

North Tyneside Health & Wellbeing Board Report Date: 28 March 2024

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

Report Author:	Peter Mennell, Director of Housing and Property Services
Responsible Leads:	Peter Mennell, Director of Housing and Property Services Sam Dand, Director of Environment, North Tyneside Council 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
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.

Those living in deprived areas are likely to experience fewer of the positive benefits that communities can offer, for example green spaces and beaches, feelings of safety or access to affordable goods and services. Communities facing multiple deprivation often have high levels of stress, isolation, and depression.

Integrated planning, transport, housing, environmental and health systems are needed. Good planning and well-designed places provide opportunities for people to live in decent homes, have good transport links, access to arts and culture, effective services, outdoor spaces to be physically active and connect with others.

The extent of people's participation in their communities and the added control over their lives that this brings can improve health and wellbeing. Local areas should encourage mobilising assets within communities, promoting equity and increasing people's control over their health and lives.

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

This briefing report will be supplemented by a presentation at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting to give more detail about our Cultural offer across North Tyneside and the relationship between culture, health and wellbeing.

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. Much of this broader work is delivered by the respective partnership boards named above.

Progress against the specific actions in the 2023/24 implementation plan is outlined below, with an in-depth presentation on North Tyneside's Cultural offer and how it contributes to improving health and wellbeing to be delivered during the Board meeting.

- **Focus on environmental stewardship in our most deprived areas of the Borough to enhance the physical environment and green spaces to support social connectedness, feelings of safety, physical activity, and mental wellbeing.**

Evidence is clear that the environment in which people live has a profound impact on their quality of life, health and wellbeing. After speaking to residents to understand some of the local environmental challenges and issues such as dog fouling and fly tipping "Neat Streets" was launched in August 2023 and is the Council's strategy for cleaner, greener and safer neighbourhoods. Neat Streets represents a big push to reinvigorate our communities and to enhance the wellbeing of our residents, particularly on local housing estates.

A key aim is to keep standards high, make improvements, and create a sense of ownership and collective pride among our residents. The scheme has seen new staff, vehicles and equipment deployed across the Borough with a special focus on keeping housing estates, open spaces and other areas of the public realm neat and tidy. This includes rapid response teams, providing garden support to those housing tenants most in need, free bulky waste collections for tenants and additional community protection officers to help support where required. We have installed 100 bins in new locations and added QR codes for more effective and efficient issue reporting.

Since August 2023, Neat Streets has removed over 217 tonnes of additional rubbish, delivered 70 estate clean ups and carried out 317 free special collections for our housing tenants. The scheme supports our existing resources and teams who are also maintaining our award winning parks, beaches and open spaces.

- **Implement the recommendations in the Health Impact Assessment completed on the Housing Strategy to improve health outcomes for those living in the 30% most deprived lower layer super output areas (LSOAs)**

A Specialist Market Position Statement has been commissioned and will be undertaken by Housing Learning and Improvement Network (HLIN), this is due to be completed by April 2024 and will cover a variety of client groups to ensure they received required housing provision.

The new private sector housing sector plan 2024–2028 will deliver projects and improvements across four themes:

- Improving our private rented sector
- Tackling derelict and long-term empty properties
- Enabling safe and independent living
- A greener North Tyneside – Improving energy efficiency in private sector homes

It includes several new projects and initiatives including a new, innovative purchase/ing partnership between the Authority and Aurora Affordable Homes to target empty homes and support the regeneration of Wallsend Town Centre. The Delivery Programme also includes a range of support tools for private landlords and tenants to drive-up standards of accommodation, create safe, clean, and healthy communities, and support the borough's drive to net-zero across the borough. It also includes environmental health targeted action against damp and mould in properties.

We are looking at other recommended actions from the Health Impact Assessment on the housing strategy and will take this forward in line with the Housing Strategy duration.

- **Improve the private rented housing offer in Wallsend by targeting of empty properties and developing a new project to raise standards of landlords.**
 - 3 poor quality flats have been purchased in Wallsend turning 2 from private rent into affordable rent and purchasing an empty property.
 - The Purchase and repair scheme will commence in Wallsend from April 2024 and will focus on the improvement of poor quality private rented sector properties.
 - Development of a new landlord accreditation scheme will initially being rolled out in Wallsend (LSOA) then boroughwide.

- **Expand the safe and healthy homes initiative to support more households in need.**
 - Helped 260 households during 23-24 and there continues to be increasing demand for the service. There has not been much work carried out directly with the landlords at this stage. If there is any issue with a private rented property, a clear protocol is on place with environmental health to resolve issues.

- **Delivery of a further 187 affordable homes for residents most in need.**
 - The Affordable Homes Programme has delivered 82 affordable homes in 2023-24 and is forecasting to deliver a further 34 homes in Q4 bringing the total to 116 by the end of 2023/24.

 - This figure is below the planned 187 as a result in a significant slowdown of activity by developers on the larger sites. The homes that are not delivered this year are expected to be delivered in 2024/25

 - All new council homes are built to an EPC B or above and meet space standards.

- **Focus initiatives at those communities experiencing ASB and a higher burden of crime and encourage those communities to report incidents and build trust and feelings of safety.**

We continue to work with our key strategic partners including Northumbria Police to help tackle ASB and to help improve feelings of safety. We are delivering a number of PCC grant funded projects specifically targeted in Riverside and Chirton to help address women's safety in public places, Transport related ASB and helped to design out crime in a specified underpass.

ASB case reviews provide a legal right for victims of persistent ASB to request a multi-agency case review to problem-solve the circumstances they are suffering from.

A unified Northumbria-wide procedure was introduced in July 2022, led by the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and implemented locally by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). An independent review of the procedure has now concluded, and the process has been amended with responsibility for oversight of reviews lying with the relevant chair of the panel and CSP. The OPCC will act as gatekeeper and collate regional strategic learning outcomes. The Community Safety team will monitor and update actions for all case reviews in North Tyneside as well as giving support to the chair of the panel. The current chair is Trevor Sturrock, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

- **Masterplans focussed on revitalising local areas, improving infrastructure, attracting new businesses, and creating jobs for local people. Reduce inequalities in access by improving connections to services, access to arts and culture, outdoor spaces via active travel initiatives through Masterplans.**

North Shields

Through a series of bold proposals, we are transforming North Shields town centre and Fish Quay into an environment where people choose to live, work and spend their leisure time.

We are improving public transport, pedestrian and cycle access between the town and riverside through a new Transport Hub and town square with enhancements to the local cycle network. Work is currently

underway to improve pedestrian and cycle access between the town centre and the Fish Quay via a Riverside Embankment Walkway.

We have created new green spaces by revitalising Northumberland Square and Howard Street, whilst also establishing a Cultural Quarter to celebrate and support local artists. Soon Bedford Street, the main high street in the town, will receive a similar treatment of major improvements, including upgraded paving and seating, a cycle lane, mature trees and planting.

We are creating opportunities for a mix of new housing to make a community that sustains North Shields for decades to come. To date, we have restored a terrace of Georgian properties to create 10 apartments and 2 townhouses, as well as building a further 16 homes with courtyard parking in the heart of the town. Work has also been completed to clear the site of a derelict former North Shields office block to make way for 28 high-quality family homes in the near future.

North West

A set of policy priorities have been agreed to inform the Authority's Ambition for the North West of the Borough. We will develop an overarching transport plan for travelling in and around the North West as well as addressing routes to the urban core and facilities such as healthcare as well as education and employment. Village plans are also being prepared for each of our settlements, including Killingworth Village and Township; Annitsford; Dudley; Fordley; Camperdown; Burradon; Wideopen and Seaton Burn. It was also proposed that plans were prepared for those areas in the North West that were closer to the urban core which included: Forest Hall; Westmoor; Benton; Longbenton; Palmersville and Holystone.

A programme of activity setting out how we will take forward this work is currently being developed.

Funding of £0.56 million through Section 106 contributions and funding allocated from the Authority's Our Ambition Programme has been identified to take forward these schemes as well as environmental enhancements to Killingworth Lake and improvements to the waggonway network.

Wallsend

Following a successful bid for funding from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, a Masterplan for Wallsend was developed. After engagement with residents and others in early 2023, the “Ambition for Wallsend” was approved in July 2023 and consists of 14 projects in total. The projects are focused on three policy priorities for Wallsend:

- *Improve the quality of the housing offer in Wallsend; in particular making the area a focus of the Mayor and Cabinet’s plans for 5000 affordable homes and tackling some of the poor quality privately rented housing in the area;*
- *Make the town centre and the nearby neighbourhoods great places to visit and live; improving the street scene, public spaces and working with partners to make sure people feel safe; and*
- *Make sure Wallsend residents are connected to good jobs; using the full range of tools, including adult education, apprenticeships and the capabilities plus the transport infrastructure around the town to make sure people in the community, who need it, are supported to improve their life chances.*

There is a mix of development, public realm, housing, and business support and employment support projects in the plan. We are continually looking for funding from Government and others such as national lottery and Homes England to secure grants to implement the projects.

- **Commit and gain accreditation to becoming an Age-friendly Borough following the evidence-based approach for creating communities that are better places to age, incorporating the findings from the Ageing Well Summit.**

The Ageing Well Summit was postponed and will now take place in April 2024. It will be an opportunity to celebrate the excellent work that has happened for many years across North Tyneside to support older people, to provide an overview of current service provision and provide some strategic direction for our area to guide service development and provision.

4. Contact officers:

Kimberley Pye: Head of Environment and Safer Neighbourhoods Tel: 07974 569908

Richard Brook: Housing Growth Manager Tel : 0750 182 225

Joanne Lee: Head of Public Protection and Community Safety (0191) 643 6901

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

As relevant members, partners and senior officers clear the report this will be recorded by Democratic Services by placing an X in the corresponding boxes.

Chair/Deputy Chair of the Board

Director of Public Health

Director of Children's Services

Director of Adult Services

Director of Healthwatch North Tyneside

Integrated Care Board Director of Place

Director of Resources

Monitoring Officer

