

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Thursday, 19 March 2026

PRESENT – Councillor Roche (Cabinet Member with Health and Housing Portfolio) (Chair), Councillor Harker (Leader of the Council), Councillor Mammolotti, Lorraine Hughes (Director of Public Health), Martin Short (Director of Place - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board) and Andrea Petty (Chief of Staff) (Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Curry (Cabinet Member for Adults), Councillor Holroyd, Amanda Hugill (Safeguarding Boards Business Manager), Victoria Cooling (County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust) and Hannah Miller (Democratic Officer)

APOLOGIES –Councillor Mrs Scott, Councillor Tostevin, Steve Russell (Chief Executive) (County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust) and Alison MacNaughton-Jones (Joint Clinical Director) (Darlington Primary Care Network)

HWBB26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

HWBB27 TO HEAR RELEVANT REPRESENTATION (FROM MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC) ON ITEMS ON THIS HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD AGENDA.

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

HWBB28 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS BOARD HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2025

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Health and Well Being Board held on 4 December 2025.

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

REASON – They represent an accurate record of the meeting.

HWBB29 NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTH PLAN

The Director of Place, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board provided a verbal update on the Neighbourhood Health Plan.

It was reported that the Neighbourhood health framework was published on 17 March 2026, setting out the government's plan to establish and deliver neighbourhood health; that there were three key areas, namely improving services for people who need routine care, improving prevention and proactive care for people and deliver better alternatives to hospital care.

Members were informed that the Integrated Care Board would work with the Health and Wellbeing Board and partners to determine and agree the neighbourhood footprint for delivering services in Darlington, either as a single neighbourhood provider or multi-neighbourhood provider. Reference was also made to the immediate actions to be implemented in the 2026/27 financial year and longer-term reform from 2027 to 2029.

Discussion ensued regarding the neighbourhood footprint; it was highlighted that due to its size, Darlington does not currently align with a single neighbourhood provider or multi-neighbourhood provider model, however there is an opportunity to develop a single approach with local nuance, to ensure there is a focus on the most disadvantaged communities to help reduce inequalities.

Following a question, Members were advised that the Better Care Fund (BCF) would change form; there is a requirement to identify and confirm how the BCF would be used; and that as the fund has been fully committed, this would need to be reshaped to deliver neighbourhood health.

Discussion ensued regarding governance arrangements at a local level. It was highlighted that there is still a requirement for governance at a place level, however there would no longer be a sub-committee, and budgets would be delegated to place partners.

Concern was raised regarding potential loss of funding for services in Darlington, however Members were informed that there was limited Darlington specific funding with most being held in a shared Tees Valley/County Durham pot; and should any funding risks be identified these would be closely managed to ensure acute services are not impacted.

It was suggested that the Neighbourhood health framework and a briefing note be circulated to Members of the Board, and a Board development session was proposed to help develop the plan for Darlington.

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

REASON – To convey the views of the Board.

HWBB30 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026 - GROWING HEALTHY

The Director of Public Health submitted a report (previously circulated) presenting the Annual Public Health Report, an independent report on the health and wellbeing of Darlington.

The submitted report stated that this year's report focused on the health of children and young people, describing the current position of some key public health outcomes and the range of services and interventions in place locally to support the health and wellbeing of children and young people across key areas of focus.

It was reported that during the development of the report the Director of Public Health

visited three primary schools and one secondary school, to talk to some children and young people; and Members were informed that the format of the report will be web based with short videos for each section.

Reference was made to the recommendations outlined in the report, in response to identified local need and policy priorities; and details of the progress made to date on the recommendations of the 2024/25 Annual Public Health Report were outlined.

Particular reference was made to the partnership working with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, in particular to address smoking in pregnancy and hospital admission for unintentional and intentional injuries.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations of the Annual Director of Public Health report be accepted.

REASON – (a) The Health and Social Care Act 2012 sets out a requirement for all Directors of Public Health to produce an annual independent report on the health of their local population and for their local authority to publish it.

(b) The annual report has used available epidemiological data, local case studies and information from services to highlight areas of progress, issues of concern and make recommendations for action.

HWBB31 DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT - 2024/2025

The Executive Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) presenting the Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) for the period 2024/25 (also previously circulated).

It was reported that Local Safeguarding Partnerships are required to produce an Annual Report to account for the Partnerships achievements over the previous year and make an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area; and that the report summarises and reflects on the work of the Partnership over the 2024/25 period.

The Annual Report provided details of the statutory requirements of the partnership; reference was made to the significant changes to the partnership's leadership and governance arrangements in line with revised statutory guidance; and provided an overview of the local area. Members noted the vision for the DSP is for Darlington to be a place where children and adults can live their lives safely.

Details were also provided of the progress against statutory guidance, this included sub group activity and key achievements and achievements against the five partnership priorities. Members noted the learning from rapid reviews, local child safeguarding practice reviews, safeguarding adult reviews and learning lesson reviews undertaken.

Clarification was sought regarding safeguarding children at risk of coercion in cases of domestic abuse.

RESOLVED – (a) That the DSP Annual Report for 2024/25 which has been published on DSP website, be noted by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

(b) That the thanks of the Board be extended to the Safeguarding Partnership Business Manager for her service.

REASON – (a) Health and Wellbeing Board have an understanding of the Partnerships work to date.

(b) To have assurance that the Safeguarding Partnership is effectively coordinating multi agency safeguarding practice in Darlington and promoting the welfare of children and adults with needs for care and support.

(c) To convey the views of the Board.

HWBB32 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to amendments to the Terms of Reference and membership for the Health and Wellbeing Board (also previously circulated).

The submitted report stated that the Terms of Reference were last considered and approved by the Board at its meeting held on 14 December 2023: it had been agreed to review them on a regular basis; and that a number of minor amendments had been proposed.

Further changes were proposed, namely the inclusion of two representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector and to change the representation from the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board on the Board from three members to one.

RESOLVED – (a) That the terms of reference (as appended to the submitted report) be approved, with the inclusion of the additional proposed changes, and the amendments be noted.

(b) That the Board representative of the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board be appointed as Vice Chair of the Board.

(c) That the revised Terms of Reference be included within this Council's Constitution.

REASON – (a) To enable the Terms of Reference to be updated with a number of changes.

(b) To enable the Board to consider any further amendments to the Terms of Reference, as necessary

HWBB33 CHILD DEATH REVIEW PROCESS FOR COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

The Executive Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) presenting the

County Durham and Darlington Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report for the period 2024/25(also previously circulated) and to provide a summary of the report.

It was reported that the County Durham and Darlington Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Annual Report summarises the panels activity over the last year which aims to review all deaths of children normally resident in the County Durham and Darlington in order to learn lessons and share any findings for the prevention of future deaths; and that the CDOP seeks to take action on modifiable risk factors with examples highlighted within the report.

It was reported that the child death review process covers children under 18 years of age and that a child death review must be carried out for all children regardless of the cause of death. The report provided an overview of the key achievements for 2024/25, the deaths that had been reviewed and finalised at CDOP and cases reviewed and closed in 2024/25. The report also outlined the modifiable factors identified in the cases and recommendations and learning from CDOP 2024/25.

Discussion ensued regarding the child death review process and the criteria for a Joint Agency Response.

RESOLVED – That the CDOP Annual Report for 2024/25 which has now been published, be noted by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

REASON – HWBB have an understanding of the County Durham and Darlington Child Death Review Process and the learning identified from child deaths.

HWBB34 GAMBLING-RELATED HARMS HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Director of Public Health informed Members that the Gambling-Related Harms Health Needs Assessment 2025 (previously circulated) was included for information.

Members were informed of the links between gambling and mental health and increased risk of suicide; and reference was made to the recommendations in the health needs assessment.

Members noted that Durham Constabulary became the first UK police force to sign the Gambling Charter, and this included consideration of harmful gambling habits when assessing new detainees that come into custody.

RESOLVED – That the Gambling-Related Harms Health Needs Assessment 2025 be noted.

REASON – To inform the Board.

HWBB35 PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT - ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO REPORT SINCE THE LAST REVIEW

The Chair informed Members that 'Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment' is a standing agenda item for the Board to ensure Board Members were informed of any significant changes to report since the last review.

The Director of Public Health confirmed that there were currently no significant changes to report at present.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

REASON – To provide Board with an update on the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

HWBB36 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.

Discussion ensued on the forward plan. Members noted that Ageing Well would be deferred to a later date and that a deep dive would be brought forward to the next meeting along with an update on the Neighbourhood Health Plan.

RESOLVED – That the forward plan be updated to reflect discussion.

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