

## **Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**16 January 2025**

### **Attendance of the Deputy Leader of the Council**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Teresa Murray, Deputy Leader

#### **Summary**

This annual report provides an account of the role of the Deputy Leader of the Council who has responsibility for Adult Social Care and Public Health. It details their ambitions for their areas of responsibility, how they have and will undertake political challenge and leadership and what their priorities and ambitions are for the year ahead.

#### **1. Recommendations**

1.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

#### **2. Budget and policy framework**

2.1 The areas within the terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and covered by the Deputy Leader of the Council who has responsibility for Adult Social Care and Public Health, as set out in the Council's constitution are:

- Adults' Mental Health and Disability Services (including Learning and Physical Disabilities)
- Adults' Partnership Commissioning (25+) and Better Care Fund
- Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP)
- Carers
- Community Care
- External inspections
- Financial Assessments, Adult Social Care Income and Debt
- Health and Health Partnerships
- Kyndi
- Older people
- Public Health - Lead Member, including Health and Wellbeing Board
- Residential Care
- Shared Lives
- Voluntary Sector

### 3. Background

- 3.1 My Portfolio is varied and wide ranging and I feel very privileged to work alongside our talented and committed staff in Adult Social Care and Public Health whose enthusiasm and professionalism make me optimistic that Medway has the potential to develop our services to the highest standard and ensure that those who need our care and benefit from the support we provide can realise their potential and thrive. I wish to place on record my thanks to senior managers for their support and guidance, to all front line and back-office staff including those in commissioning, procurement, and finance for the support they give throughout the year and to my Cabinet colleagues for their commitment to the statutory services those in my Portfolio provide. I am grateful to our partners across Medway Health and Social Care community as we continue to work towards truly integrated services and to all Members especially those on the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HASC) who help to ensure that the services in my Portfolio are a high priority for Medway Council in the context of continuing financial challenges and rising demands.

### 4 Advice and analysis

#### 4.1 James Williams

- 4.1.1 On 12 May 2024 we lost our Director of Public Health, James Williams, after a short illness. James was hugely respected and much loved by all those who knew and worked with him and his tragic loss came as a terrible shock to us all.
- 4.1.2 James' last Annual Public Health Report was entitled "The power of the crowd" and this perfectly encapsulated his passion for helping people to work together and to find solutions for themselves. In fencing, his coaching philosophy was that people usually have all of the pieces of jigsaw, they just sometimes need help putting the pieces together and this was very much how he approached public health. In December last year I was pleased to appoint former Deputy Director of Public Health Dr David Whiting to the post of Director of Public Health and look forward to working with him as we continue to build on James' legacy

#### 4.2 Health and wellbeing board

- 4.2.1 I have successfully continued the renewal and refreshment of the Health and Wellbeing Board during 2024. In order to ensure that a strong focus is maintained on our local Health and Wellbeing strategy, the Board now has an opportunity to review an element of the strategy each time we meet, ensuring that we keep up to date with progress and are able to respond quickly if any changes are required.
- 4.2.2 The Board has strong links with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Medway Maritime Hospital and works with colleagues to help us explore areas of development and concern, notably Women's health and the continuing challenges Medway faces with Primary Care provision. In addition to this I

have regularly invited relevant partners from the voluntary sector and wider community to join us for specific items that are of interest to them in order to gain a wider perspective.

- 4.2.3 Our critical focus for 2025 will be Prevention and refining our offer to tackle the legacy of poor health in our most deprived areas so that everyone can reach their full potential.

### **4.3 Financial Improvement and Transformation (FIT) Plan**

- 4.3.1 Medway's Financial Improvement and Transformation (FIT) Plan for the medium term is intended to meet the requirement to produce an improvement and transformation plan, as a condition of the 'exceptional financial support' approved in principle by the Secretary of State.

- 4.3.2 The plan took as its starting point the recommendations and conclusions from the resilience review undertaken by CIPFA; however it was recognised that it could not simply be an acknowledgement of areas for improvement or a broad articulation of the Council's aspiration. The plan, in the truest sense of the word, is underpinned by firm actions, with specific targets and deadlines, clear, unambiguous lines of accountability and robust arrangements to progress and monitor delivery.

- 4.3.3 Adult Social Care and Public Health had several objectives included in the FIT Plan and I have been monitoring these closely and working with partners to support them to achieve their objectives. The plan includes:

- Increasing the use of Assistive Technology. This has been achieved through the use of Lilli's home care monitoring technology, which helps individuals live independently by using non-intrusive sensors to discreetly monitor activity without wearables, cameras, or voice recognition. It learns daily routines, identifying changes that may signal a need for attention. Using real-time insights, it provides carers and families with updates through the app for timely decisions and supports Social Workers by providing robust information to include in their assessments.
- Agreeing an updated business plan for Kyndi Ltd. This has been achieved and includes a strong focus on helping people to live independently in their own homes, using assistive technology, but potentially branching into other areas of service delivery.
- Development of a Care for Medway Strategy. This is well underway with papers being presented to Committee this evening and Cabinet in February.
- A review of commissioning arrangements. The Adults Partnership Commissioning Team are now part of the Adult Social Care division, with the Head of Service reporting directly to the Assistant Director of Adult Social Care.

#### **4.4 Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC)**

4.4.1 Medway is extremely fortunate to have been successful in winning £5 million funding from the National Institute for Health and Care Research for the Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC). The aim of the HDRC is to increase capability and capacity to conduct and use research in Medway Council to improve health and wellbeing. I am the chair of the HDRC Partnership Board and have helped to steer the work that the HDRC has conducted over the last year. The HDRC team has undertaken a number of pieces of work to establish the HDRC, including recruiting key staff, developing governance procedures, developing a training programme and conducting a survey of staff to understand current perceptions and experience of research.

4.4.2 In addition to establishing the foundations of the HDRC, the team has been developing research collaborations and projects with a number of different partners, with 35 research projects at various stages in the HDRC "research pipeline". Research projects include:

- The HOPEFUL project, a novel intervention to build mental and social health in young women who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). The intervention is peer mentor led and focuses on building hopefulness.
- Being a host organisation for a doctoral training programme funded by the Economic and Social Research Council to host PhD students working on a variety of research programmes related to health and wellbeing.
- The HDRC team has also been supporting work led by colleagues in the Arts and Culture department that is using arts interventions to improve health and wellbeing.

#### **4.5 Providing political leadership and challenge**

##### **4.5.1 CQC Assessment of Local Authorities**

4.5.1.1 The Health and Care Act 2022 gave the Care Quality Commission new powers allowing them to provide a meaningful and independent assessment of care at a local authority and integrated care system level. This enables the CQC to start to understand the quality of care in a local area or system and provide independent assurance to the public of the quality of care in their area.

4.5.1.2 In response to this greater external scrutiny and the need to ensure that all those in Medway who need support can access it in a timely way, I gained Cabinet support to invest £2.4m to right size our Adult Social Care service, which was in danger of being unable to meet statutory obligations after cuts to the service in 2017 left staff with reduced capacity at time of rising demand.

- 4.5.1.3 In 2020/21, Adult Social Care received 8,502 new support requests. By 2023/24, this number had grown to 10,933, marking a 28.6% increase. Safeguarding concerns have also risen by 15.8% compared to 2022/23 and by 73.7% over the past five years.
- 4.5.1.4 The investment has enabled the service to restructure, increasing management accountability, bringing back crucial back office support, creating 80 new jobs helping to reduce the spend on Agency staff and introducing modern technology to help with assessments, enable greater independence at home for longer and monitor safety and wellbeing.
- 4.5.1.5 Strong political oversight demonstrates effective strategic leadership, which is necessary for driving improvements and ensuring that adult social care services continue to be responsive to the needs of the community.
- 4.5.1.6 By maintaining strong oversight, I have helped ensure that the local authority was well-prepared for its CQC assessment. I met inspectors to discuss our achievements, areas for improvement and my future objectives for the division, which ultimately lead to better outcomes for those receiving adult social care.
- 4.5.1.7 I Chair the Oversight Board and we now have an independently chaired Adult Social Care Improvement Board building on good practice in Children's Services and helping to drive our ambitions for Adult Social Care in Medway.

#### 4.5.2 Community Services Reprourement

- 4.5.2.1 The ICB took a controversial decision this year to re-procure community health services across Kent and Medway. My long standing position which accords with the government's direction to move away from competition and towards collaboration, placed me at odds with the ICB and I advocated instead for a direct award based on a partnership approach to reviewing services and agreeing improvements where needed. I am grateful for the work of HASC in determining that the reprourement was a substantial variation to services which allowed more time for the issue to be debated, gave an opportunity for more meaningful consultation than that originally planned and ensured that the ICB continue to be robustly held to account as the process moves on.
- 4.5.2.2 There is an ongoing need to protect services for Medway residents and to influence future service design and transformation so that specialist services, designed around the needs of those we represent are maintained.

#### 4.5.3 Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) leadership

- 4.5.3.1 In 2025, I will be supporting Cllr Vince Maple as the Chair of the ICP as this falls to Medway in the agreed rotation with Kent.

4.5.3.2 The ICP held a varied and compelling annual symposium in Gravesham this Autumn where it was pleasing to showcase good practice from Public Health in Medway in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and to share our ambitions to become a Marmot City.

#### 4.5.4 Social Care Providers

4.5.4.1 To foster stronger relationships between local government and social care providers, I have visited several care homes and supported living services to gain firsthand insight into challenges and needs they and the people they support have. There is a prevailing view amongst some colleagues that some social care packages are too expensive. However, having witnessed the complex needs of the individuals our providers support and seeing the determination and professionalism of those who work with the most complex clients, I am clear why these high costs are unavoidable.

4.5.4.2 The care ensures that even the most physically and mentally challenged clients are able to lead the most fulfilling lives they can and that they are treated with the compassion and respect they deserve.

4.5.4.3 The awareness gained from these visits, along with my attendance at the Provider forum, supports robust discussions in council meetings, meetings with health partners and, of course, budget deliberations, highlighting both successes and areas needing improvement, ensuring that social care is a priority.

4.5.4.4 I also regularly attend the Carers forum and was pleased to meet Carers at Carers' First AGM and in many other settings to hear their ideas and experiences in the course of the hugely valuable work they do in caring for family members.

4.5.4.5 The support we provide for carers is crucial to their wellbeing and I am grateful to the Carers' forum and Carers' First for the work they do to ensure that family carers have access to as much support as possible including short breaks, concessions for mobile phones, peer groups and benefit and financial entitlements.

#### 4.6 **Public Health Achievements**

4.6.1 I have supported the work of the Medway Food Partnership. This is important in developing ways to address food poverty in Medway and also, by promoting local sourcing of food, it will contribute to reducing Medway's carbon footprint.

4.6.2 I was pleased to join teachers and other school staff at one of a number of training sessions designed to help them start growing and cooking healthy food with clear links to the curriculum for primary school children and to support family cooking sessions in a number of schools.

- 4.6.3 The work of the public health team has not only been recognised across Kent and Medway, but also nationally. The Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) programme developed by the Public Health team is now used by many schools across England, with an estimated seven million children in England now being taught using these materials that were developed in Medway.
- 4.6.4 The team have also been part of a number of innovative service developments in the last 12 months. This includes being one of only three local authorities in the country invited to pilot the digital NHS Health Check Programme, mainly due to our consistent performance on this programme and excellent relations with primary care. We are also on track to launch the first of its kind AI quit smoking tool in January.
- 4.6.5 The team were also successful in bidding for funding to deliver cardiovascular disease (CVD) health checks in the workplace. This programme is a great example of our strong community links and unique reach due to our long standing workplace health programme.
- 4.6.6 I was very pleased to attend and open some of our important network events where we bring together a wide range of public, private, voluntary community and academic sector partners.
- 4.6.7 Our Physical Activity Alliance grows from strength to strength, and I was delighted to open this year's face-to-face event hosted at Holcombe Hockey Club. We have over 100 different partners now engaging in a collaborative way to get more children and adults active. It was great to join a number of our established weekly health walks and to help promote the Walk in the Park initiative in my own ward and more widely. It's clear that for participants the walks provide a safe environment, the chance to meet new people as well as feeling fitter while discovering some of our great green spaces.
- 4.6.8 I also recently opened the Social Prescribing network event, giving me the opportunity to thank the many partners involved in our 5-year social prescribing plan and see the great variety of activities on offer. Officers brought a detailed paper on this subject to HASC in the summer and I am delighted to say that we are on track with our target to support 20,000 residents improve their health and wellbeing through social prescribing between 2022 and 2027.
- 4.6.9 I launched the Combatting Drugs Partnership where over 80 partners came together to recognise some good progress made over the last year (including an increase in numbers both in treatment and those successfully completing treatment; improved continuity of care pathways from prison into community and training around alcohol related cognitive impairment), but also set priorities for the partnership in the new year. I also spent a morning with the Forward Trust in their new premises at Kingsley House hearing how their

programme of interventions help addicts by offering a variety of direct help support to move away from illegal drugs and alcohol.

- 4.6.10 We have also seen excellent numbers of people supported through many of our other health improvement programmes including over 5,417 children accessing the Medway Go Holiday Activity Food Programme, 111 education settings working towards a healthy eating accreditation through Food for Life or Healthy Early Years Award and over 2,000 adults attending weight management support.
- 4.6.11 This year our teams work to support health and wellbeing through pregnancy was recognised at a national awards ceremony. The Royal College of Midwives Awards commend and highlight the best in teamwork and evidence-based practise projects, discovering outstanding individuals who have made a positive impact on women, families and their newborns, showcasing world-class midwifery standards.
- 4.6.12 The healthy pregnancy team designed, developed and implemented a community-centred service, BumpClub, to support pregnant women in making lifestyle changes. Since the programme launched in March 2021, there have been 573 eligible referrals, 376 people booked to attend, and 351 individual behaviour changes made (such as increasing daily fruit and vegetable intake, reducing frequency of eating fried or fatty foods, reducing intake of sugary drinks and increasing daily activity).
- 4.6.13 Judges described the service as “A unique initiative that has had a far-reaching impact not just on obesity but on social connectivity and mental health. The initiative encourages women to have continued engagement in their health and wellbeing up to two years postnatally – women even return in subsequent pregnancies.”
- 4.6.14 Our workplace health programme has 134 organisations actively engaged in the programme. The makeup of the programme businesses are 46% SMEs, 57% have an element of routine and manual staff and 41% have shift workers (all at higher risk of health inequalities).
- 4.6.15 Public Health has worked alongside Family Solutions to successfully implement the Family Hubs Start for Life programme. Medway is now meeting 91% of all the ‘Minimum Requirements’ and ‘Go Further’ options of the Programme Guide agreed with the Department for Education. Plans are in place to address the remaining requirements by March 2025. (At the beginning of the programme, Medway was meeting 17% of the requirements.)
- 4.6.16 This means families now have a much wider network of support across a range of areas that are core to better child health such as breastfeeding support, perinatal mental health, universal parenting support programmes as well as more targeted support for families with children who have special educational needs and/or disabilities.



## **4.7 Adult Social Care and Partnership Commissioning achievements**

- 4.7.1 I am deeply committed to expanding the use of assistive technology in our sector, particularly through innovative solutions. By leveraging assistive technology, we can help residents live independently at home for longer periods and facilitate smoother hospital discharges.
- 4.7.2 We have launched the Kyndi and Medway Virtual House, an innovative and interactive platform designed to showcase a wide range of assistive technologies. Our mission is to empower individuals with diverse needs by providing easy access to cutting-edge assistive devices and solutions in a user-friendly virtual environment.
- 4.7.3 As the co-chair of the Kent and Medway Commission for Assistive Technology Skills in Social Care, I work alongside a diverse group of experts, including social care providers, educators from further and higher education, technology businesses, health professionals, and local government representatives.
- 4.7.4 Over the next eight months, with the support of Policy Connect, our Commission will gather and analyse evidence to publish a report with recommendations on enhancing the technology skills of social care staff. This initiative builds on the successful bid by Kent Further Education (KFE) to deliver assistive technology training in our six new classrooms at college campuses. This training has been identified as a priority in the Kent & Medway Local Skills Improvement Plan.
- 4.7.5 During Adult Safeguarding Week, I joined our adult safeguarding team out in the community to encourage Medway's residents to find out more about spotting abuse and neglect in adults and to remember 'noticing is not nosiness.'
- 4.7.6 I regularly meet with the CEO of Medway NHS Foundation Trust to address the challenges of delayed discharges. We discuss collaborative efforts with Adult Social Care to expedite patient discharges. This includes Partnership Commissioning leveraging the HomeFirst contract to safely increase the number of patients discharged home and the commissioning of 8 assessment beds to support people with dementia.
- 4.7.7 The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) launched the Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF) to support innovation in Adult Social Care. The aim of the ARF is to address barriers to adopting innovative practices and build capacity and capability in adult social care.
- 4.7.8 Working with Kent County Council and the ICB, we are developing:
- A digital carers' self-assessment online, which will provide information and guidance to support unpaid carers.

- A [toolkit](#) and an awareness campaign for employers to ensure unpaid carers remain in work. The toolkit will be for local businesses to use – ensuring employers are aware of the pressures that unpaid carers face and are able to provide the right support.
  - Expansion of the Shared Lives initiative across the region by creating a new framework to support the recruitment and management of respite carers, who are able to offer short stay and respite accommodation - allowing unpaid carers to have more breaks and flexibility to support their wellbeing.
- 4.7.9 To embed a strengths-based approach to assessments, we have established a Principal Social Work Team. This team comprises the Principal Social Worker and four Practice Development Managers. Their role is to ensure high standards of social work practice are embedded throughout the division, by providing skilled and experienced leadership and practice knowledge with social workers, social care officers, staff across the division and our partners.
- 4.7.10 A strengths-based approach promotes resilience and independence, leading to more sustainable and positive outcomes for clients and communities.
- 4.7.11 The Better Care Fund (BCF), established in 2015, is an ambitious programme spanning both the NHS and local government. The primary aim of the BCF is to facilitate integration between health and care organisations, to deliver person centred and coordinated services. It requires NHS Kent and Medway ICB and Medway Council to develop pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan.
- 4.7.12 The BCF in Medway is a joint plan between NHS Kent and Medway ICB and Medway Council with Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) as a key stakeholder. The BCF is administered in accordance with a Section 75 agreement between K&M NHS and the Council.
- 4.7.13 Medway's Joint Commissioning Management Group (JCMG) was established to lead on all elements of joint commissioning between the Council and NHS Kent and Medway ICB, including BCF. This has enabled the sharing of information to inform local plans across the system and provided the flexibility to adapt to changes in need, performance, or circumstance. This joint approach also ensures that the separate NHS and Council governance processes are fully informed e.g., the Health and Wellbeing Board, NHS Kent and Medway ICB and Medway Council's Cabinet.
- 4.7.14 In July 2023 Cabinet delegated authority for the Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive to oversee any further changes to the BCF plan and S75 agreement, as required to meet national approval.
- 4.7.15 The BCF funds, or contributes funding, to several key services in Medway that support residents and carers, reducing the pressure on health and social care services, including:

- Medway Wellbeing Navigation Service
- Medway Integrated Community Equipment Service (MICES)
- Medway Intermediate Care and Reablement service
- Home Care and Residential Placements
- Medway Carer Services and respite
- Infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector
- Community nursing
- Assistive Technology services
- Mental health peer support
- Dementia support

4.7.16 The IMAGO Home Support Service is provided through Imago as part of the Wellbeing Navigation Service. Additional discharge funding is provided to facilitate a range of activities which are carried out by third parties, such as house cleans, and furniture moves to support discharge or avoid a hospital admission.

4.7.17 The Home Support service considers referrals relating to home maintenance issues that can delay discharge, such as hoarding, deep cleanings, furniture moves and other similar activity, that if unresolved, would delay discharge, impact negatively on the residents health, and potentially contribute to increased risk of hospital admission. The current service will also accept referrals from social care teams as a further preventative measure.

4.7.18 From April 2024 to November 2024 the service has supported 91 service users to be discharged from the hospital. 83 were referred to the service through the Integrated Discharge Team at Medway Maritime Hospital or from the wards and the remaining 6 were referred to the service from Medway Council Adult Social Care. Of those:

- 9 were supplied with food, fuel or small goods
- 80 were supported with furniture removal/ moving or attendance for delivery of equipment, home deep cleans or home maintenance facilities issues
- 2 were unable to be supported, due to inappropriate referral

4.7.19 The Medway Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) Better Together Consortium, commenced on the 1 January 2024. The contract is made up of four services:

- Lot 1 Infrastructure to support the Voluntary and Community Organisations in Medway
- Lot 2 Local Healthwatch Medway
- Lot 3 Carers Information Guidance and Support, Young Carers and Carers Support Payments

- Lot 4 Children's and Adults Visual Impairment Support and Information Service

4.7.20 The VCS Better Together Consortium works to a common set of values, goals, and KPIs agreed mutually, relevant to their service and national and local priorities, such as improving Medway's population health outcomes.

4.7.21 The Consortium targets health inequality and supports improving the population of Medway's health. They are trying to connect more with under-represented groups within Medway and are presently connecting with faith groups and the Diversity Forum to improve their reach out to the community. This action will be taken forward into workplans for 2025/26.

4.7.22 The Consortium are planning to target diabetes as a theme within the population health management programme and are working with the Health and Care Partnership to support those newly diagnosed to understand and manage their condition.

## 5. Ambitions for the Year Ahead

5.1 I will continue my work to increase the use of Assistive Technology in order to support individuals to live as independently as possible, recognising their rights and choices, and ensuring they can stay or return to their own homes whenever possible.

5.2 I will further strengthen partnerships, enhancing collaboration with key stakeholders, including health services, voluntary sectors, and community organisations, to deliver comprehensive and effective care; focusing on achieving consistently high-quality outcomes for all residents in receipt of care and support. I am looking forward to the opening of the James Williams Healthy Living Centre currently under construction in the Pentagon Centre and to the opening of the Community Diagnostic Centre in Rochester Healthy Living Centre. Both will enhance our local NHS offer for residents and help to reduce waiting times for treatment.

5.3 I will continue with our renewed focus on prevention to support our residents to maintain their health and independence for longer. Examples of this include the new Adult Social Care structure introduces a Head of Early Help & Prevention, who will focus on Prevention and Enablement, thereby reducing the need for social care services; and the council prevention plan that is being led by the Public Health team which will expand to include other parts of the Council.

5.4 I will continue to tackle health and social inequalities ensuring that residents' health is not adversely affected by where they live. This ability is enhanced by my work as a Member of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board in which role I have contributed to parliamentary committees,

conference debates and launches of new initiatives such as the government's 10 year plan for the NHS.

- 5.5 A new Adult Social Care workforce strategy will be developed to aid the recruitment and retention of Social Workers in the division. An inclusive and supportive work environment is key to retaining staff. Strategies that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion can make social workers feel valued and respected, which in turn enhances job satisfaction and retention.
- 5.6 I will continue to support the VCSE whose local leaders I meet regularly alongside a rolling programme of community visits to see for myself how the VCSE helps our residents. The VCSE plays a crucial role in delivering essential services and fostering community resilience as well as providing innovative, flexible, and locally tailored solutions that complement statutory services, ensuring that diverse community needs are met effectively. By collaborating with the VCS, I can leverage the sector's unique strengths, such as its deep community connections and ability to mobilise volunteers, to enhance service delivery and promote preventative care. This partnership also helps to build social capital, reduce isolation, and improve overall public health outcomes, making it a vital component of a holistic approach to adult social care and public health.
- 5.7 I will continue to ensure that the resources of the HDRC are deployed to conduct and use research findings to improve the way that council services are delivered to increase efficiency and to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for all in Medway, and especially those in greatest need so that health inequalities are reduced.

## 6. Climate change implications

- 6.1 [The Council declared a climate change emergency in April 2019](#) - item 1038D refers and has set a target for Medway to become carbon neutral by 2050.
- 6.2 Adult Social Care and Public Health proactively work with partners and within their own divisions to support the target for Medway to become carbon neutral by 2050. Public Health has an action plan with a number of activities that are either new specific pieces of work, such as replacing the van with an electric vehicle and conducting an energy efficiency check of buildings used for Public Health services; or ways of working that have become part of business as usual, such as continuing to promote and only issue re-usable e-cigarettes in our vape programmes and encouraging all staff to attend carbon literacy training.

## 7. Financial implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## 8. Legal implications

8.1 There are no legal implication arising directly from this report.

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### Appendices

Appendix 1 – Medway Adult Social Care Local Account 2023-24

### Background papers

None