

Suggested Scrutiny Topics 2026/27

Adult & Health Scrutiny Panel

Ref	Suggested Scrutiny Investigation Topic	Source	Council Plan 2026-29, Ambition and Aim
1	<p><u>A major-in-depth review in Mental Health Services Capacity.</u></p> <p>I understand this was last carried out in 2013-14, looking at what services exist locally, what community provision is sufficient, impact of reduced services, out-of-area placements and outcomes.</p> <p>The previous scrutiny on this topic was in 2011, with a report 'No Health without Mental Health'.</p> <p>The minutes of last year states the Panel explicitly recognises mental health as a major concern, but it wasn't picked for a topic to be explored.</p>	Councillor	<p>A Healthy Place – <i>Health outcomes for those with multiple vulnerabilities will improve.</i></p> <p>Safe and Resilient Communities – <i>All adults will be supported through strength-based practice to live the lives they choose.</i></p>
2	<p><u>Stigma</u></p> <p>Public Health South Tees are part of the National Challenging Stigma Pilot Programme (a two-year initiative led by Liverpool John Moores University and collaborators across UK universities). The programme aims to work with local areas to help reduce stigma towards people using alcohol and other drug use.</p> <p>Stigma remains a significant barrier to care and recovery for people who use substances and can be a major factor in keeping people trapped in the cycle of drug abuse. Stigma is also a significant issue in other areas - including access to sexual health services and other Council services such as welfare rights, social care and housing.</p>	Director of Public Health	<p>A Healthy Place – <i>Health outcomes for those with multiple vulnerabilities will improve.</i></p> <p>A Healthy Place – <i>Preventable illness and premature death will be reduced.</i></p>

	Scrutiny can take the learning from the National Programme and examine how stigma across health, housing and wider services is affecting outcomes and what staff training and support and engagement mechanisms exist in key services to mitigate the impact of stigma and what more needs to be done.		
3	<u>Unpaid Carers</u> How are unpaid carers being identified and supported effectively.	Officer	Safe and Resilient Communities – <i>We will improve access to advice and information for adults and informal carers.</i> A Healthy Place – <i>We will consistently promote the conditions for improved health and wellbeing to users of our services and their carers.</i>
4	<u>Smoking and Youth Vaping</u> How effective is the Council in reducing smoking and vaping locally. To look at prevention and enforcement.	Officer	A Healthy Place – <i>Preventable illness and premature death will be reduced.</i> A Healthy Place – <i>People will live healthier lives for longer, and health inequalities will be reduced.</i>
5	<u>Loneliness and Social Isolation</u> How effective is the Council in identifying and reducing loneliness among vulnerable residents.	Officer	A Healthy Place – <i>Health outcomes for those with multiple vulnerabilities will improve.</i> Safe and Resilient Communities – <i>We will continue to work with voluntary and community groups to improve the resilience of our communities.</i>
6	<u>Barriers to Immunisation Uptake</u> Explore barriers to immunisation uptake in Middlesbrough and how Public Health and partners are working to improve coverage.	Officer	A Healthy Place – <i>Preventable illness and premature death will be reduced.</i> A Healthy Place – <i>People will live healthier lives for longer, and health inequalities will be reduced.</i>

7	<p><u>Launch of Middlesbrough’s Social Care Strategy 2025-2035</u></p> <p>“Be Heard” – How effectively are residents influencing the design and delivery of Adult Social Care Services</p>	Officer	<p>A Healthy Place – <i>Adult Social Care Services will further develop early intervention and prevention services to reduce the need for social care assessment.</i></p> <p>A Healthy Place – <i>We will be closer to our communities and involve them in decision making</i></p>
8	<p><u>Continuing Healthcare</u></p>	Corporate Director of Adult Social Care & Health	<p>A Healthy Place – <i>Health outcomes for those with multiple vulnerabilities will improve.</i></p> <p>Delivering Best Value – <i>We will deliver affordable and cost-effective outcomes for residents through effective partnership working.</i></p>
9	<p><u>Section 117 protocols</u></p>	Corporate Director of Adult Social Care & Health	A Healthy Place
10	<p><u>Neighbourhood Health Management</u></p>	Corporate Director of Adult Social Care & Health	A Healthy Place
11	<p><u>Sensory loss services</u></p>	Corporate Director of Adult Social	A Healthy Place

		Care & Health	
12	<u>Hospital Discharge Services</u>	Corporate Director of Adult Social Care & Health	A Healthy Place
13	<u>Social Care Transport</u>	Corporate Director of Adult Social Care & Health	A Healthy Place