



**Report of Gordon Elliott, Head of Partnerships and Community
Engagement, Durham County Council**

Electoral divisions affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) with the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2021-22 (Appendix 2) for agreement.

Executive summary

- 2 The annual report outlines the work carried out which has been led and supported by the HWB during 2021-22 which has impacted positively on the strategic priorities detailed in the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25](#) (JHWS). The priorities, based on evidence from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), informs partners planning, policy and commissioning decisions, which enables us to continue to work to improve health and wellbeing services to all sections of the population countywide.
- 3 The Covid-19 pandemic has adversely affected the health and wellbeing of our population and increased health inequalities. The partnership response during these challenging times was particularly strong and there are positive lessons, practices and collaborative experiences to build on, enabling the HWB to confidently address some of the future challenges we face over the forthcoming year and beyond.

Recommendations

- 4 HWB is recommended to:
 - (a) Agree the Health and Wellbeing Annual Report 2021-22.
 - (b) Note the timeline and next steps outlined in the report.

Background

- 5 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 required all upper tier local authorities to establish Health and Wellbeing Boards. The County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board was formally established as a committee of Durham County Council (DCC) in April 2013.
- 6 This is the seventh Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report, which outlines the key achievements of the Board during its ninth year of operation. The last HWB annual report was produced for 2018/19, there were no reports produced for 2019/20 or 2020/21 due to pressures of the pandemic response.
- 7 The annual report includes examples of work the HWB has undertaken, or supported, during the past 12 months which delivers against the strategic priorities detailed in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25; and includes several case studies which show how the work of the HWB and its sub-groups has impacted on people's lives. It also specifies the future challenges the HWB faces over the forthcoming year.
- 8 The HWB continues to receive progress updates on Health and Social Care Integration, the Integrated Care System and on joint health and social care planning and commissioning activity and performance through the Better Care Fund. This includes receiving updates on the County Durham Place Based Commissioning and Delivery Plan 2020-25, which sets out the health and care commissioning and delivery intentions for the lifetime of the population of County Durham from Starting Well, through Living Well, to Ageing Well.

What has happened in the past 12 months

- 9 The Covid-19 pandemic is one of the greatest public health challenges in living memory, with significant repercussions for health and wellbeing and as such has been at the forefront of the HWB agenda for the last two years.
- 10 The HWB has overseen a Local Covid-19 Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) which sets out our plan to protect our local communities by preventing and controlling transmission of Covid-19. The plan includes provision of clear prevention messages, rapid detection and management of outbreaks, working with various settings to implement appropriate infection control measures and developing and applying intelligence, including the knowledge and insight provided by our communities.
- 11 The HWB has functioned as our Member led Local Outbreak Engagement Board to support and coordinate the ongoing response to

Covid-19; utilise the Approach to Wellbeing Principles; and support local communities to understand the issues, provide a forum to ask questions and influence how recovery is planned at a local level.

- 12 The County Durham Approach to Wellbeing has been adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Board as a means of ensuring all organisations and services within the county consider wellbeing as a common currency; it includes everything that is important to people and their lives. It is designed to ensure we involve people in decisions that affect them and devolve power to people, and the act of doing so, then has an impact on people's wellbeing. This will invoke a culture where the wellbeing of the County's residents is considered in every decision that is made whether this be regarding decisions about people or places, or the systems designed to support them. It is aligned to the County Durham Vision 2035.
- 13 In June 2019 it was announced that County Durham will be part of a North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS), a collaboration of existing NHS commissioners and providers, as well as partners, working together to drive improvements in health, wealth and wellbeing.
- 14 Over the last year the HWB has been cited on these plans as they have developed and from July 2022 an Integrated Care Board (ICB) will become the statutory NHS organisation replacing the 8 CCGs in the ICS, taking on their current responsibilities to plan and deliver healthcare across 13 local authority ('place') areas. The ICB will delegate many of its functions to 'place' level. An Integrated Care Partnership of the ICB with local authorities will be responsible for developing an Integrated Care Strategy built up from the needs assessment from each of the 13 Places.
- 15 The ICB will be a key member of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the HWB will work closely with the ICB and its place-based teams as it currently does with CCGs.
- 16 The following sections give examples of initiatives which have taken place to achieve the strategic objectives in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25.

All priorities

- 17 Examples include:
 - (a) HWB members have shared feedback with the Integrated Care System Programme Board and expressed strong views that County Durham is not disadvantaged in the new system. The County Durham Care Partnership sits within the governance

structure of the Health and Wellbeing Board and its first Forum took place in November 2021.

- (b) The Health and Wellbeing Board received assurance on the commissioning intentions of the Integrated Health and Social Care Commissioning Team alongside the delivery intentions of NHS mental health, acute, community and primary care services through the County Durham Commissioning and Delivery Plan 2020-25.
- (c) The workstreams of the Mental Health Strategic Partnership (a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board) have continued to progress planned deliverables whilst also reacting to the demands placed on them by Covid-19.

As part of the Covid response, additional funding has instigated the development of several new initiatives to address the increased demands on mental health provision, including the development of a Mental Health and Wellbeing Alliance of providers; numerous campaigns to engage children, young people and adults to address key issues; and work on a community mental health framework to support adults with a Serious Mental Illness.

Priority 1: Starting Well

18 Examples include:

- (a) In September 2021 the HWB supported the launch of the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Framework for schools and education settings, to address both physical and emotional wellbeing and improve outcomes for children, young people, staff and the education setting.

The framework helps education settings to understand the importance of health and wellbeing and the close association with progression, engagement and attainment, and to make appropriate and informed choices according to their needs and evaluate impact and value for money.

- (b) Additional Covid support funding allowed local authorities and their partners to distribute food hampers to our most vulnerable families, food vouchers to care leavers, kinship carers and children during the school holidays, and help with fuel costs.

Partners have continued to promote and raise awareness of the Healthy Start Vouchers for milk, baby milk and some foods,

leading to an increase in uptake from 54 percent to 68 percent – higher than the regional and national average.

- (c) Continuing the Holiday Activities with Healthy Food project, during 2021, 381 Fun and Food projects were allocated funding for the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays engaging 32,423 children and young people, including 2,355 with additional needs.

Priority 2: Living Well

19 Examples include:

- (a) Despite significant progress in County Durham since 2005, adult smoking remains a key driver of health inequalities and therefore a priority for the HWB. The Tobacco Control Alliance sits within the governance structure of the HWB, and its strategic plan now embraces activity to address the impact of Covid on tobacco control. The alliance continues to work with FRESH on a denormalisation programme for tobacco across the region and a campaign was run between July 2021 and March 2022 to amplify the awareness of the health harms of smoking at a local level.

The Stop Smoking Service has retained a continuity of service during the pandemic, promoting quitting smoking as a way of reducing the harms caused by Covid. Referrals into the service are continuing to increase.

The Chair of the HWB also wrote to local MPs to advocate for the introduction of a “polluter tax” for tobacco manufacturing firms.

- (b) Housing is a key social determinant of health and the HWB recognises the need to work with colleagues to ensure all homes in County Durham provide a safe, inclusive and secure environment for people to live and grow within their local community.

The HWB endorsed partners’ approach to addressing rough sleepers in County Durham. During 2020/21 and in the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, partners worked to the Government’s ‘Everybody In’ initiative, to identify and verify rough sleepers and house them in either temporary or secure accommodation. This work has been built on through various initiatives to increase the accommodation and support for rough sleepers including additional staff, and funding to assist with the shortfall on housing benefit in B&B accommodation, provide food parcels, assist with deposits/rent in advance for private landlords.

- (c) In response to increasing concerns about rising levels of alcohol consumption during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Health and Wellbeing board endorsed a number of campaign materials from Balance to be adopted across County Durham and cascaded to partners to maximise impact at a local level.

Priority 3: Ageing Well

20 Examples include:

- (a) To support our residents to be able to live independently for longer, the Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed a 5-year Council New Build Programme which outlines plans for delivery of 500 affordable homes, with a large proportion dedicated for older persons accommodation including bungalows.
- (b) The Health and Wellbeing Board supports plans for an Ageing Well Health Needs Assessment (HNA) which will focus on people aged 50+, outlining how public health prevention can be used to help people age well in a healthy way. The HNA will make recommendations for this age group, which will be used to inform the Ageing Well Strategy (a key deliverable included in the JHWS 2021-25). The HNA will be structured around eight themes taken from the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Age Friendly Cities framework, including Information and Advice, Transport, Social Participation, Housing and Economic Activity. It will also consider the disproportionate impact of the Covid pandemic on older people, particularly around social isolation and loneliness

Looking Forward

- 21 In line with the statutory responsibilities of the Health and Wellbeing Board, a three-year Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) was approved in April 2018. The PNA is part of Durham Insight.
- 22 Publication of the new PNA was delayed nationally due to services responding to the Covid pandemic and the PNA is due to be agreed by the HWB in September 2022 and will be published in October 2022.
- 23 A HWB work programme has been developed for the coming year which includes strategies for Physical Activity, Falls, Oral Health and Ageing Well. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy will also be refreshed.

Future Challenges

- 24 The Covid-19 pandemic has had significant repercussions for health and wellbeing, it has affected every part of our society and is likely to lead to lasting changes to how we live, work and play. As well as the

direct health consequences of the Covid-19 virus, the subsequent restrictions have affected other areas of health and wellbeing including mental health, social isolation and changes in eating, drinking and physical activity behaviours. The wider impacts continue to unfold, with concerns around the health of the economy, employment, education, business and socio-economic inequalities.

- 25 The ongoing pandemic has impacted disproportionately on certain people across the County, particularly our older population, people with existing/underlying health conditions such as diabetes and obesity, our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) populations as well as those living and working in more disadvantaged circumstances.
- 26 At the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in March 2022 the Board discussed local and regional plans for transition to a 'Living Safely with Covid' response and how we embed this into wider health protection measures. We intend to take forward the learning, expertise, good practice, flexibility and collaborative relationships gained by all partners from the response over the last two years. The Health and Wellbeing Board will remain at the forefront of this approach.
- 27 The current Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25 sets out the following objectives across our three strategic priorities of Starting Well, Living Well and Ageing Well; chosen due to their importance given the impact they have on people's health and where we want to be in 2025:
- Improve healthy life expectancy and reduce the gap within County Durham and between County Durham and England
 - We will have a smoke free environment with over 95% of our residents not smoking and an ambition that pregnant women and mothers will not smoke
 - Decrease overall levels of unemployment and specifically close the employment gap between the general population and those living with a long term physical or mental health condition, or with a learning disability
 - Over 90% of our children aged 4-5 years, and 79% of children aged 10-11 years are of a healthy weight
 - Improved mental health and wellbeing evidenced by increased self-reported wellbeing scores and reduced suicide rates
 - Increase the number of organisations involved in Better Health at Work Award (to improve health and wellbeing interventions at work)
- 28 The cost of living crisis will have an impact on County Durham's residents, with increases to food costs, utilities and fuel. More people are living with in-work poverty which has a profound effect on their mental health and wellbeing. Further work with the County Durham

Economic Partnership will look at how we can support people into good jobs within the county to improve health inequalities.

- 29 The implementation of the Integrated Care System will continue to develop over the coming years and County Durham will ensure we contribute to this developing agenda to ensure our residents are not disadvantaged.
- 30 Given the impact of the last two years, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25 will be refreshed in 2023 to ensure it still accurately reflects the position outlined in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and can drive health and wellbeing improvements across the County linked to the County Durham Vision for 2035.
- 31 There are also wider long-term system challenges to face including ensuring people live longer in good health, reducing life expectancy variations, improving healthy life expectancy in a climate of ongoing austerity and reducing health inequalities in places where people live, work, learn and play.

Next Steps

- 32 HWB are requested to note the following key dates for the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2021-22:
 - DCC Cabinet receives HWB Annual Report 2021-22 for endorsement – **14 September 2022**
 - Partner governance arrangements receive the HWB Annual Report 2021-22 for endorsement – **September – November 2022**
 - Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Adults and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive HWB Annual Report 2021-22 for information – **October 2022**

Background papers

[County Durham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25](#)

Other useful documents

- None

Contact: Andrea Petty

Tel: 03000 267312

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (HSCA) places clear duties on local authorities and CCGs to prepare a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). The local authority must publish the JHWS. The Health and Wellbeing Board lead the development of the JSNA and JHWS.

Finance

Ongoing pressure on public services will challenge all agencies to consider how best to respond to the health, social care and wellbeing agenda.

Consultation

Consultation with partners and members of the public is undertaken during development of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equality Impact Assessment is undertaken alongside the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Climate Change - There are no climate change implications

Human Rights

No direct implications.

Crime and Disorder

[Durham Insight](#) provides information relating to crime and disorder.

Staffing

No direct implications.

Accommodation

No direct implications.

Risk

No direct implications.

Procurement

The HSCA outlines that commissioners should take regard of the JSNA and JHWS when exercising their functions in relation to the commissioning of health and social care services.