

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Adult Social Care

DATE OF MEETING: 09 July 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.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

Safe and Resilient Communities – Creating a safer environment where residents can live more independent lives

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

Carers Week

- 1.1 A Carer is anyone who looks after a family member, partner, or friend who needs help because of their illness, frailty, disability, mental health problem, or addiction. Carers are not paid for the help they give.
- 1.2 Carers Week is an annual campaign which aims to raise awareness, acknowledge the vital contributions of Carers, and encourage people to identify as Carers and ask for support.
- 1.3 This year's Carers Week ran from 9 to 13 June.
- 1.4 The theme for 2025 was 'caring about equality' focussing on the inequalities faced by unpaid Carers.
- 1.5 This includes poverty, social isolation, and poor mental and physical health.
- 1.6 Middlesbrough Council greatly values the contribution made by Carers.

In celebration of Carers week we were able to join with colleagues across South Tees to offer a wide range of activities:

- Raising Awareness about Carers' Assessments and the support available locally –providing comprehensive training for 50 of our Social Work staff, which included building links with our with local Carers' organisations.
- Carers' Week was publicised via staff Intranet and Council Website.
- Teesside MIND visited our Provider staff at Cavendish House to deliver Carers' Awareness training.
- We Care You Care launched a Carers' Week Pledge.

- The Junction Foundation ran a Young Carers' Support Group & delivered Carers' Awareness to local schools.
 - There was a Carers' Information Stand at Hillstreet Centre, Middlesbrough.
 - We Care You Care offered Carers Awareness Sessions for professionals & volunteers.
 - Mobilise (an online carers resource) offered Evening Chats and Virtual Cuppas for Carers.
 - Local Carers' Support Groups offered Carers Tai Chi, Running Club and a trip to Sunderland Winter Gardens & Museum.
 - Media interviews were completed on our local radio.
- 1.7 We will also be delivering ongoing training to our Social Care staff further embedding our Carers Conversation strengths-based approach to Carers' Assessment.
- 1.8 Whilst we celebrate the work of carers all year round, the value of carers week is to spotlight the valuable contribution all carers make both on a national and local basis.

Peer Reviews

- 1.9 Adult Social Care have welcomed two peer reviews over the last 4 months. The first peer review held in March 2025 was a multi -agency review across Tees in regard to Mental Health provision. Representatives from the LGA (Local Government Association) and Partners in Care & Health(PCH) completed virtual interviews with staff and stakeholders across Tees local authorities and our local Mental Health trust.
- 1.10 PCH helps councils to improve the way they deliver adult social care, and public health services and helps Government understand the challenges faced by the sector. The programme is a trusted network for developing and sharing best practice, developing tools and techniques, providing support and building connections. It is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care and offered to councils without charge.
- 1.11 The key outcome of this review for Middlesbrough identified our skilled and knowledgeable workforce as our particular strength, but recognised a number areas of improvement linked to the joint working opportunity with the Mental Health Trust. An action plan will now be jointly developed to take the recommendations forward.
- 1.12 More recently in June, an on site focussed peer review was undertaken with regard to our Learning Disability service, this was a joint approach with Redcar & Cleveland Council and TEWV (Mental Health Trust). Reassuringly the initial feedback given demonstrated that as a local authority we fully understood ourselves, both in terms of our strengths and our areas to improve. There was some synergy with the findings of the mental health peer review in terms of our working relationship with TEWV.
- 1.13 Formal feedback will be provided in the next few weeks and a multi-agency action will be developed to progress the recommendations.
- 1.14 The two peer reviews have contributed to our CQC action plan, as a valuable insight from independent experts on our areas of focus.

Plans

- 1.15 I very much welcome the opportunity to see the valuable work undertaken by Adult social Care services first hand, therefore I have set up a plan with the recently appointed Director of Adult Social care to personally visit a number of services and understand the services they offer, any barriers and celebrate the work they do. I will provide an outline of my visits in future executive member reports.