



Northumberland County Council

Health and Well-being Board

Thursday, 14 December 2023

Update on and refresh of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme 'Tackling the wider determinants of health'

Report of Councillor(s) Veronica Jones, Cabinet Member for Improving Public Health and Wellbeing

Responsible Officer(s): Simon Neilson , Executive Director - Place and Regeneration

1. Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following priorities in the NCC Corporate Plan 2023-26:

- **Achieving value for money:** Creating conditions for everyone to live their best lives is typically highly cost effective and can yield lifelong costs savings such as increased earnings and productivity and reduced use of health and social care services.
- **Tackling Inequalities:** To create a society where everybody can thrive, our residents need all the building blocks in place: a stable job, good pay, quality housing and good education. For some of our residents these foundations are weak or missing which create inequalities.
- **Driving Economic Growth:** Ensuring that all our residents have access to building blocks of a good life, will help them to remain health and independent and pay an important part in contribution to Northumberland's future prosperity.

2. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is:

- To update the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on achievements made against the theme Tackling the Wider Determinants of Health in the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) 2018-2028 and
- To review and agree priorities and actions for this theme and describe proposed amendments for the remaining period of the strategy from 2023 to 2028.
- To review indicators used to measure progress against this Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme.
- Comment on the national indicators aligned to this theme and other measures for understanding the qualitative impact of actions within this Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy theme.

3. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- 3.1 Consider and comment on the achievements described in this report; and
- 3.2 agree to the proposed amendments to the name of the theme, priorities, and associated actions; and
- 3.3 comment on the national indicators aligned to this theme and other measures for understanding the qualitative impact of actions within the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Theme.

4. Key Issues

- 1.1 Tackling the wider determinants of health is one of the four themes of the Northumberland 2018-28 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). This theme seeks to improve people's health and wellbeing by addressing the conditions within which people born, grow, live, work and age as these have a much bigger impact on health and inequalities than healthcare services and health behaviours. This theme includes 4 priorities tackling fuel poverty, supporting people to live independently, increasing the number of people with long term health conditions into work and transport.
- 1.2 This report is a mid-point review of progress which has been made against these priorities.
- 1.3 The member lead and elected member sponsor for this theme is Councillor Veronica Jones, Portfolio Holder/Cabinet member for Improving Public Health and Wellbeing; although the nature of this theme also cuts across the portfolios of Strategic Transport & Infrastructure and Climate Change; Supporting Business & Opportunities; Caring for Adults; Improving Our Roads and Highways and Looking After our Environment. The

director sponsor is Rob Murfin, Director of Housing and Planning, Place and Regeneration, Northumberland County Council.

- 1.4 It is important to note the caveats attached to the quality of the data in Table 2 where collection of data has been affected by COVID-19 or latest data has not been released in time for this report.
- 1.5 Since 2017/2018, there have been improvements in the following indicators with evidence that the gap is closing when compared with England and the Northeast:
 - proportion of adults in contact with secondary mental health services who live in stable and appropriate accommodation,
 - the employment gap for those with long term physical or mental long-term conditions and the percentage of adults cycling for travel at least 3 times per week.
- 1.6 The fuel poverty national indicators do not cover the period of the cost-of-living crisis, so still appears stable, although this is unlikely. The proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation and percentage of adults walking for travel at least 3 times per week has also remained stable.
- 1.7 There has been a slight fall in the overall employment rate for 16+ and a worsening trend for workless households.
- 1.8 The quality of housing and access to outside space during COVID-19 affected households experiences and outcomes. Economic inactivity has risen since the pandemic. Whilst seeing an initial rise in cycling and walking during the pandemic, it is not clear yet if this will be sustained longer term and there has been a notable decline in the use of public transport.
- 1.9 It is proposed that the following changes are made to this theme:
 - The theme be renamed from 'Wider Determinants of Health' to 'Building Blocks of Good Life', as this language increases knowledge of the fundamental role that the circumstances within which we live has the biggest impact on health and inequalities.
 - The 2 priorities for housing (fuel poverty & independent living) be broadened to include the impact on health of wider strategic housing and planning issues and rename the theme "Healthy Housing and Planning". Due to issues with the fuel poverty indicator, it will be supplemented with an indicator which measures Energy Efficiency Standards in households. Indicators for affordability and overcrowding will also be added (See Table 2).
 - It is proposed to focus the Inclusive Economy section on closing the gap in employment outcomes for people with long term physical and mental health conditions and reducing economic activity linked to poor health. If approved the indicators will be amended accordingly (See Table 3).

The Transport theme will contain the same priorities and indicators (See Table 4) although the actions have been refreshed.

5. Background

'Tackling the wider determinants of health' is one of the four themes of the Northumberland 2018-2028 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). The NHS was never meant to be the only institution working to improve health, it was always intended to be part of a broader system of support addressing jobs, housing, education, and public transport. A healthy and thriving community needs all the right building blocks in place: jobs, pay, housing and education. For some of our residents these building blocks are missing, weak or need replacing. This theme is a call to action to those agencies and departments working mainly outside the health and care system to take action to ensure

all of our communities irrespective of their background, have stronger foundations to be able to thrive and seize the opportunities in Northumberland.

This theme focuses on three of these wider determinants of health: housing, employment, and transport.

- **Housing** - Living in a home, which is unaffordable, cold, or damp can result in respiratory health conditions and worsens many long-term health conditions. It can affect children's ability to study at home and constantly worrying about having enough money to pay the rent can also lead to chronic stress, anxiety, and depression.
- **Employability** – Having a good quality job is protective for good health. Long term unemployment, low paid, inflexible, insecure work with irregular hours, or where the working environment is challenging, with low levels of control or autonomy or support can cause chronic stress; this can lead to high blood pressure and a weaker immune system.
- **Transport services and infrastructure** can affect health directly through air pollution or by providing opportunities to travel actively but also indirectly as transport also provides access to education, work, services, recreation, family and friends. An inadequate transport system has the potential to widen social and economic inequality by limiting opportunities to find employment and socialise with friends, as well as accessing public services.

5.2 Review of the JHWS Theme

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy includes a mid-term review of priorities to provide assurance that they still reflect the priorities for Northumberland. The review of this theme describes progress against the national indicators specified in the JHWS and a summary of key achievements against priority areas. The report highlights some of the actions that we are aware of which have been taken since the strategy launch which reflect the extensive multi-agency work up to 2023 to achieve its priorities. It is not possible to reflect all the work carried out across multiple sectors locally, regionally and nationally to improve housing, transport and economic inclusion in Northumberland, but hopefully provides an insight for the Board on the broad range of actions being taken.

Updated priorities are proposed for the remaining five-year period of the JHWS. These refreshed priorities have been identified through discussion with multiple stakeholders, previous discussions in the Board, responses from the Inequalities Plan Locality Events. Northumberland County Councils Place and Regeneration Directorate have agreed to take ownership of this theme.

5.3 The Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The pandemic focussed attention on existing inequalities and how the conditions that people live in and the type of work they have affected people's ability to protect themselves from the virus.

Housing/Fuel Poverty

Research published by the [National Housing Federation](#) and [The Health Foundation](#), indicated that 31% of adults in the UK had experienced mental or physical health problems linked to the lack of space in their home, housing conditions or lack of outdoor space during lockdown. or its condition during lockdown.

The cost-of-living crisis which followed COVID-19 caused by multiple factors has resulted in rising fuel costs and inflation rates. [A recent study by Crisis](#) (February 2023), found that there is more pressure on households on the lowest incomes as they spend a greater proportion of their income on housing, food and energy, with the lowest income decile facing total average housing, food and energy costs exceeding their incomes by 43 per cent. Northumberland has around 20,000 properties with approximately 35,000 residents living these conditions (based on 2020 population estimates).

Employment

The Post Covid recovery period has been characterised by relatively weak employment growth, hard-to-fill vacancies, and a shrinking labour pool. Unemployment is low with many vacancies remaining unfilled, particularly in health and social care. The active pool of labour, both employed and unemployed has contracted. There is a noticeable trend showing growth in economic inactivity (people not in employment and not looking for work) and the proportion of people who are economically inactive due to ill health.

Transport

COVID 19 has had a disruptive impact on travel patterns. While car usage has made a rapid recovery, public transport recovery has been a lot slower. Despite the negative impacts of COVID-19, there is an opportunity to build on the reduction in car dependency witnessed during the pandemic to achieve long term change.

Quality of data for monitoring purposes

As has been indicated in previous discussions in the Board, there has been an impact on the reliability and quality of the national data used to monitor progress due to the coronavirus pandemic which will take time to smooth out.

5.4 Progress against national indicators

Table 1 shows progress against the most recent published data for the national indicators which were originally selected for this theme.

Table 1: Updated data on indicators of fuel poverty in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy					
Indicator	N'land	Northeast	England	Time Period	Trend
Fuel Poverty*	13.8%	14%	13.1%	2021	→
Winter Mortality Index**	31.9%	24.3%	36.2%	2020-21	↑
Adults with a <u>learning disability</u> who live in stable and appropriate accommodation ***	86.1% →	86.4% ↑	78.8% ↑	2021/22	No significant change
Adults in contact with <u>secondary mental health services</u> who live in stable and appropriate accommodation (Persons)****	57.0% ↑	69% ↑	58.0% →	2021/22	Closing the gap with England but not NE

% gap in 16+ employment rate and those with physical or mental long-term conditions lasting more than 12 months	8.9%	9.7%	11.8%	5-year trend to 2022/23	Gap is narrowing.
Percentage of workless households	21.5%	19.7%	13.4%	5-year trend to 2022/23	Increasing and gap widening.
Overall Employment rate 16+	51.4%	55.7%	61%	5-year trend to 2022/23	Widening gap compared with NE & England
% adults walking for travel at least 3 times per week	10.9%	15.2%	17.4%	2021/22	Reducing and no change in gap
% adults cycling for travel at least 3 times per week	2.3%	1.8%	2.3%	2019/20	Narrowing gap with England and Northeast

Notes

* A household is considered to be fuel poor if they are living in a property with a fuel poverty energy efficiency rating of band D or below **and** when they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a residual income below the poverty line. This date is based on modelled estimates.

** compares the number of deaths that occurred in the winter period (December to March) with the average of the non-winter periods (August to November and April to July)

*** [Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation](#) - Working age learning disabled clients who are living in their own home as a percentage of working age learning disabled clients (aged 18 to 64) (source Fingertips, NHS Digital. Measures from the Adult and Social Care Outcomes Framework, table 1G.)

**** [Adults in contact with secondary mental health services who live in stable and appropriate accommodation \(Persons\)](#) - Adults who are receiving secondary mental health services on the Care Programme Approach recorded as living independently, with or without support, as a percentage of adults who are receiving secondary mental health services and who are on the Care Programme Approach (aged 18 to 69). (Source: Fingertips, NHS Digital Measures from the Adult and Social Care Outcomes Framework, table 1H. (Resources)).

The fuel poverty indicator is based on modelled estimates and does not directly capture the number of people who live in fuel poverty so it is possible that small areas which are atypical are unlikely to be identified by the model. It is therefore essential, wherever possible, to compare the modelled results to local data. The local authority data for fuel poverty indicator is available up to 2021 which does not include the period of the cost of living and energy crisis. Whilst the average proportion of households living in fuel poverty according to the last data is 13.8%, we need to continue to prioritise households who experience higher levels of fuel poverty, these include rural areas, villages, hamlets, and isolated dwellings (16.1%), people with disabilities (17.3%), people living in private rented properties (24.7%) and lone parents with dependent children (25.1%).

Likewise, the data period for Winter Mortality up to 2021 shows a worsening trend which is in line with the Northeast and England trends. In 2020 the coronavirus pandemic led to a large increase of deaths mostly in the non-winter months which has impacted on the data as this is used to calculate the difference for the winter months so should be interpreted with caution.

Adults in contact with mental health services living in stable and appropriate accommodation has seen an improvement and is similar to England but behind the

Northeast. Due to the disruption of coronavirus, this has affected the quality and coverage of some of the mental health statistics, therefore, data should be interpreted with care over the period of the pandemic.

The gap in the employment rate for those with a long-term health condition is narrowing between Northumberland and the Northeast and England and this is a long-term trend. Changes in the method of data collection during coronavirus which moved from face to face to telephone interviews is likely to have affected the quality of this data.

The proportion of workless households in Northumberland is increasing and the gap is growing between local and national trends but is more stable when compared to the region. The employment rate for those aged 16+ is falling slightly in Northumberland and nationally but rising regionally.

Transport indicators were not selected in the original JHWS so, we have provided indicators which measure progress to increase walking and cycling. Trips made on foot or by bike in Northumberland regardless are roughly in line with regional and national averages. Whilst recognising the rural nature of the county and the practicalities of making trips of this distance by an active method of transport, approximately a third of all trips made in the county are less than 5 kilometres where possible walking and cycling should be considered. Generally, lower levels of walking and cycling are seen amongst population groups on lower incomes, older age and for people with disabilities.

5.5 Progress during 2018 to 2023 by priority area

This section provides an update of some of the work that we are aware of to address the priorities of the JHWS. This update is by no means exhaustive or fully reflects the extent of activity carried out across Northumberland by multiple partners but provides a flavour of key work in these areas. A fuller list of the activity carried out is provided at **Appendix 1** of this report.

5.5.1 Priority 1: Housing Tackling fuel poverty by increasing the number of households with access to warm homes by:

- **Through design standards and building control** – The adoption of the Adoption of [Northumberland Local Plan](#) (March 2022) presented opportunities to include a number of policies to support the delivery of JHWS priorities including supporting Health and wellbeing and healthy and sustainable homes.
- **Promoting energy efficiency schemes to public and front-line workers** – the response to the COVID pandemic strengthened the pathways and partnership working amongst partners in the Council, charities and NHS and this continued through into the cost-of-living crisis. Action has included providing resources and training to front line staff on warm homes, developing clearer pathways to support predominantly provided in the VCS, use of Frontline to promote services to residents.
- **Maximising the take up of retrofit measures boilers/Insulation** via Capital Programme also delivering a range of retrofit schemes as part of the Councils Housing Capital Program and national schemes such as ECO and the various

grants under Warmer Homes and ensuring there is a clear Energy Pathway to this support.

5.5.2 Priority 2 Housing - Supporting people to live independently for as long as possible through regulations and powers by.

- **Considering needs of older/disabled people to live independently** through converting and building new purpose-built homes and adaptations to existing housing.
- **Using Use Local Plan to create healthier places**, a new local plan was adopted in 2022 with a range of new policies to improve health and wellbeing. We now have developers completing health impact assessments as part of the planning process. We also have a Hot Food Takeaway Policy to limit new takeaways.
- **Maximise Disabled Facilities Grant take up** – 560 applications agreed since Jan 2022.

5.5.3 Priority 3: Increasing the number of people with long term health conditions moving into and sustaining work.

- **Continue to develop opportunities to integrate employment and health services** - North of Tyne Combined Authority and Northeast and ICB Work and Health Strategy developed to provide a future commissioning and policy context. Various pilots ongoing and looking for funding opportunities via national funding streams.
- **Employer focused interventions to improve recruitment/retention of people with long term health conditions.** Northumbria's Community Promise, Post in Advance Northumberland to improve employer engagement on good working practices, North of Tyne Good Work Pledge and Northeast Better Health at Work Scheme.
- **Support carers and over 50s into work/sustain work.** - Many employment services delivered by local organisations and commissioned nationally will include carers in their cohort. Also, specific Generic employment support delivered by Solid Foundations, Work and Health Programme and Northumberland Carers Return to Work Project.
- **Support users of Mental Health and therapy services into work** – Mental Health Trailblazer and CNTW Individual Placement Service.
- **Actively engage with employers to promote good work** – See bullet point 2 above.
- **Progression from low wage economy** – Regeneration programmes such as Energising Blyth and Borderlands Growth Deal are aimed at improving the quality of jobs available in Northumberland.

5.5.4 Priority 4: Ensuring local transport policy delivers on providing resilient, flexible, and sustainable transport options across the county, particularly rural areas.

- **Improving Equity of Access to Public and Community Transport** – Reinstating passenger transport services to the Northumberland Line, Developments as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan and Northeast Enhanced Bus Partnership and commissioning a Public and Community Transport Health Needs Assessment due to report in December.

- **Increase children and young people's active travel** – A comprehensive range of support and behaviour change interventions provided to schools to help them move children and their families to more active types of travel.
- **Increase walking and cycling through local infrastructure improvements and behaviour change approaches** – A range of cycling infrastructure improvements across Northumberland are currently being delivered with more in the pipeline, cycle loan schemes rider training and trailing cargo bikes and adapted bikes to broaden participation.

5.6 Proposed updated priorities and actions for 2023-2028

The COVID-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis has reinforced the need to redouble our efforts to reduce inequalities by strengthening the building blocks of a good life.

It is proposed that the 'Wider Determinants of Health' theme be renamed the 'Building blocks of a good life', as comparing building a healthy society with the construction of a sturdy building is more likely to resonate with partners and our residents. Using this is a metaphor will also increase knowledge of the fundamental role that the circumstances within which we are born, live and work has the biggest impact on our resident's health and inequalities.

The development of the Northumberland Inequalities Plan and subsequent inequalities summit and locality events across the county and the Place Standard Tool helped inform this review. We also considered highlighting and building on activity using asset-based approach so considered the 3 questions posed in the inequalities plan. What do communities want to do for themselves? What might communities need some help with? What can't communities do that agencies can? This is shown at Table 5.

5.6.1 Priority Theme 1 – Healthy Housing and Planning

The JHWS original priorities 1 & 2 covered a collection of activities focussed on fuel poverty and independent living. The issue of fuel poverty has clear action being undertaken to address this challenge and has largely been mainstreamed via the Energy Pathway and the various retrofit workstreams. It is therefore proposed that the 'housing' priority be broadened and renamed 'Healthy Housing and Planning' to provide a focus on strategic housing and planning issues to include factors such as the conditions of housing, availability of different types of housing and affordability.

In early 2024 the Health and Wellbeing Board will be receiving a report on The Healthy Housing Theme to provide an opportunity to develop further actions in this area.

The proposed actions within the newly named 'Healthy Housing and Healthy Planning Theme include:

Priority 1: Supporting Healthy environments through Planning

1. Undertake early engagement work with the developers raise understanding of the benefits of addressing the wider determinants of health (and carbon reduction) as part of new developments.
2. Ensure the effective involvement of Public Health in the planning application process to ensure that health considerations are given appropriate weight in planning decisions and that health is integral from the start. This will include input at the pre-application stage and in planning decisions and refreshing HIA (Health Impact Assessment) guidance as part of an update to the Planning Validation List.

3. Ensure the effective engagement and involvement in work in strategic plan making. This could include planning guidance to supplement the Local Plan, support for Neighbourhood Plan making and developing Design Guides.
4. Develop a common narrative across LA7, narrowing of the inequalities gap through devolution, create LA7 healthy developments messaging.

Priority 2: Blyth Deep Dive Housing and Healthy Housing Hub

80 - 100 bed extra care unit on hospital site in partnership with NHS

A third phase of Energising Blyth programme, focused on Housing renewal and town centre living supported by Levelling Up Deep Dive funds.

- £12m awarded through Blyth Deep Dive specifically towards this.
 - Empty Homes Team will be established in Winter 2023
 - Bowes Court – an energy efficiency scheme to improve NCC properties - delivery starts early 2024.
 - Extra Care Facility – delivery 2024-26.
 - Richard Stannard House – redevelopment of commercial property as high quality residential apartments for rent. Delivery from 2024-2026
- Selective Licencing pilot within Cowpen Quay
- Continue to gather resident voice using Place Standard Tool

Priority 3: Hirst Housing Masterplan Phase One Implementation

Supporting the implementation of Phase 1 of the Hirst Masterplan - Heart and Hopes of Hirst - Towards an Imagined Future

Introduce strategic lead and a community and housing programme manager to deliver phase 1 of the Master Plan and prepare for phase 2. Including:

- Clean, tidy and safe streets
- Shaping our neighbourhood
- Opportunity sites
- Community connections
- Community assets
- Skills and job

Respond to resident voice using Place Standard Tool

Priority 4: Available, Affordable, Quality Housing

More affordable housing, better spread across the county (inequalities localities events summer 2022)

1. Work with partners to optimise the delivery of Rural Affordable Housing
2. NCC will aim to be an exemplar as the biggest social landlord in the county
3. Working to drive up quality of housing and support tenants with healthy living initiatives.
4. Respond to resident voice using Place Standard Tool

The national indicators to support an understanding of progress within this theme are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Proposed measures of success for Priority 1					
Healthy Housing Indicators	N'land	Northeast	England	Time Period	Trend
NEW INDICATOR Affordability of home ownership *	6.5	5.4	9.1	2021	Not available
NEW INDICATOR Overcrowded Houses	3.6%		8.7%	2021	Awaiting new census data
NEW INDICATOR % of properties at band C and above ** & ***	40%	42%	42%	2023	
RETAIN Fuel Poverty	13.8%	14%	13.1%	2021	
<p>Notes: * Ratio of median house price to median gross annual residence-based earnings (A higher ratio indicates that on average, it is less affordable for a resident to purchase a house in their local authority district)</p> <p>** EPC Ratings Source DLUHC EPC</p> <p>*** EPC ratings by ward across Northumberland in the JSNAA demonstrate a significant discrepancy between wards across the county of between 89.13 & 39.5% below EPC band C, with rural wards typically demonstrating the least fuel efficiencies.</p>					

5.6.2 Priority Theme 3 - Inclusive Economy

Actions which increase the number of residents moving closer or returning to work, increasing good quality work opportunities, and providing services for those with poor health and employment needs together are elements of an effective work and health system. These actions will also help to make Northumberland a land of opportunities for everyone; irrespective of where they live, their background or circumstances such as age, disability, health condition or caring responsibilities. The proposed future priorities for this theme, reflect recent discussions in the Board during 2023 and are shown below.

Priorities	Actions
Priority 1: A focus on supporting the economically inactive with long term health conditions to obtain and sustain good quality work.	
Improve our joint health and employment support response to residents with long term health conditions facing barriers to getting/sustaining work	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work with the Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board and emerging Northeast Mayoral Combined Authority to develop a strategic approach to Work and Health b. Integrate the approach of frontline health and employment support by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthening and expanding Northumberland's Employment and Skills Partnership to include NHS primary care services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthen referral pathways, skills, and confidence of staff in primary care and employment services to address health and work outcomes together. Identify further funding opportunities to further test the integration of health and employment services. Identify opportunities and work towards place-based approaches which co-locate health/employment and other services together.
Priority 2: Increase access to Good Quality Work	
Increase access to Good Work (secure, safe and healthy working environment, decent level of pay and opportunities to progress)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering ambitious regeneration plans such as Energising Blyth, Ashington, Borderlands, Rural Stewardship Growth Investment Plan. Continue to strengthen the alignment and promotion of the Good Work Pledge and Better Health at Work Award under new Combined Authority. Review current activity to identify opportunities to enhance/develop in-work support for employers and employees to address health and wellbeing issues, particularly within smaller and medium-sized employers.
Priority 3: Maximise the economic levers of Northumberland's Institutions to reduce inequalities	
Maximise the opportunities to deliver wider economic, social, and environmental benefit via Northumberland's Anchor Institutions (Public, Private, VCSE)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Share and celebrate existing good practice of Northumberland Employers e.g., Bernicia, Northumbria Hospital's Trust Community Promise to generate economic, social, and environmental benefit as an employer, purchaser of services and owner of assets. Expand to include private sector business. Develop a Northumberland shared framework to maximise the opportunities of the Social Value Act and Corporate Social Responsibilities.
Priority 4 – Develop place-based approaches in increase access to volunteering	
Increase in impactful, volunteering and training opportunities for economically inactive.	Working with Combined Authority and local VCSE place based partners to develop an Inclusive Economy Local Community Partnership to increase opportunities for residents who are economically inactive to come together and take action in their local area.

For this theme with revised priorities, we are proposing using the national indicators outlined in table 3 below to help us understanding what progress is being achieved.

Table 3 - Proposed indicators for Priority 2					
Inclusive Economy Indicators	N'land	Northeast	England	Time Period	Trend
RETAIN % Gap in employment rate between those with long	14%	14%	10%	2021/22	Increasing gap to England Similar to NE

term physical or mental health conditions and overall employment rate					
NEW INDICATOR % Economic inactivity Rate (Short, long term, health conditions, caring responsibilities)	25.2%	25.6%	21.2%	2021/22	Increasing gap to England Similar to NE

5.6.3 Priority Theme 3 - Equity of Transport

The proposed future priorities for this theme are included in the table below.

Priorities	Proposed Actions
Priority 1: Public and Community Transport is equitable, accessible, and appealing	
Improving Equity of Access to Public and Community Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue with reintroduction of passenger services to the Northumberland Line which aims to increase job opportunities, potential employers moving to the area, access to services, leisure and work within Northumberland and linked to Newcastle and North Tyneside. b) Consider and respond to recommendations of emerging Public and Community Transport Health Needs Assessment c) Maximise a full package of devolved transport investment and powers to create an integrated transport system as part of Northeast Devolution and the opportunities available under the Bus Service Improvement Plan
Priority 2: Increase children and young people's active travel.	
Increase children and young people's active travel.	<p>Continue to support Schools Go Smarter focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) increasing the number of schools achieving MODESHIFT Stars Accreditation and achieving a higher level. b) Supporting schools with advice, ideas and the tools to implement active travel approaches. c) Engaging with parents via workshops and research to consider more sustainable and active travel. d) Look for further opportunities to develop Safer Routes to schools' programmes.
Priority 3: Ensuring the built environment is conducive to active travel	

<p>Increase walking and cycling through local infrastructure improvements and behaviour change approaches</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to deliver on the ambitions of Our Way and Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plans b. Provision of community cargo cycle and rider training for cargo cycle usage in Berwick Upon Tweed to support local journeys around the town to test potential for sustainable hub for local freight. c. Department for Transport (DFT) capability and ambition funding secured for 100 cycle instructor training places to engage with existing and potential cyclists. d. DFT funding has been secured to develop an employability and education cycle loan to operate out of four locations in Northumberland. e. Work will continue to progress on the delivery of Levelling-Up Funded active travel schemes and work will be undertaken to identify a pipeline of schemes to submit to various funding opportunities. f. We will apply Local Plan policies to encourage new development in sustainable and accessible locations and encourage walking and cycling. g. Align our campaigns and approaches to change behaviour to evidence-based behaviour change models and ensure that our actions reduce inequalities.
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Transport indicators were not included in the original JHWS, it is therefore proposed that the national indicators shown in Table 4 will be used to support an understanding of progress within this theme.

Table 4 – Proposed indicators for Priority 3					
Transport Equity Indicators	N'land	Northeast	England	Time Period	Trend
RETAIN % adults walking for travel at least 3 times per week.	10.9%	15.2%	17.4%	2021/22	No change in gap
RETAIN % adults cycling for travel at least 3 times per week	2.3%	1.8%	2.3%	2019/20	Narrowing gap

5.6 The Inequalities Plan

In the table below we have used the three questions posed by the Inequalities Plan relate to our joint work on improving the building blocks of a good life and indicate how we will continue to maintain this community focus over the next 5 years.

What do communities want to do for themselves?

- Identify and share community assets.
- Looking out for each other.
- Volunteer & take social action to improve their area. E.g., Climate Change Champions, Love Northumberland volunteers.
- Organise opportunities for communities to come together and connect with others.

What might communities need some help with?

- Playing a part in giving their views – e.g., through participatory methods which are actively involved in shaping and monitoring improvements in their areas e.g., through Place Standard Tool
- Community Led Housing
- Access to small grants and funding advice to help communities put their ideas into action.
- Signposting communities to good quality advice and opportunities.

What can't communities do that agencies can?

- Develop and enforce policy and regulatory frameworks.
- Secure external funding to take forward projects.
- Lead by example with other developers, employers, and institutions to create healthy and equitable neighbourhoods, workplaces and economy.
- Consistently consider the impact on inequalities of our decision making.

6. Conclusion

This mid-point review of the JHWS theme 'Wider Determinants of Health' has used a range of information to describe achievements and progress against the priorities and actions, identifying limitations in some national indicators and areas where performance against national indicators has worsened.

The proposed amendments to the name of this theme, the priorities and associated actions and indicators reflect discussions within the Regeneration and Place Directorate Management Team within Northumberland County Council. The input from HWB partners is requested to develop this theme to ensure it reflects our shared priorities and identifies appropriate actions for the remaining period of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

7. Implications

Policy	This paper updates the theme 'wider determinants of health' which has now been renamed 'Building Blocks of a Good Life' of the Northumberland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It considers and seeks to align with other organisational strategies and plan
Finance and value for money	It is not anticipated that the refreshed actions will require additional funding outside of existing plans. However, they will require additional implementation plans which may articulate the need for additional funding
Legal	This report supports the Health and Wellbeing Board to fulfil its statutory duty to complete a joint local health and wellbeing strategy. It is not anticipated that the refreshed actions will have legal implications, however they will require additional action plans and each organisation will need to consider legal implications at this point.

Procurement	There are no specific requirements for procurement articulated in this report, however the actions will require additional action plans and each organisation will need to consider procurement implications at this point.
Human resources	No new recruitment is identified. However, system partners will need to devote resources in terms of staff / officer time to deliver these actions. It may be that as part of an implementation plan, organisations consider if their recruitment practices can be strengthened to reduce inequalities.
Property	There are no specific implications for estates.
The Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?	No - not required at this point An equalities impact assessment has not been carried out. However, the refreshed actions are specifically aimed at reducing health inequalities which include to people with characteristics protected by the Public Sector Equality Duty.
Risk assessment	A risk assessment has not been undertaken, though risk assessments may be needed as part of further implementation.
Crime and disorder	No specific implications.
Customer considerations	The refreshed actions are intended to improve the lives of our residents.
Carbon reduction	No specific implications, though social value considerations should include carbon reduction.
Health and wellbeing	This report is explicitly intending to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Northumberland and reduce health inequalities
Wards	(All Wards);

8. Background papers

[Northumberland County Council Environment Policy Statement](#)

[Northeast Bus Service Improvement Plan](#)

[Northumberland Joint Strategic Needs and Asset Assessment](#)

[Northumberland Inequalities Plan](#)

[Northumberland Local Plan](#)

[Northumberland Climate Change Action Plan](#)

9. Links to other key reports already published

Not applicable

10. Author and Contact Details

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