

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member Adult Social Care and Public Health

DATE OF MEETING: 26 March 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

A Healthy Place – Helping our residents to live longer, healthier lives.

2. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

Public Health

2.1. The Live Well Centre

The Live Well Centre effectively relocated to the Cleveland Centre in December 2024, being fully operational in the New Year. All services transitioned to the facility, which has also experienced increased demand from the VCSE, commercial, and public sector organisations seeking to utilise space within the centre and engage in collaborative efforts. The centre is also happy to endorse the establishment of a 'wellbeing hub' that offers a secure environment for older individuals, those with sensory impairments, and residents experiencing dementia. The room is permanently accessible and is currently establishing a schedule to serve the residents through associated organisations.

The centre is constantly demonstrating its efficacy in collaborative efforts with other council sectors and local partners, while advancing opportunities to enhance the 'Health on the High Street' initiative in conjunction with the NHS/STHFT to improve access to healthcare in the town and supporting town centre regeneration.

2.2. New Sexual Health Service Provider

Following a robust re-procurement of sexual health services across Tees, Tees Alliance Partnership (TAP) will now provide sexual health services. TAP is made up of a North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, South Tees hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Hartlepool and Stockton Health (H&SH) and ELM Alliance Ltd, with North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust the lead member. The new contract will start on 1 August 2025.

Services will include a full range of contraception including complex contraception needs such as coil fittings and hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for menopause, testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) with treatment when positive and partner notification to reduce the onward spread. Services will also include providing vasectomies, cervical screening, psychosexual counselling and HPV vaccinations for men who have sex with men.

Community contraception will be delivered by the Tees' two GP Federations HASH and Elm. Services will include all methods of contraception (excluding complex contraception), emergency contraception including copper coil and Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC), and opportunistic cervical screening.

2.3. National HIV Testing Week

Across Tees, Terence Higgins Trust held clinics at Teesside University and the Live Well Centre Middlesbrough carrying out point of care testing (POCT).

HCRG, the current Tees provider of sexual health services also offer testing for a range of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Testing is free and confidential. It's also the only way to know if you have HIV and worth doing because people can live with HIV for a long time without any symptoms.

HCRG and our partners are working towards the Government aim to end new HIV transmissions by 2030 in England by promoting prevention, increasing detection, and offering treatment to prevent onward transmission.

2.4. The Live Well Centre Ageing Well Hub

The Ageing Well Hub has recently been opened at the Live Well Centre, with some activity starting on Monday 10th March.

The Hub is a welcoming space for older adults in Middlesbrough and their families and carers, who are seeking some emotional and practical support, by offering a meet up place, an opportunity to take part in activities and events, and a place for support, advice and information from various support organisations. Some current activities include digital support including, IT Skills, digital history walk with multimedia heritage experiences and improving wellbeing through digital tracking (MBC Rekindle); 6 weekly Wellbeing Programme including, mindfulness, film club and wellbeing walks (Age UK Teesside) and Dementia Awareness Session (Public Health and Dementia Action Teesside).

2.5. Community Health Checks and Awareness Raising

Targeting communities most at risk of CVD/high blood pressure, Health Champions and wider partners are continuing to offer community blood pressure testing in community venues, with lifestyle and referral advice given to those with high BP readings. Some partners are also able to loan take home BP kits for residents to monitor their own BP levels for a week. Data is being gathered to demonstrate the value of the project.

Interpreted Talk cancer awareness sessions for Afghan ladies and the Ukrainian community have been held. This was a collaboration between Public Health, Cancer Research UK and the Migration and Cohesion team. Funding has also been secured for further cancer awareness projects focused on ethnic minority groups. Public Health has also worked with the Muslim community and BME Network to share healthy eating and cancer awareness messages via Ramadan LIVE magazine and Ramadan Radio broadcast.

2.6. Holiday Activities and Food Programme - Bring it On!

Bring it On! has had funding confirmed for an additional year until 31 March 2026. The programme will currently run in the same format as previous years – official guidance from the DfE is yet to be published.

Middlesbrough has been awarded just over £1million, this unfortunately is a reduction of over £12,000 despite significant increases in FSM numbers. School census data used for these calculations was the census information prior to our auto enrolment process.

Planning for the Easter Holidays is currently under way.

2.7. Stop Smoking Service

Middlesbrough has higher rates of smoking related deaths and is the 5th highest in the country. Acknowledging the harm caused by smoking and the aim to be at 5% prevalence by 2030 the government provided additional stop smoking grant funding to local services to increase local activity. Since the additional grant funding the service has recruited six tobacco dependency advisors across South Tees going from one delivery site in Middlesbrough to 11. The service was the first in the region to commence varenicline clinics with two in Middlesbrough. The team's achievements this year have been remarkable, with their work exceeding both national (35-70%) and regional (55%) quit rate averages. Middlesbrough's quarterly quit rates have consistently surpassed 75%, a testament to the team's dedication and impact.

To further improve quit rates and accessibility, the team has proactively removed barriers by adapting service pathways. Notably, they were the first in the region—and remain the only provider—to offer **varenicline** as a prescribed stop smoking treatment and the **Stop to Swap scheme**, which uses vapes as a quit aid. These innovative initiatives were recently recognised when the service received the South Tees Healthwatch Award for Collaborative Approaches.

2.8. Recovery Solutions Team – ACT

The service continues to receive positive feedback from service users and partners including from Hardwick House who provide Veteran's Supported Housing and Trinity School who have acknowledged the Naloxone in Schools project led by the Young Person's Team which has contributed towards the schools recent Ofsted rating of Good from Required Improvements. The service recently had their first CQC Inspection and whilst the service will have to wait a few months for the formal report, the informal feedback has been really positive with the Inspectors commenting on how much of a lovely environment it is for both staff and service users. A number of staff have been shortlisted for prestigious awards including the Lung Health Pathway being nominated for an LGA, a member of staff shortlisted for the British Journal of Nursing Award, recognising contributions to the Tuesday Night Clinic which provides support for vulnerable women, and the Housing Support Team and Lung Health Pathway have been shortlisted for Council Staff Awards. Seven individuals have been supported by the Detox and Rehab Team & Housing Support Team and are now all in Recovery Connections rehab together. The service users have formed a positive, solid peer group and are doing great working through the programmes. All the group members were caught in a cycle of alcohol dependence and the majority were also reliant on other none opiates, it is a fantastic achievement that they are now substance free in our local rehab.

Update:

Adult Social Care

2.9. Care Quality Commission Review

In February 2025 Middlesbrough Council received its Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating for Adult Social Care.

The Government announced their intention to introduce assurance in adult social care in a White paper “Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all” in February 2021. This was followed up with a White Paper “People at the Heart of Care” in December 2021 in which it was announced that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) would independently review and assess local authority performance in delivering their adult social care duties under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014.

Therefore, the inspection focused only on local authority performance. Independent providers, such as care homes, home care agencies all get inspected separately by CQC, and they were not included within the scope of this inspection.

In June 2024 the local authority had to submit their LAIR (Local authority Information Return). This was a self-assessment document with supporting evidence. An onsite inspection took place at the end of October in which inspectors spoke with front line staff, reviewed cases and spoke with key stakeholders. The draft report was developed on the 11th December with factual accuracy responses only to be submitted by 2nd January.

Ongoing dialogue with the lead inspector has been undertaken with notification of a final publication date of the 21st February 2025. The report and associated outcome was under embargo until the final report was published by CQC.

2.10. What was the Inspection Outcome?

The overall outcome was “Requires Improvement”, the score given was on the borderline with a “Good” rating. Overall Middlesbrough scored 62%. To be rated as “Good” a score of 63% was required.

The inspection looked at 9 key Quality Statements:

Quality Statements	Assessing Needs	Supporting People to love healthier Lives	Equity in experience & outcomes	Care provision, Integration and continuity	Partnerships and Communities	Safe Systems, pathways and transitions	Safeguarding	Governance, management & Sustainability	Learning Improvement and Innovation
Evidence categories									
People's experience	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	3
Feedback from staff & leaders	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
Feedback from partners	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	2
Processes	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2
Overall % Qs score	57	69	57	57	69	75	69	57	57

Middlesbrough scored “Requires Improvement” in 5 categories and “Good” in 4 categories.

This is a new national inspection programme and therefore there have been no previous inspection results against which to compare.

The service area has since submitted an initial “10 day” response to the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC), this response provided the information on our next steps on our improvement journey and how this will be effectively monitored.

DHSC will require quarterly monitoring information on progress against the actions planned. A full presentation on the detailed inspection findings will be presented to People Scrutiny Panel, along with the detailed action plan for improvement. Monitoring of progress against this plan will also be presented to people Scrutiny on a regular basis.