



Report of Jane Robinson, Corporate Director of Adult & Health Services

Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods & Climate Change

Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health, Durham County Council

Cllr Chris Hood, Portfolio Holder for Adult & Health Services

Cllr Elizabeth Scott, Portfolio Holder for Economy & Partnerships

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 HWB Annual Report 2022/23 (Appendix 2) for agreement.

Executive summary

- 2 During 2022/23, the HWB has supported and led a range of excellent work which has impacted positively on the strategic priorities 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 enable us to continue to improve health and wellbeing services to all sections of the population countywide.
- 3 Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic stalled some of the progress made in terms of health outcomes, our partnership strengths and positive developments put us in a strong position to face future challenges.

Recommendations

- 4 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
 - (a) Note and agree the contents of its Annual Report 2022/23 and authorise publication.
 - (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 in April 2013.
- 6 This is the eighth Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report, which outlines the key performance achievements of the Board during its tenth year of operation. No reports were 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 deliver against the strategic priorities detailed in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 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. The report draws to a close the JHWS 2021-25, which will be replaced by the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS) 2023-28, as agreed by the HWB on 10 May 2023. 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.

What has happened in the past 12 months

- 9 In May 2022, the Health and Wellbeing Board functioned as the Local Outbreak Engagement Board for the Covid-19 pandemic for the last time. Whilst Covid-19 has not gone away, our ongoing activity in relation to Covid-19 is now incorporated into our wider health protection arrangements, for which the HWB seeks regular assurance.
- 10 The pandemic and measures put in place to deal with the pandemic have increased health inequalities and we continue to focus our efforts to address these.
- 11 In July the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) replaced 8 CCGs to become the statutory NHS organisation for 13 local authority areas within the Integrated Care System, including County Durham. The ICB is now a key member of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the HWB works closely with the ICB and its place-based teams for County Durham.

- 12 Alongside the County Durham Together Partnership, the Health and Wellbeing Board has continued to champion the Approach to Wellbeing and its implementation across the County Durham Partnership. An Approach to Wellbeing Self-Assessment Framework has been developed as a tool to help partners embed the seven Wellbeing Principles in many areas of work.
- 13 In March 2023 the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed a new approach for the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS), focussing on the four areas identified in the Joint Strategic Needs and Assets Assessment (JSNAA) which have the biggest impact on local outcomes and health inequalities – tobacco, alcohol, weight, and mental health. The final JLHWS 2023-28 was agreed by the HWB in May 2023 and will inform a focussed effort across the system incorporating the wider determinants of health, to achieve the HWB Vision that '*County Durham is a healthy place where people live well, for longer*'.

Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2022/23

- 14 The performance monitoring section of the report provides an update against the six strategic objectives of the JLHWS 2021-25 and is intended to demonstrate the impact of our work on the trajectory of people's health.
- 15 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

- 16 Examples include:
 - (a) The Health and Wellbeing Board reviewed and provided feedback on the Integrated Care Partnership Strategy prior to its launch. The Health and Wellbeing Board receives regular updates on the challenges, systems, integrated processes, and priorities and continues to be involved in the work of the Integrated Care Board.
 - (b) In line with its statutory responsibilities, the Health and Wellbeing Board approved a three-year Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. A PNA considers the health needs of the population, the provision of pharmaceutical services commissioned by NHS England and improvements that can support health needs, and whether there are any potential gaps in pharmaceutical service delivery over a 3-year period.

- (c) A review of the Mental Health Strategic Partnership is being undertaken to ensure all aspects of mental health care and support work in a joined-up way under the new integrated care systems. Working groups for children and young people, suicide prevention, urgent care, dementia, and Resilient Communities have been established with a Lived Experience Advisory Group helping to underpin our mental health strategy moving forwards.

Priority 1: Starting Well

17 Examples include:

- (a) Holiday Activities with Healthy Food continues to work with children, young people, parents, and carers to deliver help and support which is accessible, acceptable and builds family and community resilience. Utilising Government funding and additional funding from Durham County Council, the programme provides fun things for children to do in the school holidays, as well as a healthy food offer, to ease pressure on parents to pay for extra food and childcare.
- (b) The development of a new County Durham Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy, aligns with our wellbeing principles in its recognition of the strengths and assets of communities and its aim to support children and young people with SEND to be as independent as possible.

Priority 2: Living Well

18 Examples include:

- (a) Smoking remains the single largest cause of preventable deaths and one of the largest causes of health inequalities in England. It is, therefore, a priority for the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Tobacco Control Alliance retains oversight of this work. Work is underway to transfer Stop Smoking Services from the community to midwifery services to provide further support to those 14.6% of women who are smoking in pregnancy, and new Stop Smoking Advisors have been recruited to provide support to smokers in hospital.

County Durham continues to commission the contract for FRESH, which continues to work on a denormalization programme for tobacco across the region.

- (b) Housing (and a positive home environment) is a key determinant to health and wellbeing. In June 2022 the Warm and Healthy Homes Project received the national 'Energy Champions of the

Year' award for working with GP surgeries to contact patients who have a cold related illness and providing help ranging from boiler servicing, repairs, replacements, home insulation measures, and support with reducing energy bills.

Housing Solutions colleagues are now involved in interagency hospital discharge meetings, facilitating work to address housing related issues, reducing delays in hospital discharge, and providing timely support when a person is roofless on discharge. A pilot project to identify people at risk of admission to hospital and provide early intervention to prevent admission took place last year and is being reviewed.

- (c) Veterans can experience a variety of physical health, mental health and social issues which affect their overall sense of wellbeing, and their needs often go unmet. Public Health teams have worked with the Armed Forces Forum to complete a thorough Health Needs Assessment which helps partners to identify the veteran population and establish their health needs across all aspects that impact on health including physical, emotional, and welfare needs as well as those relating to housing, education, employment, and criminal justice.

Priority 3: Ageing Well

19 Examples include:

- (a) A health needs assessment has been undertaken to review our approaches to promoting healthy and independent lives for those residents who are 50+ and close the gap in life expectancy between County Durham and England. Recommendations from the Ageing Well HNA included the requirement to develop an Ageing Well Strategic Group representing partners from across County Durham Council, primary and secondary care, mental health, VCS, and wider partners to oversee the implementation of targeted approaches to promote Ageing Well.
- (b) In Summer 2022 Housing Solutions acquired their first four 2-bedroom bungalows as part of a 5-year Council new build programme for the delivery of 500 affordable homes, with a further 2 following later in the year. A report highlighted that there was a clear under provision of affordable rented homes in the County as well as there being a specific lack of bungalow accommodation.

Looking Forward

- 20 With our Approach to Wellbeing in mind we have decided to reflect our communities' assets within our evidence base, progressing our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to a Joint Strategic Needs and Assets Assessment (JSNAA), these assets are factors that build health and wellbeing. This will provide partners with a better understanding of the places and communities in which people live so we can work with people to utilise these assets to improve health outcomes.
- 21 In March 2023, the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed a new direction for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which will focus on the areas identified in the JSNAA which have the biggest impact on local outcomes and health inequalities:
- (a) Making smoking history
 - (b) Enabling healthy weight for all
 - (c) Improving mental health, resilience, and wellbeing
 - (d) Reducing alcohol health harms
- 22 Alongside tackling the wider determinants of health, these are the areas which will support the realisation of the HWB Vision. Focussed effort across the system through the new Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS) is our best chance to make County Durham a healthy place where people live well for longer.
- 23 The Health and Wellbeing Board will review and comment upon the Integrated Care Board County Durham place plan which will be aligned to the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy and will go on to inform the work of the Integrated Care Partnership.

Challenges and opportunities for 2023/24

- 24 2023 marks ten years since the formation of Health and Wellbeing Boards which were introduced under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to promote integrated working among local providers of health care and social care. The same legislation also moved the responsibility and funding for public health functions from the NHS to local authorities, where they are best placed to utilise the wide range of council functions, community relationships and extensive partnerships to promote health.
- 25 The anniversary provides a welcome opportunity to reflect upon the work of the Board, celebrate achievements during that time, and

consider what we have learned and how we move forward in the current climate.

- 26 In Durham, as elsewhere, some of the progress we have made to improve health and wellbeing has stalled and inequalities widened due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and a focussed effort by the whole partnership is imperative to ensure we can bring about change for our residents.

Next Steps

- 27 HWB is asked to note the following key dates for the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2022/23:
- DCC Cabinet receives HWB Annual Report 2022/23 for endorsement – **13 September 2023**
 - Partner governance arrangements receive the HWB Annual Report 2022/23 for endorsement – **September – November 2023**
 - Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Adults and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive HWB Annual Report 2022/23 for information – **October 2023**

Background papers

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

Authors

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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 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 on the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board is undertaken on an annual basis through the Partnership Event and other engagement activities.

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

The key protected characteristic groups are considered as part of the process to identify the organisations to be invited to partnership engagement events.

Human Rights

No direct implications.

Crime and Disorder

No direct implications.

Staffing

No direct implications.

Accommodation

No direct implications.

Risk

No direct implications.

Procurement

Commissioners should take regard of the JSNA and JHWS when exercising their functions in relation to the commissioning of health and social care services.

Appendix 2: Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2022/23

The report is attached as a separate document.