

North Tyneside Health & Wellbeing Board Report Date: 9 March 2023

Title: Equally Well Progress
Update: The Places and
Communities we live in and
with

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| Report Author: | Sam Dand, Director of Environment, North Tyneside Council (Tel: 0191 643 3442) |
| Responsible Leads: | Sam Dand, Director of Environment, North Tyneside Council Peter Mennell, Director of Housing and Property Services John Sparkes, Director of Regeneration and Economic Development, North Tyneside Council Gary Charlton, Deputy Director Commissioning and Corporate Development, North Tyneside ICB Paul Jones, Healthwatch Chief Executive Vicky Smith, VODA Chief Executive |
| Relevant Partnership Board(s): | Safer North Tyneside Partnership Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee Culture and Wellbeing Partnership Housing Sub-Committee Climate Change Partnership |

1. **Equally Well: The Places and Communities we live in and with**

This item relates to the theme of the Places and Communities we live in and with, from the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, “Equally Well: A healthier, fairer future for North Tyneside 2021- 2025”.

As outlined in ‘Equally Well’ the place and environment we live in plays a vital role in both improving and protecting the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Evidence shows that those living in the more socio-economically deprived areas are likely to have a lack of green space, poor air quality and poorer housing compared to the least socio-economically deprived areas.

Therefore, to reduce health inequalities we need to create environments for all our communities to flourish by improving infrastructure, services, connectivity and sustainability.

This briefing report will be supplemented by three short presentations at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting to give more detail about specific multi-agency work:

- **Creating safer environments:** our joint approach to understanding and addressing anti-social behaviour across local communities.
- **Enjoying healthy and safer homes:** tackling damp and mould
- **Healthy planning and regeneration:** improving local communities through the North Shields and Wallsend Masterplans

2. Recommendation(s):

The Board is recommended to: -

- a) be assured that the responsible theme leads are making progress in delivering the actions for the Places and Communities we live in and with to reduce health inequalities.
- b) provide any comments on any areas requiring further action; and
- c) request the theme leads to submit further progress reports to the Board in relation to its implementation plan for next year, the delivery of those actions and their outcomes.

3. Progress update: The Places and Communities we live in and with

Action is required across the social, economic and environmental determinants of health if we want to achieve thriving and sustainable communities and increased productivity and shared prosperity across North Tyneside to reduce health inequalities.

Organisations and partnerships are working with local communities to create the conditions for a healthy, safer and more sustainable North Tyneside.

In addition, partners are working to deliver our inclusive economic strategy. This means our local economy works for everyone, and the benefits of the economy are spread, so that all communities flourish and grow equally.

Progress against the implementation plan is outlined below, with presentations giving further in-depth detail to be delivered during the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.

Deliver the Health inequalities VCSE small grants funding and monitor projects

North Tyneside ICB and North Tyneside Council have created a fund to support voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations active in North Tyneside to address existing health inequalities in the borough. The £400,000 fund is being administered by VODA and 15 local projects have been given grants to deliver between May 2022 and October 2023 which will be monitored for effectiveness. VODA will also be creating a film with the funded organisations to showcase some of the innovative work and those residents who benefited from the project activities.

Living Well North Tyneside (LWNT) will be kept up to date and promote widely so residents who want to can be actively involved in their communities.

The Living Well North Tyneside partnership brings together a number of organisations in North Tyneside, including Healthwatch North Tyneside, North Tyneside VODA, North Tyneside Council, North Tyneside ICB, the four Primary Care Networks of local GP practices in North Tyneside, the Community Healthcare Forum, and Tyne Health GP Federation. Living Well North Tyneside has been widely promoted via VCSE and statutory partners during 2022.

The Living Well North Tyneside initiative aims to connect our communities with trusted information, helping local residents find and access services, activities, events, and people to support us all to live well locally. The Living Well North Tyneside website has had over 72,000 views since the launch of the website in September 2021. As well as the online successes, LWNT has initiated a face-to-face network and organised a

networking event in September 2022. 45 different organisations across North Tyneside were in attendance and many new connections were made.

Develop the Community Hub model to host and provide universally accessible services in all communities e.g. (Drug and Alcohol support, Police, Citizen's Advice, Adult Social Care, Occupational Therapy, Reablement and Care Call)

North Tyneside Council want to ensure that Community Hubs and the services offered to residents meet their needs and are available in whichever way residents choose to access them. Community Hubs aim to connect people with the community assets and services across North Tyneside. The Community Hub model is currently in development with a consultation event looking at tackling Digital Inclusion and Developing Community Hubs on 19 January 2023.

Review the Social prescribing offer across the system

The Local Authority is currently reviewing the approach to social prescribing, assessing the evidence of effectiveness of referring people to a range of local, non-clinical services to support their health and wellbeing. The review will be linked with system wide work to ensure that individuals in North Tyneside with the multiple and complex health needs associated with drug, alcohol and mental ill health are able and supported to access healthcare locally. This work will also build on the additional funding that local authorities have received to support people with drug and alcohol issues with housing, employment, treatment, and enforcement as part of the national Drugs Strategy. This is a targeted approach to reducing health inequalities with a particularly vulnerable cohort of our population.

Pilot Healthy, Happy Places in North Shields and Wallsend which aims to shape places to benefit mental health and wellbeing in our communities.

The pilot of Healthy, Happy Places is currently happening with links to the respective Masterplans for regeneration. This programme of work is funded by the Academic Health Science Network for the North-East and North Cumbria (AHSN NENC). It is intended to test out a concept and explore what impact and innovative practices could be achieved through collaborations between planning, design, health, and public health partners in responding to community health and wellbeing needs through the built environment.

Development of Strategic Cycling Route network to increase opportunity for active travel

North Tyneside Council has updated the North Tyneside Cycling Strategy and Cycle Design Guide which includes the development of the Strategic Cycling Route network to increase opportunity for active travel. The Cycling Strategy supports the council's ambition to take steps and seek investment to become carbon net zero by 2030 through promoting active travel. This also links to our air quality strategy which specifies how we will strive to improve air quality across the borough. The Cycling Route network will be delivered via bidding for external funding and through the general programme of highway schemes and regeneration schemes.

Review the community safety partnership board and take a public health approach to community safety

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has been reviewed with Senior Leaders from all statutory responsible agencies working together throughout 2022, ensuring the governance and strategic assessment and community safety plan is refreshed. All agencies have signed up to taking a public Health approach to community safety which aims to modify the risk factors that make an individual, family or community vulnerable to crime and disorder (as victims, perpetrators, or both) and promote protective factors.

Expand the safe and healthy homes initiative to support more households in need

The Safe and Healthy Homes initiative gives advice and guidance to help residents to solve health-related housing issues and improve physical / mental health through referrals to relevant services and organisations. The team look at funding streams available to assist with any financial difficulties around certain repairs/replacements, such as boiler upgrades, working with the major energy suppliers which would be more financially economical to the resident. Since January 2022 the team's work to support more vulnerable households included:

- 94 households supported where damp/mould or cold homes was an identified issue. (60 homeowners - 30 other tenure private sector house, 4 Social Housing)
- 20 cases where repairs required (roof repairs and major works)
Referrals for charity funding for major repairs, however, in the case of smaller minor repairs we would refer through to Trading Standard Approved Business Approval Register
- 24 cases where homeowners had suffered a slip, trip or fall. Issues were identified for the owner occupier to continue to live safely at their property, which were referred through to Occupational Therapy, Adult Social Care, to review the needs of the resident to try and support the occupier remain in their property.

A presentation will be given to the HWBB focusing on how the initiative addresses damp and mould in homes.

Affordable homes

Since April 2014 the Affordable Homes Programme has delivered 2,073 affordable homes towards our ambition to deliver 5,000 affordable homes, which was approved by Cabinet in February 2022. We are on track to meet our target of 215 affordable homes delivered in 2022/23.

Deliver more energy efficiency measures to reduce fuel poverty

North Tyneside's Fuel Poverty workstream aims to co-ordinate work to deliver more energy efficiency measures to reduce fuel poverty including mapping at-risk households, training housing officers around fuel poverty awareness, launching a central cost of living information resources and engaging with landlords and commercial properties to raise awareness of energy efficiency best practice.

Since Jan 2022 examples of activity to support our most vulnerable residents include:

- 10 households referred to LEAP (local energy action project) for energy advice. These are residents who were struggling to afford to pay their gas or electric utility bill (before recent energy price increase).
- 5 customers were supported to have boiler installation via Household Support fund cases, this funding stream was introduced to cover the gap left by energy suppliers during Covid and subsequently afterwards.
- 6 residents were supported via Eco4 measures, there was a delay with the funding and this only recently become available. The funding supports vulnerable residents who are not able to fund essential works in their property to maintain and keep energy efficient.

Establish a cultural compact that supports health and wellbeing and reduces inequalities

Consultation on a Cultural Strategy for North Tyneside began in April 2022 to develop a borough wide strategy and cultural compact. A report to Cabinet in November 2022 recommended the development of the next stage of the process, to produce a written partnership strategy and develop a Boroughwide Cultural Compact. Seven key

challenges have been identified including to promote culture to support health and wellbeing and to address inequity in accessing culture. This is consistent with the Arts Council England (ACE) guidance in their ten-year plan *Let's Create* (2020-2030), which emphasises partnership working and the development of broad-based cultural compacts to promote the cultural offer for the benefit of residents and the economy.

4. Performance indicators

Theme leads have agreed that measuring performance to capture impact is an area of work requiring further action.

Many of the performance indicators around this theme are dependent on the results of the resident survey e.g., perceptions around feeling safe, access to services, usage of green spaces. As the full results of the 2022 resident survey are still being analysed it is not possible to report any changes in resident perceptions at the current time, on these specific indicators.

It is recognised that this theme covers a diverse range of activity and areas of work from the economy, housing, green spaces, air quality to culture. In addition, there is a raft of community activity, delivered particularly by the VCSE, that is targeted and improves health and wellbeing. Theme leads have agreed to consider additional ways to capture performance around this theme to include a wider range of outcomes.

It is recommended that the Board agree that theme leads present a revised set of indicators to accompany the refreshed implementation plan in Year 2 at the June Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting.

5. Community engagement

North Tyneside Healthwatch worked on behalf of North Tyneside's Health and Wellbeing Board to gather views from residents and organisations about the implementation plan, with the findings reported at the November 2022 meeting.

The Healthwatch consultation highlighted that residents understand that the places and communities we live in have a major contribution to health and wellbeing. In addition, the consultation stressed that having decent and affordable homes was a high priority for many respondents, who felt that the issue of housing needed to be strengthened in the implementation plan. Theme leads will take this point on board when refreshing the implementation plan in Year 2.

Ambitions for Wallsend

A public consultation on the Ambitions for Wallsend was launched last week and will continue until the end of February. Face-to-face sessions will be held at Wallsend Customer First Centre, where residents and businesses will be invited to have their say on plans. More information can be found here: [Ambition for Wallsend | North Tyneside Council](#)

Community Hub and Digital Inclusion

A consultation event looking at tackling Digital Inclusion and Developing Community Hubs taking place on 19 January 2023. There will be opportunities for further engagement by stakeholders as the model develops.

6. Appendices:

Appendix 1: Implementation plan – progress update : the Communities we live in and with

7. Contact officers:

Sam Dand, Director of Environment, North Tyneside Council (Tel: 0191 643 3442)

Background information:

The following background documents have been used in the compilation of this report and are available from the author: -

[North Tyneside's Equally Well Strategy](#)

COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

10 Finance and other resources

Any financial implications arising from the delivery of the implementation plan to delivery Equally Well, North Tyneside's Health and Well Being Strategy will be met from existing budgets.

11 Legal

The Board has a duty under Section 195 of the Health & Social Care Act 2012 to encourage partners to work closely together and in an integrated manner for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in the area.

13 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

14 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

15 Risk management

There is a risk that despite the considerable effort for joint action by the Health and Wellbeing Board, partners may not improve the inequalities in health seen in North Tyneside.

The health inequalities that existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic have subsequently been amplified and more recently it is also widely acknowledged that the current rise in the cost of living is likely to have a disproportionate impact on some of our communities in North Tyneside.

A corporate risk has been identified for this scenario with a mitigation report was presented at the Audit Committee in November 2022, and this risk will continue to be monitored with regular reporting.

16 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

SIGN OFF

Chair/Deputy Chair of the Board

X

Director of Public Health

X

Director of Children's Services

X

Director of Adult Services

X

Director of Healthwatch North Tyneside

X

Integrated Care Board Director of Place

X