

Wakefield District Health and Wellbeing Strategy

2024 Annual Report

Introduction

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out our ambition as partners in health, social care, the voluntary sector, housing, police and the fire service to support the people of Wakefield district to live longer healthier lives, by taking action in four priority areas:

- A healthy standard of living for all
- Giving every child the best start in life
- Prevention of ill-health
- Sustainable communities

Delivery of these priorities is underpinned by a range of interventions by partners across the system. Changing the health of the population will take many years but we have set ourselves goals so that we can measure the impact over the short and long term.

This report describes the progress we have made in the first two years since the Strategy was approved.

Health and Wellbeing Board member organisations & meetings

The Health and Wellbeing Board is chaired by the Wakefield Council Cabinet Member for Communities, Poverty and Health, which ensures a strong connection between issues that affect health and work that is needed to keep people living well. The Board met six times between April 2023 and April 2024.

Membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board includes representatives of a wide range of organisations and sectors to enable it to actively address the issues that affect people's health and wellbeing.

The strategic leads across statutory and voluntary sector agencies who are responsible for coordinating work on health inequalities, sustainable communities, children and family services, housing, health and care, police and fire services, work closely to ensure a joined-up approach and avoid duplication.

The Board receives presentations from people with specialist knowledge and skills in areas that shape the health of the district and seeks evidence that effective work is happening across all four of the priority areas.

Each meeting has an in-depth focus on a topic that affects people's health. Discussions help partner organisations understand what action they can take to tackle underlying problems that affect people's health and wellbeing.

During this period, the Health and Wellbeing Board have had focused discussions on the following topics:

A healthy standard of living for all

- Action to tackle poverty and support people living in poverty
- Housing and homelessness
- Migrant health
- Health inequalities
- Health needs of the population
- Connection between health and the council's corporate plans

Giving every child the best start in life

- In-depth discussion on the wide-ranging support for children, young people and families

Prevention of ill-health

- Tobacco control, vaping and plans to create a smoke free generation
- Health protection
- Safeguarding adults

Sustainable communities

- Work to build healthy and sustainable communities
- The Big Conversation appreciative inquiry into the experience of people living in the district
- Voluntary and Community Sector development

The work of the Health and Wellbeing Board has been shaped by the key themes that emerged from the Big Conversation, which took place during the summer of 2022. More than 1300 people from all walks of life took part in individual conversations with over 100 volunteers, as part of this work to find out what people value about living in the district and their hopes for the future.

When asked what was good about the district, people talked about friends and family, social activities, ease of access to work, green spaces and good schools, feeling safe and being part of a community.



In the future, people wanted to be involved in decisions that affect them, to be part of a strong community, have more things to do and places to visit, green spaces, good housing and transport and education for all.

Feedback from this work confirms that social and economic factors, community networks and the support of family and friends have a huge influence on people's health. Good physical and mental health are vital to people's sense of well-being,

their enjoyment of all that the district has to offer and their ability to contribute to their community and the local economy.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which was developed using feedback from people and data about people's health drawn from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, is focused on these wider issues that affect people's health and sense of wellbeing.

Changes to the issues that affect people's health cannot be delivered by the council or the NHS working in isolation and rely on public agencies, businesses and people all playing their part to make the Wakefield district a healthier, happier place to live.

A healthy standard of living for all

We know that people who live in the most deprived parts of our district are more likely to spend many years living in poor health and to die younger than people in well-off parts of the district. Our aim is for everyone to have a healthy standard of living and to achieve this, we need to put more effort into addressing things that contribute to deprivation and supporting people who are less well off.

The cost of living, including food and fuel costs, rose sharply between 2021 and 2023. At the same time, average household income fell. Although costs of basics like food and fuel are now gradually coming down, poorest households have felt the impact most. There is evidence that poverty affecting children will continue to rise.

The Health and Wellbeing Board is committed to taking action to reduce inequalities and support people with the greatest needs. This has included direct support to address hardship due to fuel and food costs and programmes to improve people's prospects through good housing and employment opportunities.

The Wakefield District has secured almost £5 million to establish a Health Determinants Research Collaborative (HDRC). At the heart of our vision for Wakefield's HDRC is determination to tackle health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of citizens, by adopting new and creative ways to generate knowledge and insight about the determinants of health, working in closer partnership with our communities than ever before. This will include working with universities to build research capacity and use research evidence to make more informed decisions.

Wakefield district is funding a range of schemes targeted at population groups facing inequalities that could lead to poorer health outcomes. The majority of investment has been in three schemes:

- Work focused in the most deprived districts, to work with existing community groups and stimulate additional voluntary sectors support to create health and sustainable communities (see detailed report in the *Healthy and Sustainable Communities* section)
- Continuation of the West Yorkshire Finding Independence (WYFI) programme which provides direct support to people experiencing multiple problems, such

as homelessness, addiction, mental ill health and/or addiction to access support to live independently.

- A roving health inclusion team which ensures migrants living in the district have access to health care services.

A number of smaller schemes have also been supported:

- Volunteer befrienders provide support to pregnant women who have recently arrived in the UK, helping them to access health ante-natal care and support
- A support worker and mobile health offer for gypsy and traveller communities, ensuring people have access to services for physical and mental health conditions and are able to navigate other sources of support
- Group and individual support for people who are victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse and children
- Grants to enable people to maintain warmer homes during the winter

Citizens' Advice Wakefield District has been tracking the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. The district has experienced a big increase in the number of people who rely on food banks. Citizens' Advice have also seen record numbers of people with multiple financial challenges, such as not having enough income to cover the cost of fuel and food leading to problems with debt and need to access emergency charitable funds. Some groups are especially likely to be in a negative budget including racially minoritised groups, the self-employed, private renters and more recently, mortgage holders. Citizens' Advice are also seeing more people being evicted from their homes and an increase in people living in temporary accommodation.

During 2023/24, Citizens' Advice dealt with almost 10,000 individual cases, around half of whom needed complex support, including more than 3,000 people needing help with benefits and 1,345 needing help with debt problems. 59% of people seeking support had a long term health condition or disability.

The Residents First Group, which was originally established to award grants to support communities during the pandemic, has put in place accessible support in the areas that are worst affected by poverty. The group brings together of key partners, including Wakefield Council, Wakefield District Housing, Department of Work and Pensions, voluntary and community sector organisations such as Nova, Citizens' Advice, Age UK, Prosper Wakefield and community Hubs, and the NHS.

Support is delivered through existing community-based Help at the Hub. Services offered at Hubs, includes:

- Citizens' Advice outreach workers available for residents to drop-in
- Access to emergency food deliveries and support for elderly residents who felt isolated.
- Connect Cafes offering access to IT for young people who were home schooling; distribution of laptops under WF Connect scheme.

- Help with forms to access Household Support Fund food vouchers.
- Mental health training for Hub staff.
- Access to council and WDH (Wakefield District Housing, the main social housing provider) staff.
- Co-ordinated comms campaigns to alert residents to services available and to the dangers of debt.
- Ran two 'Benefits Campaigns' to directly improve the income of residents in the most deprived areas of the district.
- Outreach by 'Step-Up' council skills and jobs project.
- Outreach by Turning Point Talking Therapies.

Since 'Help at the Hub' began, Citizens' Advice staff based for one day a week in each of the 9 Hubs, have secured income gains worth £1.7 million for over 1,500 local residents. In addition, the Residents' First Group has funded additional support offers:



- **Food Aid Network** – the network of independent Food Banks co-ordinated and part-funded by the council has now been attached to the Residents First Group.
- **Warm Spaces** – the Residents First Group developed, funded and planned the establishment of a network of over 30 'warm spaces' for winter 2022/3 offering warm drinks, food, warmth, social activity and companionship during the winter of the energy crisis. A similar but smaller scale 'Welcome Spaces' project was operated in winter 23/24 with libraries and Family Hubs taking the lead.
- **Knottingley Community Shop** – the Residents First Group and WDH funded the shop to open a new branch in Knottingley, one of the most deprived areas of the district. A Citizens' Advice outreach worker is also now based in the shop.
- **Food Pantry Project** – secured funding from the UKSPF to add to the Food Aid Network 8 'Pantries' – providing membership to a food aid programme and support including wellbeing services and food education. Food pantries also link into the Citizens' Advice and other advice services at Hubs.

Wakefield District Community Anchor Network have taken action to tackle poverty and support people living in poverty, Credit unions have been established in nine community outreach sites across the district, up to May 2024, helped people access loans of almost £30,000.



Poverty, cost of living and changes to welfare benefits are a major reason for people struggling with housing issues or becoming homeless.

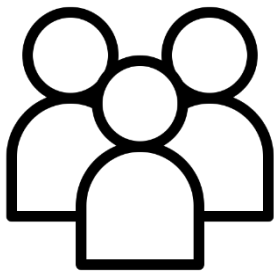
The Healthy Homes Project in Wakefield is a collaboration between West Yorkshire Health and Social Care Partnership and WDH to provide support to families who are experiencing mould and damp in their properties.

The project aims to maximise the family's income so homes can be adequately heated. Practical support is also provided to tackle the mould and damp and monitor the moisture levels in the home. Work is underway to review the pathways between housing providers and respiratory clinics to ensure better collaboration where families are experiencing poor respiratory health which may be compounded by their housing conditions.

WDH, Inspire North and South West Yorkshire Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT) have been working together to develop mental health discharge housing solutions to ensure appropriate accommodation and support is available to those being discharged from hospital.

A housing officer took part in the Health Policy fellowship and focused on suicide prevention as their project. This has resulted in WDH reviewing policy and process giving a more robust approach to suicide prevention.

Wakefield Council has undertaken a major review of homelessness to inform a revised strategy to address homelessness and rough sleeping for the district. The Council is working with WDH to provide help to people who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless to find suitable accommodation. Homeless coordinators are based within WDH working with applicants on the housing register to ensure they find a home and have support to sustain it.



The NHS and care services are one of the main sources of employment for people in the Wakefield District. Public and voluntary sector organisations have developed a People Plan to ensure positive employment practices and work to recruit and retain an effective workforce. This includes offering apprenticeships and employment for people who experience disadvantage and by adopting positive employment practices.

We have continued to operate Project Search, an apprenticeship scheme where organisations support people with a learning disability to secure employment.

The district has also joined forces with a national organisation Breaking Barriers Innovations (BBI) to develop a new approach to planning for employment. that will not only bring better employment opportunities to Wakefield, but will improve health, and reduce inequalities. The work explored some of the barriers to people finding work, including childcare and transport, and looked at ways to overcome these. A recruitment fayre held at St George's Community Centre tested an approach to inviting people to see what jobs are on offer locally in care services and gave people the opportunity to be interviewed on the day, with confirmation of employment being given on the day for some people. Building on its success, a further event took place at St Mary's Community Centre, Pontefract, in July 2024.

The district hosts a number of schemes to house asylum seekers and migrants in initial accommodation centres, contingency hotels and dispersed accommodation, who often experience physical and mental health challenges and can find it difficult to access health and care services. A comprehensive assessment was carried out to better understand the health needs of migrants living in the district and identify

unmet needs. A dedicated multi-agency forum has been set up to ensure a coordinated support offer. This has led to enhanced healthcare provision, lifestyle improvement factors, such as better nutrition and access to physical activity, improved conditions in the buildings, digital access and strengthened support to children and their families.

The council's community cohesion team staff support service users in initial accommodation with school applications, appeals, transport and special educational needs applications. The team have supported large groups of children to access education and have streamlined the application process making it easier for asylum seekers. The team have set up a uniform bank, ensuring there is school uniform for every child and set up a donation point with all local schools to ensure that every child has the correct uniform and feels included.

The team also provides support packages for people moving on from initial accommodation, through the nationally funded resettlement scheme, and offer tuition in English as a second language.

Giving every child the best start in life

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy commits to support parents and families to lay the foundations for good health in later life before a child is born and during childhood.

The Health and Wellbeing Board dedicated its meeting in March 2023 to a focused discussion on work to support children and families in the district, which contributes to delivery of the Healthy Start in Life priority.

A detailed Children and Young People's plan sets out how agencies are working together to secure a healthy start in life for young people in the Wakefield district.

The plan focuses on five priorities: identity; safety, futures, health and education. A comprehensive report which describes the work being done in these priority areas can be found on the Wakefield Council website, [here](#).

A wide-ranging training programme for professionals covering identity, sexuality and gender, religion, neurodiversity, tackling bullying and challenging stereotypes, has complemented work to encourage and enable children and young to have a voice and exhibitions and awards celebrating diversity.

Work to keep children safe has included training and tools to identify children at risk, school holiday activities and campaigns, such as online safety and staying safe near waterways.

The futures programme focuses on creating opportunities for young people, through skills development, access to computers and work experience opportunities. It also includes action on climate change, including protection of green spaces, tree planting and reducing carbon emissions in schools and public buildings.

More than 1700 families have been supported by family teams and 71% of people questioned said they knew how to access support through family and youth hubs.

Health promotion for children and young people focuses on both emotional and physical health. An emotional wellbeing service was launched in April 2023. There has been a gradual decline in the number of children and young people needing support from higher tier mental/emotional health services.

Increased activities are being offered to promote good physical health, such as roller skating, cycling, swimming and healthy eating. The number of children attending A&E reduced by 4% in 2023/24 compared with the previous year and the number of children who were overweight going into reception class and year 6 also went down.

The approach to securing a healthy start in life for all children recognises the importance of good maternal health during pregnancy, birth and in early years. There has been continued progress in implementing learning from the national Ockenden reports into safer births. Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust is now has a full quota of midwives in post. Continued collaboration and co-production with the Wakefield Maternity and Neonatal Voices Partnership (MNVP) has resulted in service enhancements with a focus on key areas such as personalised care planning

There continues to be a strong partnership approach to reducing smoking during pregnancy. Public health work closely with Mid Yorkshire Teaching Trust and the specialist service, as well as with the Council and the ICB. Women are now referred directly to in-house Maternity Tobacco Dependency Advisors within Mid Yorkshire Teaching Trust and then are given the option of continuing support inhouse or the Community Specialist Stop Smoking Service which includes the Personal Financial Incentive (PFI) Scheme. The latest data for smoking at time of delivery (SATOD) has reduced from 14.7% to 11.3%.



In May 2024 there were 2182 women and 1494 babies participating in the Born and Bred (BABI) in Wakefield programme - an exciting new research initiative which aims to create a picture of local people's health and lifestyles over time. Researchers will use the collated data from all the participants to investigate key questions around the health of local people and identify ways to make improvements.

Over time, this will provide a useful insight to help inform planning of health and support services. Wakefield Museums has created an online exhibition, which features BaBi as part of a wider project reflecting childbirth and growing up through time. <https://www.midyorks.nhs.uk/babi/>

One Ummah, a grassroots charity which works to support women and families from different cultural backgrounds who have settled in the district, is being funded to do a research project to reduce barriers to taking part in the local BaBi Wakefield research.

Work to promote the Best Start in Life has been supported through additional funding allocated from the Family Hub Programme which has enhanced the well-established offer in Wakefield. Supporting an increase in breastfeeding is a key priority. The Families and Babies team continues to support families and are now able to extend their support on the maternity wards to 3pm-9pm and weekends and. where

appropriate, will visit the neonatal and children's wards when requested. Work is also progressing well for Family Hubs to join the UNICEF Baby Friendly Breastfeeding Initiative. The number of places signing up as breast feeding friendly is increasing and rates of babies still being breast fed at ten days and six weeks old is above target. There is ongoing work to recruit more volunteers to provide breast feeding support.

The breast pump loan scheme continues to be a popular part of the support offer with 64 mums accessing a pump in the last quarter of 2023/24 and the service is managing to maintain a constant 30 pumps in use all the time.

Feedback on the community support offer for breast feeding is high with more than 90% of people reporting feeling supported and 93% saying the support was extremely/very helpful.

Work undertaken over the last 3 – 4 years has enabled a Safer Sleeping offer to become well established in Wakefield. This includes Lullaby Trust commissioned training on sudden infant death and unsafe sleep. Wakefield Safer Sleep Standard, providing clear guidance on what is required in terms of ensuring parents and carers are provided with effective safe sleep advice. Guidance on viewing where a baby sleeps during health visiting and community midwifery home visits is now embedded as standard practice. Specific page on safeguarding babies and infants on the WSCP website, providing a 'one stop shop' on all key information and resources on safe sleep. This has coincided with there being no sudden deaths concerning unsafe sleep since 2022.

The 'Every Sleep a Safe Sleep' Multi Agency Risk Minimisation Training was introduced in 2023. Representatives of several agencies attended and then shared the learning across their own workforce. For example, West Yorkshire Police adapted the training and presentation to suit their frontline officers and to date 1087 staff have been trained with positive feedback about the user-friendly risk minimisation tool which enabled officers to successfully identify risks in some vulnerable families.



The ICON initiative, launched across Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust Maternity Service in 2020 before birth, on discharge following the birth and postnatally to help parents and carers understand the normal crying pattern of young infants, and develop successful coping mechanisms to deal with this. The aim is to prevent harm to babies as a result of Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), previously known as 'shaken baby syndrome, which causes catastrophic brain injuries and can lead to death, or significant long-term health and learning disabilities.

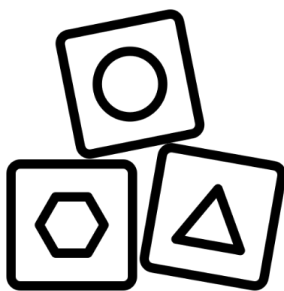
The ICON initiative comprises of four simple messages:

- **I** Infant crying is normal and will stop
- **C** Comforting can sometimes sooth the baby – is the baby hungry, tired or need a nappy change?

- Its **OK** to walk away if you have checked the baby is safe and the crying is getting to you. After a few minutes when you are feeling calm go back and check on the baby
- **N** Never shake or harm a baby; it can cause lasting damage or death

The 0-19 Growing Healthy Service has rolled this out across all staff. It is discussed at every contact antenatally and postnatally with an additional text to parents after three weeks reminding them of the message. There is a further ‘touchpoint’ at the 6–8-week GP baby review. Recently, there has been an eLearning module developed and this is being promoted to all our organisations including the voluntary sector.

All the work above has resulted in no baby deaths through AHT (‘shaken baby’ syndrome’) since 2020.



Although children develop at their own pace, a child’s early language can have an impact on their life chances. Language delay at five years can affect a child’s longer term social emotional learning and economic outcomes.

The Wakefield Speech Language and Communication Strategy 2023-2025 was launched during WordFest in May 2023.

The strategy sets out our vision, priorities, and success measures for effective speech, building on the strengths of the child. It has been developed for everyone with a role in supporting children’s speech, language, and communication development so children can be supported to ensure they can access learning, social interactions and to make a positive contribution to the world around them, recognising the important role of parents and carers.

The Wakefield Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a book-gifting scheme for children under the age of five that delivers by post one high quality book, each month, building up a home library of books. The scheme encourages parental engagement in a child’s learning, by reading to a child early and often and promotes the use of library services.

Over 56,000 books have been delivered to over 1,815 eligible children registered on the scheme, with a total of 2380 children served.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library aims to integrate the book gifting with targeted early years provision across council departments, so most in need children are given more opportunities to develop and learn, starting life better prepared for all that it can teach them. The scheme is now accepting registrations district wide from the family nurse practitioner team and for care leaver parents.

Evaluation of the Imagination Library is showing a higher percentage of Imagination Library children achieving the good level of development aged 5 in relation to their peers.

88.7% of school Ofsted inspections in the district showed an improvement and academic attainment is improving with 91% of children reaching the phonics

threshold by the end of key stage 1 (2% better than the national average) and 68% of early years foundation stage children having a good level of development (1% higher than the national average).

Prevention of ill health

This priority focuses on positive action to support people to maintain good physical and mental health through a range of interventions, including guiding people to support, access to physical exercise, work to tackle pollution, connecting people with communities to combat loneliness and access to health screening.

Cigarette smoking remains the main cause of preventable illness and premature death. Overall, it is estimated that smoking costs the district around £127.9 million in a year: £100.7 million in productivity losses, £15.2 million in healthcare costs, £9.2 million in social care and £2.9 million in fires. The average annual spend per smoker on tobacco is £2,451 which exacerbates poverty.

There have been significant improvements in the number of people in the district who smoke, through targeted smoking cessation activity and coordinated action to prevent illicit tobacco sales, which undermine other public health interventions. This has resulted in smoking rates which have traditionally been higher in the district than nationally, coming into line with the national average.

Through multiagency collaboration, Wakefield has been working to reduce smoking inequalities. However, there are still significant differences in smoking rates in priority populations in Wakefield including in areas of high deprivation, routine and manual workers and people with a long-term mental health condition.



Nova, the support agency for voluntary and community organisations in the district, has delivered the Making Every Contact Count for Mental Health training. Almost 50 VCSE and health colleagues have been trained in having everyday conversations around mental health to reduce stigma, break down barriers and catch people early. That included training 13 Council Step Up employment service staff.

Alongside this, Nova is also offering the Making Every Contact Count Physical Activity half day training to encourage people to have conversations around the importance of moving more for wellbeing and the protective factors of being active.

Beginning with a Healthy hearts / Blood Pressure research project at St George's Community Centre, in Lupset, Nova has been working with the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to establish blood pressure champions within Community Anchors - <https://www.wakefielddistricthcp.co.uk/news-blog/article/wakefield-district-introduces-network-of-blood-pressure-champions-to-tackle-hypertension/>

Nova has been working with the One Ummah voluntary organisation through their grassroots work with women and families, as part of the blood pressure champions work, and to understand and overcome barriers to accessing primary care.

The Health and Wellbeing Board had a focused discussion on work to reduce domestic abuse and address the negative impact on people's health. All staff working in health and care services for children aged 0-19 are trained to identify signs of abuse and to support and protect victims. This includes talking to children and parents about healthy relationships. Specific work to break the cycle of domestic abuse, working with perpetrators and victims, has been funded using money awarded to the district to tackle health inequalities.

Spending time in nature has many positive benefits for people's health, supporting good mental health as well as physical wellbeing. The health and wellbeing strategy committed to providing more opportunities for people to take advantage of outdoor spaces to engage in health promoting activities such as walking, cycling and social activities.

Wakefield Council, along with a range of voluntary and community organisations are working to encourage people to make use of green spaces and waterways to promote better health, through exercise, horticulture, conservation and nature-based arts and crafts.

Gambling harm has a higher impact in our district than in other parts of the country and the district is participating in a three-year public health programme to tackle gambling and gambling harm, focused on educating people about the risks associated with gambling, reducing the stigma associated with seeking help and increasing support for people affected by gambling.

The Wakefield district has the second highest rate of people dying by suicide in Yorkshire and the Humber. The district has a multi-agency suicide prevention strategy, which aims to raise awareness of risk factors and provide access to support for people who are at risk. This includes comprehensive training for professionals, support services and specialist bereavement support for people affected by suicide.



Physical activity improves people's mental and physical health, helping to tackle obesity and heart disease, which affect more people in the district than the national average. The Council continues to promote physical activity through its healthy living programme and through active travel and transport initiatives and expansion of accessible walking and recreational cycle trails.

More information is available on the Wakefield Council website

at: <https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/sport-and-leisure/healthy-living/>

The district is part of a West Yorkshire wide Healthy Hearts programme to identify people at greatest risk of heart disease to enable them to take action through lifestyle choices, professional support and medication to reduce their risk.

The district is also supported by of the West Yorkshire Cancer Alliance to improve outcomes through screening and early diagnosis. There is ongoing work to encourage uptake of other health screening, including annual health checks for people with a learning disability.

There has also been targeted work to encourage uptake of immunisation in the wake of increases in measles and whooping cough alongside the vaccination offers for seasonal flu and COVID for vulnerable groups.

Sustainable communities

The Council and NHS are funding a Healthy and Sustainable Communities programme, focused in the ten most deprived communities in the district. The first phase has been completed in four of the areas. After a series of co-produced workshops, local communities have identified the strengths and assets in their local areas, considered the gaps and why people don't engage with services and worked collaboratively to allocate the available resources to decide on projects and roles.

In Airedale the new Community Connector has just been appointed. The role will provide time and space to develop trusting relationships with people, complementing existing roles and connect to local health and wellbeing services. A similar post is going through the recruitment process in South Kirkby.

In Havercroft and Fitzwilliam, the resources have been allocated to community anchors (existing community groups/facilities), who are working with local stakeholders to establish a community of practice to improve access to services and develop sustainable ways of working. They are also developing a connector role and newsletter to improve communications and promote digital inclusion.

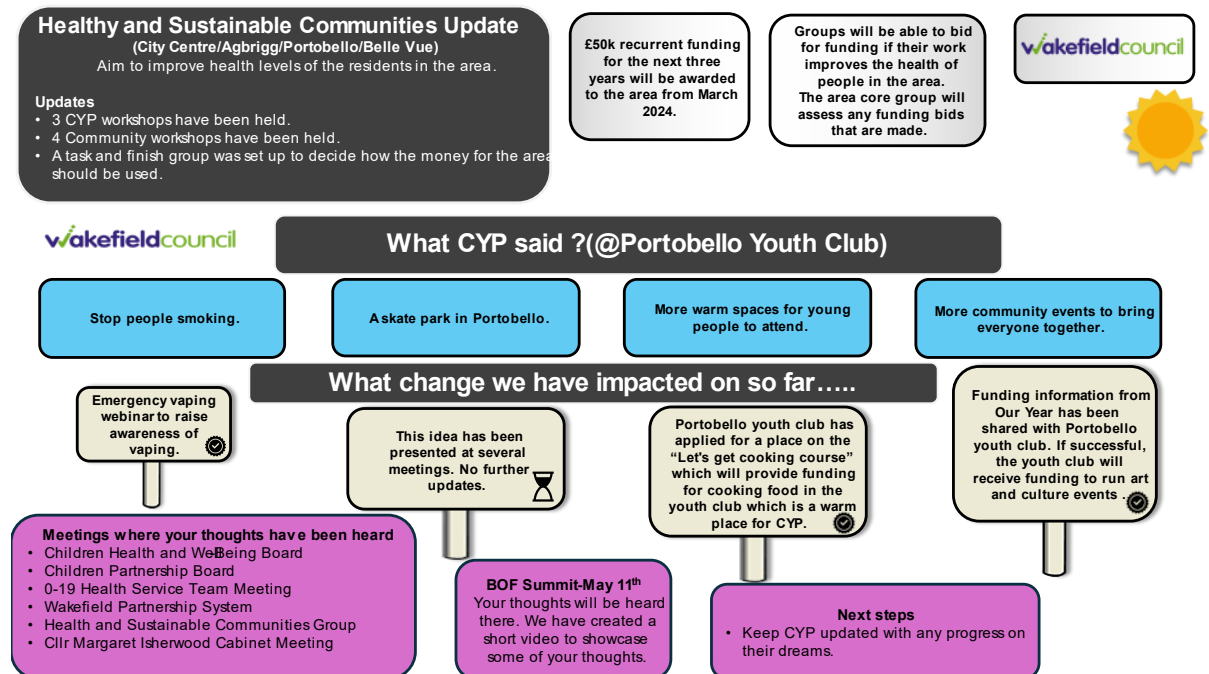
In the City Centre, the money is being used to build on the positive role of the VCSE, recognising the different communities of place and interest. A participatory grant giving model with Nova, has been developed to pool resources, invest in local community groups and promote collaborative working.

Learning from the first phase of this work has highlighted that there are many stakeholders who know their own locality and have felt that they have not always been central to decision-making. Whilst the programme has moved to a more co-produced way of working, there is feedback that voluntary and community organisations want to be trusted more and provided with sustainable funding streams. This links to ongoing work to develop plans to enable voluntary sector organisations to flourish.

Work has started on the second phase of rolling out the programme to Eastmoor and Knottingley and there are plans to start in Featherstone. A core group has been set up in Eastmoor and events with local communities will decide priorities in terms of decision making and how resources should be used. Engagement in Knottingley and Featherstone has also started.

Work will start to engage stakeholders in the final three areas - Whitwood, Lupset and Hemsworth - in summer 2024.

There have been facilitated, interactive workshops, for children and young people to contribute their thoughts and ideas. School and youth club sessions have also taken place in each community. The infographic below shows how the views of children and young people in the city centre have led to positive action and how it will influence decision makers in the district.



So far, over 200 children in five of the areas have engaged and there has been separate work with care leavers and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Some areas have allocated funding to projects, which will be developed with children through the Family Hubs.

The development of new ways of working between health and social care, GPs and voluntary organisations through Integrated Neighbourhood Boards is aligned to the Healthy and Sustainable Communities work. The model builds on the work of multi-agency Connecting Care Hubs and promotes the easier access to support by ensuring that, wherever a person comes into contact with services, they will be directed to the most appropriate help. This way of working supports effective partnerships and early intervention to help people stay in good health.

The Healthy and Sustainable Communities programme links closely with primary care networks (groups of GP practices who work together to meet the needs of their communities). In the Wakefield Healthcare Alliance South area, there is ongoing work between the Council, the NHS, local GP practices, health coaches and social prescribers to clarify roles and responsibilities. The new connector roles will provide time and build trusting relationships to work with people to access the services and checks they need earlier and to contribute to less reliance on GPs and Accident and Emergency.

The Healthy and Sustainable Communities work is helping to address inequalities and promote inclusion. Working in the ten most deprived parts of the district has highlighted that many people in these areas do not connect with services and the

local assets that are available in communities. The work is supporting improved trust, connectivity and participation in the VCSE and local projects, so that people can grow support networks, access early help and build confidence and skills to manage their own health and wellbeing. This includes supporting a wide range of projects and tailoring solutions to the needs of different communities.

Citizen Coin is a digital app that has been procured to support volunteering in the Wakefield District which can be used free of charge by all partners in the Wakefield district to advertise their volunteering opportunities in one place. It was launched in the Wakefield District in June 2024. Citizen Coin enables partners to reward their volunteers with virtual currency for the time that they give doing amazing things.

It gives retailers and businesses a platform to promote their goods/services at discounted prices in ways which suit them and enables volunteers to get discounts off goods and services that local retailers and businesses offer on the platform.

Citizen Coin allows volunteers to develop social CVs to evidence the knowledge, skills and experience they have gained through volunteering. It also provides partners and the local authority with a platform to capture the social value that volunteers bring to organisations and the district.

A Philanthropy and Investment Manager, hosted by Prosper Wakefield, has been in post for almost 12 months. This was funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The role has developed to provide both financial and non-financial support from businesses in the area into the VCSE, including promoting Corporate Social Responsibility and social value. The role has supported the development of Citizen Coin and the number of volunteer opportunities in the district. The post has engaged with over 100 businesses and is also developing with Prosper a match-funding initiative with businesses to provide more resources that can be distributed to the VCSE through local grant giving opportunities.



There are dozens of initiatives across the district where communities are being supported to gain new skills whilst helping each other. One such example is the creation of a recycle hub developed in Knottingley by Warwick Ahead with support from Nova. The hub allows residents to bring in donations, mitigating waste, landfill, and fly-tipping, while also enabling unwanted items to be utilised by those who need them most.

The project will train community members with low skills in areas such as PAT testing, customer service, upcycling, and recycling of goods and items. A volunteer scheme will offer those wishing to improve their skills, confidence, and self-esteem the chance to participate in various activities within the hub. The hub will also serve as a referral point for those in crisis, such as individuals and families being rehomed and lacking basic necessities for everyday living. Through a well-regulated system, the project will provide individuals with bespoke needs such items as new mattresses, bedding, cooking utensils, plates, cups, and saucers. This intervention

will positively impact a child's participation in school and improve mental health for both the children and their parents.

The Council has set out its vision for regeneration to ensure a thriving district, which can be found on the Council's website.

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/Documents/planning/regeneration/district-vision-2025.pdf#search=sustainable%20communities>

The Council is also leading on a Climate Change Action plan. Details of the plan and what has been achieved to date can be found on the Council's website:

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/climate-change/wakefield-climate-action>.

What difference is this making to people's health?

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy acknowledges that it may take many years to see the benefits of tackling the wider social and economic issues that affect people's health. We will evaluate the effectiveness of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy by monitoring the steps we are taking towards building a healthier future as well as looking at data about health improvement and seeking feedback from people about how they feel. We have recently completed the first Adult Healthy Survey in the District, which will be repeated in four years' time. This gives us a baseline to evaluate interventions.

The **Outcomes Framework** we have developed (overleaf) covers all these aspects.

Wakefield District Health and Wellbeing Board: Outcomes Framework

Outcome	Measure	Latest Period	Latest Figure (Rated against England)	England	Trend	Direction
Overarching outcomes	1 Life expectancy at birth - Males	2020-22	77.0	78.9		↔
	2 Life expectancy at birth - Females	2020-22	80.9	82.8		↔
	3 Healthy life expectancy - Males (years)	2018-20	58.0	63.1		↔
	4 Healthy life expectancy - Females (years)	2018-20	56.7	63.9		↓
Inequalities are reduced	5 Gap between FSM & Non-FSM attaining a 'good level of development' (Reception)	2022/23	22.0	19.9		↔
	6 Gap between most and least deprived areas - Smoking in pregnancy	2022/23	21.2	3.4		↓
	7 Gap between most and least deprived areas - Male life expectancy at birth	2018 - 20	9.6	9.7		↔
	8 Gap between most and least deprived areas - Female life expectancy at birth	2018 - 20	8.4	7.9		↑
A healthy standard of living for all	9 Percentage of children in low income families	2023	19.1	19.8		↑
	10 Median hourly wage rate, adjusted for inflation (£'s per hour)	2023	14.40	15.95		↑
	11 Households living in fuel poverty (%)	2022	15.6	13.1		↔
	12 People in employment (%)	2023	73.9	76		↔
	13 Pupils achieving grades 9-4 in GCSE English and Maths (%)	2023	65.4	60.7		↑
Giving every child the best start in life	14 Mothers smoking at the time of delivery (%)	2023/24 Q4	9.2	7.3		↓
	15 Children aged 0-4 years subject to a child protection plan	2023/24 Q4	155			↔
	16 Reception children who are carrying "Excess weight" (%)	2022/23	23.4	21.6		↔
	17 Children with good level of development at the end of Reception (%)	2022/23	67.9	67.2		↔
	18 16-17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) (%)	2023	2.6	2.8		↔
	19 Born and Bred in Wakefield (BaBi) - mothers recruited	2023/24 Q4	494			↑
Preventing ill health	20 Bowel cancer screening coverage (%)	2022/23	74.5	72		↑
	21 Breast cancer screening coverage (%)	2023	65.5	66.2		↔
	22 Smoking prevalence (adults) (%)	2022	12.5	12.7		↓
	23 Emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (Rate per 100,000)	2022/23	153.2	126.3		↔
	24 Flu vaccine uptake (65+)	2023/24	79.2	77.8		↔
	25 Activities completed at Aspire services	2022/23 Q3	275,236			↔
Sustainable communities	26 Violence against the person with injury offences (12 month rate per 1,000)	2023/24 Q3	12.1	9.3		↔
	27 Deaths related to drug misuse (rate per 100,000)	2020-22	10.3	5.2		↑
	28 Satisfied with local area as a place to live (%)	2023	56.2	62		↔
	29 Affordability of home ownership (mean house price to mean earnings ratio)	2023	6.2	8.26		↑
	30 Air pollution: fine particulate matter (PM2.5 annual average µg/m³)	2022	6.8	7.8		↓

cf England
Better
Within 10%
Worse