



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

**Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health, Durham County Council**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to outline the scope for the Ageing Well Health Needs Assessment (HNA) for County Durham detailed in the Project Initiation Document attached at Appendix 2.

**Executive summary**

- 2 This report provides an overview of the proposed scope for the Ageing Well HNA.
- 3 The HNA will focus on the population of people aged 50 plus in County Durham. It will follow people through the spectrum of older age focussing on the next generation of older people and how we can use Public Health Prevention to help people age in a healthy way, helping to address both the Living Well and Ageing Well Strategic Priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 4 The HNA will look at the wider determinants of health such as economic, social, behavioural, and environmental factors which affect people's ability to age healthily.
- 5 The aim of the HNA is to identify the health and wellbeing needs of people aged over 50 living in County Durham. The objectives are to look at the health inequalities experienced by this population group and to make recommendations that can be taken forward to inform the Ageing Well Strategy.

## **Recommendation(s)**

- 6 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
  - (a) Endorse the approach to the HNA.
  - (b) Receive an update of the HNA at a future meeting.

## Background

- 7 There are currently 224,063 people aged over 50 in County Durham. There are higher numbers of older people aged 50-64, 65-74 and 75-85 in County Durham compared to the England average. These figures have increased over recent decades and numbers of people in County Durham aged over 65 are predicted to increase by 31% by 2035. ([Child and Maternal Health - Data - PHE](#)) In addition in County Durham, 17% of over 60s are living in poverty compared to the England average of 14.2%.
- 8 As the number of older people in County Durham increases, there will be more demand on services. Promoting a healthier ageing process through a new Ageing Well Strategy (which this HNA will inform) allows us to increase the health and wellbeing of this population group and also manage the demands on services more effectively for future years. The delivery of an Ageing Well Strategy is named as a deliverable in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2025 and will enable the Health and Wellbeing Board's vision that "County Durham is a healthy place, where people live well for longer" to be realised.
- 9 There is a huge amount of work on Ageing Well being carried out across many different organisations (local government, health services and regionally), therefore partnership working will be required to ensure there is not duplication of work across different services. Partnership working across organisations, using a whole systems approach is integral to this HNA. The Steering Group includes representatives from a variety of services, not only across Durham County Council but including wider health and VCS colleagues. Linking the work of this steering group with other work taking place both locally and regionally will allow the resulting Ageing Well Strategy to be wide-reaching across the wider determinants of health.
- 10 The HNA will be structured around the eight priority themes from the World Health Organisation Age-Friendly Cities Framework. These aim to look at the determinants of ageing including economic determinants, health and social services, behavioural determinants, personal determinants, physical environment and social determinants. These eight themes are:
  - Information and Advice
  - Transport
  - Respect and Social Isolation
  - Social participation
  - Housing and neighbourhoods
  - Outdoor spaces and buildings
  - Economic activity and civil engagement
  - Health and wellbeing.

The coverage of these wider determinants within the HNA allows us to address key areas of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for example, acknowledging the contribution of ageing society during the pandemic and building upon this in the future. It also covers many other areas cited in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy such as climate change, co-delivery, the ambition for people to live long and independent lives, active travel and the strengthening of the role and impact of ill health prevention.

- 11 A health inequalities lens will be used while looking at these themes to ensure that recommendations are made that will reduce health inequalities for this population. This supports the vision of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to improve health and wellbeing and address health inequalities. The HNA will also consider the disproportionate effect that the pandemic has had on older people especially around the effect of restrictions on social isolation and loneliness.
- 12 The HNA process will engage a wide range of stakeholders from across Durham County Council and beyond including Housing, Leisure, Planning, Public Health, Health Services, Social Care and VCS Services via membership of a Steering Group. The views of members of the public will also be sought via a Reference group, Focus Groups and interviews. Working with partner organisations and the public will be a crucial part of the HNA, enabling recommendations to be supported by evidence and informed by local conversations as highlighted in the Approach to Wellbeing Principles.
- 13 The recommendations in the HNA will be taken forward as part of a new Ageing Well Strategy for County Durham which has been identified as a key deliverable for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### **Main implications**

- 14 The Ageing Well HNA will be used to inform the new Ageing Well Strategy for County Durham.

### **Conclusion**

- 15 This report has outlined the scope for the Ageing Well HNA which will focus on the wider determinants of health for the next generation of older people in County Durham. The HNA will look at these wider determinants through a health inequalities lens and the recommendations will be taken forward as part of a new Ageing Well Strategy. The HNA will help to address both the Living Well and Ageing Well Strategic Priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board and will require engagement across the system to produce a wide-reaching assessment of the needs of this population group.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

No implications

### **Finance**

No implications

### **Consultation**

The HNA process will engage stakeholders from a wide variety of services and also the views of members of the public via focus groups and interviews.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

The HNA will look at the needs of the older population of County Durham through a Health Inequalities lens therefore taking into account Equality and Diversity issues for this population group.

### **Climate Change**

The HNA will look at Housing for older people in County Durham incorporating the need for warm and energy efficient homes which contribute to the climate change agenda.

### **Human Rights**

No impact

### **Crime and Disorder**

No impact

### **Staffing**

No impact

### **Accommodation**

No impact

### **Risk**

No impact

### **Procurement**

No impact