

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **AGENDA**

**Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at 5.30pm in  
Committee Room 1, at City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, SR1 3AA**

#### **Membership**

Cllrs Bond, Burnicle, Graham-King, Haque, Heron, Hunter, Jones (Vice-Chairman), Speding, Usher (Chairman), Walton and M. Walker

ITEM		PAGE
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	-
2.	<b>Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2023</b> (copy attached)	1
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)</b>	-
	<b>Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>	
	No Items	
	<b>Part B – Scrutiny Business</b>	
4.	<b>Adult Mental Health Strategy Update</b>	7
	Report of the Director of Place (Sunderland) – North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (copy attached)	

**Contact: Joanne Stewart Principal Democratic Services Officer Tel: 07919 509 189  
Email: joanne.stewart@sunderland.gov.uk**

**Information contained in this agenda can be made available in other languages and formats on request**

5.	<b>Suicide Prevention Update</b>	17
	Report of the Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning (copy attached)	
6.	<b>Work Programme 2023/24</b>	27
	Report of the Scrutiny and Members' Support Coordinator (copy attached)	
7.	<b>Notice of Key Decisions</b>	30
	Report of the Scrutiny and Members' Support Coordinator (copy attached).	
	<b>Part C – Health Substantial Variations to Service</b>	-
	No Items	
	<b>Part D – CCFA/Members Items/Petitions</b>	-
	No Items	

E. WAUGH,  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance,  
City Hall,  
SUNDERLAND.

8 January, 2024

**At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in Committee Room 1 of the CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER, 2023 at 5:30pm.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Usher in the Chair

Councillors Bond, Haque, Jones, Speding, M. Walker and Walton

**Also in attendance:-**

Janice Armstrong – Deputy Director of HR & OD, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

Nigel Cummings – Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council

Andrea Hetherington - Director of Corporate Affairs and Legal, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

Julie Johnson – Head of Workforce Development, OD & Learning, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

Karen Sheard – Deputy Director of Nursing, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

Joanne Stewart – Principal Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

Gemma Taylor – Workforce Development and Education Manager, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

Gerry Taylor – Executive Director Health, Housing and Communities, Sunderland City Council

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were given on behalf of Councillors Burnicle, Graham-King, Heron and Hunter and on behalf of Mr. Scott Watson.

**Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 31 October 2023**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 31 October 2023 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

Councillor Jones made an open declaration as an employee of the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS (NECIC) and Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trusts (CNTW).

## **South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust – CQC Inspection Plan**

The Deputy Director of Nursing, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Foundation Trust's action plan following inception by the Car Quality Commission (CQC).

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Karen Sheard, Deputy Director of Nursing, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust took Members through a presentation which was attached at appendix one to the report and covered key points from the action plan, including:-

- Must and Should Do Actions;
- Action Plan;
- Progress to Date; and
- How Do We Get Back to 'Good'

(for copy presentation – see original minutes)

The Chairman thanked Ms. Sheard for their presentation and invited questions and comments from the Committee.

Councillor Bond asked when the CQC inspectors were physically on site and how long the procedure had been to provide documentary evidence and when this had finished; to allow Members to date the report from 3<sup>rd</sup> February; and he was informed that usually a lot of the evidence was requested whilst on site throughout the inspection in June, then they would plan their visit based on the well led visit protocols. They would then hear very little following the inspections until the report was published in February; so the report was prepared on information from 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August; including any further evidence and/or information they requested.

Ms. Hetherington also advised that it had been a targeted inspection in a number of areas; and not the whole organisation; they combined the previous scores to those of these visit so currently there were three areas rated outstanding, eighteen good and nine requiring improvement. It was acknowledged that the inspection had been undertaken very quickly after CoVid restrictions and that they did not know if they had a few more months to get the organisation back to normal that the result may have been slightly different but they accepted the findings and were now working on making improvements.

Councillor Bond then referred to the slide within the presentation on 'positive feedback'; specifically in relation to senior leadership, and commented that according to the report, leadership had gone backwards and this was not good news to be reported. Ms. Sheard commented that there were different elements of leadership and the CQC had recognised and commented upon the visibility of the Executive Team and Board Members.

Councillor Speding commented that it was not a particularly good report and asked where the process sat with the Health and Wellbeing Board? It appeared that the amalgamation of Sunderland and South Tyneside was not working as it should; given the comments raised around governance. He raised his serious concerns as

the Committee were responsible for questioning and challenging the findings of the report and stated that it was not an issue to be taken lightly and should be investigated in more depth. Councillor Usher agreed that they should look to share action plans with the Committee and information around the improvements being made going forward to give assurances to Members.

Councillor Bond agreed and commented that it was particularly important if they were moving to a system that was more self-assessment.

Ms. Hetherington advised that it may be helpful for Members to see what the new inspection regime would look like; whereby it was intended to be more targeted to specific areas rather than carrying out whole scale reviews. Previously, they used to be able to state that action plans had been completed and request a further inspection but there was not the capacity for that now.

Ms. Hetherington commented that they would have conversations with the Scrutiny Officer to discuss when was best to submit further reports to the Committee and have them added to the work programme.

Councillor Jones referred to page 13 of the report and the progress to date in relation to actions and commented that it would be useful to have a short overview of what each recommendation / issue was and the action against it, along with progress to date to refer to.

In response to a further query from Councillor Jones and whether mock reviews would be internal or if an agreement would be made with other organisations in the region, Ms. Sheard advised that they needed to get familiar with the new single assessment framework from CQC. Therefore, they would start internally but once embedded and developed they would welcome peer reviews with other organisations to help benchmark. She did advise that even when the mock inspections were internal they would not have staff from the same area and different specialities would be assessing each other.

Councillor Jones referred to paragraph 2.1 of the report and asked that the year 2022 be included after 'June and August' to be more specific as to when the inspection was undertaken.

In closing, Mr. Cummings advised that the item would remain on the work programme and going forward they would have Officers submit more detailed reports on the action plan to give the Committee those assurances requested and provide information on the new inspection regime from the CQC along with details of any future inspections.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Ms. Sheard and colleagues for their attendance, and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) future reports around the action plans for submission to the Committee be included on the work programme; and
- ii) the information within the report and presentation provided be received and noted.

## **South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust – Developing Our Future Workforce**

The Workforce and Development Team, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the Trust's work on developing its future workforce.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Janice Armstrong, Deputy Director of HR & OD at South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust and her colleagues, gave a presentation which covered key points from the workforce development plan, including:-

- Partnerships;
- Work Discovery Events,
- Work Placements; and
- SWAP Programmes.

(for copy presentation – see original minutes)

The Chairman thanked Ms. Armstrong and colleagues for their presentation and invited questions and comments from the Committee.

Councillor Walton commented that it was good to see other routes in to nursing and other roles rather than just through the traditional higher education and asked if there was a possibility that older people may be suitable for any of these roles and how difficult it would be for them to change course? He was informed that they had specific funding from Prince's Trust which may be why they focussed on 16-30 year olds but that the opportunity was available to any age group and they currently had an apprentice who was 57 years old who had decided to take up a completely different career. The average age was 30+.

In relation to a question from Councillor Walton on international recruitment and any issues they may have experienced, Ms. Hetherington commented that they had a member of staff who had been in the organisation for over twenty years and was instrumental in building community support for international members of staff. The organisation helped to set up bank accounts for them and there was also a bigger team to help support them and become settled as part of the community as teams grew and more international staff are welcomed.

Councillor Bond asked if there was any issue in international staff receiving the same pay and conditions as current staff and was informed that this was not an issue as all members of staff worked under the same national terms and conditions. They recognised that some members of staff may have had a more senior role in their country of origin and this was a resource to be tapped in to, encouraging them to look to take on similar roles in the organisation.

Councillor Speding commented that he was very supportive of the new ways of recruiting and retaining staff, and the number of alternative pathways into nursing and other associated roles, and how it was bringing massive benefits to the city. Ms. Armstrong commented that they had the medical school at the University of

Sunderland and they would see the first graduates from it next summer; with the prediction for the intake next Autumn to be 96 students, so it was continuing to grow and they would begin to see locally generated staff coming into the NHS.

Councillor Jones informed the Committee that she had the privilege of working with international nurses for many years but referred to ethical recruitment; by recruiting from countries such as India and the Philippines, where they knew there were already shortages in their workforce, and also asked how achievable they felt it was that by 2035 the Trust would grow their own workforce as was targeted? Ms. Armstrong commented that some of the work the team did in engaging with young people in schools from the very beginning, showed them the opportunities that were available to them in the organisation and would hopefully help to build more homegrown staff.

There was a target within the NHS long term workforce plan to recruit more locally and the more they could tap into local resources and get local people interested in starting careers with the NHS the better, but it would be a challenge. One of the main areas was around the marketing and PR for the NHS in line with the more positive adverts that were currently being shown for positions in the armed forces and other services. There was a need to promote the NHS as a more attractive organisation to work for.

In relation to the University fees, Ms. Armstrong advised that they had found this year places were under subscribed for the first time on university courses and across a number of subject areas. They found that the apprenticeship schemes were popular where people could get trained up into roles and positions without the amount of debt they would have if they went the University route.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Ms. Armstrong and her colleagues for their attendance, and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the information provided be received and noted.

### **Work Programme 2023/24**

The Scrutiny, Members and Mayoral Support Coordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) which briefed members on the development of the Committee's work programme for the municipal year 2023/24 and appended a copy of the programme for Members' consideration.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer presented the report and briefed the Committee on the current position regarding those items already scheduled on the work programme and those waiting to be programmed in on a suitable date.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

## **Notice of Key Decisions**

The Scrutiny, Members and Mayoral Support Coordinator submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from the 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

The Committee was advised that if Members had any issues to raise or required further detail on any of the items included in the notice, (that were within the purview of the Committee), they should contact Mr Cummings for initial assistance.

5. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted.

There being no further items of business, the Chairman closed the meeting having thanked members and officers for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) J. USHER,  
Chairman.



## ADULT MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY UPDATE

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PLACE (SUNDERLAND) – NORTH EAST AND NORTH CUMBRIA INTEGRATED CARE BOARD

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee with an update on the work that has taken place to implement the Adult Mental Health Strategy for Sunderland which was approved for publication in June 2021.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As presented to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in November 2020, the former Sunderland CCG had committed to developing an Adult Mental Health Strategy for the city.
- 2.2 This report will provide a summary of the progress made around implementation of the three key principles of the strategy.
- 2.3 The development of the strategy took place over four phases which have previously been described to the committee and consisted of:
- Phase one – engagement on the scope.
  - Phase two – involving people.
  - Phase three – review of findings.
  - Phase four - present and publish the strategy.

Using the analysis generated from the engagement phase we generated our vision and three key priorities:

***Everyone's Mental Health Matters:*** Empowering people by supporting individuals, families, and communities to improve and maintain mental and physical health, so they can lead fulfilling and healthy lives.

***Priority One: An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of care:*** Strengthening and promoting lifelong mental health and wellbeing with a focus on prevention.

***Priority Two: Right Response, Right Time, Right Place:*** Ensuring there is appropriate and timely access to flexible and inclusive mental health care services for all, focussing on the whole person.

**Priority Three: Working with you on what matters to you:** Delivering care designed around the individual, without barriers across teams, services, and organisations.

### 3. CURRENT POSITION – PRIORITY ONE

3.1 Our strategy pledged four important commitments to deliver priority one – 'an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of care'. A short summary of progress against each commitment is noted as follows:

Our Commitment	Our Progress
<p>We will promote mental health awareness to address wider determinants of health and strengthen coping strategies with a focus on the greatest areas of communities in need.</p>	<p>We are currently working alongside the recently mobilised family hubs to ensure that we can support families across the city who may not usually access support. Whilst some of the focus is on developing parent/infant relationships, we are also looking wider than this and developing dedicated Talking Therapies support sessions which will be held in the hubs and allow new parents to bring along their babies (and children) to reduce any additional barriers this may present.</p> <p>Sitting alongside the family hubs, is a Maternal Mental Health Link Worker who is offering invaluable support to families. The worker can provide practical, emotional and social support to new and expectant mothers in Sunderland who are struggling with their mental health.</p> <p>"Ray's Corner" is an established mental health support resource and is widely available across the community. The presence of 'the Corner' has grown and is now available in all welcome spaces (previously termed warm spaces) that the Local Authority supported. Funding has been secured for further roll out of the "Corner's", with a particular focus on Sunderland's Family Hubs and workplaces.</p> <p>The Ray's Corner resource is now being expanded further and a QR code has been developed for small spaces where a physical resource is not possible. The QR code, once scanned, will take the user to a whole host of resources to support mental health and wellbeing as well as suicide prevention material. The QR code has already been posted in toilets in the city centre and provides a discrete option for the public to access information. <i>[At the time of writing this paper the QR code has been accessed 1872 times.]</i></p>
<p>We will work in partnership with communities to identify priorities, understand barriers to access, and co-produce solutions in relation to mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>All counselling staff within Sunderland Counselling Service have received specific training on working with neurodiverse patients which includes basic background and information on what terms means, how people might present as well as specific techniques to support and potential therapy adaptations to ensure the service is accessible to all people. Further training has been commissioned for 2024 to support autistic people, which will be delivered by colleagues who have experience of working with autistic clients.</p>

<p>We will develop and implement a prevention system to strengthen public mental health delivery.</p>	<p>Led by the Public Health team, progress has been made against the implementation of the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health. A range of programmes are being utilised to provide a holistic picture of mental health priorities within Sunderland. Some of the key achievement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The near real time surveillance system has been established, providing intelligence of suspected suicides, in a timely manner, enabling earlier intervention and prevention.</li> <li>• Findings from the Better Mental Health Evaluation have been shared and additional Public Health funding has been secured to drive forward recommendations.</li> <li>• Sunderland's social prescribing model has evolved significantly and is now known as 'Sunderland Links for Life'. A provider has been commissioned to develop the digital platform.</li> <li>• Sunderland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan has been refreshed for the period of 2023-2026, in line with the announcement of the new national suicide prevention strategy.</li> <li>• Every Mind Matters Campaigns have been delivered across key dates of the year, with plans to do more targeted marketing with children and young people over the next few months.</li> </ul>
<p>We will promote and encourage the uptake of annual health checks for patients with serious mental illness to support their mental wellbeing and prevent physical ill health.</p>	<p>We are continuing to support both primary and secondary care to ensure that patients with a severe mental illness (SMI) in Sunderland have an annual health check.</p> <p>We have significantly improved our achievement over the last year and can report that at the end of the financial year 2022/23 we achieved an increased position of 59.9% against the national 60% target.</p> <p>As at the end of quarter 2 of 2023/24 Sunderland practices had achieved a position of 50% and whilst this is lower than the year end position. It is noted that this is process where patients are recalled for their check annually, therefore we expect to the position to match or even improve, last year's position as we approach year end.</p> <p>However, there is recognition that despite planned achievement, further work is required to ensure that our vulnerable patients are supported and encouraged to undertake a healthcheck to monitor and maintain their physical health.</p> <p>Our Mental Health Primary Care team has expanded recently and now includes Mental Health Wellbeing Support Worker Roles. Although they are non-clinical roles, they will be able to support to support practices in the healthcheck process in the form of engaging with patients, administrative processes (retrieving results) and potentially (with appropriate training/competencies) undertaking phlebotomy.</p>

## 4.0 CURRENT POSITION – PRIORITY TWO

4.1 Our strategy pledged four important commitments to deliver priority two – 'right response, right time, right place'. A short summary of progress against each commitment is noted as follows:

Our Commitment	Our Progress
<p>We will Improve accessibility of mental health care and support by working in partnership to co-produce and improve services.</p>	<p>Wellbeinginfo.org is a resource hosted by Washington Mind which constraints a wide range of mental health and wellbeing material. During quarter 2 of 2023/24, the site received 19,900 unique visits and 32,050 page views. A new element to the site was launched in August 2023 and a live chat service is now available. This provides support to individuals to maintain their health and wellbeing by providing safe and confidential signposting conversations with a member of the team that can help with a range of subjects.</p> <p>We are continuing to develop plans to implement Community Mental Health Hubs (CMH Hubs) within a number of our six PCN areas. Originally, we had anticipated that these would be operational by the Autumn of 2023. Unfortunately contractual and capital work issues have delayed progress; we are now planning to mobilise in the Spring of 2024. These mental health hubs will be integrated within communities with high levels of deprivation with the aim to increase accessibility to low level mental health services.</p> <p>People will be able to access low level mental health support closer to where they live and in their communities. People who attend the community venues for other reasons may be encouraged to seek mental health support, thus preventing longer term issues. The CMH Hubs will provide appointments and will be available on a drop-in basis, which will create access, including to those people who may be unable to keep appointments.</p> <p>This is an attempt to take a preventative approach to mental health and well-being while supporting patients to live better in their community, reducing the need for accessing higher level support.</p>
<p>We will work with specific groups of people who don't typically access services and are at greatest risk of mental health to ensure fair and equitable access.</p>	<p>The Fans Museum in Sunderland has been commissioned to provide outreach support for those with mental health issues through providing physical activities to support individuals who may present with low level mental health, anxiety or wellbeing concerns. We recognise that a large footfall to the museum are men, which we know through our extensive engagement are less likely to seek support for their mental health needs. Over the summer/autumn months of this year, the museum ran several football coaching sessions with ex-professional footballers. Each session had an average of 30 participants, totalling around 380 participants over the period. Alongside this, the museum also offered music hubs, one to one sessions, and offered telephone support calls.</p> <p>Veterans in Crisis (ViC) has been commissioned to</p>

	<p>provide counselling support to veterans and their families (including their children), which takes into account their military experiences. The service is fully utilised and in the last quarter, 55 hours of adults counselling and 61 hours of veteran's children's counselling has been delivered. The service is provided at ViCs hub which service users find more accessible and it's a venue that is familiar to them.</p>
<p>We will promote the help and support available to all communities to prevent mental ill-health and improve mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Our Community Connector Programme continues and encourages patients and residents to access appropriate support to help manage and improve their mental health and wellbeing. The programme also offers support and resources to organisations across the city including networking opportunities, training, and access to Peer Community Coordinator's. To date, we have 197 areas including community hubs, business and GP surgeries registered with the programme. We have 75 trained community connectors and offered 240 peer support sessions which saw a total of 968 attendances.</p> <p>We have taken the opportunity to tap into communities by utilising warm hubs spaces to raise awareness of mental health support in methods such as hosting Ray's Corner and advertising Talking Therapies.</p>
<p>We will work with service providers to deliver equality in mental health care (access, experience, and outcomes) so no-one is left behind by implementing the Advancing Mental Health Equality Framework.</p>	<p>We are working with partners across the city to address the barriers identified in our engagement work, some of these are new and emerging as new challenges for communities present themselves.</p> <p>We recognise that there are groups of patients who do not routinely ask for help to improve their mental health, particularly males, people with disabilities and Black, Asian, and other ethnically diverse communities. We are therefore looking to further understand these barriers, basing our work on the Advancing Mental Health Equality Framework to ensure our service delivery models are open and accessible to all, with equity as the standard. Our links to informal support groups across the voluntary sector will provide a valuable gateway into reaching out to these vulnerable groups of patients.</p>

## 5.0 CURRENT POSITION – PRIORITY THREE

5.1 Our strategy pledged five important commitments to deliver priority three – 'working with you on what matters to you'. A short summary of progress against each commitment is noted as follows:

<b>Our Commitment</b>	<b>Our Progress</b>
<p>We will identify and increase ways to involve people with lived experience of mental ill health, and their carers, to co-produce, quality assure, and improve services.</p>	<p>We are committed to drawing on the expertise of people with lived experience as we know the benefits that this can bring to service design. We work closely with the University's Patient Carer and Public Involvement Team as well as the ICB's Lived Experience Director.</p> <p>We are currently in the process of identifying experts by experience to join the All Together Better</p>

	<p>Programme for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism and the Sunderland Suicide Prevention Action Group. This will provide a valuable resource into both of those groups and will ensure we are holistically represented by all relevant partners.</p>
<p>We will ensure services work together, promote inclusive access to care and treatment to avoid people 'slipping through the gaps' or being caught in competing thresholds and access criteria.</p>	<p>In 2023, we launched Mental Health MDTs in the North PCN area. To date, 72 patients have been discussed within the MDTs and appropriate care plans put in place. The interim evaluation indicates that positive outcomes are being achieved and those involved have found the sessions extremely beneficial in terms of supporting patients but also developing relationships between services. The next stage of the pilot is the roll out of MDTs across all PCNs in a phased approach. The purpose of the MDT is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop multi-disciplinary working that includes multiple professionals.</li> <li>• Deliver proactive, patient centred care to those with the most complex mental health needs.</li> <li>• Provide timely services at Neighbourhood level.</li> <li>• Promote a patient centred culture.</li> <li>• Facilitate appropriate information sharing to coordinate care.</li> </ul>
<p>We will explore new approaches to ensure services wrap around people and are proactive with them, including methods of delivery to support all services users, such as peer support, telephone advice and guidance, communication methods.</p>	<p>The Mental Health Link Workers within Sunderland Counselling Service act as a wrap around provision for people accessing or struggling to engage with primary or secondary services. They will link with the patient to see what additional support they may need, build relationships with them and thus be able to intervene early should their mental health worsen.</p> <p>Since their inception 18 months ago, the workers have supported 409 clients and can demonstrate a significant improvement in clients wellbeing. The service uses the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) to measure outcomes and improvement, which is a scale of 14 positively worded items for assessing a population's mental wellbeing. WEMWBS can measure improvements in positive mental health that are not captured using other, negatively phrased measures. The high correlation with negatively phrased measures means that improvements in mental wellbeing, as measured by WEMWBS, indicate a reduction in mental health problems.</p> <p>To date, 86.2% of patients report meaningful positive (statistically significant) change with an average improvement of 14 points on the WEMWBS scale, where an improvement of over 8 points would suggest an important level of change.</p> <p>When compared to UK population norms, we would expect to see a mean score of 51. For our patient group, our starting mean score was 29.4 (well below the national norm) and our ending mean score was 44, (far closer to the national mean). According to UK population norms, we would expect to see 15% of people scoring as having high wellbeing and 19% having low wellbeing. At the start of our intervention, 91% of our clients reported low wellbeing and only 1% scored in the high range. At the end of the</p>

	<p>intervention, 50% scored in the low range, 43% in the moderate range and 8% in the high range. While these changes do not show that the intervention cured everyone or solved everyone's problems, they do indicate a significant shift towards positive wellbeing.</p> <p>Sunderland and Washington Mind have been commissioned to provide a yearlong 'listening ear' service. The service provides support for people who don't fit the criteria for counselling, and for those recently discharged from hospital. It can be a steppingstone into the community support offer and can include support groups, wellbeing activities and arts and crafts courses. Many clients report they are looking for alternatives to abate the loneliness or understand that they are not the only one feeling this way. Most participants continue to use the service to look for a resolution to the problem at hand or take advantage of another service.</p>
<p>We will ensure patients feel enabled, empowered, and confident to self-manage conditions.</p>	<p>Significant work has been undertaken to promote awareness and self-help techniques for women experiencing menopausal symptoms which has been extremely well received. There is a wealth of information promoted on <a href="http://wellbeinginfo.org">wellbeinginfo.org</a> to support self-help and education. In addition to this, a new group service within Talking Therapies has been launched. The group is specifically focused on helping service users to better understand the relationship between female hormonal changes linked to perimenopause, menopause and mental health and manage their current difficulties more effectively. Sunderland have been one of three areas successful in a bid to implement a Women's Health Hubs across the North East and North Cumbria, and the teams will be taking every opportunity to ensure that services such as that described can be made available within the hubs.</p> <p>We are seeing an increasing number of service users reporting social issues relating to the cost-of-living crisis. Headlight, a community organisation that we have commissioned, are recognising this and in response are providing an advice service in relation to welfare benefits, debt and money management and more increasingly housing issues. The service also provides signposting to specific mental health support to prevent escalation of poor mental health resulting from financial and social issues.</p>
<p>We will ensure there is effective transition...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• from children and young peoples to adult mental health services</li> <li>• from service to service/organisation to organisation</li> <li>• following discharge from services</li> </ul>	<p>To support transition for our Children and Young People (CYP) into adult services, we have appointed a Strategic Transitions Lead. It is anticipated that this role will have a significant positive impact on transition so that care pathways are smooth and without disruption to care. This role will also support the implementation of i-Thrive in Sunderland and will work with all system partners who are involved in service delivery. The role is split in three key areas: health, education and social care.</p> <p>A full-scale transition event is planned for early 2024, and this will include all system partners and is an opportunity to showcase what services are available as CYP move into adult services across health,</p>

	<p>education and social care. The Sunderland Parent Carers Forum are involved in this work to ensure we have appropriate lived experience representation. In addition to the event, a leaflet on transitions will be developed in co-production with the parent and carer forum. The leaflet will provide advice and guidance on what to expect in transitional pathways and what support is available to the CYP and their families.</p> <p>Education will look at internship and employment and transition to further education. Our CYP tell us this can be an anxious time and providing preventative support at the earliest opportunity will reduce the needs for more intensive support further down the line.</p> <p>We recognise a number of patients in despair attend the Emergency Department (ED) for support following escalation of symptoms. In acknowledgement of this we have appointed Link Workers who will work alongside the Psychiatric Liaison Team within the ED. They will proactively support individuals who present to provide emotional and practical support, a listening ear, and many other support services. Once a patient has been safely discharged from the ED, the Link Worker will be able to follow up the patient in the community to ensure they are engaging with recommended care plans as well as overall community support to prevent further escalation of their condition and re-attendance in ED.</p> <p>We have been working closely with our main provider of secondary care mental health services in attempt to improve the discharge process and ensure that documentation, focuses on informing primary care of outcomes, future care plans, medication choices and the rationale behind this. Colleagues have co-developed templates which are currently being ratified for roll out within clinical systems. Whilst an initial focus has been on discharge correspondence, there is also a desire to take this further in all clinical correspondence.</p>
--	--

## 6.0 NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 Our strategy remarked that we would be assured of its delivery when our residents were confident, they would:
- Know how and where to access the support they need;
  - Get the right response at the right time;
  - Feel their individual circumstances are considered and prioritised during care planning;
  - Feel empowered to take control of their own mental health and wellbeing;
  - Be living the life they want to live.
- 6.2 As the strategy approaches year three of its lifespan, it is important that we take an opportunity to evaluate and measure its impact to date, and understand where, if appropriate, further work may be required to ensure we are confident we have delivered its aims and objectives.



6.3 A mid-strategy review will take place in 2024/25, which will include a data/activity review utilising local and regional intelligence. Alongside this we will work with our key partners to host a range of focus groups with service users and carers to measure the impact of our strategy, specifically in relation to the points noted in 6.1.

## 7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report and note the progress that is being made towards the delivery and interim evaluation of the Adults Mental Health Strategy outcomes in Sunderland.

---

**Contact Officer:** Lisa Forster, Contract Manager  
0191 5128497  
[lisaforster@nhs.net](mailto:lisaforster@nhs.net)



**SUICIDE PREVENTION UPDATE****REPORT of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING****1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the whole systems approach to suicide prevention in Sunderland.

**2. Context**

2.1 The development of a local Suicide Prevention Action Plan is recommended by government and supports the 2023 national strategy: 'Suicide prevention in England: 5-year cross-sector strategy'<sup>1</sup>.

2.2 The responsibility for having a Suicide Prevention Action Plan and strategy sits with the local authority, through Sunderland's Health and Wellbeing Board. However, it is widely recognised that for suicide prevention to be successful, partnership working is essential. This is achieved through Sunderland's Suicide Prevention Partnership; a multi-agency group which aims to reduce the prevalence of suicides in Sunderland.

2.3 The Integrated Care Strategy for North East North Cumbria<sup>2</sup> (NENC) has also identified suicide prevention as a priority area and as such, there is a NENC action plan in place to tackle suicide prevention at scale (see appendix 2). This is a contribution to the broader efforts for suicide prevention which will include people in contact with NHS commissioned and healthcare delivery services amenable to healthcare preventative efforts.

2.4 It has been agreed that Directors of Public Health and Public Health teams will continue to provide the suicide prevention leadership, to ensure the following at place:

Public Health Responsibility	Current position
A suicide prevention multi-agency partnership led by the Director of Public Health.	<p>Sunderland's suicide prevention partnership is a well-established multi-agency group responsible for the delivery and ownership of the Suicide Prevention Action Plan.</p> <p>The suicide prevention partnership provides assurance to the Director of Public Health via Public Health Assurance Group. Regular updates will also be provided via the Living Well Delivery Board.</p>

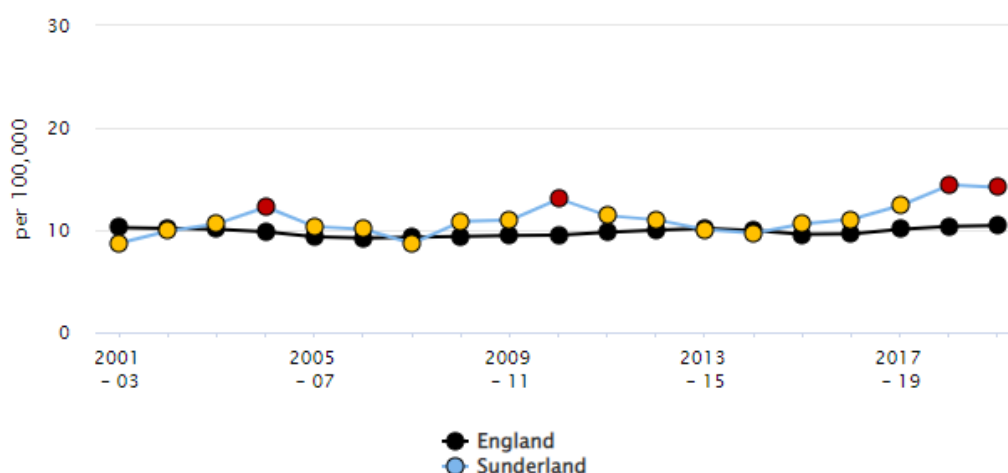
<sup>1</sup> [Suicide prevention in England: 5-year cross-sector strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115444/suicide-prevention-in-england-5-year-cross-sector-strategy.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [icp-strategy-v14.pdf \(northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk\)](https://www.northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/icp-strategy-v14.pdf)

<p>A multi-agency suicide prevention plan which reflects the collective work of the partnership, local priorities, and national suicide prevention strategy.</p>	<p>The suicide prevention partnership has led on the refreshment of the action plan for the period of 2023 – 2026; progress made against the action plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the partnership.</p>
<p>A cluster and increasing trends management plan agreed by members of the partnership. This will be underpinned by intelligence (for example it may include local information and soft intelligence, real time surveillance if this is available, near real time surveillance system being developed by NECS).</p>	<p>The near real surveillance system is closely monitored by the Public Health Practitioner (Mental Health) to identify potential suicide clusters and work with partners to implement preventative measures at pace.</p> <p>Sunderland’s Suicide and Cluster response plan was discussed at October’s Suicide Prevention Partnership and the plan is currently in development.</p>

### 3. Sunderland – Suicide Rates

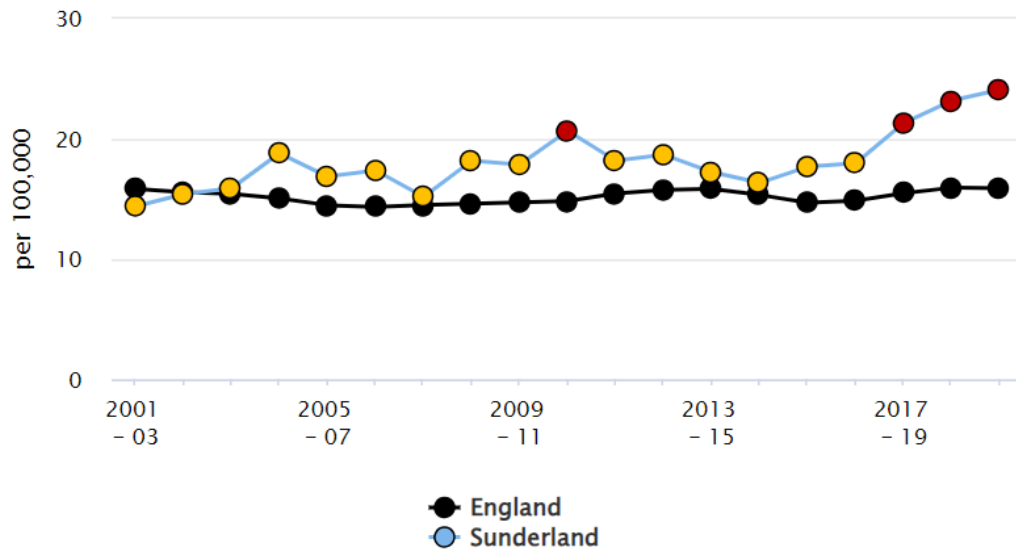
3.1 The suicide rate in Sunderland (2019 – 21) is 14.2 per 100,000, significantly worse than the England average of 10.4 and worse than the North East average of 13.0<sup>3</sup>, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> highest in the region overall. For context, the rate of 14.2 per 100,000 represents 103 suicides over the 3-year period.



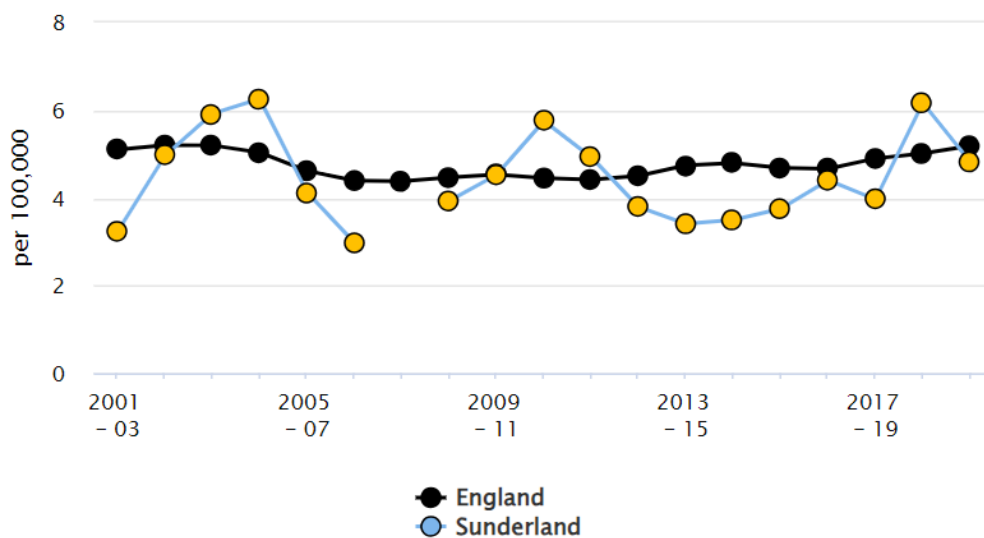
<sup>3</sup> [Suicide Prevention Profile - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://www.phe.org.uk/publication/suicide-prevention-profile)

3.2 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have recently published the suicide rates covering the period of 2020 – 22, which shows a small reduction in Sunderland’s suicide rate at 14.0 per 100,000 (2020-22)<sup>4</sup> compared to 14.2 per 100,000 (2019 – 21).

3.3 The suicide rate for males (2019 – 21) in Sunderland ranked 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the region, at 24.1 per 100,000, compared to the North East (20.8) and England average (15.9). A trend which has been increasing since 2016<sup>5</sup>.



3.4 In contrast, the suicide rate for females (2019 – 21) in Sunderland is 4.8 per 100,000, lower than both the North East (5.4) and England (5.2) average. Whilst there was an increase in the female suicide rate 2018 – 20, the rate decreased in 2019-21<sup>6</sup>.



<sup>4</sup> [Suicides in England and Wales by local authority - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

<sup>5</sup> [Suicide Prevention Profile - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk)

<sup>6</sup> [Suicide Prevention Profile - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://phe.org.uk)

3.5 Refreshed suicide data, broken down by gender, has not yet been published for the 2020-22 period but will be released in due course.

3.6 A key priority within Sunderland’s Suicide Prevention Action Plan is to undertake a suicide audit which will provide a richer understanding of suicides in Sunderland; findings from the suicide audit will inform future developments of the action plan.

#### 4. Sunderland’s Suicide Prevention Action Plan (2023 – 2026)

4.1 Sunderland’s Suicide Prevention Action Plan (see appendix 1) has been developed in line with national guidance and identifies the following priority areas:

Strategic Priorities	Objectives
<p>Reduce the risk of suicide and rates of self-harm in key high-risk groups by providing both universal and targeted support.</p>	<p>Work with a range of key stakeholders to deliver universal interventions support the mental wellbeing of Sunderland residents.</p>
	<p>Work with a range of key stakeholders to deliver targeted interventions to support the mental wellbeing of high-risk groups including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people</li> <li>• Men</li> <li>• Individuals who self-harm</li> <li>• Pregnant women and new mothers</li> <li>• People in contact with mental health services</li> <li>• People in higher/further education</li> <li>• Those with alcohol/substance misuse dependencies</li> </ul>
	<p>To implement a mental health offer for Sunderland Workplaces partnerships.</p>
	<p>Implement national guidance and policy to provide better outcomes for people in higher/further education.</p>
<p>Address common population level risk factors.</p>	<p>Work with a range of key stakeholders to deliver activity and services that support the financial wellbeing of Sunderland residents (including but not limited to the cost-of-living agenda, Universal Credit, digital poverty).</p>
	<p>Work with a range of key stakeholders to deliver interventions and services that reduce the harms relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol and substance misuse</li> <li>• Gambling</li> <li>• Domestic abuse</li> </ul>

Reduce access to the means of suicide	Explore additional opportunities for preventative measures to reduce suicides at high-risk locations in the city.
Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide.	Ensure those bereaved or affected by suicide are supported through information and services.
Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour.	Support local press office and local media with evidence-based tools and guidance to support an approach to support suicides
Support research, data collection and monitoring.	Undertake an annual suicide audit to update information on trends and risk factors and inform local approaches to suicide prevention.
	Analyse data and real time intelligence available through the NECS dashboard to understand the correlation of different risk categories and suicide.
	Ensure local work is linked with regional partnership arrangements led by PHE and NENC ICS as well as other appropriate channels.
Providing effective crisis support.	Explore opportunities to strengthen information sharing agreements, disclosure, and consent for those presenting as high risk.
Making suicide prevention everybody's business.	Build capacity across the city through delivery of Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness training.
	Use existing channels of communications and marketing to promote mental health awareness, wellbeing, and mental health support/services.
	Raise the profile of local suicide prevention activity

4.2 The Suicide Prevention Action Plan was signed off by the Living Well Delivery Board in November 2023. The Suicide Prevention Partnership will hold responsibility for delivery of the plan and progress updates will be provided on a quarterly basis. The Public Health outcomes framework<sup>7</sup> and contract management performance, will be used to monitor impact of the plan (alongside the ICB's adult mental health dashboard). The aspiration is to achieve the following outcomes:

- A reduction in Sunderland's suicide rate per 100,000 population, narrowing the gap between Sunderland and the regional/national average.

<sup>7</sup> [Public Health Outcomes Framework - OHID \(phe.org.uk\)](https://www.phe.org.uk/public-health-outcomes-framework)

- An increase in the number of participants having accessed training including Mental Health Awareness, Emotional Resilience and 'A LIFE Worth Living' suicide prevention training.
- An increase in the number of participants reporting an improved understanding of Mental Health Awareness, Emotional Resilience and Suicide Prevention, along with evidence of participants using the training to support themselves and/or others to seek support via services within Sunderland and/or self-help tools.
- A reduction in the number of 'incidents' in high frequency location(s) throughout Sunderland, for example, Wearmouth Bridge.

4.3 It has been agreed by the partnership that the plan will evolve in line with workplans and any emerging priorities; the plan will be updated as and when new priorities arise.

## 5. Key accomplishments

5.1 Since the last suicide prevention update provided at Health and Well-being Scrutiny, the following has been achieved:

- Positive progress has been made on the implementation of Sunderland's Prevention Concordat (see appendix 4), a programme of work put in place to encourage effective prevention planning arrangements, recognising that suicide prevention sits in the wider context of public mental health and well-being. An annual progress update is scheduled at Living Well Delivery Board in Feb-2024.
- Recently commissioning Washington Mind to develop and deliver a community-based mental health training offer which will encompass 'An Introduction to Mental Health Awareness' and 'Emotional Health and Resilience' training programme, aiming to build more resilient communities throughout Sunderland. Washington Mind have been commissioned to deliver the training programme for a 4-year contract period.
- Continued focus on a community-based approach to suicide prevention in Sunderland through the commissioning of 'A LIFE Worth Living' suicide prevention training, delivered by Washington Mind (re-commissioned in December 2022 for a 4-year contract period) and supporting the national objective of 'making suicide everyone's business'.
- Delivery of a LGA Behavioural Insights programme in partnership with UNPITCHED, to develop an intervention to increase access to, and use of, mental health self-help tools for children and young people aged 10-15 who may be experiencing low mood and/or anxiety for the first time<sup>8</sup>. The programme was delivered as a North East Consortium, which was led by Sunderland City Council. The findings from the insights work were used to develop and run a campaign on social media encouraging the use of self-help tools such as Kooth. There is further work ongoing to determine how this work can be built upon through the distribution of physical communication materials within education settings.

---

<sup>8</sup> [Scoping Report: Using behavioural science to increase access to and use of mental health self-help tools for young people | Local Government Association](#)



- We continue to support key national campaigns throughout the calendar year, including campaigns such as Mental Health Awareness Week and World Suicide Prevention Day.
- Significant progress has been made on the development of the North East North Cumbria (NENC) Near Real Time Surveillance System (NRTSS) for suspected suicides in Sunderland, with the live dashboard having gone live in October 2023. The dashboard enables Public Health leads to explore place-based trends concerning suspected suicides in a timely manner, including the identification of suspected suicide clusters.
- Intelligence from the NRTSS is shared with Sunderland's Suicide Prevention Partnership on a bi-monthly basis, ensuring that suicide prevention planning is aligned to local needs. The Public Health Practitioner leading on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention currently sits on the ICB led NRTSS task and finish group which is being used to monitor trends across the NENC patch, as well as being the forum to further develop the dashboard.
- The NRTSS dashboard has also enabled the recent establishment of a clinical audit process whereby further information is gathered on all suspected suicides to identify key themes and lessons learnt. Whilst this process is still in development, the aspiration is that learning will be fed into ICB prevention strategies and suicide prevention action plans at place.
- Historically, Public Health have led on the suicide audit process (different to that of the clinical audit as the focus is on cases which have undergone the coroners process). It was not possible to complete the audit during the period of Covid-19 pandemic but plans are underway for completion in 2024. Sunderland's suicide prevention action plan will be reviewed in light of the findings from the audit.
- A Substance Misuse Death Inquiry Panel has been established to identify co-existing conditions and strengthen multi agency working to reduce risk of drug related deaths, in which suspected suicides by method of overdose holds a key focus.
- A full review and update of the Samaritans signage has been undertaken on the entrance and exit of Wearmouth Bridge, and upstream routes with heavy footfall. Work is currently ongoing to install signage across the Northern Spire and Queen Alexandra bridge. In addition to this, an options appraisal has been developed reviewing the evidence-base surrounding further suicide prevention measures that could be implemented on bridges across Sunderland – this work is ongoing with no decisions having been made at the current time.

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- Consider the content of the report, to identify further opportunities to support suicide prevention across Sunderland.

- Accept the findings of the report and endorse the Suicide Prevention Action Group to take forward the identified actions, for the purpose of supporting a continued reduction in the rate of suicides.





---

**Contact Officers:**

Gerry Taylor  
**Executive Director of Public  
Health and Integrated  
Commissioning**

Robyn Bullock  
**Public Health Practitioner  
Public Mental Health & Suicide  
Prevention**

## Appendix

Appendix	Document title	Attachment
1	Sunderland's Suicide Prevention Action Plan	 Sunderland_Suicide_Prevention_Action_Plan
2	ICB Suicide Prevention Plan	 NENC_ICB_suicide_prevention_programme
3	Integrated Impact Assessment Tool	 IIA_SuicidePreventionPlan.docx
4	Sunderland's Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health	 Sunderland%20City%20Council%20Prevention%20Concordat%20for%20Better%20Mental%20Health



**WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

**REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT  
COORDINATOR**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members' information, the current work programme for the Committee's work during the 2023-24 Council year.
- 1.2 The report also provides an update on a number of potential topics as raised by Members, for the Committee's consideration.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The work programme is a living document which Committee can develop throughout the year. As a living document the work programme allows Members and Officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.2 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.3 The work programme should reflect the remit of the Committee and the need to balance its responsibility for undertaking scrutiny, performance management and policy review (where necessary).

**3. Work Programme Update**

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee raised a number of issues at its work programme development session and a number of these issues have now been programmed into the Committee's work programme for 2023/24.
- 3.2 The first session for the task and finish working group looking at integrating care at the neighbourhood level took place on Monday 6 November 2023 at 4:30pm, with the second session taking place on Monday 27 November 2023. This second session looks at the Links For Life initiative and how this is integrating some health services at the neighbourhood level. The work of the group will be reported back to the Committee once completed.
- 3.3 The working consists of the following members Cllrs Burnicle, Heron, Hunter, Jones, Speding, Usher and Walton.

**4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee notes and comments on the work programme of the committee, including any amendments.

## **5. Background Papers**

### 5.1 Scrutiny Agendas and Minutes

---

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings

Tel: 07554 414 878

[Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

REASON FOR INCLUSION		4 JULY 23 D/L:23 JUNE 23	5 SEPTEMBER 23 D/L:25 AUGUST 23	3 OCTOBER 23 D/L: 22 SEPT 23	31 OCTOBER 23 D/L: 20 OCT 23	28 NOVEMBER 23 D/L: 17 NOV 23	16 JANUARY 24 D/L: 5 JAN 24	30 JANUARY 24 D/L: 19 JAN 24	27 FEBRUARY 24 D/L: 16 FEB 24	26 MARCH 24 D/L: 15 MAR 24
<b>Policy Framework / Cabinet Referrals and Responses</b>										
<b>Scrutiny Business</b>		Dental Services Update (NHS Improvement)  Task and Finish Working Group Report (N Cummings)  Determining the Scrutiny Work Programme (N Cummings)	Elective and Diagnostic Backlog (NHS FT)	SSAB Annual Report (Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board)  Public Health – Annual Report (Gerry Taylor)  Task and Finish Scoping Report (N Cummings)	ICB Sunderland Update (Scott Watson)  Winter Planning (ATB/ICB)	South Tyneside & Sunderland NHS FT CQC Inspection Action Plan (NHS FT)  Sunderland NHS FT work with college on recruitment in NHS (NHS FT)	MH Strategy Update incl. Community MH in the City (Sunderland ICB, Public Health)  Suicide Prevention Update (Gerry Taylor)	Alcohol Strategy – Update also include Alcohol Care Team (Gerry Taylor, NHS FT)  South Tyneside & Sunderland NHS FT Action Plan Update (NHS FT)	Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Update (Gerry Taylor)  Oral Health Improvements – New Strategy (Gerry Taylor)	GP Access Update incl. pilot schemes (Sunderland ICB)  North East Ambulance Service Update (Mark Cotton)  Annual Report (Nigel Cummings)
<b>Performance / Service Improvement</b>										
<b>Consultation/ Information &amp; Awareness Raising</b>		Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 22-23	Notice of Key Decisions  Work Programme 22-23

## **NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS**

### **REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT COORDINATOR**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 2 January 2024.

#### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Notice of Key Decisions) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 2 January 2024 is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

#### **3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 In considering the Notice of Key Decisions, Members are asked to consider only those issues where the Scrutiny Committee could make a contribution which would add value prior to the decision being taken.
- 3.2 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28-day period from 2 January 2024 at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

#### **5. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Cabinet Agenda

---

Contact Officer : Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer  
07554 414 878  
[Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk)



The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice is given of the following proposed Key Decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or in private) and of Executive Decisions including key decisions) intended to be considered in a private meeting: -

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
221006/744	To seek agreement to enter into the Northumbria Road Safety Initiative Partnership and Collaboration Agreement.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	Not applicable.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220207/690	To approve the sale of the former Alex Smiles site and to undertake required remedial works.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
220524/714	To agree to the grant of an option to sell property at Richmond Street, Sheepfolds, Sunderland.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
220712/722	To seek agreement to the proposed development strategy of the Council's Self and Custom Build Sites.	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
220719/723	To seek approval for the acquisition of Property at Crowtree Road and to grant a lease of the former Crowtree Leisure Centre.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
221110/753	To seek approval for the Disposal of an Industrial Property in Washington.	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
230428/799	To seek approval for Housing Strategy for Sunderland 2023 - 2030	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
230718/828	To agree to enter into Inter-Authority Agreement regarding North East Screen Industries Partnership	Cabinet	Yes	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
230818/831	To update Cabinet on the Masterplan proposals for High Street West, Sunderland and to seek approval to appoint a Multi-disciplinary Design Team to progress the feasibility, design and planning work to develop the Project.	Cabinet	Yes	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
230927/840	To Seek Cabinet Approval for the Siglion Business Plan	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231107/846	To procure a framework agreement for funeral and coronial services	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	Not applicable	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231110/847	Capital Programme Third Review 2023/2024 (including Treasury Management).	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
231110/848	Revenue Budget Third Review 2023/2024.	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231110/849	Council Tax Base 2024/2025	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231110/850	Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/2025	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231110/851	Revenue Budget 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 – Update and Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
231110/852	Capital Programme 2024/2025 to 2027/2028 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2024/2025, including Prudential Indicators for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231110/853	Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2024/2025 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2024/2025 to 2027/2028	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231110/854	Collection Fund (Council Tax) 2023/2024	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
231113/855	To Seek Cabinet approval to the Letting of Space at Sunnyside Leisure	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services Civic Centre PO BOX 100 Sunderland SR2 7DN  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231116/856	To consider Housing Investment and Delivery Plan Housing Disposals	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded under Paragraphs 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>



Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
231120/857	To approve works to address storm damage to piers	Cabinet	Y	14 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231121/858	To seek approval to increase housing rents for Sunderland City Council tenants with effect from 1 April 2024	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231204/861	To consider a proposal to commence statutory processes to develop a SEN unit at Mill Hill Primary School and to approve subsequent procurement of required capital works	Cabinet	Y	18 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231206/862	To seek approval to award grant funding to support the homeless drop in	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter*	Address to obtain further information
231211/863	To provide an update on the former Civic Centre site	Cabinet	Y	During the period 31 January to 31 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231220/865	To seek approval to award a contract to provide support to homeless clients residing in temporary accommodation.	Cabinet	Y	31 January 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>
231222/866	To consider a report on Investment Zone – Enabling Economic Growth	Cabinet	Y	During the period 31 January to 31 March 2024	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Democratic Services City Hall Plater Way Sunderland SR1 3AA  <a href="mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk">committees@sunderland.gov.uk</a>

**Note;** Some of the documents listed may not be available if they are subject to an exemption, prohibition or restriction on disclosure.

Further documents relevant to the matters to be decided can be submitted to the decision-maker. If you wish to request details of those documents (if any) as they become available, or to submit representations about a proposal to hold a meeting in private, you should contact Democratic Services at the address below.

Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of documents submitted to the decision-maker can also be obtained from the Democratic Services team City Hall, Plater Way, Sunderland, or by email to [committees@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:committees@sunderland.gov.uk)

**\*Other documents relevant to the matter may be submitted to the decision maker and requests for details of these documents should be submitted to Democratic Services at the address given above.**

**Who will decide;**

Councillor Graeme Miller – Leader; Councillor Claire Rowntree – Deputy Leader & Clean Green City; Councillor Paul Stewart - Cabinet Secretary; Councillor Kelly Chequer – Healthy City; Councillor Kevin Johnston – Dynamic City; Councillor John Price – Vibrant City; Councillor Linda Williams – Children, Education and Skills.

This is the membership of Cabinet as at the date of this notice. Any changes will be specified on a supplementary notice.

Elaine Waugh,  
Assistant Director of Law and Governance

2 January 2024