

Health and Wellbeing Board

17 June 2026

Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy Update and Themes for 2026/27

Report from: David Whiting, Director of Public Health

Author: Scott Elliott, Strategic Head of Service

Summary

The report sets out the forward plan for the next five Health and Wellbeing Board meetings to ensure that the Board gives due consideration to the progress against the goal, purpose and the four priority themes set out in the Medway Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS).

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the forward plan for the next five Health and Wellbeing Board meetings.
- 1.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to review the tables within Appendix 1, which provide an overview of all the indicators included in the Goal and Purpose and four priority themes, compared to England or a goal.

2. Budget and policy framework

- 2.1 Section 116A of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 legislates for local authorities in partnership with integrated care boards to prepare a Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy setting out how the assessed needs of the local population are to be met through the exercise of its respective functions.

3. Background

- 3.1 The JLHWS 2024-2028 sets out the vision and priorities that will meet the health and wellbeing needs of Medway's population.
- 3.2 The priorities identified have been informed by evidence from the Medway Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and views of Medway residents, voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations and systems leaders.
- 3.3 The goal and purpose of the strategy are:

- Goal: Improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of Medway residents and reduce inequalities.
- Purpose: To ensure everyone in Medway lives a long, healthy, and happy life, with people valuing self-care and helping others. Opportunities are available to all throughout life to help people grow and create a brighter future. Medway is a place where help is easily available, places are connected, and when people move between services, their journey is seamless.

3.4 The Strategy sets out four priority themes and is supported by a logical framework matrix ('logframe') with strategic indicators linked to underlying areas of work:

- Priority Theme 1 - Healthier and Longer Lives for Everyone
- Priority Theme 2 – Reduce Poverty and Inequality
- Priority Theme 3 – Safe, Connected, and Sustainable Places
- Priority Theme 4 – Connected Communities, and Cohesive Services

3.5 The JLHWS complements the NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy and informs the commissioning of health and care services. It has a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention.

3.6 The logical framework approach was used to determine key strategic indicators to monitor the progress and success of the JLHWS. This current report provides the latest data for indicators in the Goal and Purpose section.

4. Forward plan

4.1 Over the next five Health and Wellbeing Board meetings, Members of the Board will have the opportunity to review the suite of indicators assigned to the 'Goal' and 'Purpose' and the four priority themes of the JLHWS.

4.2 Each of the next five meetings will be themed with each of these giving a full opportunity for debate about progress against core projects and indicators that relate to the relevant theme.

4.3 Board Members will have the opportunity to suggest key projects and programmes that relate to that theme and performance indicators. Each themed meeting papers will be accompanied by the detailed progress of that themes indicators.

4.4 A trend plot is included on the left-hand side of the slide to illustrate the indicator's direction of travel. This plot features any available historical data for Medway and England. The baseline, depicted by a dashed grey line, represents the latest data available before the implementation of the JLHWS and serves as the comparison point.

4.5 Where possible, Medway values are RAG rated (red, amber, green) against England values. This rating system shows how well Medway is performing

compared to the benchmark (England). The RAG rating is assigned by comparing Medway's value to a reference range created using confidence intervals (CIs). In each plot, green indicates a value better than England, red indicates a value worse than England, and amber indicates no difference. An indicator is shaded grey where a RAG rating could not be applied.

- 4.6 The ladder plot, displayed in the middle of the slide, compares and ranks Medway's baseline and latest values among its peer group. Peer groups consist of similar local authorities grouped together based on relevant criteria to facilitate comparisons. This plot is useful because it shows how Medway's rank has changed within its peer group, providing a clear visual representation of relative performance over time. Since this is the first year of the JLHWS, the time period for the latest available data for some might be the same as the baseline value time period, resulting in no observed change at this time.
- 4.7 The narrative is displayed on the right-hand side of the slide and includes the indicator wording. The indicators are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound) and state the level of ambition we aim to achieve by the end of the life cycle of the strategy. The narrative also provides a description of the data for the baseline and latest years, highlighting any changes between these two time periods.
- 4.8 Metadata is provided at the bottom of the slide, offering further details about the data source and methodology used.

4.9 The forward plans for the next five meetings will be:

MHWP Meeting date	Section
3 September 2026	Goal/ Purpose
19 November 2026	Priority Theme 1
11 February 2027	Priority Theme 2
8 April 2027	Priority Theme 3
June 2027	Priority Theme 4

5. Performance Indicators

- 5.1. Appendix 1 provides an overview of all the indicators included in the Goal and Purpose and four priority themes, compared to England or a goal.
- 5.2. The detailed slides described in section four will be updated with the most up to date data in advance of the subsequent Health and Wellbeing Board themed meeting and circulated with the meeting papers.

6 Consultation

6.1 There was extensive consultation in the development of the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, as described in previous reports to this Board.

7. Climate change implications

7.1 There are no climate change implications from this report.

8. Risk management

8.1 There are no direct risks arising from this report.

9. Financial implications

9.1 There are no direct financial implications or arising from the recommendations in this report.

10. Legal implications

10.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

Lead officer contact

Scott Elliott, Strategic Head of Service, scott.elliott@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 JLHWS Indicator Progress Summary

Background papers

Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/3710/joint-local-health-and-wellbeing-strategy-2024-to-2028>