

Overview and Scrutiny Board April 25 – Jan 26

Executive Member for Public Health Cllr Jan Ryles

28 January 2026

PH South Tees: Programme Approach

5 Programmes

- Creating environments for healthy food choices and physical activity
- Protecting health
- Preventing ill-health
- Reducing vulnerability at a population level
- Promoting positive mental health and emotional resilience

4 Core Approaches

- Address health inequalities with a determined focus on the best start in life
- Better use of intelligence to inform decision-making
- Building purposeful relationships with key partners
- Improved financial efficiencies

3 Levels of Intervention across the life-course:

- **Civic-level** – healthy public policy
- **Service-level** – evidence-based, effective, efficient and accessible services
- **Community-level** – family of community centred approaches

Protecting Health

Successful mobilisation of the new Teesside Together sexual health service (Go live dates 1st Aug 2025). A major multi-agency change programme delivered on time, including: 4 operational hubs, New on-line testing and contraception offer, Full staff engagement programme and PGD sign off, Transition arrangements from the incumbent provider, Increased community access

Expansion of Blood Borne Virus out-out testing at JCUH. Funding was secured to continue and expand hospital based opt-out testing for: Hep C, HIV and Syphilis. Local detection rates are higher than other national pilots, demonstrating early identification impact. Identified 20 positive HIV tests, 134 syphilis and 236 Hep C across UHT (rolled out to North Tees in October 2025)

Major progress on communicable disease preparedness including **Exercise Pegasus and Solaris** – leading the participation in both multi-agency pandemic preparedness exercises led to the development of the Local authority Pandemic Preparedness plan incorporating the newly adopted IPC policy and Outbreak Management Plan.

Development of the new Tees Valley Immunisation Steering Group chaired by PHST – key achievements have included securing £190K ICB funding to pilot approaches to improve local vaccination uptake rates, coordinating a system wide engagement and co-production programme across all 5 Councils using behavioural insights informed communications and targeted engagement for high-risk groups (migrant families, children in care, pregnant women and those living in high levels of deprivation). The pilots will be evaluated by Teesside University

Delivery of high impact Adult & Child Health Protection Assurance Workshops – the two events strengthened workforce capability across: immunisation, IPC, communicable disease, housing standards and pandemic response

Allergen sampling programme delivered across Middlesbrough: Takeaway premises were tested for peanut contamination, all premises passed. This was accompanied by education on cross contamination

Ongoing improvements in Environmental Protection & Clean Air Delivery: DEFRA acceptance of the annual statements, on going Clean Air Strategy Delivery, Anti-idling and domestic wood burning education campaigns

Challenges: Lack of timely data for immunisation and screening to allow monitoring and targeting.

Opportunities: Launch of the National HIV action plan.

Launch of the Regional Sexual Health Campaign create support and direction for sexual health services

Creating environments for healthy food choices and physical activity

- **Tees Urban Nature Network (TUNN)** - A joint bid by Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Redcar & Cleveland Councils, working with Tees Valley Wildlife Trust, successfully secured three years of funding to enhance partnership capacity, deepen community engagement, and build a pipeline of greenspace projects.
- **Healthy Place Making** - Close work with Planning and Transport Planning has ensured health and health inequalities are embedded in major decisions ahead of the Local Plan's adoption. A robust screening process now requires full Health Impact Assessments for developments affecting vulnerable groups.
- **Socially Inclusive Football** - A partnership between PHST, Culture Services and MFC Foundation delivered an innovative, socially inclusive football event highlighted by hosting the first-ever Northern Homeless World Cup trials, attracting 110 participants and selecting two players from Middlesbrough to represent England.
- **Active Hospitals** project has created a hospital-wide plan to strengthen physical activity through improved staff training, partnerships with Everyone Active for memberships, and enhanced active travel options—including better cycling and rail access—for both staff and patients.
- **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme** has supported over 50 providers to ensure coverage across all key areas of Middlesbrough and consistently exceeded the DfE target of engaging more than 20% of children & young people receiving benefits related free school meals.
- The **Tees Valley Active Schools** programme funded through You've Got This is engaged with 10 schools to embed physical activity throughout the school day. Schools are reporting significant improvements in behaviour, attendance, and academic outcomes as a result of creating a more active culture.
- **EatWell Awards** – The redeveloped awards across early years settings, schools and businesses has resulted in two schools achieving bronze award and several more working through criteria since it's launch in September.

Creating environments for healthy food choices and physical activity (2)

Opportunities

- Timing and interest of Health Scrutiny has progressed work on advertising policy (to be presented at March Exec) contributing towards Healthy Weight Declaration commitments.
- Agreement to embed Eat Well Business in tender documents for cafe contracts at museums and parks increasing access to healthier food and drink options.
- The MUST service is working with Newcastle University to evaluate both the service and the MUST tool to assess their effectiveness.
- Development of physical activity offer – Move More - in care homes in collaboration with YGT. A workshop has been scheduled with key partners to further develop the role and ensure it meets local needs.

Challenges

- Whole Council engagement in the Healthy Weight Declaration.
- Commercial Determinants of Health challenges - KFC youth foundation and vending machines in Fountain Court.
- Ongoing challenges with care homes in relation to high staff turnovers, new managers and compliance, however, the MUST team work closely with partners to take a collaborative approach to supporting homes and improving outcomes.

III Health Prevention

BP Kiosks/Community checks projects – Over 800 targeted BP checks completed in community locations through BP kiosks and BP Community champions – High BP found in 27% and referrals to GPs for further checks. BP training in communities continuing.

Atrial Fibrillation project – successful collaboration between public health, Holgate PCN and specialist cardiology. Feasibility of AF case finding alongside flu vaccination clinics. 34 undetected AF diagnosed. Discussions underway with other PCNs to test further models

Tees Valley Anchor Network – South Tees Co-ordinator appointed to drive this work forward (commencing February 2026).

NHS Health Checks – community outreach delivery has commenced through ELM GP Federation and substance misuse nurses trained to support delivery.

Cervical Screening pilot – targeting declining participation and inequalities in practices across South Tees. 104 (46%) patients who had a successful telephone contact attended for screening, 7% positive HPV . Most of these women were from decile 1-3 and high proportion ethnic minority. All had either never had a screen or had not screened in the past 10 year

COPD Warm Homes – evaluation has shown a small but significant reduction in hospital admissions per person per month, which would suggest cost saving to the NHS and reduction in hospital admissions

Pharmacy Needs Assessment signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2025. The assessment is vital to ensure Middlesbrough has enough community pharmacies, in the right places, delivering the right services to meet need

Opportunities Reducing DNAs in patients from lower socio-economic groups through HI care navigator intervention, addressing access, experience and outcomes, strengthening partnerships with primary and secondary care to improve uptake of prevention services, Developing Tees Valley Anchor network through new Co-ordinator;

Challenges Increasing the number of health checks in targeted groups and increasing referrals to support services

Reducing Vulnerability at a population level

Substance Use updates:

- Three more years of DATRIG funding has been confirmed, which supplements the core drug and alcohol budgets.
- The South Tees prehabilitation service at Cromwell House, South Bank opened in September 2025. This has benefitted a male cohort, preparing them for detoxification and residential rehab.
- Inpatient detox (IPD) for out of area admissions is at record levels in Middlesbrough. The costs associated with this are unsustainable. Planning for a local IPD facility continues.
- Recovery Connections held their AGM and awards in mid-January. 300 people attended and they now have over 700 years of recovery amongst the organisation's staff.

Recovery Solutions successfully completed its first CQC assessment since bringing the clinical prescribing service in house. In May 2025, the service was awarded "Good" across all domains and achieved "Outstanding" for caring, a remarkable result and a testament to the teams commitment to high quality compassion support

- Delivered pioneering Naloxone training for local pubs, gaining positive local media coverage for its innovation, community focused approach to hard reduction. Training has also been rolled out to every secondary school in Middlesbrough, strengthen early awareness and life saving skills among young people.
- Nominated for the British Journal of Nursing "Nurse of the Year" award receiving a Bronze Award in recognition of the services innovation and inclusive approach to providing healthcare for highly vulnerable and hard to reach individuals.

NE Reducing Gambling Harms Programme (hosted by Public Health South Tees):

Additional funding has been secured via the new Statutory Gambling Levy to extend the programme until 31/3/29. Our programme was the first in the country to be granted Levy funds in qtr 4 of 25/26. This is providing budget for a region-wide gambling harms survey, production of films to support training and education and expanded team capacity.

Employment: South Tees Individual Placement Service (IPS) continues to have one of the highest success rates for getting people affected by substance use into employment of all programmes in the country. Funding has been confirmed for another three years beyond March 26.

South Tees Changing Futures/Keyworker updates: The Changing Futures Keyworker Team is currently experiencing uncertainty regarding funding beyond March 2026. Consequently, some staff have submitted their notice. To safeguard continuity of care, the team are concentrating on managing existing caseloads and developing potential exit plans where necessary. New referrals have been paused since 1 December 2025. Support for vulnerable people across South Tees continues to be available through daily walk-in services.

Promoting Positive Mental Health

- **New Cruse bereavement pathway** - created due to emerging need and a multi-agency approach has resulted in increased referrals for those bereaved by substance misuse related death.
- **HeadStart Delivery Team mainstreamed.** A South Tees Delivery Model has been developed and team restructure taken place
- **HAF** – collaboration with HeadStart to create a targeted HAF offer aimed at children transitioning to secondary school
- **Dementia Friendly Care Home guide** has been highlighted in CQC reports as an example of best practice for Care Home providers to support residents to stay well, active and avoid hospital admission where possible
- **World Suicide Prevention Day Video** - led on joint video production promoting shared partner responsibility to preventing suicides
- **Health Research - Concept designed with HDRC and NIHR** for a HeadStarter educational pathway to equip young people with the skills to undertake health research to strengthen voice of the child

Opportunities/Challenges

Wellbeing Universal Pathway in development to enable people to self-assess, enable enhanced support, understand needs, and connect to the right local asset.

Dementia Awareness Training increased requests across sectors with limited capacity to meet demand

Best Start in Life

- Procured a new 0-11 Service for Middlesbrough: Harrogate and District Foundation NHS Trust (HDFT) have been successful in tendering for the 0-11 Healthy Child Programme Service and will deliver this from Wednesday 1st April 2026 onwards. We expect there to be little or no change to the universal service.
- Procured a fluoride varnish programme for schools of most need in Middlesbrough.
- Breastfeeding: The Mamazing campaign was delivered across South Tees to support increases in breastfeeding rates in South Tees. The campaign was shortlisted in the recent Comms2Pointo public sector awards for Best Collaboration and although it did not win it was highly commended.
- During 2025/26 there has been a steady average of 33% of new babies being completely breastfed at 6-8 weeks when visited by their health visitor.
- Reading for Wellbeing: The Reading for Wellbeing programme continues to support new parents in Middlesbrough to establish regular routines to help their wellbeing. During first nine months of 2025/26 approximately 35 parents have been given direct one-to-one support through the programme with many others indirectly supported through wider groups and initiatives in Family Hubs.

Challenges

While the three-year Public Health Grant allocation provides a degree of certainty and supports forward planning, challenges remain:

- Reduction in the DATRIG element of the grant (£263k cuml) – this creates uncertainty for current services and initiatives aimed at reducing health inequalities and supporting those often-underserved groups
- On going cost of living pressures – inflationary pressures continue to impact on commissioned services, with uncertainty as to whether these have been fully reflected in the grant or are will require additional funding
- Employer and National Insurance Increases – create additional cost pressures in both commissioned and in house services, with limited clarity on how these costs are funded within the grant
- Agenda for Change (AfC) – future AfC pay awards remain uncertain and over the medium term might not be fully funded creating more pressures on the grant
- Increased scrutiny and assurance – Peer review and increased scrutiny of the PH grant spend and whole Council action to deliver PH Outcomes