

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

DATE: 25th March 2026

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Neighbourhood Health

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board on the national proposals for the role of the Health and Wellbeing with regard to the new Neighbourhood health proposals.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- i) Note the content of the report and discuss implications from presentation

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The publication of 'Fit for the Future' the 10 year health plan for England proposes a '*neighbourhood health service*' which will provide '*continuous, accessible and integrated care*'. It further details that '*although the NHS and local government have a shared purpose to improve the lives of local citizens, the multitude of plans, committees and measures have resulted in confusion, siloed working and inaction. **In the future, a neighbourhood health plan will be drawn up** by local government, the NHS and its partners at single or upper tier authority level **under the leadership of the Health and Wellbeing Board**, incorporating public health, social care, and the Better Care Fund*'.

3.2 Neighbourhood health aims to '*create healthier communities, helping people of all ages live healthy, active and independent lives for as long as possible while improving their experience of health and social care, and increasing their agency in managing their own care*' (**Reference- NHS England Neighbourhood health guidelines 2025/26**).

3.3 The presentation today will describe the 'neighbourhood health service' in more detail and how it may apply to Halton based on existing guidance and future proposals as outlined in the NHS 10

year health plan. Our understanding is that these plans will replace the previous 'One Halton' plans for the area.

3.4 It should be noted that there have been no known changes in legislation regarding Health and Wellbeing Board statutory duties. These were last updated in the Health and Care Act 2022. However that there are plans for legislation affecting health systems expected to begin progress through the legislative procedure this year. This legislation is expected to include plans to abolish NHS England (planned for 2027). It is not yet known if this legislation will include changes to Health and Wellbeing Boards.

3.5 Nonetheless, given the progress to date on 'Neighbourhood Health' as determined by the Department of Health and Social Care, it is important for the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider how it will best meet the needs to providing leadership for these plans affecting our community.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Halton Neighbourhood Health plan should be used to inform commissioning plans and wider action for the NHS and other partners as appropriate.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 It is unclear if there is any funding available to support Health and Wellbeing Boards and is presumed that this leadership role in Neighbourhood Health Service is to be undertaken using existing resources.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence.** The Neighbourhood Health Plans relate directly to this priority.

6.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy** The link between economic productivity and a health workforce is well established- improving the health (as an aim of the neighbourhood health plan) would contribute towards a productive economy.

6.3 **Supporting Children, Young People and Families** Improving the

health of children provides them with a better start in life.

6.4 **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need.**
Tackling health inequalities and supporting those who are most vulnerable in our society need to also be aims of the neighbourhood health plan.

6.5 **Working Towards a Greener Future** Reducing the need for healthcare through the actions in the neighbourhood plan reduces the carbon footprint of healthcare.

6.6 **Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community** Optimising health and care services promotes the wellbeing of our community.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Development of the neighbourhood plan does not present any obvious risk however there may be risks with the delivery plan which must be managed appropriately.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The neighbourhood plan should account for inequalities and address these as part of the plan.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 AS noted above, reducing the need for healthcare through optimal action in the neighbourhood plan reduces the carbon footprint of healthcare.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

'Fit for the Future' 10 Year Health Plan for England (July 2025)
[10 Year Health Plan for England: fit for the future - GOV.UK](#)

Neighbourhood health guidelines 2025/26 NHS England (Jan 2025) [NHS England » Neighbourhood health guidelines 2025/26](#)

Health and Care Act 2022 [Health and Care Act 2022](#)

