



Health and Wellbeing Board

Date **Wednesday 20 March 2024**

Time **9.30 am**

Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

Items which are open to the Press and Public

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the meeting held 22 January 2024 (Pages 5 - 18)
5. Tobacco Control; The Current Position and Next Steps:
(Pages 19 - 68)
Report and Presentation of the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services and the Director of Public Health, Durham County Council.
6. Climate Emergency Response Plan 2 (CERP 2) 2022/23 Update:
(Pages 69 - 130)
Report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, Durham County Council.
7. Health and Wellbeing Key Campaigns: (Pages 131 - 134)
Presentation of the Director of Public Health, Durham County Council.
8. Better Care Fund 2023-24 Quarter Three Report:
(Pages 135 - 148)
Report of the Director of Community Integrated Services, County Durham Care Partnership.

9. Care Quality Commission (CQC) Self-Assessment Update:
Verbal Update from the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services, Durham County Council, and the Director of Community Integrated Services, County Durham Care Partnership.
10. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration
11. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information

Part B

Items during which it is considered the meeting will not be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information)

12. Pharmacy Applications: (Pages 149 - 156)
Report of the Director of Public Health, Durham County Council.
13. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Bradley
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
12 March 2024

To: **The Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board**

Councillors C Hood (Chair), R Bell and T Henderson

J Robinson	Adult and Health Services, Durham County Council
J Pearce	Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council
A Healy	Public Health, County Durham Adult and Health Services, Durham County Council
M Kelleher	Regeneration, Economy and Growth, Durham County Council
M Laing (Vice-Ch)	Director Integrated Community Services
Dr J Carlton	North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
D Gallagher	North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System
S Jacques	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
M Graham	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
L Robertson	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
P Sutton	South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
J Todd	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
C Cunnington-Shore	Healthwatch County Durham
A Petty	Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner
K Carruthers	County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
Prof. C Clarke	Durham University
K Burrows	Durham Community Action
F Jassat	Lay Member - County Durham Care Partnership

Contact: Martin Tindle

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Health and Wellbeing Board** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Monday 22 January 2024** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor C Hood (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillor R Bell and J Robinson, J Pearce, A Healy, M Laing (Vice-Chair), M Graham, P Sutton, J Todd (substitute), A Petty, K Carruthers, Prof C Clarke, K Burrows and S Burns

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Henderson and L Hall, Dr J Carlton, D Gallagher, S Jacques, L Robertson, L Taylor, C Cunnington Shore and F Jassat.

2 Substitute Members

There were the following Substitute Members: G Curry for S Jacques; J Todd for L Taylor; S Burns for D Gallagher.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 22 November 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Interim Strategic Manager – Partnerships, Julie Bradbrook noted that since the last meeting, a motion had been passed at Full Council, seconded by Councillor C Hood as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services, in relation to the Director of Public Health responding on behalf of the Council in respect of the Government’s consultation, supporting the age of sale proposal for tobacco, and on vaping, proposing that evidence based measures to tighten the promotion, packaging, branding, pricing of vapes to reduce appeal to children and young people are taken.

The Director of Public Health, Amanda Healy noted that the results of the ‘Stopping the Start’ consultation would be published later in the month and added that it was important to maintain the focus on the issues such as increasing the age of sale and work to combat illegal vape sales.

The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to write to MPs outlining the work taking place and seeking their continued support.

5 Mental Health Strategic Partnership

The Board received a report and update presentation from the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services and Director of Public Health, presented by the Public Health Strategic Manager, Jane Sunter, Public Health Advanced Practitioner, Yusef Meah and the Associate Director - MH/LD Partnerships and Strategy, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV), Jo Murray on the Mental Health Strategic Partnership (MHSP) Plan (for copy see file of minutes).

The Public Health Strategic Manager noted that the MHSP Plan had been reported at the Health and Wellbeing Board previously, and that the plan had been agreed by the MHSP Board. As part of an interactive poll, Members of the Board were asked to think of a word that came to mind when thinking about a time they felt their life was at a low, responses included: bereavement, divorce, stress, anxious, sadness, menopause, lonely, financial pressure, and family pressure. The Board were asked to think of a word that came to mind when thinking about what things helped in terms of mental health resilience, responses included: family, exercise, friends, nature, purpose, holidays, fitness and walking. The Public Health Advanced Practitioner thanked the Board for their responses and noted that it was important to understand the impact of low-level mental health challenges and what in our lives helped to build resilience and strength, and to provide opportunities to help contribute to others health and wellbeing.

The Public Health Strategic Manager explained that this exercise helped to illustrate that broader population mental health and wellbeing is not just about services for those with severe mental health issues. She explained the importance of data in helping to identify issues, noting the use of a Mental Health Dashboard, using Power BI, and reminded Members of the five priority areas: children and young people; suicide prevention; urgent care; dementia; and the resilient communities group. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted that Mental Health Strategic Partners had co-produced delivery plans, and that an issue that had been highlighted was that of the benefits of physical activity on mental health.

The Associate Director - MH/LD Partnerships and Strategy, TEWV noted that she was the Co-Chair of the Strategic Board and explained as regards Community Mental Health Transformation work, including ensuring there was 'no wrong door' and that interventions were needs based. She explained that the main issues that could lead to mental health issues remained similar to previously reported, namely: relationship breakdown; bereavement; financial issues; and housing issues. She noted that there were many challenges, with mental health being a complex issue, and it was important that training in 'making every contact count' in respect of mental health issues was across all sectors and that expectations were managed. She concluded by noting that the call to action was: 'We will work together to make County Durham a place where Mental Health is a priority for all'.

The Chair thanked the Officers and asked the Board for their comments and questions.

P Sutton noted recent articles that had noted a trend in the UK, in contrast to wider Europe, that low-level mental health was often treated with medication, rather than looking at approaches to build resilience and asked if there was anything to consider from those articles and other approaches. The Associate Director - MH/LD Partnerships and Strategy, TEWV noted that prescribing was part of the long-term work of the ICBs and that options other than medication would be looked at. She noted public expectation in terms of prescribing of medication, and explained as regards local work to recruit a pharmacist to work between primary and secondary care She added that it may be useful to measure prescribing of medications, P Sutton agreed it could be useful in order to see any shift of the dial. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted the work of the Mental Health Alliance in conversation with the community and voluntary sector (CVS), in relation to bereavement services, relationship and financial support, to help look at the underlying causes that could lead to mental health issues. She added that 'Wellbeing for Life' was a service that offered opportunities to help improve behaviours, including self-help, as was not just for more severe mental health issues.

The Director of Public Health noted that it was not just about the services the NHS, Council and partners offered, it was linked to other health and wellbeing priorities, including healthy weight, smoking and alcohol, and how the strategies tackling those issues would also help in tackling low-level mental health issues. She explained that it had been noted that mental health in general had declined since the pandemic and noted the very good work being carried out in schools. She put the question, was the work at the right level and noted we would need to understand how the interface with other partners would work and to look at mental health at scale.

J Todd noted that where there were mental health teams within schools, TEWV had noted less referrals to them. He noted that it was for the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider universalism in terms of broader wellbeing and for psychological therapy to be seen as core work for the Board.

The Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services, J Pearce noted that there was a balance and move to a diagnosis approach, but with an offer at scale in terms of mental health of children and young people. He noted the impact of the pandemic on children and young people in terms of interaction with others, and that the impact was not necessarily a clinical mental health issue, but a system or societal issue. He added that the Mental Health Teams within school had small resources and therefore there was a need for a push at a national level for greater resources as they have proven to be very effective in diverting and preventing mental health issues at a higher level.

Councillor R Bell asked as regards what support was available in schools to support children and young people's mental health, and whether the support was the same within Local Authority controlled schools and Academies. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted there were a number of approaches within schools in terms of maintaining the resilience of young people, as well as support within local communities. She noted a range of offers included anti-stigma work, the 0-25 Family Health Service with their Emotional Resilience Nurses, as well as Community Champions. She explained that it was important to get mental health on the agenda of all senior management within schools and that process was being reviewed. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted that resilience in the local community was also important, with support for children and young people, as well as for parents. She reiterated that co-production and helping to bolster autonomy within communities was important. She added that it was also important to explain that low levels of stress and anxiety were normal, and to therefore help increase resilience through activities that individuals and families could undertake.

A Petty noted a lot of ongoing work in relation to 'Right Care, Right Person', and a reduction in demand upon Police time. The Associate Director - MH/LD Partnerships and Strategy, TEWV noted that it was important to get it right in that regard, looking at any impact upon urgent care. She noted the national programme and focus, with Durham Constabulary taking a pragmatic and cautious approach that was greatly welcomed. She reminded the Board of the very good partnership with the Police and this and the excellent s136 response times were a solid start in this regard. A Petty noted that it would be useful if this element was separate on any charts to ensure it was captured. The Associate Director - MH/LD Partnerships and Strategy, TEWV noted that it was included within workplans. The Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services noted there was a very positive approach in Durham and noted that at a recent LGA Roundtable event that there had been significant system impact, and some had noted a shift to the Ambulance Service where there had been Police efficiencies. He noted it was therefore very important on how this issue was taken forward and to look at the data very carefully to balance any negative impacts in balancing Police efficiency and system impact.

Prof. C Clarke noted that the University worked very closely with health colleagues in respect of student's mental health, with around 20,000 students within the city area. She noted work had stepped up in terms of the support offered, with significant investment, and a 'no wrong door' approach from September 2023. She noted the work of the University with the Council and that the University, as a large employer, also worked to look at the impact of mental health on staff. She noted that while there was a great volume of research at the University, for example in terms of dementia care, she was not sure if the reporting lines to spread that information were as good as they could be.

The Head of Integrated Commissioning, Sarah Burns noted that County Durham, and the wider North East, had high prescribing levels and explained that the largest percentage of funding to the CVS was for first stage interventions. She noted that she, with the Director of Integrated Community Services and Associate Director - MH/LD Partnerships and Strategy looked locally at the six Integrated Neighbourhood Teams within County Durham, with a first meeting with Teams being to look at mental health information sharing and how to understand needs within our population. It was noted as regards the primary care network and research from the University and noted Integrated Neighbourhood Teams would be effective, but would need investment in terms of prevention, with CVS partners also being important in terms of prevention.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted;

- (ii) That the progress of the development of the MHSP Plan was considered and noted;
- (iii) That the Health and Wellbeing Board endorse the new Mental Health Strategic Plan.

6 Adult Social Care Assessment Framework - Self-Assessment

The Board received an update report from the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services, Jane Robinson on the Adult Social Care Assessment Framework – Self Assessment (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services noted it had been 12 years since the last Adult Social Care Assessment and noted a self-assessment process was used to give a truthful and accurate picture. She thanked all that had given their feedback via surveys. The Board noted that the key headlines included:

- the collaborative approach to understand the market position,
- joint management arrangements across health and social care,
- transitions from child to adulthood,
- the relationship with Public Health objectives,
- the strong relationship with the voluntary and community sector,
- the importance of workforce development, support, and staff engagement.

The Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services noted that there was still more to do and drew attention to the strengths and areas for improvement for four key areas: leadership; providing services; working with people; and ensuring safety, as set out within paragraph 28 of the report.

The Chair thanked the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services and asked if there had been any change since the three pilots last year in terms of inspections. The Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services noted that it was rumoured the next three pilots would be announced, however, no information had come forward at this point, she added it was usually three Local Authorities every two weeks.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

7 Inclusive Economic Strategy Delivery Plan

The Board received an update report from the Head of Economic Development, presented by the Regeneration Policy Team Leader, Glenn Martin on the Inclusive Economic Strategy (IES) Deliver Plan (for copy see file of minutes).

The Regeneration Policy Team Leader reminded the Board that the process in terms of the IES had begun around two years ago, and that a lot had changed in that time. He noted the consultation that had taken place during lockdown with 'The Big e-Conversation', with the impact of health on the economy brought into focus due to the pandemic.

In respect of the Economic Statement, the Regeneration Policy Team Leader noted that it was at an early stage, with elements including looking at the impact of long-term sickness on the economy sometime known as 'hidden unemployment'. He explained that in April 2022 there had been over 3,000 responses to the consultation. He noted that East Durham College had helped with the consultation, in encouraging responses from young people, which in addition to the good response from residents and businesses represented a good sample of responses.

The Regeneration Policy Team Leader noted that in terms of the Economic Partnership, it had been very clear that there had been a lack of opportunities and connectivity, especially for young people. He noted that the draft strategy had stated 'more and better jobs' and referred to 'five Ps': People; Productivity; Places; Promotion: and Planet, with all to be delivered through Partnership. He noted that it had been encouraging to see mental health of their staff emerge as a key priority for many businesses. He explained that, with the backdrop of reducing resources for Local Authorities, there was a need for a partnership approach, with links to other agencies and organisations. He noted there had been a number of thematic groups, based upon the 'five Ps', with an addition group looking at Innovation.

The Regeneration Policy Team Leader explained that there had been 160 activities identified, not just for the Local Authority, but also including partners, and there was reference to funding, including the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). He noted the Delivery Plan was for the next few years, rather than across the whole of the Economic Strategy, to reflect the changes that would impact in the next few years, the national and local elections and national spending reviews. He noted that one of the main issues would be funding moving forward.

The Regeneration Policy Team Leader explained that there had been engagement with health colleagues at an early stage and very good working relationships had been established. He noted that the Delivery Plan had been adopted by the Economic Partnership in October 2023, and by the Council in November 2023.

The Board noted the integration with Durham Insight, and it was explained that there would be a need to see an improvement across all of the county to be able to say the strategy was working.

The Regeneration Policy Team Leader noted that in respect to wellbeing, activities and key areas included: Durham Enable; Supported Employment Scheme; skills development, including literacy, numeracy and digital skills; support for those with learning disabilities; 'Better Health at Work'; 'Health on the High Street'; 'B-Corps'; business enterprise support scheme; housing strategy; public transport; broadband delivery; life science; and the quality of our local environment and nature. He added that a Delivery Group had been set up and would meet in February 2024 to establish leads and look at funding, with the Public Health Strategic Manager, Michael Shannon representing Public Health. He noted that additional colleagues would be brought in as needed and the Group would oversee delivery of the Strategy and Investment Plan as well as considering the impact of the devolution agenda.

The Chair thanked the Regeneration Policy Team Leader and asked for comments and questions.

Councillor R Bell asked how we would ensure that those that were not technically inclined did not get left behind with digital infrastructure and the growing digital economy. He also asked if there was any data on the impact of hybrid working on the mental health and wellbeing for Council employees, and the wider workforce. The Regeneration Policy Team Leader noted that in relation to digital connectivity, the Digital Durham website offer support, including digital skills courses, which could be accessed at the Council's libraries for free across the county. He noted that there were discount offers in terms of ICT equipment with support both individuals and for businesses. He added there was also support from the CVS and links to short courses available via our local colleges. He noted other resources included employability schemes and the skills improvement plan.

In respect of the mental health impact of hybrid working, he noted that information from the Council's HR Department had not yet been received, however, was in the process of being collated.

He noted that the 2021 Census data for County Durham it had been noted that 24 percent of people were working from home, lower than Newcastle at around 30 percent and a national average of around just over 50 percent, therefore the level of working from home appeared to be significantly lower in County Durham and the North East, perhaps as a result of the larger proportion of manufacturing jobs in our area. He added Office for National Statistics (ONS) data for February 2022 stated that 47 percent of people had reported their mental health and wellbeing had improved, with only 17 percent stating it had deteriorated. He concluded by explain that it was important to note issues that could arise from long periods of working from home, such as increased social anxiety, eye problems and musculoskeletal issues.

A Petty noted that those that had been through the criminal justice system often found it difficult to secure employment, and harder still to finding meaningful employment that helped in respect of mental health and wellbeing. The Regeneration Policy Team Leader noted that was a known issue and he would be happy to speak to A Petty to pick up on the related issues.

The Vice-Chair, M Laing noted paragraph 14 of the report referred to the Strategy contribution to Health and Wellbeing outcomes and noted that the phrase often used was 'give us 10,000 good jobs'. He asked as regards transport, as even with new jobs being created, if we were unable to get people to those jobs, then the positive impact would be lessened. The Regeneration Policy Team Leader noted there were a lot of transport plans and documents, including Bus Service Improvement Plans, and it was a balance to include specific references within a report, although there were some. He noted that regional transport was a huge issue, and another issue was that the majority of services had been privatised in the past. He noted other discussions, such as 15-minute towns and cities, although the focus at the moment was on the economy. He added there were five key strategic sites, Aykley Heads, Forrest Park, Jade, Integra 61 and NETPark, as well as additional industrial estates at Peterlee, Consett and Stanley, however, some communities did not have those sites 'on their doorstep'.

M Graham left the meeting at 10.45am

The Director of Public Health noted that it was very positive that the IES was now at the delivery stage. She noted the importance of establishing strong links with employers that were the 'anchor institutes' within our county. She asked how ambitious we were in terms of the work with our larger partner organisations. Prof C Clarke noted that there was a lot of work with the University, especially in the area of life sciences innovations, and noted she would be happy to liaise with any colleagues from the Local Authority as appropriate.

The Regeneration Policy Team Leader thanked Prof C Clarke and noted that it was important to work as close as possible with our large partners, such as Durham University.

K Burrows praised the inclusive approach that was being taken by the Economic Partnership, noting that more and more she finds that people are already aware of issues that may impact them and are already working together, a very positive sign. She added that the role and importance of the CVS must not be understated, in terms of both the positive impact upon our economy in County Durham, but also on the mental health and wellbeing of our residents. She added that their contribution, relative to the modest levels of investment required, was huge, a good example being social prescribing, helping to create jobs in local communities.

The Vice-Chair, M Laing noted that at the next development session for the Board, workforce was the topic, adding that as 70 percent of NHS Trust staff worked within County Durham and asked would whether the health and social care sector was larger than manufacturing in terms of jobs and the economy. The Regeneration Policy Team Leader noted that they were both of a similar level and of great importance to our economy.

Resolved:

- (i) That the adopted Inclusive Economic Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan be noted.
- (ii) That the Health and Wellbeing Board considered the activities identified in the Delivery Plan and commented upon activities that may not have been captured.
- (iii) That the Health and Wellbeing Board continue to support the implementation and development of the Delivery Plan.

8 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Update

The Board received an update report and presentation from the Director of Public Health on the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022-2025 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Director of Public Health noted the combination of the Community Pharmacy County Durham and Community Pharmacy Sunderland to create the Community Pharmacy North-East Central, with Greg Burke as the Chief Officer, and noted that the PNA ran for three years, up to 2025. It was explained as regards the work of community pharmacies, noting the reduction from 100 hours to 75 hours and the impact this had especially in the context of pharmacies taking on additional roles.

She added the NENCICB noted that currently they felt there was enough capacity and the pharmacies we had be of a high quality, it was approaching a 'tipping point' and therefore any future closures or changes to pharmacies would need to be looked at in-depth. She noted new services being offered via pharmacies included blood pressure checks, contraception, flu-vaccines amongst other roles that helped to take the pressure off GPs and Accident and Emergency. She noted that funding was a challenge and emphasised that it was critical to support our local pharmacies as they understood our local communities.

G Burke noted that some services provided by local pharmacies were classed as essential and therefore mandatory, with some advanced services being optional. He noted that the coverage in County Durham was very good and that Pharmacy Services North East (PSNE) Limited had been established across five Local Pharmacy Committees to help streamline commissioning of services and provide a single point of contact for pharmacies within the area. He noted recent developments included the National Think Pharmacy First Services and relaunches of the national hypertension and contraception services. The Board reviewed a video highlighting how local pharmacies would transform to be a key doorway into the NHS, offering a wider range of services and more clinical care and management of long-term conditions, working collaboratively to provide better value for the NHS and public.

Councillor R Bell noted the vision was very positive and asked how we would better promote the offer of our community pharmacies with local residents. G Burke noted that there was a lot of work to do in both promoting the services offered, as well as managing expectations. He noted national campaigns relating to annual vaccines, relaunch of the blood pressure testing and contraception services, as well as pharmacy finders and the Think Pharmacies First. He noted that Healthwatch would be invited to attend meetings in respect of many issues, including on the issue of communications.

Councillor R Bell noted issues relating to funding and noted that some parts of the NHS seemed to 'pick up the slack' and asked as regards any replication or repetition of services. G Burke noted that this was an issue for Community Pharmacy England to raise with Government, noting that £645 million had been noted as new funding, but noted that this was for additional services on top of the 'day job' of providing those essential pharmacy services. Councillor R Bell noted that he felt it was very important that those actually carrying out the work were those receiving the funding. The Head of Integrated Commissioning noted that the relevant GP data was not collected nationally, however, at the County Durham level it was collected, and it was noted that County Durham offered the highest number of GP appointments.

She added that in relation to 111 calls, more patients were diverted from Accident and Emergency that anywhere in the country. She added this had an impact and the challenge was the high number of GP appointments, and a review of overflow hubs was ongoing.

J Todd noted there could be a push from GPs to pharmacies, with a proportion of the follow up to include pharmacies as an alternative. He asked if there needed to be formal levers in place as regards this. G Burke noted recent input from GPs in terms of planning services, such as the COVID-19 and flu vaccines. He noted that while some media reporting was negative, the position remained positive with there being an appetite within the marketplace for the provision of pharmacy services. He noted that the performance and positive impact of local pharmacies during the pandemic had been a benefit to both partners and patients.

Resolved:

That report and presentation be noted.

J Todd left the meeting at 11.10am

9 Carers Plan on Page - Adult Carers, Parent Carers and Young Adult Carers

The Board received an update report and presentation from the Strategic Commissioning Manager, Sarah Douglas on the Carers Plan on Page - Adult Carers, Parent Carers and Young Adult Carers (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services thanked the Strategic Commissioning Manager and all the carers involved in producing the plans on a page, noting that while it was useful preparation for any Care Quality Commission assurance visit, it was also important to have such in place for our carers in County Durham. K Burrows thanked the Strategic Commissioning Manager and noted that it was so very important to amplify the voices and noted the contribution of the CVS within this area.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report and Carers Plan on a Page be noted.
- (ii) That the Health and Wellbeing accept updates on the work to support unpaid carers in County Durham as required.

J Robinson left the meeting at 11.22am

10 Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report

The Chair noted the report was attached to the agenda papers for Board Members' information.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership Annual Report

The Chair noted the report was attached to the agenda papers for Board Members' information.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

12 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

13 Pharmacy Applications

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health which presented a summary of Pharmacy Applications received from NHS England in accordance with the NHS (Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

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Health and Wellbeing Board

20 March 2024

**Tobacco Control; the current position
and next steps**



Report of Jane Robinson, Corporate Director of Adult & Health Services, Durham County Council

Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health, Durham County Council

Cllr Hood Portfolio Holder for Adult & Health Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on developments that contribute towards achieving the ambition to reduce smoking prevalence in the county to 5% or less by 2030.
- 2 To highlight to HWB members, the ongoing work within Tobacco Control, both at a local and regional level, but to also re-emphasise the work needed to ensure that we reach our key milestone targets, including our work with priority groups.

Executive summary

- 3 Smoking remains the single largest cause of preventable deaths and one of the largest causes of health inequalities in England. In County Durham tobacco control is one of the four key priorities of the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Despite reductions in prevalence, there are still approximately 7.3 million adult smokers and more than 200 people a day die from smoking-related illness, which could have been prevented.
- 4 The recently published 2022 Local Tobacco Control Profiles outlines that smoking prevalence in County Durham is estimated to be 15.4% this means that around 1 in 6 people in County Durham are current smokers. This is now comparable with the North East and England averages compared to previous years where this has been higher.

- 5 The Tobacco Control Alliance has continued to meet with the strategic plan being refreshed and aligned to the Fresh outcomes for a comprehensive Tobacco Control Plan, this continues to be implemented. The plan has been reviewed to ensure that there are more elements including; the addition of a vaping subgroup which reports to the Tobacco Control Alliance, better support to workplaces especially those employing routine and manual workforces, a renewed emphasis on engaging with social care and social housing.
- 6 A recent report published in March 2023 estimated that smoking costs County Durham £188,900,000 per year. The costs are associated with £150,400,000 for productivity loss for those who are unable to work, on long term sick or sick days due to smoking related illnesses. £22,200,000 cost to healthcare due to smoking related illnesses, social care needs as a result of smoking for adults 50 and over has been estimated to be £14,000,000 and increase in fire call outs due to smoking is £2,200,000. These findings illustrate that tackling smoking not only improves the population's health, reduces inequalities, boosts our local economy and eases pressure on the NHS, but also reduces pressure on public services.
- 7 There are current impacts on the Stop Smoking Service with the lack of availability of both Varenicline and Bupropion. However, from January 2024 Cytisine will be available within England to support smokers in their quit attempts. Electronic cigarettes are currently being rolled out as a new approach to support smokers to stop and has been explored further in 2023. A bid was successful to Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for 3,000 free vapes to provide a 12-week quit to 1,500 individuals within 23/24 and a further 1,500 individuals within 24/25.
- 8 A Health Equity Audit (HEA) was completed in 2023 for the time period April 2019 to March 2022. The results of this were overall positive showing that the SSS is effective at targeting the County's top 30% deprived communities, though the conversion to quit rate remains challenging. There are four key recommendations which have emerged from the HEA which will inform future work of the SSS in County Durham. These include celebrating successes, reviewing how to increase the quit rate in deciles 1-3, working alongside NHS colleagues to increase engagement of pregnant women and exploring access and quit rates of priority or vulnerable groups within the SSS.

- 9 Smoking at time of delivery (SATOD) in County Durham for 2022/23 was at 14.2% which was a reduction from the previous year, which was 14.6%. County Durham has the second highest rate of SATOD in the North East, and the 7th highest rate in England. Work has been undertaken to transfer Stop Smoking Services from the community into midwifery services to provide support to those women who are smoking during pregnancy.
- 10 There has been a number of government announcements relating to Tobacco Control including the ministerial announcement in April then the Stopping the Start command paper published in October 2023 which was supported in the Kings Speech on 7th November 2023. A response to the consultation to support the proposed legislation within the Stopping the Start command paper was submitted in December 2023. Durham County Council Public Health team continues to work with key partners within the locality and Fresh across the North East to urge the government to go further to reduce smoking prevalence.
- 11 Compliance teams have seen a large number of non-compliant vapes and illicit cigarettes seized over the period during 2023.

Recommendations

- 12 The HWB is recommended to:
 - (a) Note the contents of the report and support a renewed emphasis on tobacco control work to address the smoking prevalence across the County;
 - (b) Continue to support the work of the Tobacco Control Alliance to deliver on its actions, which include the recommendations from the government's plans regarding 'Stopping the Start';
 - (c) Champion Tobacco Control to become everyone's business;
 - (d) To champion stop smoking advice and support to become a core part of all council directorates including, but not limited to, social care and housing;
 - (e) To support with the vaping agenda, ensuring that there is consistent communication and language used about vaping. Using the ADPH communications guidance, ensuring that all communications are approved in advance by the Director of Public Health to ensure that vapes are available as a tool to support adult smokers in County Durham to quit, including through the local Stop Smoking Service;

- (f) Commit to conduct local research to ensure that we add to the evidence-base and continue to provide the best support to local smokers who are wanting to make a quit attempt;
- (g) Commit to support the key recommendations from the quality improvement workshop regarding Treating Tobacco Dependency in Pregnancy (para 41) to reduce preventable harms to mother and unborn baby.

Background

- 13 Smoking remains the single largest cause of preventable deaths and one of the largest causes of health inequalities in England. Despite reductions in prevalence nationally, there are still approximately 7.3 million adult smokers and more than 200 people a day die from smoking related illness, which could have been prevented.
- 14 Smoking and its associated harms continue to fall hardest on some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our society. The difference in life expectancy between the poorest and most affluent groups can be up to nine years.
- 15 As well as dying prematurely, smokers also suffer from poor quality of life. Many of the conditions caused by smoking are chronic illnesses such as heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and respiratory disease. Smokers proportionately are less likely to be in work. Breathing in second-hand smoke also has detrimental impacts on babies, children, and other family members.
- 16 Partners engaged in the County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance have an ambition to reduce smoking prevalence in the County to 5% or less by 2030, whilst maintaining a focus on key priority groups including pregnant smokers, routine and manual workers and people with serious mental health conditions. This ambition is driven by a vision to achieve a tobacco-free generation.
- 17 County Durham continues to provide leadership and advocacy across the North East, linking in with regional and national groups to share good practice with other areas.
- 18 To achieve this ambition, the Tobacco Control Alliance has maintained its seven-point action plan which is monitored on a quarterly basis and refreshed annually. The action plan highlights areas of work and are referenced within this report:
 - (a) use of an integrated evidence-based strategic approach to reducing smoking prevalence in County Durham;
 - (b) reducing Exposure to Second-hand Smoke;
 - (c) motivating and supporting smokers to stop and stay stopped;
 - (d) media, communications and engagement;
 - (e) reducing the demand and supply of illegal tobacco products, increasing price and addressing the supply of tobacco to children;
 - (f) tobacco regulation and reducing tobacco promotion;

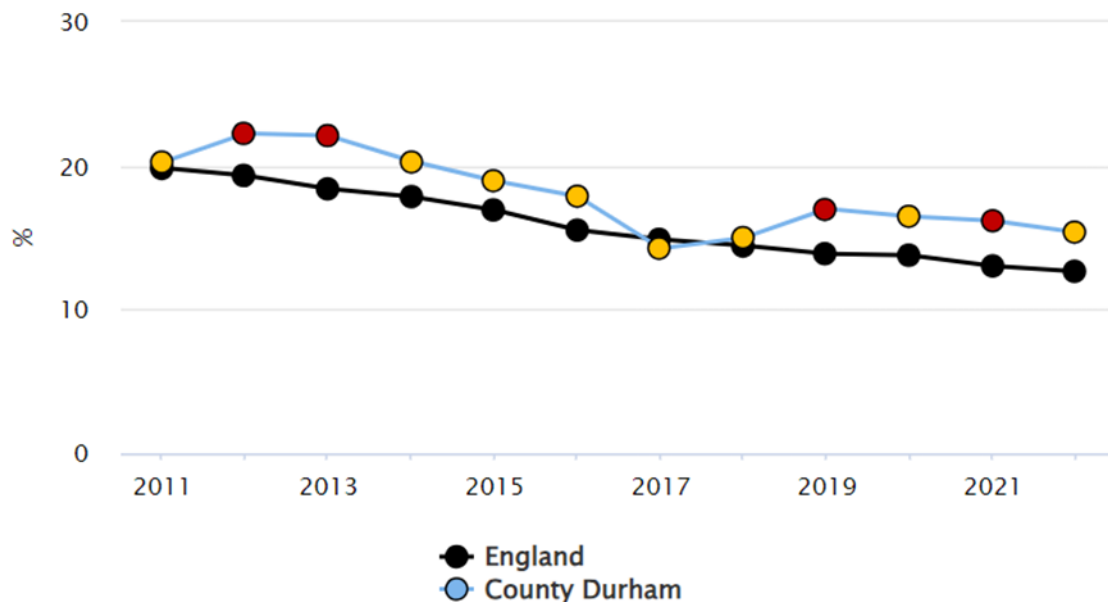
(g) research monitoring and evaluation.

Local Tobacco Control Update

Use of an integrated evidence-based strategic approach to reducing smoking prevalence in County Durham

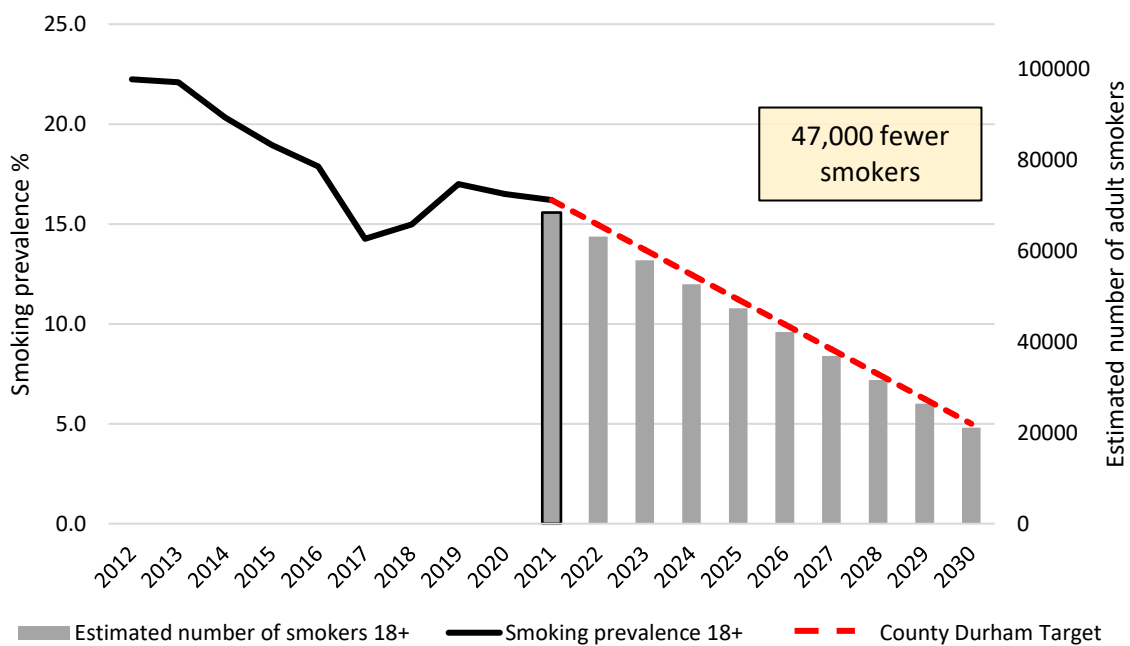
19 According to the 2022 Local Tobacco Control Profile, smoking prevalence in County Durham is estimated to stand at 15.4%. This highlights a reducing trend in prevalence when compared to 2020 (16.2% in County Durham).

Figure 1: Smoking Prevalence County Durham v England 2011-2022
Source: [Local Tobacco Control Profiles](#)



20 The County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance has an ambition to reduce smoking prevalence in the County to 5% or less by 2030. The latest prevalence data for 2022 suggests that there are approximately 63,200 people in County Durham who continue to smoke. To reach this target, analysis of the data indicates that a further 47,000 people are required to stop smoking by 2030.

Figure 2: County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance Smoking Prevalence Reduction Target



- 21 In 2021 the prevalence in County Durham for those working in routine and manual workforces was significantly higher than the North East and England average. However, a reduction was seen in 2022 with the prevalence decreasing from 29.2% to 22% meaning this rate is now comparable with both the North East and England averages.
- 22 Smoking prevalence in County Durham is higher in females (17.2%) than males (13.5%) although the difference is not statistically significant. Compared to England whilst the smoking rates for males are statistically similar to England, the rate for females is statistically significantly worse. This is an area that will need to be explored locally to see how the local service can support in targeting females into local stop smoking services.
- 23 Information from the Action for Smoking & Health (ASH) Ready Reckoner suggests that each year there is £188.9M costs that are associated with smoking in County Durham each year:
 - (a) £150.4M of these costs are associated with lack of productivity from people unable to work due to ill health whether this is temporarily sickness, unemployment or early death;
 - (b) £22.2M on Healthcare costs associated with smoking. This includes costs for those accessing support in primary care or within hospitals;

- (c) £14.0M on social care, which includes costs of both residential and domiciliary care;
- (d) £2.2M on smoking related fire call outs.

Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke

- 24 Breathing in second-hand smoke also has detrimental impacts on babies, children, and other family members.
- 25 ABL have engaged with Housing Poverty Forum to promote the service offer, MECC training and co-production and co-delivery opportunities to promote stop smoking support messages. Two training sessions have been delivered with Housing Solutions staff.
- 26 During a quality improvement exercise within the Tobacco Dependency in Pregnancy (TDiP) workstream it was found that there is a profound impact of maternal smoking during pregnancy and exposure to second-hand smoke on children's health outcomes. Further work will be explored to reduce smoking prevalence rates in pregnancy and support postnatally to ensure that women do not resume smoking once they have delivered their baby.

Motivating and supporting smokers to stop and stay stopped

- 27 ABL Health, the commissioned service for Smokefree County Durham has remained operational throughout 2023. Whilst in previous years a blended approach to service delivery has been adopted to maintain client engagement due to the pandemic, this year there has been a push to engage more people face to face.
- 28 A restructure of ABL Health staff has been undertaken in response to the growing cost per quitter and the overall reduction seen nationally, regionally and locally of less people quitting through a Stop Smoking Service. This restructure aims to increase quits from 1,443 in 22/23 to 2,048 in 23/24 and to 3,038 in 24/25. This new model will also ensure more links to new and emerging areas of work such as severe mental health and social housing.
- 29 In 2022/23, in County Durham the self-reported quit rate was higher than both the North East and England average. This indicates that the current model of the stop smoking service in County Durham is working well to support individuals to make a quit attempt and to be quit at 4-weeks.

Area	4 week quit rate (self-reported)	Lost to Follow-up rate
County Durham	58%	18%
North East	52% (highest 84%, lowest 23%)	23% (highest 37%, lowest 10%)
England	54%	17%

- 30 During 2023 ABL trained 11 providers and 33 staff to deliver a level 2 service. The 11 providers included 6 GP practices (covering 12 surgeries), 3 pharmacies, 1 occupational health organisation, and the Wellbeing4Life Health Trainers.
- 31 Successes in recruitment of level 2 services include having established cross-county coverage serving the most deprived areas and recruiting new providers that have previously never delivered a service. The biggest challenges to recruitment remain providers being unable to devote the time to delivering a service due to other pressures (particularly pharmacies), not being able to release staff for training or delivery following training, and retention due to staffing issues or being unable to fulfil the clinical requirements of the role (such as clinical record keeping on the 1S4H database).

Medication Shortage and Distribution

- 32 During 2023 there was still no access to both Varenicline and Bupropion. This has caused some pressure within the system. However, as of January 2024 Cytisine is now available to support those who are wishing to make a quit attempt.
- 33 In November 2023 a bid was submitted for 3,000 free vape starter kits and 12-weeks liquid to DHSC. This was successful. It is hoped that by adding e-cigarettes to the options of support available to local smokers wishing to make a quit attempt that this will alleviate some pressures on medications not being available.

Electronic Cigarette Pilot

- 34 Electronic Cigarettes (E-Cigs) have been advocated as an effective method of smoking cessation intervention, with evidence indicating that they are significantly (95%) less harmful than conventional cigarettes.

- 35 E-cigs have become increasingly popular among smokers who want to limit the risks smoking poses to their health. They have been cited as the most popular quitting aid since 2013 and help facilitate long-term smoking cessation and are safe to use over short to mid-term. There is a rise in youth use of E-Cigs which is associated with a decrease in young people smoking cigarettes.
- 36 As part of the Swap to Stop pilot funded by DHSC 12-week kits will be provided to those wishing to make a quit attempt by using a vape. This will only be available as a quit aid to those smokers aged over 18. This will include; the vape, spare coils and 12 week supply of liquids for the vape in a variety of strengths and flavours to suit the quitters needs. 1,500 vapes will be given out during Q4 2023/24 with a further 1,500 vapes available for distribution in 2024/25.
- 37 The vapes provided through DHSC were to be targeted at specific groups which will be; those in a routine and manual occupation, those living in Deciles 1-3 within County Durham and those living in social housing. However, there will be a full service roll out of e-cigarettes to all those accessing ABL services through existing SSS funding.

Workplace

- 38 The prevalence of smokers in routine and manual occupations has reduced, this is potentially due to an increase in engagement work taking place. During Stoptober Business Durham were engaged to provide support sessions to staff who worked within routine and manual workplaces to provide opportunities to stop smoking and learn about the local offer availability through ABL.
- 39 Staff within DCC have been given opportunities to quit smoking for 28 days during September and provided with information on ABL's offer to stop smoking. Resources have been tailored for those businesses employing routine and manual workers with support included to help staff members to begin a conversation about the importance of stopping smoking.
- 40 The ABL stop smoking service has engaged with a number of new workplaces directly during 2023 including: Amazon, Epicurium, Co-op, Aycliffe Secure Unit and Low Newton Prison. The service has always trained level 2 advisors within occupational health, these staff then cascade their knowledge through a number of workplaces across South Durham to support local smokers.

Treating Tobacco Dependency in Pregnancy and the Postnatal Period (TDIPP)

- 41 Smoking is a leading cause of preventable harm and health inequalities affecting mothers and babies in County Durham. It is the single most modifiable risk factor in pregnancy and remains a persistent challenge, despite ongoing public health efforts. Whilst rates of smoking at time of delivery (SATOD) are slowly improving, there is still a great deal of work to do. Further work identified from a quality improvement workshop has identified key areas to be:
- (a) assessments and data analysis;
 - (b) pathway mapping;
 - (c) identifying gaps and barriers to delivery;
 - (d) communication and collaboration.
- 42 Studies have consistently shown that smoking during pregnancy can cause serious pregnancy-related health problems and is associated with an increased risk of infant mortality. On average, smokers have more complications during pregnancy and labour, including bleeding during pregnancy, placental abruption and premature rupture of membranes.
- 43 Babies born to mothers who smoke are more likely to experience complications such as low birthweight, preterm birth, and respiratory problems. These factors contribute to a higher risk of infant death, particularly from conditions like respiratory distress syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), infections, and other health complications.
- 44 In 2022/23, the North East region had the highest % for SATOD amongst other regions in the UK (12.5%, compared to England's 8.8%). County Durham has the second highest % of SATOD amongst North East local authorities, with 14.2% of those giving birth known to be smokers at the time of delivering their baby (around one in 5 women). County Durham is ranked as the 7th highest county in England for SATOD (out of 152 local authorities).
- 45 For quarter 1 2023/24 (April to June at sub-ICB level) in NHS County Durham 13.6% of women were known to be smoking at time of delivery, compared to 10.5% across the North East and Cumbria ICB and 8.0% for England as a whole. The range across the ICB footprint extends from a low of 6.3% (NHS North Tyneside) to a high of 13.6% (NHS County Durham).

Annual data is preferable for examining trends over time however it is encouraging that when comparing the County Durham figure to the same period last year, the latest data represents a reduction of 1.6 percentage points (Q1 2022/23 for County Durham was 15.2%).

Table 1. Smoking at Time of Delivery 2010-2023

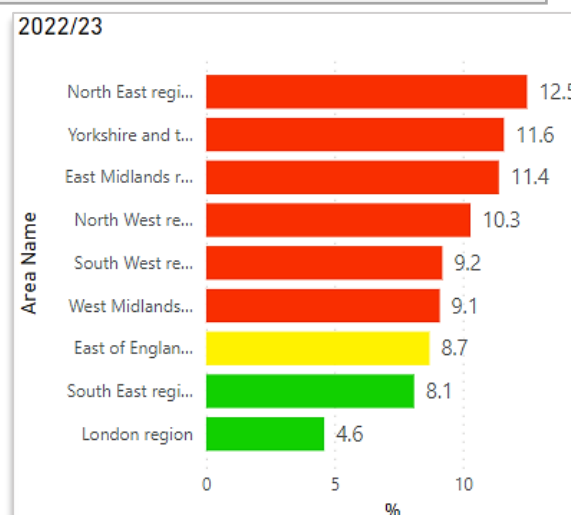
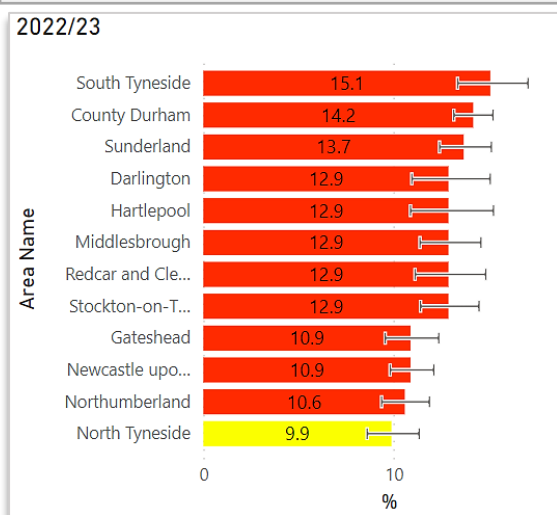
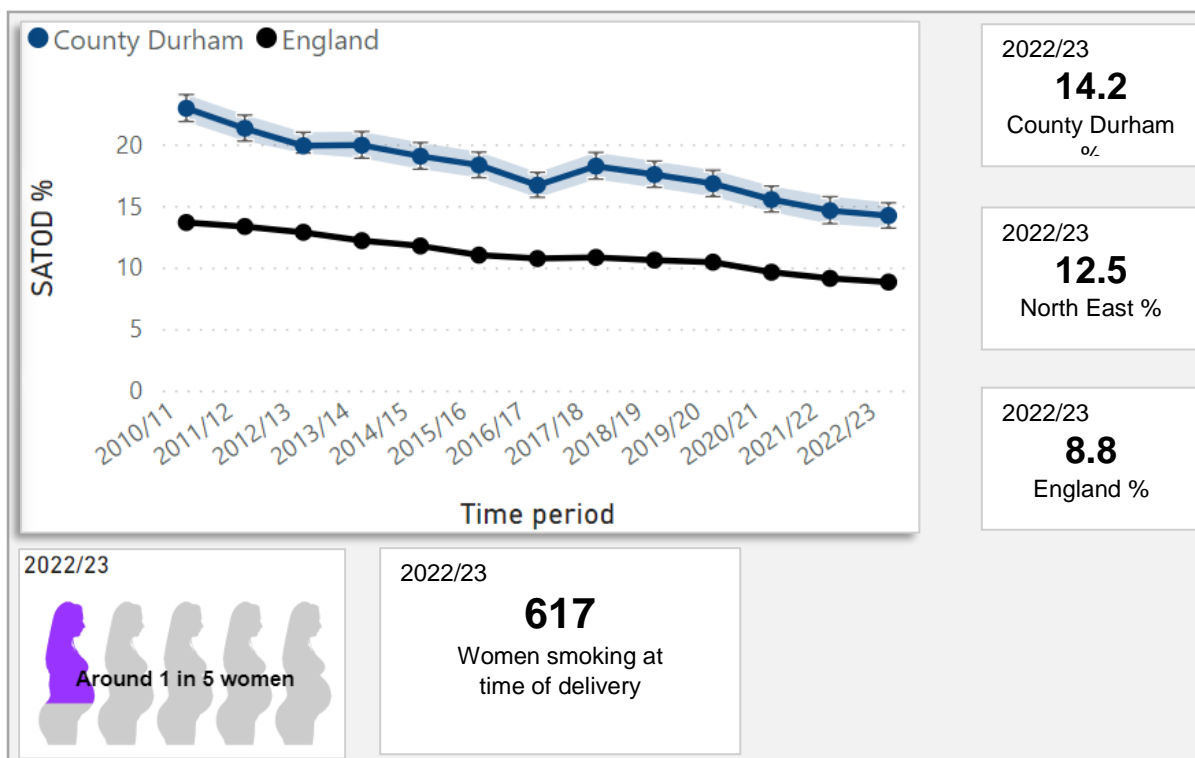


Table 2b. Benchmarking: Neighbours Regions

Key (statistical significance):



Table 3. Smoking at Time of Delivery Quarterly Data

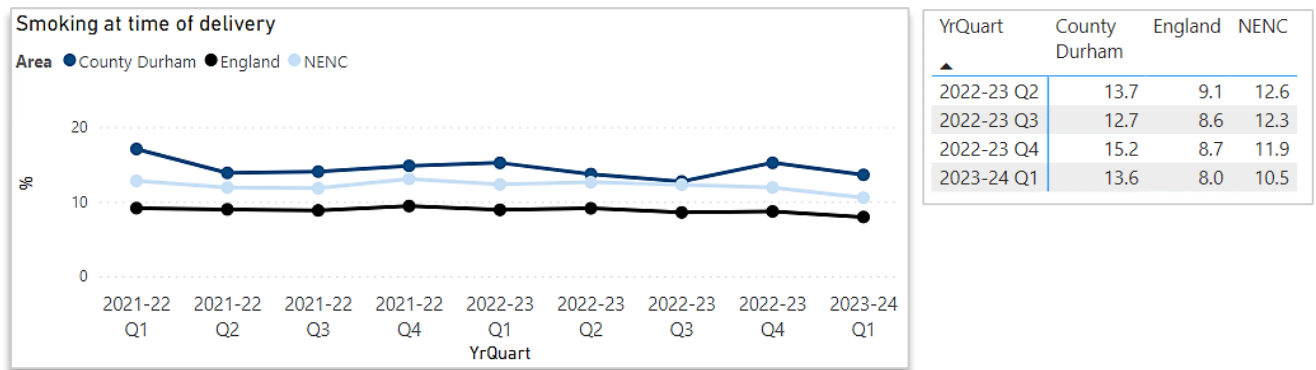


Table 4. SATOD Year to Date 2023/24

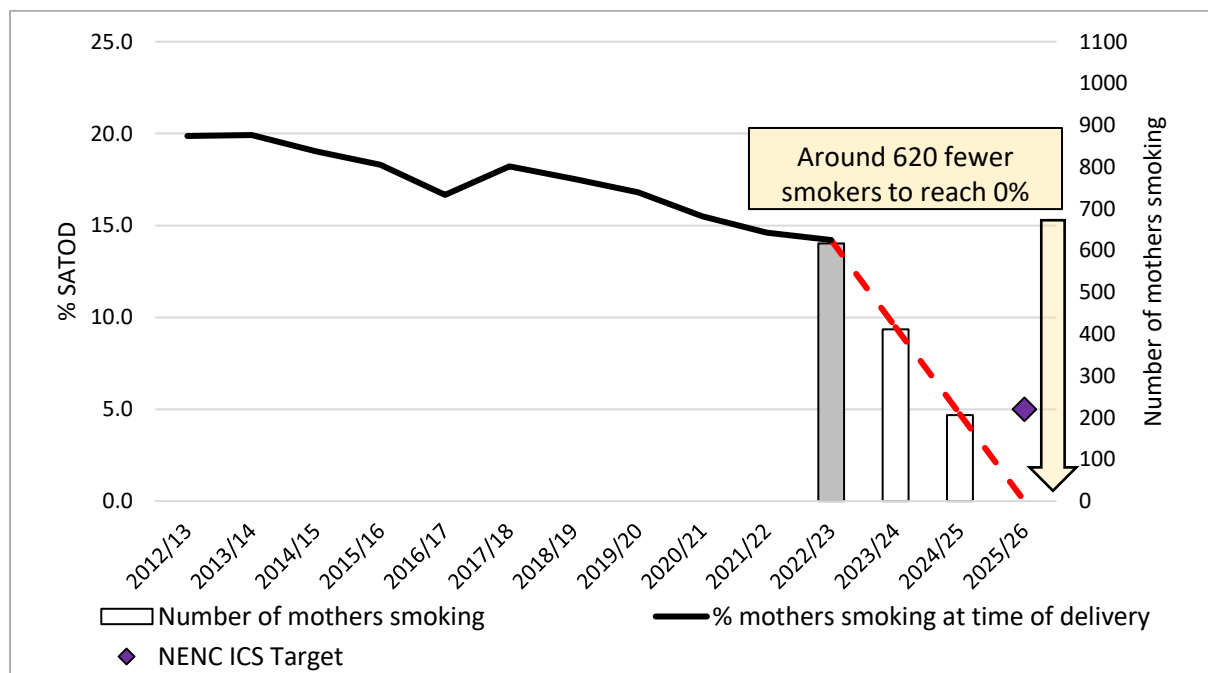
2023/24			
Area	Known Smokers %	Non smokers %	Unknown %
County Durham Sub-ICB	13.6	86.4	1.5
England	8.0	92.0	2.5
NENC	10.5	89.5	2.9

(Visuals and charts retrieved from Durham Insight: <https://www.durhaminsight.info/tobacco-control/>)

Local Ambition to Reduce Tobacco Dependency in Pregnancy (TDiP)

46 County Durham has an ambition to reduce the % of mothers smoking at time of delivery to 0% by 2025/26, approximately 620 mothers need to stop smoking (previously 710). This equates to a 4.7 percentage point drop per year for three years (approximately 206 fewer mothers smoking each year).

Table 3. Projections to achieve 0% SATOD by 2025/26



County Durham TDiPP Steering Group and Action Plan

- 47 In partnership with the County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance, the TDiP Steering Group continues to work collaboratively to drive towards the regional goal of reducing smoking at time of delivery to 5% or less by 2025 and a local ambition that all pregnant women and mothers will not smoke. This is critical to our drive to ensure children have the best start in life.
- 48 Following a stakeholder analysis and prioritisation exercise, the membership of the Group has been refreshed and includes representation from a wider range of partners.
- 49 A multiagency TDiPP workshop was held in August 2023 to raise awareness of the high SATOD rate for the county, local work, and context. The group completed an 'Action SWOT Analysis' aimed towards gathering information to prepare for pathway/process improvement planning.
- 50 Actionable tasks were identified that build on strengths, mitigate weaknesses, capitalise on opportunities, and prevent future threats. The findings have been compiled and will be mapped against the action plan and inform the TDiP Group's next steps, accountabilities, and deadlines.
- 51 A new specialist Midwifery Matron for Health Inequalities has been recruited within the local provider trust (County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, CDDFT), funded by the Family Hubs & Start for Life Transformation Programme. This newly created post will join the TDiP Steering Group as Co-Chair alongside DCC Public Health, providing clinical midwifery expertise and strengthening the strategic leadership in the Group, working together to drive forward the aims and objectives of the TDiP Action Plan. The matron will report directly to the Head of Midwifery and CDDFT's maternity services SMT.

Implementing the NHS Long Term Plan (LTP)

- 52 From September 2022, CDDFT maternity services began delivery of NHS-funded Tobacco Dependency Treatment Service (TDTS) in-line with the NHS LTP commitments. This involved significant transition and change, moving from Local Authority Stop Smoking Services to a new in-house delivery model and referral pathway. The Local Maternity (and Neonatal) System (LMS) play a key role in overseeing the delivery of these services across the NENC ICS footprint.

- 53 The model for pregnant women is delivered in-line with NICE guidance [NG209] and builds on the Saving Babies' Lives Care Bundle. It is a bespoke offer of behavioural support and pharmacotherapy is delivered without an external referral to a third party, with patient administration and responsibility for delivering the tobacco dependence intervention staying in the NHS.
- 54 Supporting the transition of the NHS LTP is a key priority area for the TDiP Steering Group; working collaboratively to ensure that there is dedicated support and capacity across the system to help embed in-house NHS tobacco dependence treatment interventions. The TDiP Steering Group regularly review how NHS TDTS can work with LA SSS to support/improve delivery and better support system integration during this period of transformational change.

North East & North Cumbria (NENC) TDiP Incentive Scheme

- 55 The NENC Integrated Care System (ICS) have introduced a financial incentive scheme to support pregnant people to stop smoking alongside the implementation of the NHS Long Term Plan pathway for maternity.
- 56 The incentive scheme is designed to support women to quit smoking during pregnancy. This involves the provision of financial incentives (shopping vouchers) to encourage ongoing engagement with quit support programmes, throughout their pregnancy and beyond. Importantly, the scheme utilises incentives in addition to routine care that is in-line with NICE guidance, not as a replacement for any part of this.
- 57 Scheme Model: Incentives are in the form of "Love to Shop" vouchers for pregnant women, which cannot be used to purchase tobacco or alcohol:
- (a) first quit appointment and quit date set; £20;
 - (b) successful four-week quit and every subsequent six weeks onwards until delivery (max six vouchers): £40;
 - (c) successful four weeks postnatal quit: £80;
 - (d) successful quit for partners/significant others at four weeks postnatal: £40;
 - (e) up to £380 per scheme.

58 The scheme was launched in CDDFT on 14th February 2023. An evaluation is being undertaken alongside implementation to understand the experiences of pregnant people that choose to take part, to understand and address any possible barriers to access.

TDiP 'Call to Action' Report

59 An in-depth report, focusing on the urgent need to reduce TDiP as a modifiable risk factor for poor health outcomes in County Durham, has been produced by Public Health and shared with key partners. This has included presentations to the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP), County Durham Care Partnership Forum, Tobacco Control Alliance, and Best Start in Life Steering Group.

60 The report aims to:

- (a) provide an update to system leaders on the action being taken to reduce tobacco dependency in pregnancy (TDiP) and rates of smoking at time of delivery (SATOD) across County Durham;
- (b) examine the critical issue of smoking as a modifiable risk factor for a range of maternal and child health problems and increased mortality, both before and after birth. It highlights the profound impact of maternal smoking during pregnancy and exposure to second-hand smoke on children's health outcomes;
- (c) highlight areas for improvement and actions needed to ensure all babies born in County Durham are able to benefit from the best possible start in life;
- (d) stress the urgency of addressing this issue through the delivery of targeted interventions and effective tobacco control measures.

Media, communications and engagement

61 County Durham continues to commission the contract for FRESH across the North East. This programme of denormalisation of tobacco makes a significant contribution to the reduction in smoking prevalence. This was expanded from the LA7 to the North East during 2023/24 which has seen an increase in engagement for smokers across the region regardless of local authority boundaries due to being able to advertise more.

62 In March 2023 Fresh re-launched the award-winning Don't be the 1 campaign across the North East and North Cumbria. It ran on TV, radio, ITV Catch Up / Video on Demand, Facebook and Google Display for four weeks. The Don't Be the 1 campaign message highlighted that one in every two long term smokers will die from a smoking related illness.

- 63 Fresh launched Smoking Survivors in June 2023 which highlights the shocking, raw and life-changing experiences from former smokers in the North East. It features Cathy and Sue who are two real life “survivors” who were diagnosed with cancer from smoking while still in their 40s. The campaign is part of a commitment by all 12 North East local authorities. “Smoking Survivors” is NHS branded and ran for four weeks with advertising on ITV, Catch-up ITV, radio, outdoor and Facebook with supporting PR and social media. This was re-launched in September, with Durham amplifying the campaign on city centre digital totems, customer access points, Family Hubs and Durhamworks Facebook pages signposting to the County Durham Stop Smoking Service for support.
- 64 In September OHID released the new Better Health vaping for schools’ resources and social marketing toolkit which was shared via education channels.
- 65 Stoptober resources were shared with localised campaigns including photoshoots including Director of Public Health, Amanda Healy, Cllr Chris Hood, Cathy Hunt and other members of the County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance. Business Durham worked with local organisations and support two Stoptober events raising awareness to routine and manual workers of how to get help to quit smoking.
- 66 In support of the Stopping the Start government consultation additional social media work was conducted to share messages on smoking harms and to raise awareness of the consultation.
- 67 For New Year 2024, Fresh ran another phase of the successful “Smoking Survivors” quitting campaign across the North East and North Cumbria. The campaign has been running across ITV and ITVX (catch up) and Facebook for three weeks from December 28 aimed at encouraging people to make a quit attempt, and to keep going.
- 68 Promotion from January 2024 of the national NHS Better Health stop smoking campaign which builds on the creative route of ‘good things happen when you stop smoking’ that was developed for the Stoptober campaign back in October 2023. The campaign is capitalising on the New Year moment when we know there is greater intent for smokers to make a quit attempt, the campaign promotes the many benefits of quitting. The campaign will be delivered through TV, video-on-demand, radio, out-of-home advertising, and is focusing on the generational harms of smoking, highlighting that children are up to three times as likely to start smoking if their parents smoke. There is a suite of free campaign resources to help support and amplify the campaign locally including assets for use on social media, posters, web banners and images for digital screens.

- 69 All these resources are shared widely through our tobacco control alliance locally within County Durham so that we can ensure that all our key partners are able to share consistent communications about seeking help to stop smoking.
- 70 Further to this ABL have developed bespoke leaflets for workplace, stress, finances, heart health, diabetes, COPD and significant others of pregnant smokers in order to generate awareness of smoking harms, the role of the stop smoking service and where to access support. Both digital and physical copies of these resources have been shared with partners across the County.

Reducing the demand and supply of illegal tobacco products, increasing price and addressing the supply of tobacco to children

- 71 Fresh developed Keep it Out advertising on radio and online in summer 2023 as part of the approach to reduce the supply of illicit tobacco. This aims to reduce people's comfort levels in buying illicit tobacco and also acts as a deterrent to those who may be selling it. It also aims to generate intelligence for local Trading Standards teams to be more aware of where illicit tobacco is being sold locally.
- 72 During 2023 91 intelligence reports were received reporting to illicit tobacco of which 55 were gathered through the Keep it Out reporting route and were directly sent to Trading Standards.
- 73 Between January and December 2023 enforcement action has been taken to tackle illicit tobacco as a direct result of community intelligence, intelligence from partners and proactive inspections of premises. From this 418,340 cigarettes and 150.2kg of hand rolling tobacco has been seized.
- 74 In relation to closing orders of premises selling illicit tobacco court orders are obtained on the basis of causing a nuisance under the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. This provides an application to the court for a closure of premises for up to three months on each application. In 2023 eight retail premises were either the subject of an initial closure order or an extension.
- 75 During 2023 the Special Investigations Team and the Consumer Safety Team seized 6319 non-compliant vapes.

Research, monitoring and evaluation

Health Equity Audit

- 76 A Health Equity Audit (HEA) of the SSS was undertaken in 2023. This is part of a rolling HEA cycle for the SSS which ensures a thorough understanding of whether the service is contributing to reducing health inequalities. In order for the latest HEA cycle to complete it is expected that the next audit will be conducted no sooner than 2026.
- 77 The purpose of this report was to assess whether the SSS in County Durham is having an impact on health inequalities and to identify how services are delivered relative to deprivation deciles across the county.
- 78 The HEA has reviewed data from April 2019 to March 2022. During this time period the provider was changed from Solutions4Health to ABL from 1st April 2020 onwards.
- 79 Overall the findings were positive, the review highlighted that services are being targeted at the county's top 30% most deprived communities with both high access and quit rates within the Middle layer Super Output Areas (MSOA).
- 80 The findings were both positive for the Level 3 Specialist Advisors and the Level 2 advisors working within GP surgeries & pharmacies.
- 81 However, the SSS is less effective at converting quit attempts into successful quits at 4-weeks in the most deprived areas. Further work is needed to better understand why the service is less effective at engaging smokers to produce a successful quit attempt. A further element to be explored is also how effective that ABL are at supporting priority groups, including routine and manual workers, those with a registered SMI, those with long-term health conditions and other vulnerable groups to engage within SSS and then also to quit smoking. This will need to be reviewed as part of any agreed extension to the SSS.
- 82 There were 4 main recommendations from the HEA which were:
- (a) to celebrate the successes highlighted from the report and better understand how the service has achieved an increase in the number of people accessing the service from our most deprived communities and build on this success;

- (b) review how the service can increase the rate of people from deciles 1-3 of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) who go on to quit at 4 weeks including reviewing the provision offered to this cohort. This should include a review of the quit rate in deprivation decile two for the level 2 service;
- (c) link in with our NHS colleagues as part of the NHS Treating Tobacco Dependency service to share the findings of the Health Equity Audit and undertake further in-depth work with Integrated Care System (ICS) colleagues to understand how to increase the engagement of pregnant smokers within services and promote a higher quit rate;
- (d) to work with ABL Health to explore the access and quit rates for several priority or vulnerable groups including examples such as; those with a registered Serious Mental Illness SMI, those in routine and manual work, those from the LGBTQ+ community, those with a recorded Long Term Condition and Veterans.

83 The above recommendations have been shared with the stop smoking service in County Durham and will be monitored within Contract Review meetings to better understand the progress being made.

84 In order to ensure that progress is made within County Durham to achieve the 5% smoking prevalence we will aim to collaborate with academic partners on further research to add to the existing evidence base and provide support to local smokers wishing to make a quit attempt.

Government Announcements regarding Tobacco Control

85 In April 2022 there was a ministerial announcement regarding how the government plans to reach a Smokefree 2030, there were 8 parts to this plan which were:

- (a) a national youth vaping consultation was opened;
- (b) Swap to Stop – nationally one million vapes will be made available to support adult smokers to quit using a vape;
- (c) a new “flying squad” to support in identifying and removing illicit vapes from the market;
- (d) a national incentive scheme to be offered to those smoking in pregnancy;

- (e) Stop Smoking Support to be embedded into Mental Health services including IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies);
- (f) unblocking the supply chains for licenced medicines such as Varenicline and Bupropion;
- (g) a consultation to be opened on mandatory pack inserts;
- (h) tobacco to be embedded into the Major Conditions Strategy.

Stopping the Start: Command Paper

86 On the 4th October the Government published a Command paper which sets out the route which is needed in order to preventing addiction to smoking before it starts, supporting smokers to quit and to stop vapes being marketed towards children, whilst acknowledging the significant undertaking of work that has already been done to reduce smoking prevalence rates.

- (a) legislating to create a smokefree generation – making it an offence to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009;
- (b) providing additional support to local stop smoking services to support more people to quit;
- (c) £70m per year to support local authority-led stop smoking services;
- (d) £5m this year and then £15m per year after to fund new national anti-smoking campaigns;
- (e) up to £45m over 2 years to roll out new national ‘Swap to Stop’ scheme to support one million adult smokers to swap cigarettes for vapes.

87 Up to £10m over 2 years to provide evidence-based financial incentives to support all pregnant smokers to quit:

- (a) review a range of proposals put forward to reduce youth vaping, ensuring that there is a right balance between protecting children and supporting adult smokers to quit. These proposals include:
- (b) restricting vape flavours;
- (c) regulating vape packaging and product presentation;
- (d) regulating point of sale displays;

- (i) restricting the sale of disposable vapes;
- (ii) introducing an age restriction for non-nicotine vapes;
- (e) exploring further restrictions for other nicotine consumer products such as nicotine pouches;
- (f) preventing industry giving out free samples of vapes to children.
- (g) developing a strong approach to enforcement to target underage and illicit sale of tobacco and vapes. This will include:
- (h) providing £30m additional funding per year (from April 2024) to support enforcement agencies such as trading standards, Border Force & HMRC to implement and enforce the law and tackle illicit trade;
- (i) HMRC and Border Force to publish an updated Illicit Tobacco Strategy;
- (j) introduce new powers for local authorities to issue on-the-spot fines to enforce age of sale legislation on tobacco products, as well as vapes;
- (k) enhancing online age verification to stop underage sales of tobacco products and vapes online.

Consultation and our response

- 88 On the 12th of October the government launched an eight week consultation across the UK regarding the above proposals. The consultation was open for 8 weeks.
- 89 Durham County Council worked alongside our colleagues within Fresh to provide local evidence to ensure a thorough and comprehensive response to the consultation.
- 90 A time-limited task and finish group was established with key partners across County Durham to develop a multi-agency response to the consultation.
- 91 The consultations team in Durham County Council developed a survey to gather views from the general public within County Durham.
- 92 There were 267 responses from general public and a range of feedback from key partners including; stop smoking services, NHS trusts, Trading Standards, schools, children and young peoples services. This information was compiled into one response. Responses showed:

- (a) legislating to create a smokefree generation – making it an offence to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009;
 - (b) strong support for evidence-based restrictions on vaping;
 - (c) 80% further restrictions on flavours;
 - (d) 70% restrictions on visibility;
 - (e) 88% restrictions on imagery and colours of vapes;
 - (f) 76% increase in price on disposable vapes.
- 93 On the 6th December a motion was passed at full council to support the consultation submission and support an increase in the age of sale of tobacco and tighter evidence-based restrictions on vaping to reduce appeal to children and young people whilst ensuring that we continue to encourage smokers to try to quit by switching to vaping instead of smoking.
- 94 In addition to the motion and consultation response work was conducted with key partners to raise awareness of the consultation, the importance of submitting the response and also smoking harms to encourage smokers to make a quit attempt. This was done by:
- (a) increased social media activity on all Durham County Council social media platforms;
 - (b) letters sent to all MPs alongside a session with MPs;
 - (c) presentation to gather support from Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 95 Government generally takes around 12 weeks to respond to a consultation, therefore, a response is expected in the Spring. Any Bill containing legislation must then be tabled and will go through five stages in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The response will be reviewed when available to identify any implications for local practice.
- 96 The Health and Wellbeing Board has further shown support for the measures outlined by the chair Cllr Hood writing to local MPs to seek their continued support for the Bill.

Conclusion

- 97 Smoking remains the single largest cause of preventable deaths and one of the largest causes of health inequalities in England. Despite reductions in prevalence, there are still approximately 7.3 million adult smokers and more than 200 people a day die from smoking related illness, which could have been prevented.
- 98 Smoking prevalence in County Durham currently stands at 15.4% (2022). Which whilst this is now comparable with both the regional and national prevalence, the percentage drop observed is not enough to reach 5% by 2030.
- 99 We will await the governments response to the Stopping the Start consultation in Spring 2024 and respond appropriately locally.
- 100 Further developments will be made to better support engagement within social housing, social care and engagement with routine and manual workforces whilst using the Swap to Stop initiative to increase the number of people accessing Stop Smoking Services locally.

Author

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

No identified legal implications.

Finance

Underspend identified and discussion required on proposed spend.

Consultation and Engagement

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Resources are focused on groups of people, such as routine and manual workers, people with mental ill-health, pregnant women and people who live in the more deprived areas of County Durham who are more likely to smoke.

Climate Change

No adverse implications.

Human Rights

No adverse implications.

Crime and Disorder

A continued focus on illicit tobacco will have a positive impact on crime and disorder in local communities.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None, contract to continue until March 2025.

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Health and Wellbeing Board Tobacco Update

Question

Smoking is one of the largest causes of health inequalities in England?

Answer

- True - 200 people a day die from smoking-related illness, which could've been prevented
- There are groups locally where smoking prevalence is higher than the County Durham average such as:
 - Those who work in a Routine and Manual Occupation
 - Those with a Severe Mental Illness
 - Those who live in social housing
 - Those who access social care

Question

Stopping smoking will help both a pregnant mother and their baby immediately?

Answer

- True – Stopping smoking will help both mother and baby immediately, regardless of at what point in the pregnancy they decide to stop.
- When a pregnant person smokes, carbon monoxide and thousands of harmful toxins travel through the placenta and into the baby's body. When this happens, it can restrict the essential oxygen supply to the baby. As a result, the baby's heart must beat harder every time a cigarette is smoked.
- When a pregnant person stops smoking, the harmful gases and other damaging chemicals will clear from their body. This will reduce the risk of complications in pregnancy and birth, including lower chance of miscarriage, stillbirth or having a premature or unwell baby.

Question

Vaping is just as harmful as smoking.

Answer

- False - Nicotine vaping is not risk-free, but it is substantially less harmful than smoking.

Question

The average smoker spends £2,000 per year on tobacco?

Answer

- True
 - Smoking costs contribute to 25,000 households living in poverty
 - This includes 16,000 dependent children
 - There are over 4,300 people economically inactive due to smoking

Question

Once you have started smoking the damage is done, so you might as well continue to smoke.

Answer

- False- It's never too late to stop smoking. As soon as a person quits, the body will begin to repair itself and improvements will be noticed within just a few days. Loved ones will also be protected by not breathing in second-hand smoke

Question

Nicotine is harmful?

Answer

- False - Nicotine is a very addictive substance, but it isn't harmful. It's the other ingredients and chemicals in cigarettes such as carbon monoxide and tar that cause serious health impacts.

Question

Stopping smoking increases a person's stress levels?

Answer

- False- People who smoke often say that they can't quit as cigarettes reduce their stress. However, it's been proven that people who don't smoke usually have lower stress levels than people who do smoke.

Question

Each year there are £211.87M worth of costs that are associated with smoking in County Durham. With £13.39M linked to social care?

Answer

- True
- 170.72M of these costs are associated with lack of productivity from people unable to work due to ill health whether this is temporarily sickness, unemployment or early death.
- 26.02M on Healthcare costs associated with smoking. This includes costs for those accessing support in primary care or within hospitals.
- £13.39M on social care, which includes costs of both residential and domiciliary care.

The Fresh programme and evidence base in the North East



LA12 and ICB funding

3 key goals:

1. Helping smokers to stop and stay stopped
2. Preventing uptake
3. Reducing exposure to secondhand smoke and other harms

Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping

****Raising the age of sale for tobacco products is vital – need to keep the focus on tobacco****

Durham Youth Council took part in filming a North East video on their views regarding raising the age of sale for tobacco products

Cllr Hood has written to Durham MPs to gather support – need to keep the pressure on because...

We were expecting Tobacco and Vapes Bill (draft legislation) to be laid in Parliament before now – still hasn't been published

Parliamentary process (several stages in Commons and Lords) needs to be completed before summer recess 23rd July

ASH and APPG on Smoking and Health Smoking Survivors drop-in event in Parliament on national No Smoking Day – Wednesday 13th March – with people whose lives have been impacted by smoking and young people who will benefit from the smokefree generation legislation. Strong NE presence at this including smoking survivor Cathy Hunt from Durham who will be being used in the national DHSC media campaign from 11th March.

Advocacy Next steps

Things you can do to help please:

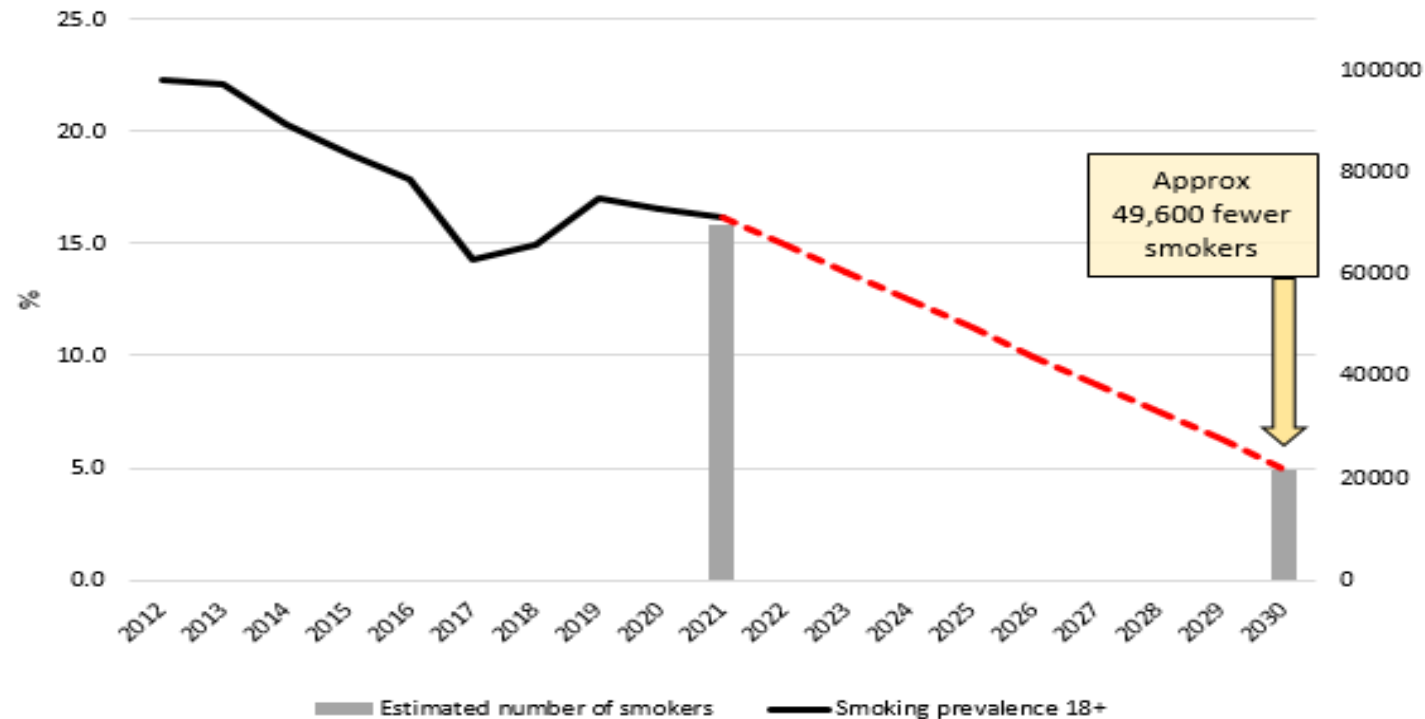
Retweet Fresh posts supporting #SmokefreeGeneration e.g. <https://x.com/FreshSmokeFree/status/1762802132044947810?s=20> - all LAs and FTs are tagged. Add your concerns that the Bill has not been published. Copy in @RishiSunak and if you can the relevant MPs for your LA

Ask elected members to consider adding their name to the ASH and Cancer Research UK letter to be sent on behalf of local councillors to MPs, calling on them to support the Bill. The text of the letter, including the option for councillors to add their names, can be found via [this link](#).

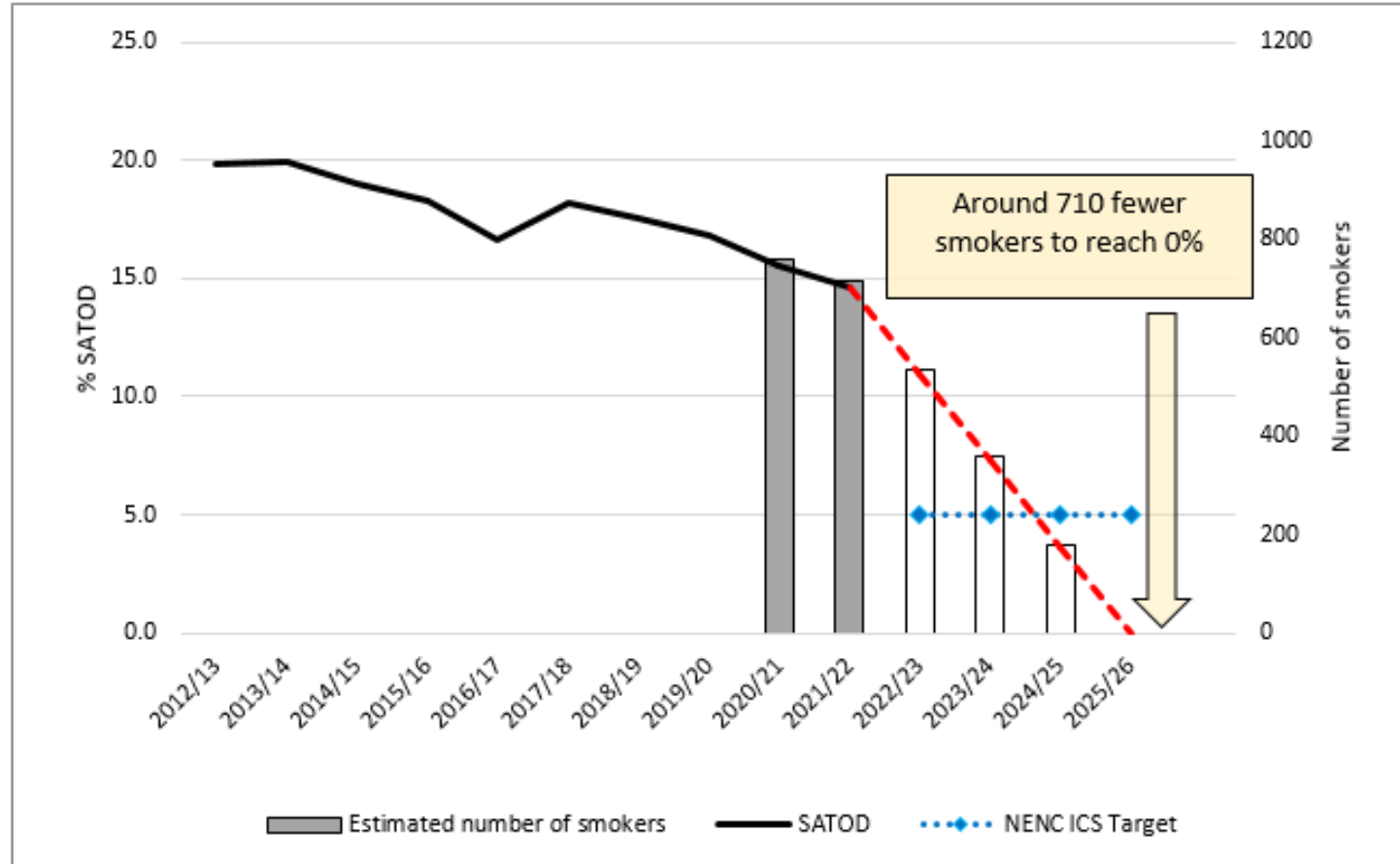
Promote regional comms



Support from Health and Wellbeing Board locally



Support from Health and Wellbeing Board locally – Tobacco dependency in pregnancy



Support from Health and Wellbeing Board locally

- National funding from DHSC from April 2024 for 5-years to increase the number of individuals who are setting a quit date and making a quit attempt. Working as a system across County Durham is important to reduce overall smoking prevalence – how can the Health and Wellbeing Board support this?
- Working as a system across County Durham is important to reduce smoking at time of delivery– how can the Health and Wellbeing Board support this?

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Health and Wellbeing Board

20 March 2024

Climate Emergency Response Plan 2 –
2022/23 Update



**Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods
and Climate Change, Durham County Council**

**Councillor Mark Wilkes, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for
Neighbourhoods and Climate Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update on progress of the Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP2).
2. To provide an update on discussions to embed health priorities into CERP3.

Executive summary

3. The council's first CERP (2019-21) was developed through extensive consultation with Council staff, community groups, residents, schools, and other organisations. This was followed by a revised and updated Climate Emergency Response Plan 2 which was adopted by Cabinet in July 2022 and contained a costed, two-year plan detailing over 150 projects that the council and its partners needed to take towards achieving targets of being a net zero council by 2030 (achieving an 80% actual reduction in operational emissions towards this) and a net zero county by 2045.
4. Progress on the CERP actions across all services and partners has been significant. Whilst there is still more to do, we are heading in the right direction and all services are committed to helping to meet and go beyond targets.

Council Emissions

5. The council's carbon emissions during 2022/23 are approximately 41,773 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_{2e}), a reduction of 5% compared with last year's 45,704CO_{2e}. This represents a drop of 61% since 2009/10.
6. Comparing with the previous year, there was a 10% reduction in electricity from buildings, an 4% reduction in gas for heating and an 6% decrease in fleet and transportation emissions. This equates to a reduction of nearly 2,500t of CO_{2e} across the council estate and fleet.
7. Several building decarbonisation projects have been underway during the plan period, with some now complete, and where not, significant progress has nevertheless still been made. Major schemes include:
 - (a) Abbey Leisure Centre Heat Decarbonisation – **Complete**
 - (b) Comeleon House Heat Decarbonisation - **Complete**
 - (c) Low Carbon Depot (Annfield Plain) – **Complete**
 - (d) Peterlee LC Decarbonisation – **Snagging**
 - (e) Teesdale LC Decarbonisation – Due to complete Feb 24
 - (f) Newton Aycliffe LC Decarbonisation – **Snagging**
8. It is noteworthy that the majority of the emission reductions from heat projects are not yet fully reflected in the full year data as they have not had a full heating season of operation. In 2023/24 emissions could be reduced upwards of 1500t CO_{2e} just from these 5 projects alone (potentially reducing emissions by 3.6% alone). A list of ongoing and in-design projects from the CERP2 is contained in Appendix 2.

Countywide Emissions

9. Latest data (from 2021) confirms a 52% reduction in emissions from the 1990 baseline, however this equates to 3% more carbon (CO_{2e}) than 2020 levels due in most part to recovery from the Covid-19 lockdown, with associated increased transport, domestic and commercial/industrial emissions. It is however significant to note that emissions are still down from pre-covid levels (2019).
10. In relation to projects that have a Countywide benefit, most schemes have continued to develop. These include:
 - (a) Electric Vehicle Charging Points - £4.325m secured to develop further EV Charging points around the county.
 - (b) Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) – New funding secured through Shared Prosperity Funding (led by Business Durham) will enable BEEP to continue to allocate grant funding for SME's.

- (c) Housing retrofit schemes – 1213 social housing properties benefited from low carbon installations.
 - (d) Seaham Garden Village – On Track to deliver minewater heating.
 - (e) Borrow a Bike scheme launched and in operation.
11. During the last year the council has continued to receive further accolades for its work in combatting climate change, including being a finalist in the Climate Change Initiative of the Year from the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) for the Low Carbon Depot project and a Green award in the Investors in the Environment review. The service has also been restructured, with a Tier 4 Net Zero Manager now in post, who will lead in shaping the Low Carbon Economy team to ensure it is well structured and positioned for the challenges ahead.
12. Whilst projects are continuing, the Low Carbon Economy team are also now drafting the next iteration of the CERP which will go to Cabinet for approval in the Spring of 2024. It is proposed that this will evolve to a three-year reporting cycle, taking us to 2027 so that greater focus can be given to plan delivery. It is proposed to expand the assessments to cover scope 3 emissions (indirect emissions, e.g. travel to work, external contracts), as well as how carbon offsetting may be achieved. A reduced set of key projects will be provided, and emerging opportunities from the devolution agenda identified. The challenges ahead are significant, seven years away from 2030 and for council emissions alone, a further reduction of 21% carbon emissions to achieve an 80% reduction will be required.

Recommendations

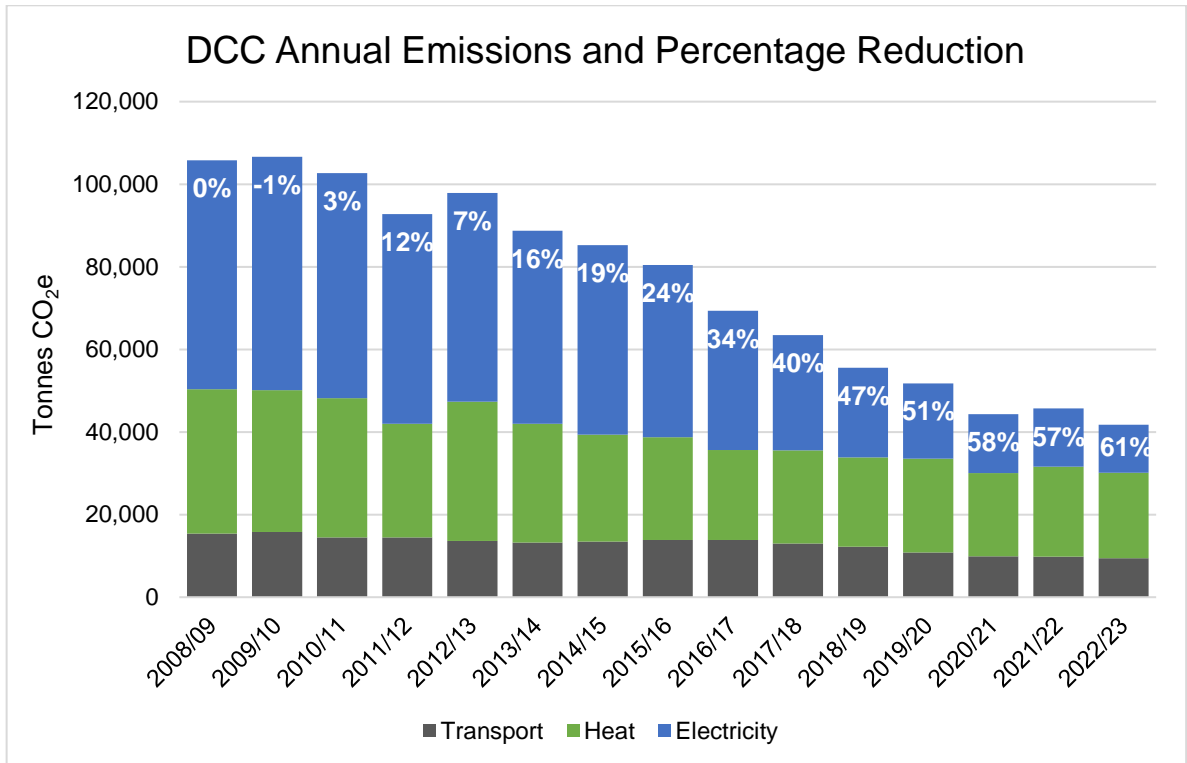
13. Members of the Health and Well Being Board are recommended to:
- (a) Note the significant progress made against delivering actions during the Climate Change Emergency Response Plan 2.
 - (b) Note the stronger working relationships between teams and the progress made to embed health principles into CERP3.

Background

- 13 In the four years since the Council declared a climate emergency, there has been a very worrying increase in extreme wildfires, floods, droughts, and storms, which have devastated many areas and habitats across the world, as climate change starts to threaten aspects of human existence.
- 14 Scientists agree that that society only has a few years left in which to act and so there is an urgency to this work that underpins everything we do. Work must take place collaboratively across all sectors of our community employing all necessary technologies to achieve a carbon neutral future as swiftly as possible.
- 15 Accomplishing this requires a clear vision, underpinned by strong principles, taking a structured approach to the net zero journey with evidence based targets and a detailed route map. The Council and all our partners and communities must work alongside each other if we are to meet the challenges that are posed by climate change.
- 16 Government released their Net Zero Strategy in 2021 which outlines the steps that will be taken to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. It covers issues such as how homes will be heated, support for electric vehicles, nature restoration plans and plans to decarbonise industry.
- 17 On 20 February 2019 the County Council declared a Climate Change Emergency and set ambitious targets to reduce its own carbon emissions by 60% by 2030 (from a 2008/9 baseline) and to investigate what further actions are necessary to make County Durham carbon neutral by 2050 (from a 1990 baseline). In February 2020, given the strong performance to date, the council target was raised to an 80% reduction, however a reduction of this scale is extremely challenging. In 2022 the target was expanded so that DCC would now be a net zero council by 2030, retaining an 80% actual reduction in emissions.
- 18 The County Durham Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP2) is a two-year (2022-24) action plan adopted by Cabinet in July 2022 and followed on from the original action plan 2020-2022.
- 19 CERP2 has over 150 specific actions over the two years. The remainder of this report summarises not only the progress made against these actions. Suggestions are also made as to issues and opportunities that will need to be incorporated into future plans.

Council Progress and Carbon Emissions

- 20 The council’s carbon emissions during 2022/23 are approximately 41,773 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), a reduction of 5% compared with last year’s 45,704CO₂e. This represents a drop of 61% since 2009/10.



- 21 Comparing with the previous year, we see a 10% reduction in electricity from buildings a 4% reduction in heating emissions and a 6% decrease in fleet and transportation emissions.
- 22 There some minor areas which have seen an increase in emissions, one of which includes, staff business travel, which has increased by 29% as we return from Covid restrictions, but it is still a low proportion of the overall footprint (2%) and levels are still less than half of the 2018/19 levels.
- 23 In 2022/23 we emitted in the region of 2,500 tonnes less than in the previous year. Although this is good news, it is likely that the programme will need to accelerate if we are to meet our 2030 target of a maximum of 21,158 tonnes. This means that we must aim to accelerate to about 3200t per year, in order to meet this target. Saving opportunities will need to prioritise emissions from transport and heating. It is expected that emissions should see a reduction over the next two years as completed heat pump projects are taken into account and some of our biggest buildings (County Hall) are decommissioned.

- 24 Our current top 21 sites in terms of emissions are listed below. As can be seen, work has either started or is planned in the majority of these sites:

Rank	Site	Improvements
1	County Hall	To be decommissioned
2	Louisa Centre	New gas boiler in 2021 (preventing decarbonisation funding bids) and 75kW of solar in 2022. BMS upgrade in 2023. More solar planned for 2024 through Solar Car Ports
3	Netpark - includes Plexus, Discovery & Explorer	Collection of buildings with various on site improvements including solar. Most consumption is by process operations by business tenants rather than DCC
4	Chester le Street Leisure Centre	Potential Low Carbon funding bid to assist with capital costs
5	Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre	Current decarbonisation project. Heat pumps and solar. Completion 2023
6	Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre	To be rebuilt
7	Freeman's Quay Leisure Centre	Recent solar PV on roof. May be eligible for PSDS bid in future due to age of boiler. BMS upgrade commissioned
8	Spennymoor Leisure Centre	Multiple installations of solar.
9	Peterlee Leisure Centre	Current decarbonisation project. Heat pumps and solar. Completion 2023
10	Service Direct - Meadowfield	Existing solar. Currently being upgraded with heat pumps
11	Consett leisure centre	Fairly new building, shared with Academy. New LED lighting planned. Solar Car Ports also planned
12	Comeleon House	Solar farm adjacent. Recent heat pump installation. Planning for solar farm extension
13	Morrison Busty Depot	Total depot transformation into low carbon depot
14	Teesdale Leisure Centre	Current decarbonisation project. Heat pumps and solar. Completion 2023
15	Mountsett Crematorium	Recent solar on roof
16	Gala Theatre and Offices	Significant lighting (LED) improvements done and solar installation ongoing
17	Durham Crematorium	Solar PV recently added.
18	Crook Civic Centre	Recent boiler added for summer hot water, some LEDs and solar PV
19	Chilton Depot	Solar PV installed, more planned
20	Green Lane Council Offices	Solar PV on roof with potential to expand
21	Hackworth Road Depot	Small scale wind project at planning stage

- 25 The Low Carbon Team is developing a scenario pathway to assist us in meeting the corporate Net Zero target, which will be in place for CERP3, however the targeting of our biggest users will be critical if we are to successfully meet these.
- 26 As can be seen in the table above, we have commissioned work on some of our largest sites to decarbonise heating and assist in energy costs through solar PV and energy efficiency works and the learnings from this process will be invaluable as we progress and tackle our remaining portfolio.

- 27 This challenge is still significant. There are over 700 gas and oil boilers in the non-educational estate alone, many of which will need replacing with a low carbon alternative in the next seven years if we are to reach our 2030 target. This will require all Services and managers to proactively work to identify and target opportunities as they arise.
- 28 Whilst we will be targeting funding such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), this is incredibly competitive (funds for round 3c were allocated within nine minutes of the funding portal opening in 2022), therefore we need significant financial assistance in order to meet this challenge, as per recent MTFP proposal.
- 29 The decrease in transport related emissions associated from fleet services will be related to the vehicle replacement programme, alongside depot infrastructure changes. It is hoped that following increased investment in EV vehicles emissions will reduce. In addition to eight pool cars, we currently have 29 EV's in the fleet. There are another 19 due for delivery this year and a further 17 in the pipeline following that.
- 30 Whilst County Hall was our largest carbon emitter in 2022/23, work is ongoing to close down floors 4 and 5 in County Hall which is likely to substantially reduce energy costs and emissions through 23/24. Plans are in place to close County Hall, which will significantly reduce emissions and costs for the authority.
- 31 We will be occupying new buildings with low carbon features, in the near future including the DLI, The Story, Plot C, and the Rivergreen centre, which at the time was one of the most innovative low carbon buildings in the UK. The decrease in emissions associated with the decanting from County Hall will likely still outweigh the increase in emissions from the four buildings mentioned.
- 32 The decarbonisation of our corporate estate has many opportunities. Appendix 2 contains a summarised list of Council progress against actions, but progress can be summarised:

Actions with Delays	6
On Track	19
Complete	4
On Hold	2
In Design	10

- 33 The delayed projects include the school LED lighting project, which has had issues with a new lighting framework implementing design costs; Building Rationalisation, which could significantly reduce emissions across the corporate estate; and some of the recent Leisure centre Decarbonisation projects which have been delayed (but are ongoing), due to the 'pause' of capital schemes in Autumn 2023.
- 34 Two projects are not progressing at this time due to unviability which include the Durham City Heat Network and the Jade Business Park Wind Turbine, which is now on hold due to the development of the new National Grid converter station adjacent to the proposed site of the turbine.
- 35 There has however been significant progress on a range of other projects including Street Lighting. Street lights now use about a third of the electricity they did a decade ago, which will have saved the authority approximately £7 million in 2022/23
- 36 The past two years has seen the installation of approximately £400,000 of solar PV arrays on 9 key DCC buildings in the third phase of the SPA project. Sites include Freemans' Quay, Aycliffe Secure Unit, Mounsett crematorium and Horden Family Centre.
- 37 We have implemented new Building Energy Management Systems into St Johns, Seaham, and the Louisa Centre, to help effectively manage energy systems at these sites, which is likely to give significant savings.
- 38 Whilst heat decarbonisation projects are running behind the original timescale, they are still being delivered at:

- (a) Abbey LC – Complete
- (b) Comeleon House – Complete
- (c) Low Carbon Depot - Complete
- (d) Teesdale LC
- (e) Peterlee LC
- (f) Newton Aycliffe LC
- (g) Meadowfield depot



Heat Pumps at Abbey LC

39 Furthermore, there are significant plans for further decarbonisation projects across the Council estate, which will include external funding applications. Sites currently under consideration (subject to further approval) include:

- (a) Bishop Auckland TH (PSDS Resubmission)
- (b) Spennymoor EDC (PSDS Resubmission)
- (c) Durham Pathways (PSDS)
- (d) Stanley CAP (PSDS)
- (e) Durham PACC building (PSDS)

40 Other buildings may be considered including Green Lane and Freemans Quay, given key criteria being age of boilers. This will be subject to a separate report through to Corporate Property Board and Net Zero Board

41 The recent £8.5m European Funded, Low Carbon Depot is now fully operational with its 3MW solar Farm and 2 MW battery storage, making it potentially our most significant investment in decarbonisation to date. Results from this and the other decarbonisation projects will start to come



through for the 2024/25 reporting cycle, however early results are looking extremely positive, with CO₂ and monetary savings expected. The project has received excellent recognition in the form of an ASPE nomination for the 'Best Climate Initiative' and was mentioned by the Climate Change Committee (CCC), in their 2022 'Climate Conversation' report.

42 We are at design stage for a number of significant projects, including the Solar Car Ports, which could equate to a £28m investment for 15 sites. This project is in detailed design phase and will be subject to a further report but would be predicated on an Invest to Save opportunity.

43 Staff across the Council continue to be flexible and opportunistic, ensuring that funding bids help to offset capital costs wherever possible and assist in making other projects more cost effective (e.g., Stanley CAP, CLS LC).

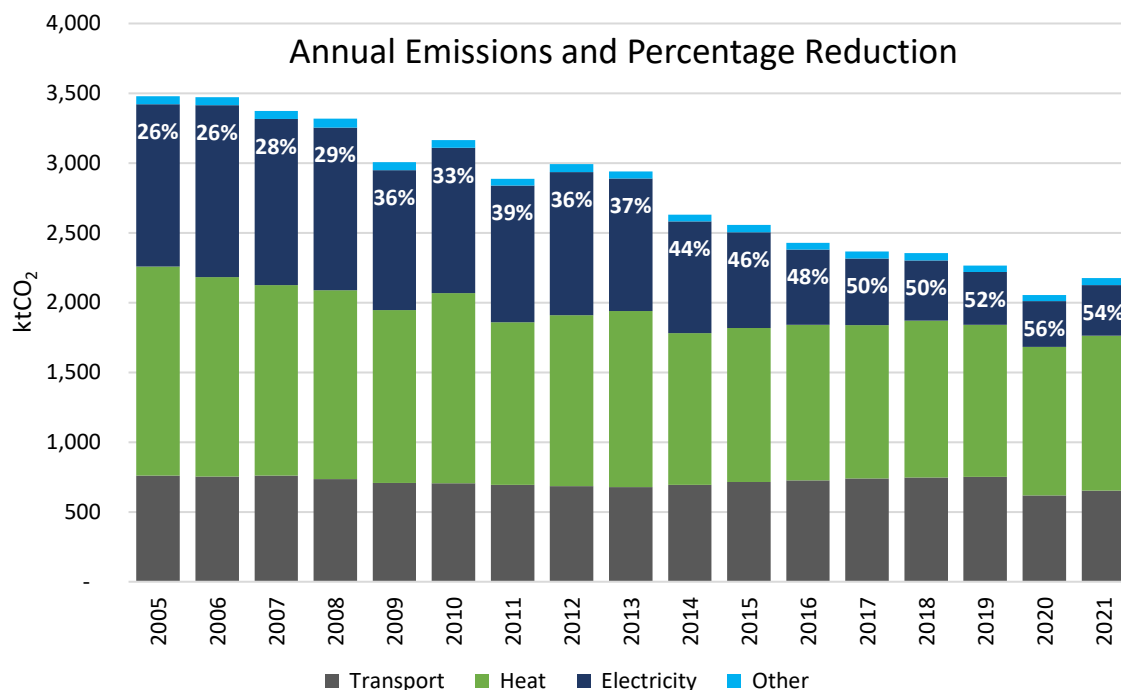
- 44 The council continues to evaluate and modify its approach to managing its estate to ensure benefits for carbon sequestration and nature. 42 hectares of amenity mown grassland has been converted to wildflower meadows since 2020 and implementation of the Woodland Improvement Grant is ensuring the appropriate management of the council's 1800-hectare woodland estate. The use of peat is being eliminated from council planting schemes and the council's garden waste PAS 100 compost will be used in trials next year to develop a peat free horticulture growing medium as part of the Enrich Earth project.



- 45 The council's E-Learning course on climate change has attained a high level of staff completions (72% overall staff completion rate. 93% of Leaders have completed the course. 97% of Managers have completed the course. 69% of Core staff have completed the course) and the Climate Champions staff network currently has 118 members.
- 46 Other actions to embed a climate emergency culture within the council are included within the Council's Environmental Management System which attained the top 'green' level accreditation with Investors in the Environment in Autumn 2022. These include actions such as ensuring that the council's major projects undergo Sustainability Assessment, and that links to tackling climate change are included in new Council strategies etc.

Countywide Progress and Emissions

- 47 The latest nationally released figures for County Durham's emissions, have a two-year delay, consequently the latest figures are for 2021. By the end of 2021 the county's emissions were 54% lower than in the baseline year of 1990, showing a continued downward trend.



48 The data shows that whilst there has been an increase between 2021 and 2020 (which is due to covid bounce back), there is still a reduction between 2019 and 2021, following the downward trend.

Emissions from gas use have gone up across the board, which could have been due to the colder than average winter in 2021, however this will have to be further investigated. Transport emissions are still lower than in 2019, which could be down to increased hybrid working across the county and UK.

49 A workshop was held with Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (open to all O&S members) on 27th March 2023. There was a follow up report in July (item 10) which included a number of comments and suggestions for future work¹.

50 CERP2 identified over 150 actions for the council and partners that would benefit countywide emissions rather than being linked solely to the council estate. Just as with the council actions, significant progress has again been made, as illustrated in the summary below, and detailed in Appendix 3.

¹ <https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=162&MIId=15220&Ver=4>

Actions with Delays	10
On Track	85
Complete	15
Significant Issues/On Hold	3
Closed	2
No Update	3

Heat

- 51 The Housing Solutions team have delivered on a range of housing improvements across the County.
- (a) 1271 properties were assisted under the LAD1 funding package from Government.
 - (b) The team liaised with landlords and tenants to encourage the take up of ECO funding to improve standards.
 - (c) The Warm Homes fund successfully delivered 100 first time renewable central heating systems for low-income households.
 - (d) The Social Project Housing Decarbonisation Fund assisted 1213 social housing properties benefitting from measures including, solar PV, external and cavity wall insulation, smart heating controls, ventilation and glazing measures and loft insulation.
- 52 Seaham Garden Village continues to have national focus, being potentially the first development of its scale in the UK to be heated by minewater. This will make the development carbon neutral for heating and ensure residents and business have low-cost affordable low carbon heat.
- 53 Unfortunately, the Durham City District Heating scheme came out as being financially unviable. We will continue to look at opportunities for heat decarbonisation in this area but are actively progressing opportunities for heat decarbonisation elsewhere including Horden where, working together with Horden Together, the East Durham Trust and the Coal Authority, funding has been obtained to develop detailed design for the scheme. Other opportunities, including a Countywide heat strategy are also being developed.

Business

- 54 The Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP2) came to an end in March 2023, assisting over 500 SMEs since its inception with targeted advice and grants. Because staff were retained the project has continued to offer audits to SMEs across the county and is currently working on the Durham Business Growth Project to further assist SME's with Energy Efficiency advice and grants.
- 55 The LCE team carried out a Green Economy study² in 2023, with some very interesting findings including:
- (a) County Durham's Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services Sector was worth £1.7 bn in 2021/22 with over 600 businesses employing over 11,000 people.
 - (b) County Durham accounts for 24% of the North East's LCEGS2023 sector, which is higher than County Durham's 22% contribution to the wider economy.
 - i. The top three sub-sectors by Sales in 2021/22 are:
 - ii. Wind – £226m
 - iii. Alternative Fuels – £210m
 - iv. Alternative Fuels Vehicle – £177m

Transport

- 56 Eight out of nine towns have now had a completed Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs). The Borrow a Bike scheme was launched on 12th August with 43 new applications and all e bikes have been loaned out for the first month. Availability includes, Shildon, Abbey LC, Stanley, Murton, Newton Aycliffe, Riverside (CLS) and Bishop Auckland.
- 57 Bus numbers continue to be a concern since covid and alongside labour and operating costs providing a comprehensive service continues to be a challenge.
- 58 Cost of EV busses at Park and Ride sites continue to be investigated but current cost is proving to be a challenge and is likely to require external funding.

Broadband

- 59 The roll out of Gigabit broadband³ has been a great success.

² <https://kmatrix.co/county-durhams-green-economy/>

³ For reference, Superfast broadband is defined as 30 Megabits per second (Mbps), whilst gigabit broadband can provide speeds of at least 1,000 Mbps.

GoFibre have checked 274,175 metres of duct to identify blockages. Delivery is progressing well, and gigabit capable (full fibre) broadband services are expected to be made available to a minimum of 712 Teesdale properties by GoFibre by the end of Q2 2023/24, and 4,093 by the Q2 2025/26.

Natural Environment

- 60 As of August 2023, 43 hectares of land has been planted with trees as part of the Durham Woodland Creation Programme. This programme includes the commitment to plant 10,000 trees per AAP area and the commitment to plant one tree for every pupil in the county (Trees for children). A further 27 hectares of land will need to be planted to complete the programme which will be extended until 2025 to enable this. Complimenting the Durham Woodland Creation Programme, the council continues to be an active partner in the North East Community Forest project, Durham Woodland Revival Project, Urban Tree Challenge Fund, National Tree Week, and the Durham Hedgerow Partnership.



- 61 Peatlands are a major carbon sink, and their international loss, represents a serious climate change concern. The North Pennines AONB Partnership restored 1228 ha of blanket bog on 8 sites in 2022/23 avoiding an estimated 24,560 tonnes of carbon from being released from degraded peat each year. The North Pennines AONB Partnership has also helped to find the Great North Bog coalition to increase the pace and scale of peatland restoration, aiming to restore all of northern England's remaining degraded upland peatland by 2040 or sooner. As part of this, the coalition have developed an innovative, private sector, commercial approach to peat restoration to help overcome the inherent challenges associated with persuading private landowners to commit to permanent land use change⁴.
- 62 The council continues to support Durham Heritage Coast, Seascapes and Newcastle University in their work to restore marine habitats off the northeast coast and research the associated blue carbon benefits.

⁴ <https://greatnorthbog.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Great-North-Bog-Financing.pdf>

Education and Engagement

- 63 Schools educational work through Eco2Smart Schools is continuing. Lets Go Zero have secured national funding to roll out a wider capital carbon programme. Awaiting more information. Continue to promote Lets Go Zero. Climate Friendly Schools pilot programmes are continuing, and the website and resources are being developed.
- 64 The development of a specific website and branding for the Climate Emergency in County Durham was developed in 2021. Website visits continues to grow and following the launch of the Climate County Durham Facebook page, it is hoped messaging will reach many more residents.

Issues for the Development of CERP 3

- 65 Considerable amount of work goes into the preparation, monitoring and reporting of the CERPs. This of course produces significant results, but there is a risk that with finite resources, there is an impact on focus for delivery. Therefore the CERP period is to be extended from two to three years, meaning that the next iteration will be 2024-27 and the one which follows (2027-30) will take to a key target year of 2030.
- 66 The region is also about to undertake significant political and organisational change through the devolution process. This is likely to be a significant conduit for low carbon funding, especially in the areas of transport and economy. Working with partners, the emerging CERP3 will seek to maximise these opportunities.

Liaison with Public Health Colleagues on Development of CERP3 Actions and Context

- 67 There has been significant discussion and continuing collaboration with a range of public health colleagues over the development of the CERP3 which is due to go to Cabinet in May. This included a joint presentation to the Public Health Wider Team on Climate Change and Health. This discussed a range of topics including Carbon footprinting, Environmental impacts on human health, Climate and Environmental Threats and Air Quality and Air Pollution. This will result in one major change to CERP through the introduction of an additional 'Key Principle':

Approach to Wellbeing

- 68 A Golden thread running through the CERP is the Approach to Wellbeing. CERP3 principles align with the 'Approach to Wellbeing Principles' which support the County Durham Vision. This includes:

- Empowering Communities – we are building awareness and actively supporting climate citizenship
- Being Asset Focused – we are protecting and restoring our natural resources
- Building Resilience – targeting support around housing, transport and jobs towards those most vulnerable
- Working Better Together – building stronger relationships with our partners to make changes across the system
- Sharing Decision Making – designing and developing services and initiatives with people
- Doing ‘With’, Not To – making our interventions empowering
- Using What Works – learning from our partners and communities

- 69 This more clearly defines the co-benefits of Health and Wellbeing with Climate Change. There has also been significant discussion with public health colleagues on the actions across a number of thematic areas, including in particular ‘Adaptation’ and Transport. The actions cannot be included yet as they are subject to Cabinet approval, but new actions to be included are in line with the ongoing public health work on climate change and health. The added actions are SMART, are from the Climate Change and Health Action Plan and will be reported through to the Place Health & Communities Partnership Board.
- 70 The CERP includes reference to a wide variety of strategies of which the Public Health team are inputting into in order to embed climate change and health actions.
- 71 We will also aim to make progress on accounting for and integrating SCOPE 3 (indirect) emissions such as those linked with our supply chain over the CERP3 period. Emissions from SCOPE 3 sources will be reported separately and will not be included within the overall target.

Conclusion

- 72 Considerable progress for council and countywide has been made on the implementation of the Climate Change Emergency Response Plan, with some of the results especially relating to buildings still to show through in full year figures.
- 73 Many of our buildings have had decarbonisation works undertaken, some benefiting from external funding such as Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme. We have gained considerable experience from this, which will be of benefit for our planning and delivery in the years ahead.

- 74 This challenge is still significant. There are over 700 gas and oil boilers in the non-educational estate alone, many of which will need replacing with a low carbon alternative in the next seven years if we are to reach our 2030 target. This will require all services and managers to proactively work to identify and target opportunities as they arise.
- 75 CERP3 will be presented to CMT in early 2024 for approval. It is proposed that this new iteration will:
- (a) Have a timescale of three years.
 - (b) Will look to establish a SCOPE 3 baseline.
 - (c) Will have slightly amended thematic areas.

Background papers

- Full Council 17 July 2019 Climate Change Emergency Update Report
 - <https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&MId=11407&Ver=4>
- Cabinet 12 February 2020 Climate Emergency Response Plan
 - <https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s119824/7%20Climate%20Change%20Action%20Plan%202020.pdf>

Other useful documents

- County Durham Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan (2015-20)
- Durham County Council Carbon Management Plan (2020-25)
- Committee on Climate Change Net Zero: The UKs contribution to stopping global warming.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Climate Change Act 2008 established a UK commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 from 1990 levels and the Paris Agreement (to which the UK is a signatory) which aims to keep the increase in global average temperature to well below 2oC above preindustrial levels; and to limit the increase to 1.5o C to prevent dangerous climate change. On 12 June Government announced plans to legislate to revise the Climate Change Act and adopt a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 which is now in law.

Finance

A wide range of projects are described in this report, many with differing funding mechanisms. Whilst we will be targeting funding such as the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), this is incredibly competitive (funds for round 3c were allocated within 9 minutes of the funding portal opening in 2022), therefore we need significant financial assistance in order to meet this challenge, as per recent MTFP proposal.

Consultation

Consultation on the CERP was undertaken in 2019 and has also been undertaken as part of the Big E Conversation. Limited consultation will be carried out as part of CERP3 and conversations have been ongoing with COG.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None identified.

Climate Change

This is a key issue addressed throughout the report.

Human Rights

None identified.

Crime and Disorder

None identified.

Staffing

Climate Change is now a key responsibility for all staff as its now included in Job Descriptions. The new role of Net Zero manager has been created. Capacity is an issue across teams, especially LCE, CCS & B&FM, who will be involved in much of the delivery on the Council buildings side, but we are confident we will have options in place to ensure projects go forward.

Accommodation

Considerable progress has been made in introducing renewable energy (solar panels) across Council buildings and depots as well as making offices more energy efficient. The accommodation strategy needs to take into account CO2 emissions when addressing long term needs.

Risk

The delivery of the CERP is the subject of a corporate risk assessment.

Procurement

There are major opportunities through procurement to influence carbon reductions and DCC Procurement teams have been leading the way in terms of implementing social value and the Durham £.

Appendix 2: Council Actions Progress Table

Priority Area	Project Description	Project Cost (Thousand £)	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO ₂ e)	Funding Secure? (Source)	Progress So Far
Electricity	Solar PV Installations Install solar panel arrays on suitable council buildings.	£1,200	43	Yes (Invest to Save)	Installations ongoing. We have a total of 38 buildings with PV installed since 2013.
Electricity	Children's Home Solar	£87	TBC	Yes (Invest to Save)	7 Children's Homes now being installed with Solar PV
Electricity	LED Lighting Replacements	£400	200	Yes (Invest to Save)	Ongoing – Further DCC buildings identified. New Framework in place, will allow progression
Electricity	Enlighten Installing LED lighting in schools.	£0	120	Yes (Invest to Save)	Low uptake for new lighting framework. Currently under review
Electricity	LED Street Lighting Continuing the replacement of old inefficient street lights with LEDs. (Two years of the next phase of the project, which should take three years in total.)	£6,000	1,100	Invest to Save	Some difficulties over supply chain. Project ongoing
Electricity	Solar Car Ports 15 car parks shortlisted to be further investigated.	£12,555	940	Pending (Invest to Save)	CCS now working with electrical and civils consultants to develop design and feasibility, SMT to be released to understand appetite for this work. This feasibility and design work will complete in October 2023 which will feed directly into the design specification.
Electricity	ECO2 Smart Schools Programme of engagement in schools as well as assistance with energy monitoring.	£80	354	Yes	Ongoing through OASES Team.
Electricity	Jade Park Wind Turbine				On Hold due to National Grid Converter Station development which impacted significantly on the viability of the turbine
Electricity	Hackworth Road Wind (phase 1)	£89			2 x 6kW Wind turbines (19m tip) to be located at Hackworth road depot. Planning statement and pre planning consultation underway.

Electricity	Joint Stocks Wind and Solar Hybrid 5kW wind turbine 2 x 20KWp solar arrays, one SE facing, one SW facing				Pre – Planning
Electricity	Tanfield Solar Farm Extension				Planning permission already received for full site. Initial phase built out in 2019. Investigations into extension
Electricity, Heat, & Transport	Zero Carbon Depot Transform the whole site at Morrison Busty Depot to be zero carbon, including all buildings and vehicles.	£8,669	700	Pending (ERDF)	Project Complete
Electricity, Heat	NetPark Phase 3				In design –Smart Grid scaled back development will incorporate significant renewable energy
Electricity & Heat	Building Rationalisation	TBC	TBC	Yes	Floors 5 & 4 of County Hall being decommissioned to avoid heating costs going into 2024/25. Team is preparing data to various groups investigating building rationalisation, including in particular data pertaining to County Hall
Electricity & Heat	Building Energy Management Systems Install BEMS in appropriate council buildings to better control heating and lighting, and reduce need to travel.	£200	20	Partial (Other Council Fund)	Louisa centre and Seaham St John's have been upgraded. Commission in for Freemans Quay
Heat	Meadowfield Heat Pump				Final preparations before work start
Electricity & Heat	Abbey Leisure Heat Pump Install a heat pump at Abbey Leisure Centre, along with renewable electricity generation including solar PV panels.	£300	45	Agreed (Salix)	Complete in 2022
Heat	Comeleon House ASHP	£306	TBC	Pending (Salix)	ASHP Complete. ASHP now heating all of offices, powered by adjacent solar farm
Heat	Teesdale Leisure Centre Decarbonisation Extension of solar PV array, upgrade of glazing throughout the centre	£786		Pending (Salix)	ASHP, Solar, LED, BMS - On site, but behind programme. Due to be complete in February 2024
Heat	Peterlee Leisure Centre Decarbonisation	£2,564			ASHP, Solar, LED, BMS - On site, but behind programme. Due to be complete in November 2024

Heat	Newton Aycliffe LC Decarbonisation	£2,005			ASHP, Solar, LED, BMS - On site, but behind programme. Due to be complete in October 2023
Heat	Durham City Heat Network				Feasibility Complete – Project not financially viable
Heat	Durham Pathways			Pending Funding Application	In detailed design – ASHP and Solar PV at day care centre
Heat	Spennymoor EDC – Decarbonisation			Pending Funding Application	In Design
Heat	Bishop Auckland Town Hall - Decarbonisation			Pending Funding Application	In Design
Heat	Durham PACC building			Pending Funding Application	In Design
Heat	Stanley CAP			Pending Funding Application	In Design
Heat	DELTA T An additive to the heating system that assists in better circulation of water/heat			Invest to Save	First building complete (Crook). Shows good results
Transport	Low Carbon Fleet Installation of necessary infrastructure to begin transition to electric fleet vehicles in the first two years. Evaluate options for refuse lorries to be fuelled by biogas.	£150	N/A	Pending (Other Council Fund)	27 charge points installed at strategic sights across the county to facilitate fleet transition
Transport	Electric Refuse Lorries Trial use of electric refuse collection vehicles and implement them where possible.	£600	36	Agreed	1 EV Refuse wagon purchased. Planned replacement for others will be considered in 2027/28
Transport	Reduce Business Miles Encourage remote meetings and working at most appropriate location by working with the Inspire programme and internal management.	£-	120	N/A	Business travel has significantly reduced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some rebound since but still down from 2019 levels
Transport	Pool Cars Transition to electric vehicles for our staff pool cars and the chair of the council's vehicle. Aiming to have 26 electric pool cars and 40 electric vans in this period.	TBC	TBC	TBC	Progress re-starting with the installation of new electric pool cars in time for staff returning to work.

Natural Environment	Nature Based Approach to Managing the Council's Estate. Continue to identify suitable sites for a less intensive, nature-based approach to management across the Council's estate. Implement change in management regime across a minimum of 8 sites and increase wildflower meadow creation.	£0	TBC	Cost met from existing budget	Ongoing, draft strategic approach document produced, this is being updated to include a section on Cllr engagement with land use change in public open space and further details around costs and risks
Natural Environment	Elimination of Peat Use within the Council for bedding and sale of compost	£0	TBC	Cost met from existing budget	Trialed 11 peat free options. These are to be reviewed at the end of the growing season. Working with suppliers and other agencies to explore options. Peat Free sales promoted via nursery but need to enhance to a wider audience. Working with Strategic Waste on the Enrich project.
Natural Environment	Managing our woodlands to improve condition and carbon sequestration	£960k	TBC	Yes – Woodland Improvement Grant	1800 hectares under appropriate management
Awareness Raising and Campaigns	SMART Campaign				Ongoing – Across Council digital platforms
Awareness Raising and Campaigns	Staff Engagement Sessions				Ongoing – 5 sessions completed with Staff since April 2022
Awareness Raising and Campaigns	Climate Champions				Ongoing engagement
Awareness Raising and Campaigns	Delivery of E-Learning Course on Climate Change	£0	Enabling action	N/A	72% overall staff completion rate. 93% of Leaders have completed the course. 97% of Managers have completed the course. 69% of Core staff have completed the course. The course is linked to as part of staff inductions. The course is also available on the Members E-Learning Learning and Development Platform.
Other	Offsetting/Insetting				Work ongoing to establish offsetting requirement for DCC
Other	SCOPE3				Ongoing work to establish emissions associated with SCOPE 3

Appendix 3: Countywide Progress Table

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Heat	Advice through the Managing Money Better Service	Support to vulnerable residents around a range of financial issues but also around energy and energy efficiency	DCC, Housing Regeneration	60,000	Indirect	Referrals to service have declined, since national legislation prevented tariff switching
Heat	LAD Scheme	2 bids have secured for £10M of retrofit investment for 1000 homes	DCC, Housing Regeneration	2,765,000	To be assessed	1271 properties assisted over course of project
Heat	Empty Homes Loans	Work with landlords to improve building quality / energy efficiency / higher standards and improve enforcement actions	DCC, Housing Regeneration	100,000	To be assessed	Mail shots carried out to landlord and tenants over 2022 to encourage take up of the ECO scheme and promote the MMB service. Empty Homes loans offered up to £15,000 to bring the property up to standard including improving the thermal efficiency.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Heat	Home energy efficiency loan scheme	Supporting householders with loans to pay for energy efficiency measures	DCC, Housing Regeneration	100,000	To be assessed	Did not progress. Funding reallocated to alternative project
Heat	ECO Funding	Support to low income and vulnerable private sector households providing grants for energy efficiency measures	DCC, Housing Regeneration		To be assessed	Ongoing - Launched ECO4 in December
Heat	Smart Meter Installations to 250 properties	FOC	Karbon Homes	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
Heat	Cavity Wall Insulation Programme	CWI programme in properties across portfolio	Karbon Homes		Unknown	Ongoing
Heat	EPC C Investment	Deliver energy efficiency improvements to ensure all stock achieves EPC C by 2030 (7590 Homes)	Karbon Homes		Average 156.22kg per property	Ongoing

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Heat	Warm Homes Fund	Supporting low carbon heating in off gas homes	DCC, Housing Regeneration	2,000,000		<p>The project successfully delivered 73 first time central heating systems for low income households. This has provided housing that now has increased comfort in the whole of the dwellings and lower energy bills.</p> <p>The project successfully delivered 100 first time renewable central heating systems for low income households. This has provided housing that now has increased comfort in the whole of the dwellings and lower energy bills.</p>
Heat	Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme	Decarbonisation Pilot – 1600 social homes with ASHP, Battery and PV with EWI	DCC, Housing Regeneration	4,600,000		Project extended to September 2023 to ensure full benefits realised. 1213 social housing properties benefitted from measures including, solar PV, External and cavity wall insulation, smart heating controls, ventilation and glazing measures and loft insulation
Heat	Durham City District Heating	Business Case Development for district heating scheme for Durham City including Freemans Reach, Passport Office.	DCC, Housing Regeneration	150,000	Unknown	Feasibility Complete. Project not financially viable. Exploring other options alongside Durham University.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Heat	Minewater Research	Undertake research to identify opportunities for mine-water and other sustainable heat (and cooling) schemes across County Durham – includes heat storage	DCC, Durham Energy Institute; NELEP; the Coal Authority	TBC	Unknown	Ongoing - DU continuing with programme as well as regional work being delivered by the NELEP and the Combined Authority, including more recently the launch of the Geothermal White Paper
Heat	Development of Local Area Energy Plans	Work with the Government to develop LAEPs	DCC, Low Carbon Team	-	0	Conversations ongoing with Combined Authority and NPG on way forward for LAEPs alongside other issues to do with Heat Strategies
Heat	Heat Network Zones	Work with regional and national partners to develop Heat Network Zones, in line with new Gov consultation.	BEIS, NELEP, DCC	tbc	tbc	No further progress. Awaiting Gov input
New Development	Seaham Garden Village	1500 homes in Seaham to be heated by minewater	Coal Authority; DCC; TOLENT; Karbon	DCC - Staff time 14000000 (external cost)	Tbc	JV partner appointed and work to start project ongoing

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
New Development	NetPark phase 3	Phase 3 of NetPark will have lower carbon design and will not be connected to the gas network. A balance will be met between reducing embodied carbon and emissions from occupancy.	DCC and Business Durham	TBC	Tbc	Project will be low carbon and will not be connected to gas network, but is not likely to have a SMART network, given costs associated
New Development	Off gas homes	All new homes in off gas areas must be heated by low carbon technologies	DCC	0	Tbc	DM officers are now picking up this requirement, not just on new dwellings but also on tourism accommodation. Usually securing a strategy to be developed and subsequently approved by condition prior to commencement. Officers are exploring opportunities to monitor performance in the planning system.
New Development	District Heating Options – Sniperley	Develop options for District heating at Sniperley	DCC / CA	10,000	Tbc	Options developed. Being considered by developers
Transport & Connectivity	SOSCI	Install 153 EVCP sockets in the rural areas of County Durham.	Cybermoor	Innovate UK funded	TBC	Complete

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	WEVA	9 EVCPs and 17 sockets installed in Stanhope area.	Durham County Council	(£67,500 funded by OZEV) External Cost: 138,484	TBC	Complete
Transport & Connectivity	REV UP	Research project which will install 2 EVCPs and research the STEP model. Stakeholder role for DCC to investigate best ways and practises for installing charge points to make bids.	DCC, Cybermoor	External cost: 100,000	TBC	Complete
Transport & Connectivity	DOCS	50 EVCP (100 sockets) to be installed	Durham County Council	500,000 (£375,000 grants OZEV, £125,000 DCC) External Cost: 375,000	TBC	38/50 EVCP installed or undergoing installation. Costs have increased, therefore investigating options

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO ₂ e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	Derwent Valley	8 EVCP (16 sockets)	Durham County Council	£120,000 (£30,000 AAP funding. £90,000 OZEV) External cost 90,000	TBC	Initial issues with sites, now overcome. Procurement awarded to MER
Transport & Connectivity	LEVI Pilot project ** New project awarded Oct 2022	250 EVCPs	Durham County Council	£4.25m		250 EV charge points, 190 fast, 60 rapid. Project work has commenced with Highways. Procurement exercise ongoing.
Transport & Connectivity	Durham City P&R extension	A new P&R site on the western approach of Durham City and an extension to Sniperley P&R. Planned adoption of Electric Bus fleet TBC.	Durham County Council	5,000,000	TBC	Sniperley extension going ahead. Investigating funding to make EV buses viable.
Transport & Connectivity	E Van – Try before you Buy	4 vans on free 2/3wk trial to SMEs. 4 Electric Vans to be purchased and will be made available for rental to SME's across County Durham	Durham County Council	100,000	1.5t CO ₂ per 10,000 miles	47 Businesses in County Durham have now used vans. Need to reinvigorate scheme.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	Rapid EV Charging	Facilitate the provision of ultra- rapid EV charging and EV filling stations where appropriate	Durham County Council	External funding	TBC	No further opportunities identified
Transport & Connectivity	Rapid EV Charging	Encourage and incentivise commercial organisations to switch to EVs – especially taxis, fleet and delivery firms	Durham County Council	TBC	TBC	Ongoing
Transport & Connectivity	Rapid EV Charging	Develop destination charge point infrastructure	Durham County Council	TBC	TBC	New Rapid charger being installed in Barnard Castle. Discussions ongoing with major tourist destination in County
Transport & Connectivity	Local Cycling and Walking Delivery Plans	Completion of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for 9 main towns (LCWIPs)	Durham County Council	280,000	TBC	8 of the 9 towns reported to Cabinet. The one remaining town (Barnard Castle) will become the first LCWIP Lite town.
Transport & Connectivity	Park that Bike	Further development of scheme to provide bike parking infrastructure	Durham County Council	65,000	TBC	Ongoing

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	LCWIPs	Construction of priority routes identified in LCWIPs and associated infrastructure	Durham County Council	2,800,000	TBC	£2.8 million has been secured to support 3 schemes beginning July 2023. This is committed funding and therefore cost are low. There are 2 further bids pending to support walking & cycling schemes.
Transport & Connectivity	Great North Cycleway	Complete construction of Great North Cycleway (NCN 725)	Durham County Council	500,000	TBC	Park Road North detailed design complete/estimate provided. Seeking funding.
Transport & Connectivity	Cycling Super Routes	Construct Cycling Super Routes linking key settlements within 5 miles of Durham City	Durham County Council	500,000	TBC	WSP Commissioned to complete an LCWIP on the 5 mile cycle super routes.
Transport & Connectivity	E – Cargo Bikes	Support the use of e-bikes and e-cargo bikes especially for last mile deliveries	Durham County Council	TBC	TBC	Freight micro -consolidation study scheme under consideration but preliminary study has been delayed for 12 months
Transport & Connectivity	Durham City Bus Station	Completion of Durham City's bus station as the County's main bus interchange	Durham County Council	10,400,000	TBC	Planned to be completed in 2023

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	Bus Priority measures	Identify and introduce bus priority measures in areas of need	Durham County Council	394	TBC	Bus Service Improvement Plan has bus priority elements. Needs clear DCC policy position.
Transport & Connectivity	Bus Network	Continue the commitment to underwrite a comprehensive bus network for the County	Durham County Council	2,500,000	TBC	Ongoing. Headwinds as bus operations adapt to the impact on revenue of subdued passenger numbers post Covid, and material inflation in operating costs plus labour market issues.
Transport & Connectivity	P&R provision	New P&R provision at Stonebridge	Durham County Council	4,500,000	TBC	Not progressing at present. Looking at alternative options
Transport & Connectivity	Park and Ride EV Busses	Bring in electric buses for the Durham City park and ride routes (cost per bus)	Durham County Council	TBC	TBC	The new park and ride bus service contractor was appointed in Oct 22. External factors like hybrid working (following Covid) and the ongoing Free After 2pm parking initiative are currently hindering P&R usage. Given the estimated costs of providing EV buses and associated infrastructure, it would likely require substantial external capital funding to ensure that the introduction of an EV bus service is financially viable

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	Countywide ULEV busses	Support a transition to ultra-low emission buses across the County	DCC, Go North East, Arriva	TBC	TBC	Funding won in regional coordinated scheme will see GNE service 21 Brandon - Durham - Newcastle convert to electric bus operation; delivery dates not yet clear. Commercial viability of solutions still a material barrier, so progress likely to remain dependent on funding.
Transport & Connectivity	Car Clubs	Explore and promote opportunities for an increase in car clubs	DCC, Co-Wheels	TBC	TBC	Ongoing
Transport & Connectivity	Borrow a Bike Scheme	Pilot scheme a success in Sildon. The scheme enables residents who do not have access to a bike the opportunity to try cycling as a means of travel. Roll out to four more towns: Murton; Stanley; Durham; Newton Aycliffe	Durham County Council	TBC	TBC	Launched on 12 August - 43 applications thus far and all e-bikes have been loaned out for the first month

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	Project Gigabit Voucher Scheme	Project Gigabit - Voucher scheme: Enables gigabit-capable connectivity to be deployed to rural communities using voucher funding.	DCC, DCMS	467,000 External cost 480,000	TBC	The voucher scheme continues to be paused to new projects in the North East whilst suppliers are appointed to DCMS gigabit contracts. Further projects are expected to be developed once the scheme is reinstated which is now likely to be in 2024, however, project volumes may be limited. This is due to the future preferred gigabit delivery route (for harder-to-reach properties outside of any future delivery plans) from government will be through the Project Gigabit contracts (where possible).
Transport & Connectivity	Project Gigabit - Hubs	Project Gigabit - Hubs: Providing gigabit-capable broadband to public sector buildings, making it more commercially viable for providers to install gigabit capable services to the surrounding community.	DCC, DCMS, DfE	External cost: 616,730	TBC	Complete

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Transport & Connectivity	Project Gigabit - Teesdale contract	Project Gigabit - Teesdale contract: 4,093 properties in Teesdale set to benefit from gigabit-capable broadband delivery.	DCC, DCMS	External cost: 6,600,000	TBC	Delivery is progressing well, and gigabit capable (full fibre) broadband services are expected to be made available to a minimum of 712 Teesdale properties by GoFibre by the end of Q2 2023/24, and 4,093 by the Q2 2025/26.
Electricity	Collaborate with transport projects	Take opportunities to add electricity generation, such as solar car ports, to support EV projects.	Project dependent	Project by project basis	Tbc	Ongoing - All P&R sites being considered as part of Solar Car Ports project
Electricity	Jade Renewables	The development of a combined wind turbine and solar farm to provide renewable power at Jade Business Park, Murton.	Durham County Council	2,100,000	277 tonnes CO2	Project intrinsically impacted upon by the National Grid Converter station development at Jade – Possible 2MW solar Farm could be developed.
Electricity	Renewable Energy opportunities	DCC is actively looking at options to utilise land for renewables across the County	Durham County Council	tbc	Tbc	DCC owned sites being investigated. Further information in Council Data above

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Electricity	Solar Car Ports	Develop an investment case to energise and diversify large public car parks with solar PV carports and Green Infrastructure	DCC with Climate Emergency Strategic Board Partners	45,000 (EUFC funded)	tbc	Further information in Council Data above
Electricity	Grid resilience (example)	New substation and delivery of improvements to the overhead and underground network in Seaham	Northern Power Grid	8,500,000 (External funded)	n/a	Ongoing
Business & Skills	Energy Efficiency in Business Durham let properties	Progress improvement of BD properties with EPC rating below E	Business Durham	tbc	Tbc	From the last update in March, the teams have been carrying out EPC surveys on the 22 properties that were either below an E and those that did not have an EPC registered/expired. Following these surveys we now only have 5 properties that still fall below an E. These properties will require improvements to increase the rating and once these have been completed we will be in a position to confirm any costs incurred.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Business & Skills	Energy Efficiency in Business Durham let properties	Assist new tenants with energy efficiency info	Business Durham	tbc	n/a	Delivered through BEEP - Ongoing
Business & Skills	Model energy efficient business/Industrial park	Commission a study to establish a model energy efficient Business Durham business/ industrial park (Stella Gill Industrial Estate)	Business Durham	£23-30k	tbc	Site suggested and are awaiting permissions and funding to progress
Business & Skills	Green Economy	Develop 'green economy' inward investment proposal	Business Durham	27,500	Tbc	Report complete – See link in main report. County Durham's Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services Sector was worth £1.7 bn in 2021/22 with over 600 businesses employing over 11,000 people.
Business & Skills	Environmental Awareness and mainstreaming key messages on Net Zero to business	Offer on-site energy efficiency management presentations to all estates	Business Durham / DCC	0	TBC	LCE Staff attending meetings

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Business & Skills	Generate BEEP referrals	Introduce BEEP with the aid of the 'Try before you buy' EV vans being offered on loan to SMEs (50 referrals per annum)	Business Durham /BEEP project	0	Tbc	Ongoing
Business & Skills	Assist new Durham businesses with energy efficiency	Introduce businesses moving into Co Durham to BEEP for assistance with identifying energy efficiencies for new premises etc (5 referrals per annum)	Business Durham to arrange/BEEP to deliver	0	tbc	BEEP continuing with Audits - currently working on developing SPF grant and loan fund opportunities
Business & Skills	SME Power	Learn from international good practice and enhance the support offer to SMEs in Durham: - Incorporate carbon footprinting into advice - develop a specific tourism/hospitality project	SME Power project partners, LCE Team	Existing resources	tbc	Tool and report being integrated with BEEP work. Initial emails to limited number of previous recipients to trial report underway, and development taking place as to how to incorporate it into new SMEs. Some initial interest from past BEEP SMEs wanting to see how their energy use has changed. Workload being managed to allow prioritisation of BEEP backlog

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Business & Skills	Compliance from Business Partners by DurhamWorks	Durham Works is asking their supply chain to comply with sustainable activities such as recycling etc	Durham Works and their Business Partners	0	Tbc	No Update
Business & Skills	Transport Guides from DurhamWorks	Guides on public transport and routes to Durham Works premises and delivery services have been produced. Walking and cycling to work is actively encouraged across the programme.	Durham Works	0	Tbc	No Update
Business & Skills	Green Economy Exhibition	To hold a Green Economy Exhibition in conjunction with the Low Carbon Economy Team during 2022.	Business Durham/LCE Team	0	tbc	Complete

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Business & Skills	LoCarbo	Develop and share good practices with international partners and use partners positive experiences to guide and influence partnership development locally.	LoCARBO project partners, LCE team.	Existing resources	tbc	Complete
Business & Skills	CERP2 communication	Business & Skills month February 23. Events and activities to be organised and delivered by Business Durham	Business Durham/ Low Carbon Economy Team to advise	tbc	Tbc	Complete- Business Durham and LCE promoted courses available for green skills
Business & Skills	Future Net Zero Events	Following on from Net Zero Showcase plan future events to meet the needs of the business community. Organise a Net Zero two – focus on business opportunities event follow up event with a number of ‘zones’ I.e. Renewable energy; Electrification	Business Durham/ Low Carbon Economy Team to advise	10,000	tbc	Complete- held in June and July 22. 200 attendees. Follow up to the Net Zero event held on June 2022. Provide plenty of time for networking but also maybe some workshop / meet the buyer opportunities for County Durham businesses.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Business & Skills	Net Zero section BD website	Establish a Net Zero zone on Business Durham website to act as a source of information and support for existing employers and as attraction tool for potential inward investors.	Business Durham/ Low Carbon Economy Team to advise	tbc	tbc	On track- LCE Team working alongside BD
Business & Skills	Assist existing Durham Businesses on energy / resource efficiency	Include a resource / energy efficiency within the UK SPF business diagnostic	RTC North/ Business Durham/ BEEP	tbc	100	BEEP now engaged on project following successful application. Working through proposal to ensure offer to business is effective
Procurement & Waste	Priority Environmental Procurements	Identify 'priority environmental procurements' (PEP's) within the Council's Procurement Pipeline	DCC	-	Tbc	Procurement pipeline continued to be issued to LCT Colleagues with now the introduction of Ecology colleagues to support the Ecological Emergency Action Plan. Pipeline also available on DCC website

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Procurement & Waste	Themes Outcomes and Measures	Embed sustainability into major procurement exercises through the Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMS) methodology	DCC	-	tbc	Completed. New County Durham Pound TOMs version implemented within procurement assessment criteria. New version has 4 specific Environmental Measures to be recorded /reported on.
Procurement & Waste	Influence procurement at a local, regional and national level	Using partnerships and projects such as the County Durham Pound Project (local), North East Procurement Organisation (regional) and the National Social Value Task and the Local Government Association (national).	DCC	-	tbc	<p>Procurement Bill confirmed to be in place October 2024. Review of final Legislation early 2024 to understand full DCC impact. Preparatory work underway to ensure compliance including previous Actions noted above.</p> <p>CD£ has now entered Phase 2 with a more private sector focus to engage and embed ethos into those companies.</p> <p>CD£ Phase 1 resulted in delivery of 305m validated social local economic value resulting in the Best Public Sector Project Social Value Award at the National SV Awards.</p>

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Procurement & Waste	Small Order review and delivery assessment	Identify opportunities to reduce small orders and consequent reduction in CO ₂ .	DCC	-	tbc	Procurement group now in place with Business Services. To launch formally with ToR in September. Key focus on reduced and consolidating ordering with engagement continuing with Lloyds Bank (P Cards) and Amazon.
Procurement & Waste	Tender Thresholds	Increasing the tender threshold from £50,000 to £189,330. The threshold is the point at which the bidding process becomes more intensive and increasing it will make it easier for local, smaller suppliers to bid for contracts.	DCC		tbc	Complete
Procurement & Waste	Waste Carbon analysis	Conduct detailed assessment of carbon emissions associated with Waste Services	DCC		tbc	A Waste Carbon Report has been produced by LCE Team and its conclusions will be reviewed by Strategic Waste with the intention of factoring it into future decisions/strategies. A follow on meeting has been tabled for September.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Procurement & Waste	Green and Food Waste collections	Respond to Government's final decision to implement these services	Strategic Waste	Unknown at present	Could increase the Council's carbon footprint but reduce Countywide emissions	Government have delayed the announcement of the consistency agenda. Unknown timescale for announcement at this stage.
Procurement & Waste	Promote and encourage home composting with carbon management guidance	Current scheme operating for residents	Strategic Waste	Within existing budgets/funding	Savings from avoiding carbon emissions from transport and processing of waste	Home composting is promoted to residents as a waste prevention initiative. www.durham.gov.uk/composting
Procurement & Waste	Garden Waste collections	Continue garden waste collections. Waste is now processed by DCC and additional savings from reuse of compost being explored	Strategic Waste	Within existing budgets/funding. Income from service	Increase in emissions counted by DCC from processing. Savings from overall scheme and potential to reuse compost	2023 garden waste season is underway. Compost is available to third party agencies.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Procurement & Waste	Waste awareness campaigns	Provide information to residents, schools, businesses and community groups to encourage better waste management practices.	Strategic Waste	Within existing budgets.	Savings from better waste management decisions, and avoidance of processing and use of raw materials	Currently working with tee to deliver a plastic awareness campaign to residents over the next 12 months. An awareness leaflet will be issued to residents over the summer. This will support kerbside recycling messages and hopefully assist in reducing contamination levels. External funding has been secured for this campaign and this will be supported via website content, videos and community engagement roadshow events. Further external funding has also been secured to expand the countywide WEEE project for the recycling of small electricals and batteries. In addition, new collection points will be installed across the county for the recycling of vapes which are problematic to the waste industry.
Procurement & Waste	Single Use Plastics	Continue to promote sign ups to the Single Use Plastics Pledge across Durham in order to encourage the reduction of, and seek alternatives to, the use of single use plastics.	Strategic Waste, procurement	Programme delivery is staff time. Individual actions to be funded from Service budgets	Savings from better use of resources and reduced disposal costs	The task group meet quarterly and continue to deliver the dedicated action plan.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Procurement & Waste	Implement and deliver Environmental Management System	Work to measure, monitor and reduce the Council's environmental impacts	DCC	Staff time	tbc	The Environmental Management System attained the top 'green' accreditation with the nationally recognised Investors in the Environment programme in Autumn 2022. The Council has been working on the recommendations from the audit and will be further audited in October 2023.
Procurement & Waste	Waste and Recycling in Council Buildings	More, better recycling and composting in council properties. Including office furniture re-homing & re-use scheme.	DCC	Staff time	Tbc	Work continues with the Facilities management team to assess individual buildings and engage in sustainable waste management practices.
Procurement & Waste	Tees Valley Waste to energy Plant with CCS	The development of this Energy Recovery Facility to process residual waste will generate electricity, export heat and use Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) to minimise carbon emissions.		TBC	TBC	Project on track against revised timeline but there are risks around gaining a grid connection to be able to export electricity to the national grid. Delays with the connection may further delay the project and have also meant that the bid for securing CCUS funding in round 1 was unsuccessful.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Food & Land	Silver Sustainable Food Places	Holistic approach to a range of key food issues across the County	Food Durham	40,000	n/a	Ongoing - Interim Coordinator in place until end of March. Main focus has been getting the bid submitted
Food & Land	Food Engagement	Contributing to funding the food coordinator role	Food Durham / DCC	n/a	n/a	The funding bid by OASES to the National Lottery Community Fund was successful, circa £180K over three years. The project has been agreed to work with 14 communities across the County as well as develop strategic relationships with key partners to develop sustainable food opportunities within the County. Jill Essam has been appointed as part time coordinator.
Food & Land	Sustainable Food Production	Developing ideas and programmes around land-use / food growing to support more sustainable local food production	Food Durham / DCC	n/a	n/a	The NESFA Good Food Economy project working with Food Newcastle, Middlesbrough Food Partnership and FADNE has been completed and shared nationally with Sustain. The Dynamic Food Procurement project funded by the Dixon Foundation stalled slightly as meetings with NEPO did not lead to a new project. Another meeting with regional partners is planned for 18th July

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Food & Land	Master Composters	Revitalise the master composters scheme and link with community growing projects	Food Durham / DCC	n/a	n/a	Master Composters ongoing - https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/1910/Composter-volunteer-scheme
Food & Land	School Food Waste	Explore the impact of school food waste, those that have collections and those that don't. through auditing and connect with the Lets Go Zero 2030 through existing school programmes	Food Durham / DCC	n/a	n/a	Some conversations have taken place regarding school food and school food waste. Will be taken forward by the Coordinator now that the project has been established
Food & Land	Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration	Consider DCC becoming a formal signatory to this declaration.	DCC/Food Durham	n/a	n/a	Discussions ongoing with public health colleagues, likely that a more all encompassing declaration/initiative more appropriate
Food & Land	Soil Health	Work with Durham University and other partners to explore soil health and carbon storage	DCC, Durham University	n/a	n/a	Durham Uni gave evidence to the Soil Health Inquiry in Westminster on 24th May. Discussions are continuing

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Food & Land	Soil Health	Eco2 Smart Schools project to work with Durham University on terrarium planning to raise awareness	Eco2 Smart Schools, Durham University	n/a	n/a	No news on the outcome of the funding bid - OASES is ready to start once agreed. Discussions and sharing with potential partners is ongoing, eg Houghall College
Natural Environment	Nature Based Solutions Awareness Raising Campaign	Raise awareness of the benefits of Nature-Based Management Solutions internally and with the public	DCC	£0	N/A	Ongoing and will form part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Due Jan 2025)
Natural Environment	Peatland Restoration	Deliver programmed peatland restoration work (2022/23 – 662ha / 2023/24 – 500ha)	North Pennines AONB Partnership	770,000	20 tonnes carbon per hectare of avoided losses from restoring bare peat. Therefore potential to avoid losses of 23,240 tonnes carbon per year	Restored 1228 ha of blanket bog on 8 sites last winter

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Natural Environment	Peatland Restoration	Work with the Environment Agency to develop new methods of integrating existing Lidar data for the AONB to identify further areas in need of restoration	North Pennines AONB Partnership	Staff time	n/a	The Env Agency have provided all the AONB lidar sets as raw data which we now hold and which we have processed and put together in a mosaic of tiles. The data is being used to inform peatland restoration specifications.
Natural Environment	Durham Woodland Creation Programme	Identify and plant a further 50 hectares of land over 2022/24 (10,000 trees per AAP including Trees for children 69,000) Total programme estimated at 70 hectares of planting	DCC	DCC – 75,000 External – 200,000	Total Programme: Best case scenario, estimated at 22,475 tCO2e by 2045	43ha of the 70ha completed as of Aug 2023. Need to identify and plant the remaining 27ha. Programme will be extended until 2025 to overcome difficulties in confirming sites.
Natural Environment	Durham Woodland Revival Project	Continue to support the project and plant a further 48ha over 2022/24.	DCC, DWR, Woodland Trust	DCC – 7,933 External – 10,000	Total Programme: Best case scenario, estimated at 29,000 tCO2e by 2045	Hedges: 70 m restored and 641 m planted. Facilitated 0.6 ha woodland creation. 32 ha of planting now delayed until winter 24/25 due to issues with land transfer.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Natural Environment	Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf)	Deliver UTCf round 3 2022/24 and plant a further 799 large specimen trees across County Durham's towns and villages	DCC, Forestry Commission, Karbon Homes & Believe	£0	TBC	Since 2020 3,000 large standard trees have been planted.
Natural Environment	Tree Week Grants	Maximise uptake of tree week grants aiming for applications and that deliver the most benefits	DCC, communities, landowners	2,500	tbc	12 grant schemes for trees, 623 trees in total (March 2023) Application window opens in November
Natural Environment	North East Community Forest (250ha over 4 years)	Aim to plant 62.5ha each year to 2025 in County Durham as part of the NE Community Forest. (Year 1 schemes recorded under Durham Woodland Creation)	DCC, Newcastle City Council, South Tyneside, Sunderland, North Tyneside, Gateshead landowners	300,000	Total Programme: Best case scenario, estimated at 65,250 tCO2e by 2045	34ha of land planted as part of the Durham Woodland Creation programme contributes towards the NE Community Forest.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Natural Environment	North Pennines A68 Corridor Project	Work with private landowners to advise on woodland creation schemes and management.	DCC, North Pennines AONB, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission	N/A	tbc	Complete – project ended in 2022
Natural Environment	Carbon Market	Continue to develop registered and validated tree planting projects to the Woodland Carbon code to offer local people and businesses the opportunity to offset their carbon through local tree planting / carbon credits. Aim for 2 projects per year. Finance to be re-invested in managing the Council's expanding woodland estate. Awareness raising of the scheme will be required	DCC, Forest Carbon	N/A could generate an income	tbc	Woodland Creation schemes not registered for carbon market to date. This is because of additionality rule: to be validated, schemes have to show that they wouldn't go ahead without the additional carbon funds. The amount of grant available to LAs has considerably increased and to date, schemes haven't demonstrated this rule. Investigating using registration and validation for accurate tCO2 calculations instead and taking to market where possible.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Natural Environment	Hedgerow Creation and Management	Continue to support hedgerow planting and management in County Durham in line with advice from Natural England to ensure a longer term accumulation of carbon. Review and amend any exiting guidance as necessary (e.g. increase height from 2 to 3 metres and widths between 3 to 4 metres)	DCC, Durham Hedgerow Partnership, Landowners	External cost: 17,000	Natural England provides a carbon stock figure of 68.2 t C ha-1 for a 2-3 metre hedge comprised of Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Hazel.	1540 m of new hedgerows planted, 506 m restored. (March 2023). Grants will be awarded in Sep 2023 for winter works.
Natural Environment	Blue Carbon	Wild Oysters Project: Work to identify suitable sites off the Durham Coast and in North East coastal waters for habitat restoration i.e. introducing shells and gravels onto the seabed.	Durham Heritage Coast / Seascapes - delivery by ZSL and Groundwork NE	External cost – 40,000	Not currently verifiable	Additional funding secured through Stronger Shores project (based at South Tyneside Council) until 2026. Oyster nursery creation at Sunderland Marina. Ongoing engagement and activity programme

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Natural Environment	Blue Carbon	Explore opportunities to restore sea grass and saltmarsh habitats	DCC	0	Most UK estimates for Saltmarsh fall between 440 - 550t CO2e/km2/year. Seagrass - rates of between 42 - 136t CO2e/km2/year	No longer applicable. See Stronger Shores for regionally relevant habitat restoration projects
Natural Environment	Blue Carbon	Grant to Newcastle University building on research of NE 22 by PhD student. Looking into blue carbon cycling from nearshore sediment habitats and carbon lifecycles of kelp forests	DCC and Newcastle University	DCC – 39,000 External – 30,000	Not currently verifiable. Potential carbon burial by UK kelp forest of 147t CO2e/km2/year	The project is ongoing this year, although there have been some delays with rough seas preventing sediment cores from being taken. We have a research student working on this project and she is scheduled to collect some sediment cores in the coming weeks (March /April) and will then conduct lead dating, CHN analysis and screen for seaweed DNA using molecular markers to investigate how much kelp-derived carbon is stored within sediments adjacent to kelp forests. The project is due for completion in 2023 although more time will enable more data collection.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Natural Environment	Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Production of a LNRS	Ecological Emergency Board (includes the Council and is a sub-group of the County Durham Environment Partnership)	tbc	tbc	LNRS due Jan 2025
Adaptation	Community Emergency Plans	Durham County Council engages with communities at risk to create community emergency plans for a number of specific areas within County Durham.	DCC	tbc	n/a	Over 45 community plans now in progress. All at varying levels of completion. 3 plans with train and exercising complete so far.

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Adaptation	South Stanley SUDS	The Community Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Innovation Accelerator is a multi-partner project, led by Durham County Council, exploring how SuDS can be used as a mechanisms to create more resilient, greener urban spaces which are shaped by their residents; we call this the <i>SuDS+</i> approach.	DCC (EA, Communities)	External – 6,000,000	n/a	Work Ongoing
Adaptation	Flood Defence Works	A programme of 31 flood alleviation schemes exists in areas across the County. All have funding allocated and will progress from 2021/22 through to 2027/28	DCC, EA, NWL, Communities	External – 29,000,000	n/a	4 schemes complete. 27 Schemes still in progress, with a total cost of circa £25m

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Adaptation	Heritage site assessment	Carry out a climate risk assessment for heritage sites in DCC ownership, and set up appropriate mitigation/management plans	DCC	-	n/a	Draft SPD Completed. Internal consultation with sustainability and Climate change undertaken and comments included.
Adaptation	Binchester Roman Fort Risk Assessment	Carry out a Climate Risk assessment for Binchester Roman Fort and any other visitor attractions run/managed by DCC to look at how to mitigate their impacts. As visitor focussed attractions, there is scope also to use them to promote the Climate Change message, by drawing comparisons between then and now (for historic type sites e.g. Binchester Fort)	DCC	-	n/a	No Update

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Adaptation	Flood Defence Works	A programme of 31 flood alleviation schemes exists in areas across the County. All have funding allocated and will progress from 2021/22 through to 2027/28	DCC, EA, NWL, Communities	-	n/a	As above
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	ECO ₂ Smart Homes	Review of pilot programme	OASES	c£20,000/ per annum	n/a	Pilot Complete - Discussions with Housing Solutions regarding potential expansion of initial pilot of ECO2 Smart Homes to link with their housing priority areas. Would require additional funding
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	Let's Go Zero 2030	Launch programme with Durham schools	DCC		n/a	Lets Go Zero have secured national funding to roll out a wider capital carbon programme. Awaiting more information. Continue to promote Lets Go Zero. Climate Friendly Schools pilot programmes are continuing and the website and resources are being developed

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	AAPs collaboration	We need to work more with AAPs to raise awareness and embed messages in the community	AAPs,		n/a	Ongoing
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	Communication and Marketing Campaign	Make the work visual with strong messaging for internal and external audiences including public and stakeholders over one year	Corporate Comms	15,000	n/a	We have a comprehensive communications and engagement programme which began in January 2020. Following an in dept review, the brand "Climate County Durham" was developed, reflecting the breadth of work carried out across the county not only by the council but by partners, community groups and the public. The aim was to create visible, easily recognisable messages that will appear wherever we are tackling climate change.
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	Two core video productions	Video is one of the best ways of engaging, empowering and inspiring people and showcasing what is happening. Over one year	Corporate comms and video contractos	9,000	n/a	Ongoing - A number of videos have been developed with more to follow over 2023/24

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	Marketing Collateral	Leaflets, banners, digital material all recyclable and sustainable over one year	Corporate Comms, Design and Print	4,000	n/a	We provide a wide variety of communications packs and informative marketing materials which are accessible both digitally and in print formats. We engage with several community groups to distribute the materials.
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	Corporate Website	Information to be restructured and made visual and content appealing to public and wider audience	Corporate Comms, LCE		n/a	Ongoing
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	County Durham Partnership website	Align information and messages ensuring right information is displayed as per partners audience	Corporate Comms, Transformation and Partnerships team, LCE		n/a	Complete
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	Community Events and case studies	Support the community groups and residents raise awareness on their efforts utilising the Climate County Durham Website	TBC		n/a	On Track

Theme	Project	Description	Lead Partner	Cost	Annual Carbon Saving (tCO2e)	Progress Update Comments
Engagement, Education & Behavioural Change	International Schools Conference	Establish annual international engagement of Durham schools on climate education	DCC	£10000, no additional cost, included in ECO2 Smart Schools funding	n/a	COP28 planning is underway recruitment has begun for this years schools both in Durham and overseas. Durham Uni colleagues investigating if we can have a specific session at COP28 in Dubai. Plus working with Institute for Global Strategies (IGES) to increase overseas recruitment.

Key Campaigns Spring/Summer 2024



Better for everyone



HWB Strategy – priority areas

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January to March 24

- **Healthy Start**
- **Vaccines**
- **Warm, well and well hydrated**
- **Think Pharmacy campaign**
- **Sexual health**



HWB Strategy – Priority Areas

January – March 24

- Mental Health – Time to Talk Day
- Tobacco
- Alcohol causes cancer
- Medication returns



NOW YOU'RE TALKING...

TO SOMEONE YOU TRUST
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?
Talking to someone might help



NHS

“I don't think I'd be here if I still smoked. Don't wait until it's too late.”

Cathy from Durham
Diagnosed with lung cancer at 49.

From the moment you stop, a better life starts.
At FreshQuit.co.uk there are many ways to help you quit smoking for good.

Put smoking behind you.
Make a fresh quit at FreshQuit.co.uk



**LIKE TOBACCO,
ALCOHOL
IS TOXIC.**



Deep down it's doing you damage.

Alcohol is linked to more than 200 medical conditions including 7 types of cancer, liver disease, heart disease and stroke.

If you need help with alcohol misuse in County Durham call 03000 266666 or visit CoDurhamDrugAlcoholRecovery.co.uk



BALANCE
Reducing alcohol harm



DRY JANUARY®

Coming Up – Spring/Summer Campaigns

Page 134

April - June 24:

- Covid – spring booster
- Fluoridation
- Tobacco – smoking survivors
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- Start for Life ‘If they could tell you’
- The Big Latch on



Health and Wellbeing Board**20 March 2024****Better Care Fund 2023 – 24
Quarter 3 Report****Report of Michael Laing, Director of Integrated Community Services, County Durham Care Partnership****Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) with a summary of the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023 – 24 Quarter 3 Template Report.

Executive summary

- 2 The BCF is the only mandatory policy to facilitate integration across health social care and housing. It requires Integrated Care Boards (ICB's) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned and endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).
- 3 The vision for the BCF over 2023 – 25 is to support people to live healthy, independent, and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care, and housing services seamlessly around the person. This vision is underpinned by the core BCF objectives:
 - Enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer.
 - Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.
- 4 The BCF Plan includes the following key metrics which are measured against planned targets:
 - Avoidable admissions
 - Discharge to normal place of residence
 - Falls
 - Permanent admissions to care homes.
 - Reablement

- 5 Positive performance is indicated in two out of five key metrics for County Durham.
- 6 The BCF 2023 -24 Quarter 3 Reporting Template was approved under delegated authority to meet the submission date of the 9th February 2024 required by NHS England.

Recommendations

- 7 The HWB are recommended to:
 - (a) note the contents of this report and the BCF Q3 2023 – 24 submission, which was submitted to NHS England on the 9th February 2024;
 - (b) agree to receive future BCF performance updates at HWB meetings for information;

Background

- 8 The BCF is the only mandatory policy to facilitate integration through a pooled budget which provides a mechanism for joint health and social care planning and commission, by bringing together ring-fenced budgets from health and funding paid directly to local government for adult care services.
- 9 The BCF allocation for County Durham in 2023 – 24 was £98.0m which includes the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF), Durham County Council's ASC Discharge Funding and North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) Discharge Funding allocation for County Durham. All of which aim to reduce pressure on the NHS, support adult care and assist the provider market.

National BCF Metrics

- 10 The BCF 2023 -24 sets out the following five key metrics for measuring performance:
 - (i) Avoidable admissions to hospital.
 - (ii) The percentage of people discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence.
 - (iii) Emergency admissions due to falls for people aged 65 years and over (100,000 population).
 - (iv) Rate of permanent admissions to care homes / 100,000 population (65 years and over).
 - (v) The percentage of people 65 years and over who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation.
- 11 Assessment of progress against the metric for the period is measured via several options 'on track to meet target', 'not on track to meet target', 'data not available to assess progress'.
- 12 Performance is included in the attached submission reporting template (Appendix 2).
- 13 Positive performance is indicated in the two out of five key metrics for County Durham.

Conclusion

- 14 It is acknowledged nationally that there are problems with accuracy and lack of data which pose challenges in demonstrating achievements. The metric that is reported to be 'least on track' to meet agreed ambitions was the 'avoidable admissions' and the 'falls' metric.
- 15 In terms of achievement across County Durham, we have expanded 'step up' and 'step down' provision, continue to develop services / pilots to improve performance and have made good progress on a system wide approach / integrated approach to include more services.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

Finances are included in the BCF submission.

Consultation

As necessary through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Equality Act 2010 require the Council to ensure that all decisions are reviewed for their particular impact upon people.

Climate Change

Consideration of the impact by climate change in decision making and reporting has been considered.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

Failure to meet BCF performance metrics could lead to increased scrutiny from NHSE.

Procurement

None.

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Better Care Fund 2023-25 Quarter 3 Quarterly Reporting Template

1. Guidance for Quarter 3

Overview

The Better Care Fund (BCF) reporting requirements are set out in the BCF Planning Requirements document for 2023-25, which supports the aims of the BCF Policy Framework and the BCF programme; jointly led and developed by the national partners Department of Health (DHSC), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), NHS England (NHSE), Local Government Association (LGA), working with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).

The key purposes of BCF reporting are:

- 1) To confirm the status of continued compliance against the requirements of the fund (BCF)
- 2) In Quarter 2 to refresh capacity and demand plans, and in Quarter 3 to confirm activity to date, where BCF funded schemes include output estimates, and at the End of Year actual income and expenditure in BCF plans
- 3) To provide information from local areas on challenges, achievements and support needs in progressing the delivery of BCF plans, including performance metrics
- 4) To enable the use of this information for national partners to inform future direction and for local areas to inform

BCF reporting is likely to be used by local areas, alongside any other information to help inform Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) on progress on integration and the BCF. It is also intended to inform BCF national partners as well as those responsible for delivering the BCF plans at a local level (including ICBS, local authorities and service providers) for the purposes noted

BCF reports submitted by local areas are required to be signed off by HWBs, including through delegated arrangements as appropriate, as the accountable governance body for the BCF locally. Aggregated reporting information will be published on

Note on entering information into this template

Throughout the template, cells which are open for input have a yellow background and those that are pre-populated have a blue background and those that are not for completion are in grey, as below:

Data needs inputting in the cell

Pre-populated cells

Not applicable - cells where data cannot be added

Note on viewing the sheets optimally

To more optimally view each of the sheets and in particular the drop down lists clearly on screen, please change the zoom level to between 90% - 100%. Most drop downs are also available to view as lists within the relevant sheet or in the guidance tab for The row heights and column widths can be adjusted to fit and view text more comfortably for the cells that require narrative

Please DO NOT directly copy/cut & paste to populate the fields when completing the template as this can cause issues during the aggregation process. If you must 'copy & paste', please use the 'Paste Special' operation and paste 'Values' only.

The details of each sheet within the template are outlined below.

Checklist (2. Cover)

1. This section helps identify the sheets that have not been completed. All fields that appear as incomplete should be complete before sending to the BCF team.
2. The checker column, which can be found on the individual sheets, updates automatically as questions are completed. It will appear 'Red' and contain the word 'No' if the information has not been completed. Once completed the checker column will change to 'Green' and contain the word 'Yes'
3. The 'sheet completed' cell will update when all 'checker' values for the sheet are green containing the word 'Yes'.
4. Once the checker column contains all cells marked 'Yes' the 'Incomplete Template' cell (below the title) will change to 'Template Con
5. Please ensure that all boxes on the checklist are green before submitting to england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net and copying in your
Better Care Manager.

2. Cover

1. The cover sheet provides essential information on the area for which the template is being completed, contacts and sign off. Once you select your HWB from the drop down list, relevant data on metric ambitions and capacity and demand from your BCF plans for 2023-24 will prepopulate in the relevant worksheets.
2. HWB sign off will be subject to your own governance arrangements which may include a delegated authority.

4. Please note that in line with fair processing of personal data we request email addresses for individuals completing the reporting template in order to communicate with and resolve any issues arising during the reporting cycle. We remove these addresses from the supplied templates when they are collated and delete them when they are no longer needed.

3. National Conditions

This section requires the HWB to confirm whether the four national conditions detailed in the Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2023-25 (link below) continue to be met through the delivery of your plan. Please confirm as at the time of <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PRN00315-better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2023-25.pdf>

This sheet sets out the four conditions and requires the HWB to confirm 'Yes' or 'No' that these continue to be met. Should 'No' be selected, please provide an explanation as to why the condition was not met for the year and how this is being addressed. Please note that where a National Condition is not being met, the HWB is expected to contact their Better Care Manager in the

In summary, the four national conditions are as below:

National condition 1: Plans to be jointly agreed

National condition 2: Implementing BCF Policy Objective 1: Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for

National condition 3: Implementing BCF Policy Objective 2: Providing the right care in the right place at the right time

National condition 4: Maintaining NHS contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital

4. Metrics

The BCF plan includes the following metrics:

- Unplanned hospitalisations for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions,
- Proportion of hospital discharges to a person's usual place of residence,
- Admissions to long term residential or nursing care for people over 65,
- Reablement outcomes (people aged over 65 still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital to reablement or rehabilitation at home), and;
- Emergency hospital admissions for people over 65 following a fall.

Plans for these metrics were agreed as part of the BCF planning process.

This section captures a confidence assessment on achieving the locally set ambitions for each of the BCF metrics.

A brief commentary is requested for each metric outlining the challenges faced in achieving the metric plans, any support needs and successes in the first six months of the financial year.

Data from the Secondary Uses Service (SUS) dataset on outcomes for the discharge to usual place of residence, falls, and avoidable admissions for the first quarter of 2023-24 has been pre populated, along with ambitions for quarters 1-4, to assist systems in understanding performance at HWB level.

The metrics worksheet seeks a best estimate of confidence on progress against the achievement of BCF metric ambitions. The options are:

- on track to meet the ambition
- not on track to meet the ambition
- data not available to assess progress

You should also include narratives for each metric on challenges and support needs, as well as achievements.

- In making the confidence assessment on progress, please utilise the available metric data along with any available proxy data.

Please note that the metrics themselves will be referenced (and reported as required) as per the standard national published datasets.

No actual performance is available for the ASCOF metrics - Residential Admissions and Reablement - so the 2022-23 outcome has been included to aid with understanding. These outcomes are not available for Hackney (due to a data breach issue) and Westmorland and Cumbria (due to a change in footprint).

5. Spend and Activity

The spend and activity worksheet will collect cumulative spend and outputs in the year to date for schemes in your BCF plan for 2023-24 where the scheme type entered required you to include the number of output/deliverables that would be delivered.

Once a Health and Wellbeing Board is selected in the cover sheet, the spend and activity sheet in the template will prepopulate data from the expenditure tab of the 23-25 BCF plans for all 2023-24 schemes that required an output estimate.

You should complete the remaining fields (highlighted yellow) with incurred expenditure and actual numbers of outputs delivered to the end of the third quarter (1 April to 31 December).

The collection only relates to scheme types that require a plan to include estimated outputs. These are shown below:

Scheme Type	Units
Assistive technologies and equipment	Number of beneficiaries
Home care and domiciliary care packages)	Hours of care (unless short-term in which case
Bed based intermediate care services	Number of placements
Home based intermediate care services	Packages
DFG related schemes supported	Number of adaptations funded/people
Residential Placements	Number of beds/placements
Workforce recruitment and retention	Whole Time Equivalents gained/retained
Carers services	Number of Beneficiaries

The sheet will pre-populate data from relevant schemes from final 2023-24 spending plans, including planned spend and outputs. You should enter the following information:

- **Actual expenditure to date in column I.** Enter the amount of spend from 1 April to 31 December on the scheme. This should be spend incurred up to the end of December, rather than actual payments made to providers.
- **Outputs delivered to date in column K.** Enter the number of outputs delivered from 1 April to 31 December. For example, for a reablement and/or rehabilitation service, the number of packages commenced. The template will pre-populate the expected outputs for the year and the standard units for that service type. For long term services (e.g. long term residential care placements) you should count the number of placements that have either commenced this year or were being funded at the start of the year.
- **Implementation issues in columns M and N.** If there have been challenges in delivering or starting a particular service (for instance staff shortages, or procurement delays) please answer yes in column M and briefly describe the issue and planned

More information can be found in the additional guidance document for tab 5, which is published alongside this template on the Better Care Exchange.

Better Care Fund 2023-25 Quarter 3 Quarterly Reporting Template

2. Cover

Version 2.0

Please Note:

- The BCF quarterly reports are categorised as 'Management Information' and data from them will be published in an aggregated form on the NHSE website. This will include any narrative section. Also a reminder that as is usually the case with public body information, all BCF information collected here is subject to Freedom of Information requests.

- At a local level it is for the HWB to decide what information it needs to publish as part of wider local government reporting and transparency requirements. Until BCF information is published, recipients of BCF reporting information (including recipients who access any information placed on the Better Care Exchange) are prohibited from making this information available on any public domain or providing this information for the purposes of journalism or research without prior consent from the HWB (where it concerns a single HWB) or the BCF national partners for the aggregated information.

- All information will be supplied to BCF partners to inform policy development.

- This template is password protected to ensure data integrity and accurate aggregation of collected information. A resubmission may be required if this is breached.

Health and Wellbeing Board:	County Durham
Completed by:	Paul Copeland
E-mail:	paul.copeland@durham.gov.uk
Contact number:	3000265190
Has this report been signed off by (or on behalf of) the HWB at the time of submission?	Yes
If no, please indicate when the report is expected to be signed off:	

Checklist	
Complete:	Yes
	Yes
	Yes
	Yes
	Yes
	Yes

Question Completion - when all questions have been answered and the validation boxes below have turned green you should send the template to england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net saving the file as 'Name HWB' for example 'County Durham HWB'. This does not apply to the ASC Discharge Fund tab.

Complete	
	Complete:
2. Cover	Yes
3. National Conditions	Yes
4. Metrics	Yes
5. Spend and activity	Yes

[<< Link to the Guidance sheet](#)

^^ Link back to top

Better Care Fund 2023-25 Quarter 3 Quarterly Reporting Template

3. National Conditions

Selected Health and Wellbeing Board:

Has the section 75 agreement for your BCF plan been finalised and signed off?	Yes	
If it has not been signed off, please provide the date the section 75 agreement is expected to be signed off		
Confirmation of National Conditions		
National Conditions	Confirmation	If the answer is "No" please provide an explanation as to why the condition was not met in the quarter:
1) Jointly agreed plan	Yes	
2) Implementing BCF Policy Objective 1: Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer	Yes	
3) Implementing BCF Policy Objective 2: Providing the right care in the right place at the right time	Yes	
4) Maintaining NHS's contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services	Yes	

Checklist Complete:
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

Better Care Fund 2023-25 Quarter 3 Quarterly Reporting Template

4. Metrics

Selected Health and Wellbeing Board:

County Durham

National data may be unavailable at the time of reporting. As such, please use data that may only be available system-wide and other local intelligence.

Challenges and Support Needs Please describe any challenges faced in meeting the planned target, and please highlight any support that may facilitate or ease the achievements of metric plans

Achievements Please describe any achievements, impact observed or lessons learnt when considering improvements being pursued for the respective metrics

Metric	Definition	For information - Your planned performance as reported in 2023-24 planning				For information - actual performance for Q1	For information - actual performance for Q2	Assessment of progress against the metric plan for the reporting period	Challenges and any Support Needs in Q3	Q3 Achievements - including where BCF funding is supporting improvements.
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4					
Avoidable admissions	Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions (NHS Outcome Framework indicator 2.3i)	211.8	207.4	216.9	225.2	123.2	179.1	Data not available to assess progress	Marginal improvement in diagnosis and counting since Q2 which is reflected in the higher figure. Plans were originally aligned to performance in 2022-23 which clearly could not take into account contemporary	A number of schemes and interventions are in place including Urgent Community Response (UCR) and Primary Care Admissions Avoidance and the additional purchase of 'step up' / IC community beds
Discharge to normal place of residence	Percentage of people who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence	92.5%	92.5%	92.5%	92.5%	91.1%	91.7%	On track to meet target	None	Slight improvement on discharge to normal place of residence. County Durham encourages a 'home first' approach wherever possible through Discharge to Assess (D2A) with support through reablement/
Falls	Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over directly age standardised rate per 100,000.				2,079.2	313.0	358.4	Data not available to assess progress	Slight improvement in diagnosis coding since Q2 which is reflected in the higher figure. Plans were originally aligned to performance in 2022-23 which clearly could not take into account contemporary diagnosis coding and	Interventions including UCR, anticipatory care, short term intervention services, falls and osteoporosis services , equipment and adaptations, Care Connect and the handyperson service all help people to live
Residential Admissions	Rate of permanent admissions to residential care per 100,000 population (65+)				678	2022-23 ASCOF outcome: 676		Not on track to meet target	County Durham's ambition for the year was to maintain the reduction in admissions seen in the years prior to the disruption caused by the COVID Pandemic. The latest performance (571.8 Apr - Dec 2023) suggests	Historically, the number of admissions to care homes has been reducing and achieved by a number of interventions and approaches through short term intervention services, maintaining care in the home
Reablement	Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services				84.0%	2022-23 ASCOF outcome: 84.1%		On track to meet target	None	86.8% (Jan-Dec). County Durham continues to perform well in this measure. The latest result is on par with our three year average and is above the most recent national and regional benchmarking data.

Checklist Complete:
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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