

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Thursday, 18 September 2025

PRESENT – Councillor Roche (Cabinet Member with Health and Housing Portfolio) (Chair), Councillor Harker (Leader of the Council), Councillor Tostevin, Councillor Holroyd, Lorraine Hughes (Director of Public Health), Martin Short (Director of Place - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board), Andrea Petty (Chief of Staff) (Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office), Deborah Robinson (St Teresa's Hospice), Tamsin Graham (Deputy Head of Academic Department, SHLS Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedic Practice) (Teesside University), Sarah Massiter (Service Manager) (Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust) and Jenny Steel (Director of Integrated Community Services) (County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Curry (Cabinet Member for Adults), Joss Harbron (Assistant Director - Adult Social Care), Barbara Beadle (Head of Service - Adults), Sukhdev Dosanjh (Head of Commissioning and Contracts) and Hannah Miller (Democratic Officer)

APOLOGIES –Councillor Mammolotti, Councillor Mrs Scott, James Stroyan (Executive Director People), Sue Jacques (Chief Executive) (County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust), Jackie Andrews (Medical Director) (Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust), Alison MacNaughton-Jones (Joint Clinical Director) (Darlington Primary Care Network) and Ptolemy Neoptolemos (Head of Department (Nursing and Midwifery)) (Teesside University)

HWBB8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

HWBB9 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26

RESOLVED – That the meetings be held at 3.00 p.m. on the following dates :-

- 4 December, 2025; and
- 19 March 2026

REASON – To ensure that Board meetings are approved for the remainder of the municipal year.

HWBB10 TO HEAR RELEVANT REPRESENTATION (FROM MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC) ON ITEMS ON THIS HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AGENDA.

No representations were made by Members or members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

HWBB11 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS BOARD HELD ON 19 JUNE 2025

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Health and Wellbeing Board held on 19 June 2025.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

REASON – They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

HWBB12 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE JOINT LOCAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

The Director of Public Health submitted a report (previously circulated) providing Members with a high level overview of progress against the agreed priorities and actions set out within the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS), which was published in December 2024, and providing detail for each of the four themes of the JLHWS alongside a summary data report (also previously circulated).

The submitted report stated that there were a number of areas where good progress had been made, with evidence of an improvement in health outcomes and that there were also examples of outcomes worsening overall and inequalities in Darlington widening; that a number of programmes were underway or in development, focussing on reducing inequalities within Darlington

It was reported that the JLHWS was a partnership strategy; that all partners had an important role to play in ensuring action against the agreed priorities; and that this was the first annual review, with two deep dive thematic reviews to be undertaken each municipal year.

The submitted report provided a performance summary overview for the JLHWS themes; Best Start in Life, Living Well, Ageing Well and Healthy Places and outlined details of the work taking place or under development.

Particular reference was made to the Health and Wellbeing Board performance dashboard and discussion ensued regarding the use of the dashboard, in particular in relation to decision making and as a planning tool.

RESOLVED – a) That the content of the Annual Review of the JLHWS, as an opportunity to understand progress made against agreed actions, and the challenges which persist for improving health and wellbeing outcomes in Darlington, be noted.

b) That opportunities in their work to support the health and wellbeing of local and residents and reduce health inequalities, be considered by all organisations.

c) That the performance dashboard, as appended to the submitted report, which has been developed as a tool to see trends and variation in key performance indicators, be received by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

REASONS – It is a statutory duty of the Health and Wellbeing Board to have a Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The report provides a mechanism to understand progress made against agreed priorities and actions.

HWBB13 FIT FOR THE FUTURE - THE 10 YEAR HEALTH PLAN FOR ENGLAND

The Director of Place – North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board gave a presentation (previously circulated) outlining the ten year health plan for England.

Members were advised that the ten year plan set out a bold, ambitious and necessary new course for the NHS, seizing the opportunities provided by new technology, medicines and innovation to deliver better care for patients.

Reference was made to feedback from consultation and how this was included in the plan; the vision of the plan and that the plan was built upon three fundamental shifts to personalise care, empower patients and ensure equitable access; reference was made to the plans for enhancing access and seamless care, with particular reference made to neighbourhood health service.

Details were provided of the digital transformation and prevention initiatives; the workforce and operating model reforms and immediate priorities for delivery.

Discussion ensued regarding prevention and partnership working; the neighbourhood pilot; and questions were raised in relation to the nursing apprenticeships and funding for staff retention which were duly answered.

RESOLVED – That the thanks of the Board be conveyed to the Director of Place – North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board for his informative update.

REASON – To convey the views of the Board.

HWBB14 DARLINGTON PHARMACY NEEDS ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION REPORT AND FINAL APPROVAL

The Director of Public Health submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the consultation of the of the Pharmacy Needs Assessment (PNA) (also previously circulated) and requesting that Members approve the final version of the PNA which had been updated as a result of comments through the consultation.

It was reported that the Board had the responsibility for the development and updating of the PNA at least every three years and that the PNA for 2025 was due to be published by 1 October 2025.

The submitted report stated that a 60 day period of consultation took place between 1 July and 30 August 2025; that key statutory stakeholders including those who use pharmacy services were consulted; and details were provided of the responses to the formal consultation, which were received and analysed by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit on behalf of the Public Health Team.

It was reported that the overall conclusion of the PNA was that there are sufficient pharmacy services in Darlington in place at this time and for the lifespan of the PNA (2025 to 2028).

Discussion ensued regarding the low response rate to the consultation and Members were assured that the process would be reviewed to ensure maximum reach in the future; and following a question regarding the home delivery of medication, the Director of Public Health informed Members that this was not covered in the PNA as this was a non-commissioned service which was not reimbursed by the NHS.

RESOLVED – (a) That the consultation report be noted.

(b) That the updated Pharmacy Needs Assessment, as appended to the submitted report, be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board for publication.

REASONS – (a) It is a statutory duty that the Council publishes the PNA by 1 October 2025.

(b) The Health and Wellbeing Board delegated authority to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Director of Public Health to manage and approve the PNA process at the March 2025 meeting.

(c) A 60 day consultation took place between 1 July and 30 August 2025.

(d) Consideration was given to all feedback received. Amendments to the PNA following the consultation were minor and included adding further detail about notice periods for supplementary hours and adding references to the new 10 Year Health Plan for England.

HWBB15 DARLINGTON BETTER CARE FUND 2024/25 END OF YEAR PROGRAMME REPORT

The Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the Annual Report of the Darlington Better Care Fund for 2024/25 Programme.

The submitted report stated that the Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework sets out the Government's priorities for 2023-25; and that the use of BCF mandatory funding streams must be jointly agreed by integrated care boards (ICBs) and local authorities to reflect local health and care priorities, with plans signed off by health and wellbeing boards (HWBs).

Reference was made to the vision for the BCF and the two core objectives which underpinned the vision; the Darlington 2024/25 BCF Programme summary including performance against the required metrics and conditions of funding along with regional assurance feedback of the BCF 2024/25 Plan from the BCF National Team and a summary of the schemes within the Darlington BCF Plan.

Members noted that a joint review of all funded schemes had begun in July 2025, to ensure that all schemes continued to deliver against the key priorities of the programme and provided value for money.

Members requested that future reports to the Board include further information relating to the progress and outcomes of the schemes.

RESOLVED – (a) That the approval of the Plan and regional assurance feedback be noted by Members of the Board.

(b) That the programme review underway during July – September 2025, be noted.

REASONS – (a) The 2024/25 Plan was endorsed by the Pooled Budget Partnership as part of the agreed governance arrangements.

(b) Following completion of the review a report of the findings and next steps would be made available.

HWBB16 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD FORWARD PLAN

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the forward plan items scheduled to be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED – That the current forward plan be noted.

REASON – To support the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

HWBB17 QUESTIONS.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the Chief Executive Officer, Healthwatch Darlington and Vice Chair for the Board for her contributions to the Board. It was suggested that consideration be given to the appointment of a new vice chair as part of a membership review.

RESOLVED – That the thanks of the Board be extended to the Chief Executive Officer, Healthwatch Darlington.

REASON – To convey the views of the Board.