

# Adult Social Care Strategy

2026 - 2030



# Foreword

## Councillor Pauline Beall, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

To live in the place we call home, with the people and things we love, in communities where we look out for each other, doing the things that matter to us.

This strategy for Adult Social Care at Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council sets out what we want to achieve by working as a team with partners, residents and communities across the six townships over the next four years. We want people in Stockton-on-Tees who have care and support needs and their carers to have the best possible quality of life, with the opportunity to make choices and do those things that are most important to them and make their lives worthwhile.



Our vision for Adult Social Care continues to ensure:

*That people can get the right level and type of support at the right time to help, prevent, reduce or delay the need for ongoing support and maximise their independence.*

Our approach focuses on building on the strengths of individuals and communities to help them grow and succeed. We will provide high-quality support that adapts to different needs while working with people to include them in decisions about their care. We will make sure that our services are safe and fair and invest in a skilled team that can offer the very best advice and support. We will use feedback, data and information to support our decisions and will collaborate closely with people, communities and partners across all sectors to achieve the best outcomes.

## Carolyn Nice, Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Adult Social Care is at a pivotal moment nationally and here in our Borough. As our communities and townships continue to grow and evolve, so too must the ways in which we support people to live safe, independent and fulfilling lives. The Stockton-on-Tees Adult Social Care Strategy 2026-2030 sets out our shared vision for the future of Adult Social Care. One that is person-centred, inclusive, and sustainable.



We are committed to working collaboratively: listening to the voices of those with lived experience, partners and stakeholders and embracing the opportunities that innovation can provide to meet the challenges ahead. Working with people, partners and communities to set out the priorities in the Stockton-on-Tees Adult Social Care Strategy 2026-2030. We will be reviewing progress against local priorities and what people tell us is important to them. Together we want to build a system that values wellbeing as much as care and ensures our approach is rooted in dignity, respect, and empowerment, ensuring that every individual receives the right support, at the right time, in the right place.

Where needed we will provide high-quality support that adapts to different needs, and places people at the heart of decision making. We will make sure that our services are safe and fair and invest in a skilled team that can offer the very best advice and support. Our decisions will be based in evidence from data and feedback at a local and national level. We need to work together to ensure that we are using the strengths of people, their loved ones and our communities to ensure we are sustainable now and for the future.

Together, we will create a future where Adult Social Care is a cornerstone of enabling thriving, resilient people, families and communities in Stockton-on-Tees

# Adult Social Care context

## What is Adult Social Care?

Adult Social Care in Stockton-on-Tees covers a wide range of activities to help people live independently, support wellbeing and help people to stay safe. It can include:

- supporting people within their own homes, also known as care at home or domiciliary care
- supported accommodation, which is housing that has an element of on-site support, such as Housing with Care or Supported Living Schemes
- support in day centres which offer recreational or community activities
- 24-hour care provided in residential and nursing homes
- services that help people to retain or regain their skills and confidence after a period of illness or hospital stay, such as reablement or rehabilitative services
- providing assistive technology, aids and adaptations for people to use in their homes
- providing information and advice and preventative services to help people stay safe and well and independent for longer
- providing support to unpaid carers in our communities
- supporting people to engage in work, training, education or volunteering and to socialise with family and friends
- providing safeguarding services for people with care and support needs who may be at risk of abuse, neglect or harm



## Context

The Council's Stockton-on-Tees Adult Social Care Strategy 2026-2030 builds upon the Stockton-on-Tees Council Plan 2024 and the priority "Healthy and Resilient Communities" and focuses on what we want to achieve for the people, carers and families we support.

The Adult Social Care Strategy 2026-2030 is allied to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030 which has a broader focus of promoting independence and wellbeing of residents and communities through earlier intervention and addressing the root cause for people's care and support needs. Both these are supported by the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework, Community Safety Strategy and the Adult Social Care Workforce Development Strategy.

Adult Social Care in Stockton-on-Tees has responsibility for ensuring people aged 18 and over are supported to live as independently as possible. The 2014 Care Act places a duty on Local Authorities to assess people's needs and their eligibility for publicly funded care and support. Since the last strategy was published, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) introduced a new inspection regime for local authority social care services. Stockton-on-Tees Adult Social Care was rated as 'Good' by the CQC in 2025.

Adult Social Care continues to be committed to co-production. The priorities in this Strategy were developed in partnership with the Making It Real Board (MIRB, a co-production group lead by citizens with lived experience of health and social care services, working to shape and improve services across Stockton-on-Tees) following extensive engagement with people and partners during 2025, alongside evidence from our quality assurance and performance monitoring highlighting the areas where we need to improve.

To realise the priorities and ambitions in this strategy, we will develop action plans to ensure we deliver the priorities set out in this strategy. Progress will be reported annually through the Local Account that provides a clear overview of the work Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Adult Social Care and Health Directorate has delivered each year.

## STOCKTON ON TEES

**OUR VISION**  
Stockton-on-Tees is home. It's a warm and friendly place where we welcome others and come together as a single community. We are a diverse and inspiring Borough, culturally rich and with confidence in a future that we can all share and be proud of. At the economic heart of the Tees Valley, we are a dynamic, safe and healthy place where everyone can grow and succeed. We will continue to work together to reduce inequalities and barriers to opportunity. We are Team Stockton-on-Tees.

**THE BEST START IN LIFE TO ACHIEVE BIG AMBITIONS**

A safe and inclusive community where everyone can thrive. Working hard to prevent the impact of poverty, creating a bright and healthy future with a shared sense of belonging. Supporting children in our care and creating equality of opportunity.

**HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**

Building happy and healthy lives, supporting those who are experiencing poverty. Ensuring that our residents are resilient, independent.

**A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT**

A vibrant and diverse place with an environment that is well looked after and outdoor spaces to enjoy that residents can be proud of.

**AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY**

Growing the local economy and cementing our role as the well-connected, economic heart of Tees Valley. Ensuring that all residents can benefit from secure and sustainable jobs.

**SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL**

A well-run financially sustainable Council that improves outcomes for communities.

**WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY TO MAKE OUR VISION A REALITY.**

**SOME OF THE THINGS WE WILL DO**

- Support children and families with early development
- Increase access to screening and immunisations
- Work with communities to manage the impact of serious and organised crime
- Progress delivery of our exciting plans for regeneration
- Encourage inward investment from companies that have good and fair operating principles
- Support our residents to access secure and sustainable employment
- Continue to deliver a balanced budget while improving outcomes for communities

**SOME OF THE THINGS YOU CAN DO**

- Get involved with our Family Hubs.
- Volunteer – see what's available at [www.stocktonvolunteers.co.uk](http://www.stocktonvolunteers.co.uk)
- Use and enjoy your local town and village centres
- Use our online forms or call us to report issues such as broken streetlights, damaged street furniture and potholes
- Support local businesses and shop close to home, helping local companies to succeed
- Boost your skills by taking a course with any of the great providers in the Borough
- Share your ideas for doing things differently in your area

**WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE:**

- Our residents will feel like they belong to their community, live for longer and in good health.
- More of our children will have a good level of development and be ready for school when they reach reception age. More will achieve outstanding educational attainment and remain in education, employment and/or training at age 16, building a bright future in our Borough.
- Crime rates will reduce and more residents will feel safe at all times.
- More residents will be happy in their employment and accommodation.
- Employment rates and GVA will increase.
- We will do more with our partners and communities, recognising the part we all have to play in the future of our Borough.

Read the full plan

### Five core principles

- 1. Health is everybody's business**

The most effective way to tackle the broader determinants of health is to incorporate a health perspective into all policies and strategies, evaluating their potential impact on health and well-being. This is known as the "Health in All Policies" approach.
- 2. Communities at the centre**

Working alongside all our communities to understand what is important to them and what would help them to be healthier. By building on the many strengths within local communities, we will work together to create tailored approaches and services that address their specific challenges.
- 3. Commit to prevention and early intervention**

Through a life course approach, across all stages of life, from childhood to old age, acknowledging how early experiences influence long-term health outcomes.
- 4. Levelling the playing field**

Communities across the Borough do not all have the same opportunities to live in good health and wellbeing. Our collective action across communities, organisations and services will seek to leave no one behind, acknowledging the complex web of factors that affect health and wellbeing for individuals and communities.
- 5. Placed based approach**


Our approach will be rooted in local communities and places. A local-first approach will help make the most of local knowledge, networks and resources to provide tailored support. Where it adds value and maximises resources, we will also continue to collaborate with our partners across places and beyond the Borough.




# Our Borough

## What do we know about living in Stockton-on-Tees for those people who need care and support?


**Population:** 195,562




Moderate growth (above national average of all local authorities)




167,094 are aged 18 or over




Our average age is 41 years



20% of the population are over 65



3% are over 85 years



Population is growing older with the largest single age group being those aged 45 and 64 and the steepest increase in population are the older age groups of over 65 years and over 80 years

**Healthy Life Expectancy**


Our male and female healthy life expectancy\* is very similar at

55.6  54.9


Both are below the average of all local authorities

**Adult Social Care:**


Requests for support from 11,170 people in 2024-2025



Of those residents requiring support, 1,775 received short term support and 3,525 receive long term support




Over 1600 unpaid carers were supported




**Market:**


Commission with 53 care homes of which



6% are rated as 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission



81% are rated 'Good'



We have no care homes rated 'Inadequate'

\* Healthy life expectancy is a measure of the average number of years a person would expect to live in good health.

## Priority 1: Working with people



Our ambitions:

- Ensure people receive a timely assessment of their care and support needs.
- Continue to develop early intervention services and outreach support, including community-based activities to prevent isolation.
- Help people stay independent and avoid long-term care where possible. Services will be focused on promoting wellbeing, confidence, and independence.
- Provide information and advice that is easy to find and accessible to all.
- Continue to invest in valuing and supporting carers in unpaid caring roles and continue working with them to understand their concerns and priorities.

## Priority 2: Providing support



Our ambitions:

- Providing suitable housing and accommodation for people with care and support needs.
- Continue to work with the wider market and ensure consistent quality of care being delivered.
- Ensuring the care market has sufficient capacity and is sustainable.
- Ensure that co-production is embedded in all that we do when designing and commissioning services, including policy updates and new strategies.



## Priority 3: Keeping people safe

Our ambitions:

- We will keep adults safe from harm.
- Enhance the support and process for young people in their transition into adult services.
- Work with people and listen to their feedback on the process and outcomes and continue to improve their experiences around safety.



## Priority 4: Leadership

Our ambitions:

- Capture the voice of the person who uses services to support people who enable them to have an active role in informing the current and future delivery of Adult Social Care
- Delivering person-centred and strengths-based practice.
- Ensure all people who provide care and support are competent and well trained.
- Technology is used as an enabler to deliver effective and efficient ways of working and people are supported to use it.
- Improve the use of data and intelligence used in commissioning decisions.
- Work with the NHS services to improve care and ensure people get the care they need quickly and easily.



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