

EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Julia Rostron - Executive Member for Adult Social Care

DATE OF MEETING: 01 April 2026

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

- A Healthy Place
- Safe & Resilient Communities

1. Update:

Launch of Middlesbrough's Adult Social Care Strategy 2025–2035

- 1.1 Our strategy recognises the challenges our residents face, from health inequalities to housing insecurity, and sets out a long term commitment to improving outcomes by focusing on prevention, independence, and strong community partnerships.
- 1.2 This is a whole Council priority. Delivering on this vision will require continued collaboration across directorates and with our partners.

You can [read the full strategy here on the Bridge.](#)

2. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

Levick Court Re-launch

- 2.1 On 6th March we held a partnership launch day for Levick Court. The morning was the official opening with representatives from TEWV and Middlesbrough Council. The afternoon focused on parents and carers and those who use the service.
- 2.2 This is a vital respite service supporting adults with complex learning disabilities which has secured its long-term future through relocation to Levick Court. Approximately 70 families and carers will continue to benefit from the service, following a partnership agreement between Middlesbrough Council Adult Social Care, NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.


- 2.3 The service has been co-designed with families and carers, ensuring it meets the needs of individuals with high levels of complexity and risk. Levick Court, built in 2012, offers a 16-bed respite unit alongside 20 apartments for older people, providing a suitable and sustainable setting.
- 2.4 This development secures ongoing access to essential respite care, with clinical provision delivered by the NHS and supported through strong partnership working with the Council.

Homeless Service Office Accommodation

- 2.5 On 27 February building work commenced at Broadcasting House which will become the new site for delivery of our homeless service.

Social Work Week

- 2.6 We celebrated social care week on 16th March and World Social Work Day on 17 March. A range of events were held to celebrate and showcase practice and to support training and development of our workforce.

Monday 16 March	Tuesday 17 March National Social Work Day Reflect & Celebrate	Wednesday 18 March	Thursday 19 March	Friday 20 March
<p>10am - 11:30pm Conversational Approach When Working with Autistic Adults</p> <p>(Karen Grainger & Julie Barlett)</p> <p>Click here</p>	<p>Collaboration Zone, 9.30am</p> <p>10am - 11.30am - changes to the Mental Health Act (Alistair, Wohida & Julie)</p> <p>11.30am - 12.30pm - Support Planning for Carers – what can we offer? (Lynn Beevers)</p> <p>*Cake Sale for the MND Association</p>	<p>9.30am - 11am - Ellie Graham, People First Advocacy</p> <p>When is the right time to think advocacy</p> <p>Click here</p>	<p>Collaboration Zone, 10am - 12pm</p> <p>Dr Wendy Shepard</p> <p>Trauma informed supervision and the benefits of holding debriefing sessions</p> <p>Click here</p>	<p>10am - 12pm - Mick Walker, Customer Excellence</p> <p>Click here</p> <p>10am - 11.30am - Unconscious Bias (Saadia Azam)</p> <p>Click here</p>
<p>1pm - 2.30pm - Tracy Kent, Hampton Trust</p> <p>Perpetrator intervention & best practice.</p> <p>Click here</p>	<p>1pm - 1.30pm - Alan's Clark's famous Quiz (with prizes)</p> <p>1.30pm - 2pm – staff videos</p> <p>2pm - 3pm - The Three I's</p> <p>3pm - 3.30pm - yoga with Stacey</p> <p>End Time: 3.30pm</p>	<p>1pm - 3pm - Katrina Jackson, Public Health</p> <p>Middlesbrough's Poverty Overview</p> <p>Click here</p>	<p>Collaboration Zone, 1pm - 3pm</p> <p>Kate Metcalf - Sensory Team: Support, insight, innovation & impact</p> <p>Click here</p> <p>1.30pm - 3pm - Carol Howel</p> <p>Communication & Conflict Resolution Click here</p>	

3. THE TIME AHEAD

Update:

Reform of the Social Care System

- 3.1 On 5 March Baroness Casey delivered a landmark speech at the Nuffield Trust Summit calling for a national 'moment of reckoning' for adult social care. As chair of the Independent Commission into Adult Social Care, she described the system as fragmented, underfunded and reliant on low-paid workers. She has called for a National Safeguarding Board, a Dementia Tsar and a 'care passport' for faster motor neurone disease support. She announced a public campaign to define the future of a National Care Service and build a mandate for funding reform. The link to her speech is below.

[Baroness Casey on a reformed social care system: Summit 2026 session - YouTube](#)

Mental Health Act 1983 Amendments

- 3.2 There are a number of amendments that will update the Act so that it is person centred. Some of the key aspects will be:
- Advocacy will be opt out as opposed to opt in as it currently stands
 - Nominated person replaces Nearest Relative and can be selected by the person if they have capacity to do so, if not it will be the AMHP. There will be advance choice documents
 - The Care Act deeming provisions will apply to s117, which reverses the Worcestershire judgement about Ordinary Residence and LA responsibility
 - People with a learning disability or who are autistic will not be detained under the MHA unless it relates to a mental disorder
- 3.3 The only change to the act that came in on the 18 February was Conditional Discharges, in that people who are detained in secure hospitals and have capacity to consent to conditions placed on their discharge, can be deprived of their liberty in the community without their consent.
- 3.4 The changes expected to the MHA 1983 will take place over a 10 year period and will be phased in when system capacity and funding allows.