

COUNCIL
28 NOVEMBER 2024

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Substance Misuse Services Update: Support Treatment and Recovery In Darlington Through Empowerment (STRIDE)

2. We welcomed a report and PowerPoint presentation updating Scrutiny Members on the current performance, provision and composition of STRIDE specialist substance misuse treatment and recovery services delivered within Darlington.
3. Details were provided of the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) 2022-2025, three years of additional ring fenced funding for treatment and recovery. The presentation outlined funding allocations for Darlington's treatment system and details were provided of performance outcomes.
4. We also welcomed a PowerPoint presentation by the Head of Service Delivery, WithYou, outlining the offer in Darlington, including partnership working and figures of recovery support, which included supporting 88 people per month on average. The presentation also detailed referrals to STRIDE for the year to date. Particular reference was made to the low referral rate from probation and Members were informed that increasing referrals from criminal justice, primary care and hospitals is a key area of focus for STRIDE. We noted the next steps for STRIDE.
5. Two service users in attendance at the meeting provided Members with their personal stories of substance misuse and recovery.
6. We did discuss training for children and young people in primary and secondary schools and Members were assured that the training package is evidence based and age appropriate, with the primary aim of building resilience.
7. Following a query, Members were informed that the Access Team or WithYou should be the first point of contact for anyone requiring support for drug and alcohol use and we were informed of the WithYou [webpage](#), which includes a range of resources and online referral into the service.

Housing Services Tenant Involvement Strategy 2024/29

8. We received a report from the Assistant Director Housing and Revenue requesting that consideration be given to the draft Housing Services Tenant Involvement Strategy 2024-2029.

9. The strategy sets out how the Council will involve and empower its tenants, including how engagement activities will be monitored and reported and how the Council will involve tenants in decisions about the services they provided.
10. The Tenants Panel have been consulted on the draft strategy in September 2024, who overall support the proposed Housing Services Tenant Involvement Strategy 2024-2029.
11. Members did query the mechanism for contribution for residents that were not on the Tenants Panel and highlighted the need to improve feedback to residents from estate inspections. The Head of Housing informed Members that a digital Tenants Panel has been established for residents unable to attend in person meetings and tenants can provide feedback via coffee mornings, events and corporate complaints and comments. We were informed that You Said We Did is being used to provide feedback to residents following estate inspections.
12. We support the onward submission of the Housing Services Tenant Involvement Strategy 2024-2029 to Cabinet.

Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2028

13. We gave consideration to the draft Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS), which has been informed by the Joint Strategic Local Needs Assessment and a series of workshops with members of the Health and Wellbeing Board and wider partners.
14. The JLHWS sets out the local priorities for improving the health and wellbeing of the population of Darlington and has adopted a life course approach with the themes of Best Start in Life – Children and Young People, Staying Healthy – Living Well and Staying Healthy – Ageing Well, with an additional theme of Healthy Places in recognition of the importance of taking action to improve the wider determinants of health.
15. Particular discussion ensued regarding the additional theme of Healthy Places and the importance of addressing wider determinants of health. The Director of Public Health recognised the importance of strengthening wider determinants of health within the strategy.
16. Members queried need for the Life Course Data Map within the strategy and were provided with details as to what this will capture.
17. We noted the contents of the draft Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, including the overarching priorities identified to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Darlington. Members agreed to forward any further suggested changes to the Director of Public Health by 8 November 2024.

Work Programme

18. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/25 and possible review topics. The work programme is a rolling programme and items can be added as necessary.
19. We considered a request for an item to be included on the work programme in relation to

mental and psychological support for residents in Darlington who are living with long term conditions and chronic illnesses. The majority of Members felt that the scope of this request was too broad, therefore this item will not be added to the work programme at this time.

Councillor Mary Layton
Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee