Telford & Wrekin Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest to create a better borough

Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Cabinet

3 December 2026

Annual Public Health Report 2026

Healthy Neighbourhoods - Prevention First

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Kelly Middleton - Cabinet Member: Public Health and Unlocking Opportunities for All
Lead Director:	Helen Onions - Director of Public Health
Service Area:	Health & Wellbeing
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Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Yes – 13 October 2026
Report considered by:	SMT – 1 September 2026 HWB – 17 September 2026 Business Briefing – 19 November 2026

1.0 Recommendations for decision

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1.1 Cabinet is requested to endorse and support the recommendations of the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2026, which are aimed at improving local health and wellbeing outcomes, through implementation of the neighbourhood health programme.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The 2026 Annual Public Health Report focusses on neighbourhood health, the Government's new programme which is part of the NHS 10 Year Plan. It highlights the need to focus on prevention so our residents can stay healthy and independent, spot problems earlier.

3.0 Background

3.1 Working in neighbourhoods is far from new for local authorities, which offer a wide range of services and support in communities that impact on resident's health and wellbeing, for example – lifestyle and public health services, adults and children's social care, housing, employment and welfare support.

3.2 Neighbourhood health is a collective apporach acorss the NHS, local authorities, voluntary and community organisations, and local residents. The goals are to create more joined-up, person-centred support, strengthen community resilience, tackle health inequalities and reduce reliance on hospital-based care wherever appropriate.

3.3 The NHS 10 Year Health Plan and the 2026 Neighbourhood Health Framework expect neighbourhoods to be increasingly recognised as the building blocks of health and care, bringing services together around the needs of local people and communities.

3.4 Voluntary and community organisations and local authorities with the NHS are leaders of Health & Wellbeing Boards and Place Partnerships are already rooted in communities, working alongside residents and are leading the way on prevention. We have a clear understanding of community needs, are able to reach people who may not engage with traditional health services, to reduce loneliness and social isolation, support community resilience and provide practical support and community connections. As well as addressing the wider factors of health such as housing, employment, debt and social inclusion. Place Partnerships, at local authority level, will be taking on responsibility for planning and improving healthcare for their local populations as part of neighbourhood health.

3.5 Neighbourhood health plans need to be developed under the collective leadership of well-established Health & Wellbeing Boards, hosted by each local authority.

3.6 The neighbourhood health shift gives the opportunity to improve local outcomes and reduce inequalities throughout resident's lives, so that residents start well, live well and age well.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 In Telford & Wrekin work on with partners on the health and wellbeing strategy, children and young people's and adult social care prevention strategies, and the Vision 2032 are clear examples of existing community-focused collaboration to improve outcomes for residents.

4.2 The Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership – TWIPP is steering the delivery of neighbourhood health in the Borough. TWIPP includes partners from:

- local authority children and adults services and public health;

- the four Primary Care Networks;
- NHS leads from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the four local hospital and community trusts;
- our Voluntary and Community Service Alliance.

4.3 On a broader footprint the NHS with TWIPP partners are collaborating with Shropshire – the Council and voluntary sector alliance, to develop the Healthy Neighbourhoods programme. The programme aligns with the approach being taken more widely across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent to accelerate the shift toward neighbourhood-based models of care that enable earlier intervention and proactive care closer to home.

4.4 The development of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams through our Primary Care Networks is the key initial focus for the NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Neighbourhood Health Programme. Data on need and demand for healthcare is being used to target prevention and earlier treatment. Four population groups are priorities, and two of those are being worked on in 2026: people living with frailty and people with long-term conditions – such as cardiovascular disease.

4.5 Priority populations for Neighbourhood Health



4.5 The 2026 annual public health report describes how we have been strengthening prevention through TWIPP in Telford & Wrekin, through a series of case studies which showcase how the council, community and voluntary organisations have been working with residents and primary and community NHS services.

4.6 There are six priority themes for prevention agreed for healthy neighbourhoods, and the report uses these themes as a framework for recent case studies.



4.7 Neighbourhood health and prevention agenda connect well with other significant transformation programmes already underway, such as the Best Start in Life as part of the Children & Young People's Strategy, Adult Social Care Strategy and Making Prevention Real Programme and the Sport England place expansion programme.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 Producing an independent annual report is a statutory duty for the Director of Public Health and the local authority must publish the report, so not publishing a report would mean this duty is not complied with. Health and Wellbeing Board could decide to not endorse the recommendations of the Director of Public Health, but such a decision would be in spite of the wealth of evidence presented in the report.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 Failure to implement Neighbourhood Health would risk continued fragmentation of healthcare services and support, making it harder for residents to access joined-up, person-centred care and reducing opportunities to improve prevention and tackle health inequalities. This could particularly affect priority groups such as people with frailty, long-term conditions, mental health needs, children and young people.

6.2 There is a risk of increasing pressure on hospitals and healthcare services. Without a stronger focus on prevention, early intervention and community-based support, the demand for emergency and acute services is likely to continue to grow, reducing the ability to improve outcomes, deliver value for money and meet national objectives.

6.3 The capacity of HWB and TWIPP partner organisations to contribute to delivery of the NHS 10-year Plan ambitions without adequate funding is also a key risk for successful implementation of the programme. This is particularly relevant to Voluntary Community & Social Enterprise sector organisations where ongoing financial stability can be an issue.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 The annual report and strategy included with this report will be delivered by the Council in conjunction with Health, Voluntary Sector and other partner organisations.

8.2 Public health grant allocations to Council's are determined by Government as part of it's annual funding settlement for Local Government. Telford & Wrekin Council's Public Health grant for 2026/27 is £16m and is expended on service across the Borough's population including services such as working to help people cease smoking, deliver initiatives to support children's health, provide addiction services for drugs & alcohol, provide health checks and deliver sexual health services, and other programmes.

8.3 The Council's Public Health grant is governed by statute and can only be expended on services which promote and further public health to the Borough's population. There are also key indicators required by Government to measure success in certain key areas.

8.4 The Council will work with partner organisations within allocated resources to deliver Neighbourhood and Community health services at the local level as set out in Government and local strategies. These will be delivered within approved capital and revenue resources. Where additional resources are found to be required then this will be considered within the Council's Governance structure for setting future years budgets through it's Medium term financial strategy.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The Director of Public Health has a statutory duty to prepare an annual report on the health of the people in the area of the local authority under Section 73B(5) of the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended). The report has to be published by the local authority under Section 73B(6). The attached report is produced by the Director of Public Health in order to meet these statutory responsibilities.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 Borough-wide impact, but particularly wards with highest levels socio-economic deprivation where residents have worse health and wellbeing outcomes.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 Neighbourhood Health is expected to deliver positive social and economic benefits by: improving population health, supporting people to live independently for longer and strengthening connections between health services, local authorities, voluntary organisations and communities. Through a stronger focus on prevention, early intervention and joined-up support, the aim is to improve health outcomes, reduce health inequalities, tackle social isolation and address wider determinants of health such as housing, employment and social inclusion. Involving communities in service design and delivery will build community resilience and ensure services are better aligned to local needs.

11.2 Economically, neighbourhood health aims to make more effective use of public resources by: reducing avoidable hospital admissions, improving management of long-term conditions, cutting duplication across services and shifting care closer to home. Better health outcomes can help more people remain active, independent and engaged in education, employment and community life, while reducing demand on acute health and social care services. Partnership working across sectors encourages investment in local neighbourhood infrastructure, which may contribute to wider social and economic regeneration and improved wellbeing outcomes for residents and the borough.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 Neighbourhood Health is expected to have a positive impact on equality and diversity through the strong emphasis on reducing health inequalities, improving access to services and ensuring support around the needs of individuals and communities. People who often experience poorer health outcomes, including people living with frailty, those with long-term conditions, disabled people, children and young people, people with mental health conditions and those approaching end of life are prioritised.

12.2 To maximise the benefits, neighbourhood health needs to ensure that no groups of people are disadvantaged by changes in the way services are delivered. Particular attention should be given to addressing digital exclusion, accessibility needs, language and communication barriers, and ensuring that seldom-heard communities are actively involved in shaping neighbourhood health plans. Ongoing engagement, monitoring of outcomes and equality impact will be important to ensure that the programme contributes to reducing, rather than widening, existing health inequalities and also supports fair and equitable access for all residents.

13.0 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

13.1 Neighbourhood Health is likely to have a positive environmental impact by reducing reliance on hospital-based care and increasing access to services closer to where people live. Neighbourhood-based care, community hubs, integrated neighbourhood teams, greater use of digital technology and more coordinated services are expected, and these can help reduce travel for appointments and support more efficient use of health and care estates and resources.

14.0 Background Papers

None

15.0 Appendices

A Annual Public Health Report 2026 Healthy Neighbourhoods – Prevention First

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Director	20/08/2026	20/08/2026	HO
Legal	20/08/2026	03/09/2026	ON
Finance	20/08/2026	28/08/2026	RP