

ADULT SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

6 November 2025

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Gary Allen (In the Chair)

Councillors: Fiona Cook, Ed Doyle, Ged Hall and Aaron Roy

Also present: Councillor Amanda Napper

Officers: Jill Harrison, Executive Director of Adult and Community Based Services
John Lovatt, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care
Chris Woodcock, Interim Director of Public Health
Claire Robinson, Public Health Principal
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Moss Boddy and Sue Little.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2025

Received.

4. Presentation – Remit of Adult Services and Public Health Committee *(Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To set out the role and remit of the Adult Services and Public Health Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health provided a presentation that outlined the role and remit of the Committee given the recent changes resulting from the Senior Management Restructure. It was noted that there was no change in relation to the responsibilities relating to Adult Social Care. However, the previous responsibilities of Community Based Services had now been transferred to the Housing, Growth and Communities Committee.

The Committee had gained the responsibility of public health, the main aim of which was to support people to start well, live well and age well along with the wider determinants of health. Public Health also had statutory functions including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, health protection and addressing health inequalities. Members were introduced to the Interim Director of Public Health who would be in post for six months from 24 November 2025, due to the previous postholder obtaining employment with another local authority.

Decision

The presentation was noted.

5. Presentation – Public Health Priorities *(Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To outline the public health priorities for

Issue(s) for consideration

The Public Health Principal provided the Committee with a detailed presentation that outlined the public health priorities for Hartlepool. These included:

- Sexual Health Services
- Drug and Alcohol Service
- Tobacco Control
- NHS Health Checks
- Immunisations/Screening
- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

- Better Health at Work Award (BHAWA)
- Obesity
- Health Protection

In response to a request for clarification, the Public Health Principal confirmed that the ongoing work around tobacco control included the use of vapes. It was noted that a more detailed report on that issue would be submitted to a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Chair noted that the remit of the recently formed Adult Services and Public Health Committee would bring together key issues in relation to early help and intervention to support better outcomes for the residents of Hartlepool.

Decision

The presentation was noted.

6. Adoption of Food Active Health Weight Declaration (Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health)

Type of decision

Key Decision – CE100/25

Purpose of report

Approval was sought for Hartlepool Borough Council to adopt the Healthy Weight Declaration and for directorates to work in partnership to achieve this.

Issue(s) for consideration

The adoption of the Healthy Weight Declarations will support ongoing work to foster interdepartmental co-operation and partnership with the Local Authority Declarations consisting of the following three aims:

- Strategic Leadership: creating an opportunity for senior officers and politicians to affirm their commitment to an issue.
- Local Awareness: shining a light on the importance of key activities internally and externally.
- Driving Activity: a tool for staff to use to create opportunities for local working.

The Health Weight Declaration includes 16 standard commitments with support targeted at the following 5 key areas:

- Strategic/system leadership
- Commercial determinants

- Health promoting infrastructure/environments
- Organisational change/cultural shift
- Monitoring and evaluation

The adoption of the Health Weight Declaration can help focus on key areas of action to help reduce unhealthy weight in local population, protect the health and wellbeing of communities and citizens and to make an economic impact on health, social care and the local economy. Some of the key issues included within the action plan are around education such as cooking skills, access to fresh fruit and vegetables and looking at how food poverty affects families. A school survey had been commissioned to gauge children's opinions about various things including healthy eating, exercise and feedback from this will help inform the Plan.

A Member sought clarification on whether there was an option of looking at medical testing as part of early intervention to assist with any diagnosis of issues such as over/under active thyroid problems. The Public Health Principal confirmed that as part of the early intervention programme, all children reception and year six took part in the National Child Measurement Programme which provided an indication of childhood obesity. The outcome of this programme then formed part of the work of a multi-agency approach including school nurses to support families with any potential medical issues being referred to the family's GP. Work was ongoing with schools including kitchen staff, teachers and the pupils at that school.

A discussion ensued on the prevalence of take-away food outlets across Hartlepool and the potential of limiting the number of these outlets around schools was being considered in conjunction with the Regulatory Services teams.

The Public Health Principal confirmed that a school survey was currently being piloted at High Tunstall College of Science with a view to rolling it out across all schools in time.

In response to a question from a Member, the Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health confirmed that the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board had not changed. The Health and Wellbeing Board is a strategic partnership which will continue to bring together a wide range of partners involved in the wider health and wellbeing agenda. However, decision making and priority setting in relation to public health would be within the remit of this Committee.

Decision

- (i) That the Health Weight Declaration be adopted.
- (ii) That collaborative working continue to achieve this.

5. Hartlepool Inclusive Recovery City *(Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – CE101/25

Purpose of report

Approval was sought for Hartlepool Borough Council to sign up to the recovery cities pledge to become an Inclusive Recovery City.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report proposed that Hartlepool Borough Council sign up to the recovery cities pledge which would mean that Hartlepool received 'recovery city' status. Work was already ongoing to make the north east a 'recovery region' with both Middlesbrough and Newcastle already having achieved 'recovery city' status.

The steps to become a Recovery City were as follows:

1. Signing the inclusive Recovery Cities Charter: This involves a commitment to uphold the principles of inclusion, recovery and reintegration.
2. Hosting Public Recovery Events: Organise at least four annual events that are inclusive, enjoyable, celebrate recovery and contribute to civic life.
3. Establishing an inclusive Recovery Cities Board: This board should include grassroots recovery and community organisations, specialist addiction treatment services and representatives from the city or borough.
4. Participating in the inclusive recovery cities movement: engage in exchanging ideas and innovations at both national and international level.

It was proposed that a 'launch event' be held to mark the signing of the recovery cities pledge, which could be partnered with the opening of the new drug and alcohol treatment centre. The Public Health Principal added that a number of events for recovery month had already been organised and work was ongoing with the local football club, cricket club and local museums to look at ways of opening up opportunities for people.

The Chair commended all the work and initiatives already undertaken as part of Recovery Month.

Decision

The sign up to the recovery city pledge to become an Inclusive Recovery City was approved.

6. Director of Public Health Annual Report *(Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health)*

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

To approve the 2025 Director of Public Health (DPH) Annual Report.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Public Health Principal presented the report which highlighted that the 2025 report focussed on the challenges faced from smoking which was still a significant cause of ill health in local communities. Around 1 in 7 adults still smoke in Hartlepool today with too many dying from preventable smoking related diseases. The report outlined the work that had already been undertaken to address this issue and how partnership working with a range of stakeholders continued to reduce smoking in Hartlepool.

The report was attached at Appendix 1 and included a range of videos, data and intelligence to support the ongoing work. The report will also be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in December and published following approval by Full Council. The three priorities for the Plan were:

- Reducing exposure to tobacco smoke
- Supporting smokers to stop
- Raise the price and reduce illicit trade

The implementation of the Plan was being undertaken with a multi-agency approach including support from FRESH, the Children's Services Department, Trading Standards, the local community hubs and health colleagues across North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust.

In response to a question from a member of the public, it was noted that as well as being available online, there were paper copies available of the Annual Report within the community hubs.

The Chair welcomed the report and focus on younger people and discouraging the use of vapes. The Public Health Principal confirmed that people using vapes to support stopping smoking were supported in the same way as people using nicotine replacement therapy.

Decision

The Director of Public Health Annual report was approved.

8. Presentation – Adult Social Care Continuous Improvement Update *(Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide an update on the Adult Social Care Continuous Improvement Plan.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Executive Director for Adult Services and Public Health provided an update on the Continuous Improvement Plan by way of a presentation. The following key points were expanded upon within the presentation:

- Improved accessibility of information and advice that supported people to support themselves;
- Streamlined processes to ensure that services remain person-centred and strengths based;
- Improved equity of outcomes;
- Increased opportunities for co-production and engagement;
- Increased opportunities to engage and involve the workforce;
- Continued commitment to workforce development.

The Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health informed the Committee that the following two members of the social care team had been recognised in the National Social Worker of the Year Awards 2025:

Charlotte Roberts, Assistant Team Manager shortlisted for Practice Educator of the Year; and
John Lovatt, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care won silver Lifetime Achievement Award.

In addition, the Handyperson Service had been shortlisted at the National Healthy Housing Awards.

On behalf of the Committee the Chair congratulated Charlotte and John for their outstanding achievement and was pleased to note that the Handyperson Service had been recognised and shortlisted by the National Health Housing Awards.

The Executive Director for Adult Services and Public Health was pleased to confirm that Adult Social Care had a very good staff retention rate and had no issues in relation to recruitment when needed. There had been a number of staff from the Adult Social Care team recognised recently at the Long Service Awards for between 20 and 40 years service. The Chair added that the annual Healthcheck which was based on feedback from the Adult Social Care workforce was very positive, reflecting that staff felt supported and valued. This is reflected in the low turnover of staff.

In response to a query from a member of the public, the Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health confirmed that there were Digital Navigators in the community hubs to support people accessing online and digital services.

Decision

The presentation was noted.

The meeting concluded at 11.10 am

H MARTIN

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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