

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

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| DATE | 18 th March 2026 |
| REPORT OF | Statutory Scrutiny Officer |
| SUBJECT | Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme |
| STATUS | Open |

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The scrutiny panels act as a reviewing mechanism for decisions made relating to the strategic policy, performance and resources required to deliver the ambitions of the Council and its key partnerships. The aim of the scrutiny process is to make sure decision making is robust by providing constructive challenge. This contributes to the Council being effective and efficient, and therefore it is integral to the delivery of the Council Priorities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report reflects on the 2025/26 municipal year and the work undertaken by the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel. The panel will also consider, within its terms of reference, suggestions to be included in the 2026/27 work programme ahead of confirmation of the work programme at the first meeting of this panel in the new Municipal Year.

MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

The panel is invited to reflect on the 2025/26 work programme, noting any matters it would like to highlight within the Annual Scrutiny Report, and consider any suggested items for inclusion in next year's work programme.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 This report and its appendix summarises the 2025/26 agreed work programme and the panel's timetable of activities to undertake this work.
- 1.2 During the course of the year, the panel agreed to set a theme for each of the meetings which included health inequalities, the NHS 10 year plan, Adult Safeguarding, oral health and access to dentists.
- 1.3 The Marmot Place report that was approved at Cabinet on 16th July 2025 was welcomed by the panel and they could see the positive benefits this would bring. Members were reassured the Marmot Place outcomes would be reported back through the quarterly finance and performance reports, which the panel would have the opportunity to monitor throughout the municipal year. The panel suggested that a paragraph be added to the Cabinet and Scrutiny report templates around the Marmot principles so that officers would consider the impact when making key decisions.
- 1.4 Health inequalities featured in the panel's work programme the themed meeting the focus was around screening and immunisation, teenage

conception, smoking in pregnancy, and healthy life expectancy. There were good discussions around each of these areas and as a result the panel agreed to focus during the next municipal year on reducing the teenage pregnancy rates and look at where the panel could make a difference.

- 1.5 A comprehensive briefing on the NHS 10-Year Plan outlined significant shifts towards prevention and community-based care. The panel recommend that scrutiny of domestic abuse services fell under the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel, pending discussion at the Executive Scrutiny Liaison Board. This decision was made in recognition of the significant health and wellbeing implications of domestic abuse and the current placement of funding within Public Health, despite Portfolio Holder responsibility residing with the Communities Scrutiny Panel.
- 1.6 The Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection Outcome Report for Adult Social Care was presented, detailing areas for improvement and the Council's action plan. A decision was made to receive regular updates from the CQC improvement board and to request data on care package efficiency and refusals of service
- 1.7 Statutorily the panel received the Adult Services Annual Complaints Report including Ombudsman. This was an opportunity for the panel to consider the activity and analysis of complaints and compliments.
- 1.8 Also the Adult Safeguarding Annual report was presented to the panel allowing them to challenge and seek reassurance that vulnerable adults were being kept safe.
- 1.9 The Annual Scrutiny Report is due to be submitted to the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2026 and will include a full summary of the work undertaken by this panel during the current year. If panel members wish to highlight particular work within this report then they are invited to do so.
- 1.10 The panel will also have an early opportunity to consider any topics it may wish to retain in or add to next year's work programme.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include risk assessment(s) by the author(s) concerned.

3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

The work programme demonstrates the breadth of matters considered by scrutiny.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations included within this report.

5. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on climate change and the environment as a direct result of this report. Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include climate change, nature recovery and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS

There are no impacts on public health, health inequalities and Marmot.

7. MONITORING COMMENTS

In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer, the Section 151 Officer or the Assistant Director People and Organisational Development.

8. WARD IMPLICATIONS

May impact on all wards

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annual report of scrutiny 2023/24
Panel tracking reports

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Paul Windley – Democratic and Scrutiny Team Manager

JO ROBINSON
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – POLICY, STRATEGY AND RESOURCES
(STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER)

PROPOSAL FOR AGENDA ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel 2025/26

| AGENDA ITEMS | 30th July | 1st October | 26th November | 28th January | 18th March |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| | 4.30pm | 4:30pm | 4:30pm | 4:30pm | 4:30pm |
| THEME: | | | | | |
| STANDING / GENERAL AGENDA ITEMS:- | <p>Work Programme 2025/26 to be agreed.</p> <p>2024/25 Council Plan Year End Performance and Provisional Financial Outturn Report</p> <p>Marmot Town Update</p> <p>Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection Update of Adult Social Services</p> | <p>Meeting Theme:</p> <p>Health Inequalities</p> <p>Three areas of focus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Screening/ Immunisation 2. Teenage conception and smoking in pregnancy 3. Healthy Life Expectancy <p>Standing Items:</p> <p>Q1 Finance Monitoring and Council Plan Report</p> <p>Adult Services Annual Complaints Report inc Ombudsman</p> | <p>Meeting Theme:</p> <p>NHS 10 Year Plan</p> <p>To understand the impact for NEL of the NHS 10 year plan and the reorganisation of commissioning and strategy</p> <p>Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy</p> <p>Standing Items:</p> <p>Q2 Finance Monitoring and Council Plan Report</p> <p>Work Programme Update 2025/26</p> | <p>Meeting Theme:</p> <p>Adult Safeguarding</p> <p>Adult Safeguarding</p> <p>Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection Outcome Report for Adult Social Services in NEL</p> <p>Council Plan Refresh</p> <p>Standing Items:</p> <p>Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report</p> | <p>Meeting Theme:</p> <p>Oral Health & Access to Dentists</p> <p>To understand the impact of poor oral health and what work is being undertaken to improve access to dental services across the borough</p> <p>Future Section 75 Arrangements (Cabinet Report)</p> <p>Digital Opportunities within Health and Social care</p> <p>Standing Items:</p> <p>Q3 Council Plan and Finance Monitoring Report</p> <p>Work Programme 2025/26 inc items for the next municipal year</p> |

Agenda items to be added – 2026/2027 municipal year:

Joint meeting with Communities scrutiny panel meeting around domestic abuse

Joint meeting with Children and Lifelong Learning around the 0-19 agenda (public health)

The panel agreed at it meeting on the 30th July 2025 to focus during the next municipal year on reducing the teenage pregnancy rates and look at where the panel could make a difference.

Briefing Papers: