomes;
- Expenditure is transparently and demonstrably in line with the grant determination requirements;
- Governance processes are robust and adequate; and
- Public health outcomes are reviewed and monitored.

To reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing outcomes in Middlesbrough, Public Health South Tees has adopted a Programme Approach across the lifecourse (Start Well, Live Well and Age Well) underpinned by five priority areas to improve health and reduce inequalities:

- Creating healthy and sustainable places
- Health protection
- Preventing ill-health
- Reducing vulnerability
- Promoting positive mental health and emotional resilience

All expenditure must be in line with the principles and processes set out in the legislative model for Public Health grant expenditure (Figure 2). This framework aims to ensure that public health grant is used in a way which is based on a solid understanding of health and wellbeing needs; prioritises prevention; and delivers best value, including a process for continuous improvement.

Figure 2. Legislative model for public health grant expenditure



The planned use of the public health grant allocation must be assessed as being an effective and efficient use of the resource available to ensure:

- All grant expenditure is eligible, as per public health grant conditions;
- The effective delivery of all prescribed/mandated public health services; and
- The delivery of activity identified as being required in order to address the five priorities set out within the Public Health Strategy and programme approach.

Improvement to the health and wellbeing of the population is delivered through a combination of interventions: understanding the needs of the population, influencing system policy and developing collaborative and integrated approaches. The public health grant will be used to support a breadth of services against strategic outcomes to ensure equity of access, cover different levels of prevention and reduce inequalities. Where the public health grant is invested in internal council services, they will be supported by service level agreements that demonstrate the contribution to achieving outcomes aligned to the five priority areas and will be reviewed at least annually.

4. Service Scope

Health inequalities exist in Middlesbrough. The population of Middlesbrough has a lower life expectancy when compared to regional and national averages. They can also expect to live a shorter proportion of their lives in good health. People experiencing the greatest deprivation have the shortest life expectancy, living on average 13 years *less* than those in the most affluent wards. The trend of other key outcomes, such as proportion of children living with overweight or obesity and ill-health attributed to smoking, is worsening. This demonstrates that health impacts should be an important part of any decision making to contribute towards reducing the inequality gap.

The built and natural environment, transport links, community life, social connections and having a voice in local decisions are key determinants of health and wellbeing outcomes. Community-centred ways of working create connected, resilient more cohesive communities, help buffer against disease and influence health-related behaviour. In addition, there is a clear link between transport and health. Transport interventions have the potential to mitigate health problems borne out of inactivity, and in turn reduce health inequalities. It can play a key role in facilitating peoples access to health services which is particularly important for older and disabled people. Transport also has an impact on mental health and wellbeing, allowing people to connect and maintain relationships reducing loneliness and social isolation.

Community-centred approaches focus on mobilising assets within communities, promoting equity, and increasing people's control over their health and lives. The scope of this SLA includes the implementation of community-centred, asset-based approaches, including transport as a key contributor to health and wellbeing, as part of place-based working to reduce health inequalities and build resilient, cohesive, connected communities.

5. Outcomes and Actions

The strategic public health outcomes have been described in the Public Health Strategy.

The overarching outcome of this SLA is for public health and environmental and commercial services to work collaboratively using **a system led approach to support the creation of resilient, cohesive, connected communities.**

Environmental and Community Services Commitments

All Directorate Action

Training

- Encourage staff to attend relevant public health training including C-card and wider sexual health, Trauma informed, Making Every Contact Count (MECC), substance misuse, Breastfeeding Welcome, Healthy Weight Declaration E-learning, Suicide prevention e-learning and Dementia Friendly.
- Identify key front-line staff be trained as mental health first aiders/advocates across the directorate.
- Actively engage in shadowing experiences to gain greater understanding of services approaches and offers.
- As a directorate complete an annual public health audit which demonstrates application of knowledge.

Partnerships/Collaborative Working

- Support the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and delivery of the Live Well South Tees Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Ensure appropriate directorate attendance at key partnerships such as the South Tees Health Protection Board, South Tees Teenage Pregnancy Partnership, Healthy Weight Alliance, Age Friendly Partnership, and Ill Health Prevention Board
- Working with You've Got This (YGT) and Public Health South Tees, support the development of a collaborative partnership strategy for the development, management, and use of formal and informal spaces, building on the Middlesbrough Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.
- Nominate a wellbeing champion for the directorate and to register on the South Tees Wellbeing Network.
- Sign up to Age Friendly Charter as a directorate.

Environment and Community Services

Working collaboratively with Public Health to ensure the Middlesbrough Environment City contract requires MEC to lead or contribute to the following programmes to support tackling poverty, wider determinants of health and healthy weight:

- Continue to co-ordinate the South Tees Affordable Warmth Partnership and contribute to the delivery of the action plan including providing affordable warmth support and signposting; energy efficiency advice and grant support and training.
- Food Poverty – addressing food poverty including development of the Eco Shop model for access to cheap nutritional food (utilising surplus food supplies).

- Continue to co-ordinate the Food Power Alliance and support wider partners involved in food poverty to meet the objectives of the Alliance.
- Support the Middlesbrough FareShare Warehouse Hub.
- Continue to co-ordinate the Food Partnership and contribute to the delivery of the action plan.
- Continue to contribute to the Council's Green Strategy leading on Sustainable Food.

Transport and Infrastructure Planning

- Work with Public Health to embed Health Inequalities Impact Assessments as part of the transport and infrastructure planning process to positively impact on health inequalities and to create healthy, more resilient, and sustainable communities, working with Public Health's YGT funded Creating Active and Healthy Spaces Lead.
- Manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, including the creation of active travel routes and quality green spaces, which include areas for food growing, to increase physical activity and for social and employment opportunities, informal recreation and to minimise air pollution.
- Improve the health of Middlesbrough residents by encouraging Active Travel particularly to educational settings.
- Improve access to both existing and proposed facilities and services within the town by sustainable transport.
- Aspire to be a cycling city that actively encourages more people to cycle more often in a safe manner.
- Support rail and bus travel to improve accessibility to employment, education, retail and recreation, health services and countryside.
- Work towards implementing the Tees Valley Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- Evidence of improvements to the existing public rights of way network, e.g. better signage/route information to give increased accessibility.
- Address road safety issues in Middlesbrough, including through producing a Road Safety Action Plan, that will prioritise high need in particular geographic areas (when appropriate), whilst balancing broader campaigns that are tailored to specific times of year, such as drink driving at Christmas, winter driving, school crossing patrols and travelling to and from school at darker times of year.

Stronger Communities

- Work jointly with Public Health to produce a Community Capacity Building Strategy, that includes our approach to building social capital and community wealth building and support the implementation of the strategy.
- Ensure place-based action plans have a public health focus jointly developed with Public Health to meet the needs of the community and reduce inequalities.
- Work with Public Health to identify training needs for front line staff to enable them to deliver interventions and signpost into services (e.g. Stop Smoking Service, Recovery Support Services).
- Support Public Health to build local community insight which will support the delivery and targeting of services.

- Ensure that community hubs promote key public health messages.
- Working with community organisations and stakeholders to increase awareness of positive breastfeeding messages and ensure all community venues that ECS work with are signed up to the Welcome to Breastfeed South Tees programme.
- Ensure all venues are also signed up to age and dementia friendly.
- Working with community organisations and stakeholders to increase effectiveness and approaches to identify, advise, refer, and support those at risk of food poverty.
- Work with community organisations and stakeholders to engage with Bring it on Boro! (Holiday Activity and Food Programme) to increase access for those eligible for the programme and enhance the offer across the town.
- Support the identification of community health champions and the distribution of key public health messages into communities.
- Further enhance the multi-agency approaches (outreach, harm minimisation, etc.) that operate within our communities, such as front-line staff attending training to enable them to provide advice and support to those misusing substances.
- Maximise the opportunities to take a public health approach (as opposed to enforcement) – by working in a multi-agency approach to offer support, such as making referrals to services and sharing relevant information.
- Develop robust pathways into key public health services such as Substance misuse, Sexual Health and Stop Smoking.

Public Protection and Licensing

- Utilise the data gathered by the new North East wide Reducing Gambling Harms workstream to develop our licensing approach to prevention.
- Continue to work collaboratively with Public Health to deliver the South Tees Smokefree Alliance actions.

Parks/Environment

- Manage the contract with 'We Do Tennis' to operate the five newly refurbished tennis court at Albert Park.
- Manage the Council's commitments within the funding agreement with the Lawn Tennis Association to refurbish the five tennis courts at Albert Park.
- Support the application process, development and future management of the Football Foundation's 'Playzone' spaces. The proposed sites for these currently are Pallister Park and Albert Park but this is subject to both insight gathering and match funding.
- Continue to support the delivery of existing Parkruns at Albert Park and Stewart Park and the Junior Parkruns at Hemlington Lake and Albert Park.
- Continue to deliver the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme at Albert Park.
- Continue to support work to develop 'Friends of Groups' and their proposed programming on Middlesbrough's parks.
- Meet the conditions of the Levelling Up Parks Fund agreement to refurbish Carter Park; deliver a launch event for the refurbished Carter Park; and install an outdoor chess table at Albert Park working with the Chess Association and local partners to activate/programme the outdoor chess table.

Public Health Commitments

- Provide up-to-date training for ECS staff to access.
- Support the implementation of Health Inequality Impact Assessments in transport planning through a funded fixed-term two-year post (Creating Active and Healthy Places Lead) through You've Got This, a Sport England Local Delivery Pilot.
- Work with ECS to develop a cross directorate strategy for the development, management and use of formal and informal spaces, building on the Middlesbrough Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.
- Dedicated representative to support Community Capacity Building related work.
- Dedicated representative to support the delivery of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and gambling harms related work.
- To provide regular updates to relevant ECS staff on the progress and development of cross cutting work streams.
- Dedicated representative to attend the Community Safety Partnership.
- Nominating key staff to support achievement of outcomes.

6. Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles underpin the work:

- Partners have equal status and will work collaboratively and support each other in the spirit and intention of this SLA.
- Partners will discuss any changes to services that may impact on the delivery of Public Health outcomes with Public Health prior to changes being agreed.
- As the Public Health Grant is allocated to a percentage of the overall service delivery which is deemed to contribute to Public Health outcomes, Public Health cannot be held responsible to fund any changes in service budgets such as pay increases.
- Partners will be open and transparent and act in good faith towards each other.
- Partners will commit resources appropriately to support the delivery of the SLA outcomes.
- Partners will demonstrate a willingness to put the needs of the public before the needs of individual organisations.
- All partners recognise and acknowledge that integration is an interactive and iterative process.

7. Monitoring and ongoing development

Quality assurance and delivery against the SLA outcomes will be monitored via quarterly meetings between Environmental and Commercial Services and Public Health (performance frameworks and narrative report templates will be supplied by Public Health). Outcomes from these meetings will feed in bi-annual Public Health Grant Oversight Board. Service areas will also be required to co-produce an annual report to provide the Director of Public Health oversight on the delivery against the investment.

The post supported by Sport England, through You've Got This, is externally funded and therefore subject to separate monitoring. Grant payments are subject to continued funding from Sport England.

8. Key Monitoring Metrics

Progress against all the above targets will be reported quarterly.

- Development of transport planning guidance setting out expectations of developers in terms of the delivery of healthy development and communities.
- Agreements on thresholds for undertaking HIAs in relation to different types of transport development.
- Number/type of transport developments undertaking a HIA.
- Evidence of progress of working towards implementing the Tees Valley Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- Evidence of the promotion of cycling routes through the circulation of route information on new routes.
- Road Safety Action Plan in place and signed off.
- Identified training plan for front line staff and evidence of implementation (e.g. HWD e-learning MECC etc).
- Community Capacity Building Strategy in place.
- Jointly developed neighbourhood plans agreed.
- Staff issue of naloxone, c-card and STI screening kits.
- Number of community venues, breastfeeding welcome and dementia friendly.
- Number of sessions held in community hubs and libraries which support the public health agenda.
- Number of residents identified and undertaking community health champion training.
- Representation at relevant Public Health meetings.
- Evidence of support with community conversations to improve targeting of services.
- Evidence of libraries supporting the family literacy agenda and providing books on prescription.

9. Signatories to this SLA: Public Health South Tees and Middlesbrough Council Regeneration

- This SLA is effective from 01.04.2023 for a period of one year, subject to early termination in the event of changes to the Public Health Grant such as a reduction in overall allocation to the Council.
- The SLA will be reviewed on an annual basis and subsequent allocation of Public Health Grant to the Directorate.
- The Agreement may only be varied with the express written agreement signed by the partners (or their authorised representatives).
- Any changes to the service which may impact on specified Public Health outcomes need to be discussed with Public Health before any final decisions/agreements.

I hereby agree the above conditions on behalf of Public Health South Tees:

Signed _____ **Date:** _____

Name: _____

I hereby agree the above conditions on behalf of the Environment and Commercial Services Directorate:

Signed _____ **Date:** _____

Name: _____

Schedule 1- Price and payment

- The Service will be funded through Public Health South Tees
- The following funding is available to contribute towards delivering the service outcomes:

£919,700

- Internal transfer will be arranged by the Public Health Business Partner

Appendix 1. Public health mandated and non-mandated functions

Mandated functions include:

- Weighing and measuring of children at reception and year 6 (National Weight Measurement Programme)
- NHS Health Check assessment and delivered, offered every 5 years to eligible residents who meet screening criteria;
- Provision of sexual health services – STI testing and treatment and contraception;
- Provision of Public Health advice to the ICB;
- Health protection, including prevention, planning for and responding to emergencies;
- Oral health, including initiation, variations and termination of fluoridation; oral health promotion; oral health surveys; oral health needs assessment (subject to change)

Non-mandated functions that are conditions of the Public Health Grant:

- Drug and alcohol provision
- Children and young people (Health Visiting and School Nursing)