



COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, 4 February 2026

Time: 6.00pm,

Location: Council Chamber

Contact: Gemma O'Donnell (01438) 242216

committees@stevenage.gov.uk

Members: Councillors: Ellie Plater (Chair), Julie Ashley-Wren (Vice-Chair),
Kamal Choudhury, Akin Elekolusi, Lynda Guy,
Mason Humberstone, Dermot Kehoe, Sarah Mead,
Carolina Veres and Peter Wilkins

AGENDA

PART 1

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - 11 DECEMBER 2025

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Community Select Committee held on Thursday 11 December 2025.

3 – 6

3. FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

To receive a presentation from the Council's Health and Wellbeing Manager, Ryan Ansell on Public Health initiatives. Members will also receive a presentation from the Director of Public Health at Hertfordshire County Council regarding the public health priorities for Stevenage.

HCC Public Health PowerPoint slides to follow.

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4. URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

To consider any Part I business accepted by the Chair as urgent

5. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

To consider the following motions:

1. That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the ground that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1 – 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

2. That Members consider the reasons for the following reports being in Part II and determine whether or not maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

To consider any Part II business accepted by the Chair as urgent

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Thursday, 11 December 2025

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present: Councillors: Ellie Plater (Chair), Julie Ashley-Wren (Vice-Chair), Kamal Choudhury, Akin Elekolusi, Dermot Kehoe and Carolina Veres

Start / End Time: Start Time: 6.00pm
End Time: 7.20pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Leanne Brady, Lynda Guy, Sarah Mead and Peter Wilkins.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Community Select Committee meeting held on 11 November 2025 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME ITEM - OLDER PEOPLE

The Committee received a presentation from Officers on the Council's work in relation to older people, following the Council motion agreed in October 2025. This was to establish a lasting and suitable commitment to age-friendly communities and dementia-friendly action in Stevenage.

The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Older People welcomed the focused session and emphasised that the motion aimed to develop new initiatives, and to highlight existing work being delivered by officers and partners.

The Committee noted that significant work had been undertaken in relation to a Dementia Friendly status. This included collaboration with the Council's Licensing team to support dementia awareness training for taxi drivers, delivered in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society.

Officers presented key demographic and health data to the Committee and highlighted increased dementia diagnosis.

Falls amongst those aged 80 years and over were highlighted as a major cause of hospital admissions. It was noted that dementia diagnosis rates in Stevenage were

higher than both Hertfordshire and national averages. These factors underlined the need for strengthened prevention, support and inclusive design.

The Committee was informed that Stevenage achieved Age-Friendly Community status in 2024, and had since supported the Hertfordshire Age-Friendly application alongside Hertfordshire County Council and Age UK.

It was noted that the Age-Friendly Communities survey had been completed, and officers highlighted the findings which included the positive access to green spaces and community facilities. Areas of improvement included access to public toilets, safety and perceptions of rest areas. Officers noted that perceptions were an important factor and did not always align with physical audits, such as the availability of benches across the town.

The Committee were provided with an update on the dementia-friendly work. This included the development of a dementia services booklet to help residents and carers navigate support following diagnosis.

Officers also discussed community engagement activities such as International Day of Older People on 1 October each year. This year the event included an intergenerational focus and partnership working with school and voluntary organisations. It was noted that plans were shared to expand future events into a week long programme of coordinated activities across Stevenage.

An overview of sport and leisure provision for older people was presented, including strength and balance classes, the health walks programme and community-based activities delivered through the Council's leisure contract. These were highlighted as supporting mobility, independence and social connection.

It was noted that while short-mat bowls would be available in the new Leisure Hub, there were no current plans for a dedicated indoor bowls facility, and ongoing engagement with local bowls clubs was continuing.

During questions, concerns were raised by Members regarding access to swimming and aqua-based exercise classes. It was noted there were digital booking barriers, limited session availability and capacity constraints. Officers acknowledged these concerns and advised that they would be taken away for further consideration with relevant officers and partners.

It was noted that while some issues fell outside the Council's direct control, the Age-Friendly Hertfordshire Partnership would provide an opportunity to influence wider transport and infrastructure discussions.

The Committee received a presentation on housing related support services for older and vulnerable residents. Members were informed about the CareConnect 24/7 community alarm service, which supported residents of all ages who felt vulnerable. This provided monitoring or a full emergency response.

This service currently supported 317 customers and responded to 594 emergency calls between April and September.

An update was provided on the Council's 14 independent living schemes, including two extra care schemes. In total, 863 properties were managed across the town, all fitted with emergency alarm systems and supported by staff presence.

It was noted that 2,045 emergency calls had been attended within the schemes and that demand for accommodation remained high, with 109 applicants on the waiting list.

Members were also updated on recent and planned developments, including Brodie Court and future schemes at Rowland Court and Brent Court.

The Committee noted the positive impact of lottery funded activity programmes delivered across all schemes, with 688 sessions and 2,182 attendances in the first year. Reported outcomes included improved health, mobility, reduced isolation and enhanced mental wellbeing.

Members were informed about the Community Support Service for Council tenants aged 55 and over living independently, which provided visits, telephone support and access to scheme activities. Between April and October, 587 visits and 1,081 calls were delivered.

The Committee also noted the Council's provision of aids and adaptations, the availability of Disabled Facilities Grants, and the importance of partnership working to embed age-friendly and dementia-friendly principles across Council services.

Members discussed the importance of dementia-friendly awareness and noted that 75 members of staff at the Council had received dementia training, with plans to explore making training mandatory.

Members highlighted the importance of dementia-friendly design, including the use of appropriate colour contrast in street furniture and benches.

Members raised issues relating to digital inclusion, particularly for residents who may struggle with online only processes. Officers outlined ongoing work through the Council's digital strategy, alternative communication methods, and practical assistance for residents who cannot access digital services.

Members were also informed about the support provided within independent living schemes, including scam awareness and online safety advice.

The Committee raised a question regarding pavement design and accessibility, particularly uneven surfaces and poor visual contrast. It was noted that these issues would be recorded and referred to relevant officers for further consideration.

Members welcomed recent additional funding secured by Hertfordshire County Council and Age UK to support Age-Friendly Hertfordshire, which would help strengthen partnership working and advocacy on issues such as transport.

The Committee thanked officers and partners for their contributions and noted the

importance of continuing to embed age-friendly and dementia-friendly principles across Council services.

4 URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS

There was no Urgent Part I Business.

5 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That, under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1 to 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No. 88.

2. That having considered the reasons for the following item being in Part II, it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighed the public interest in disclosure.

6 URGENT PART II BUSINESS

There was no Urgent Part II Business.

CHAIR

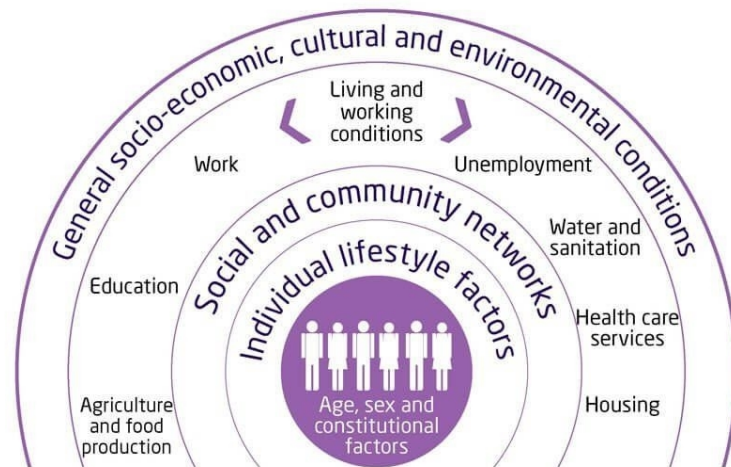
Community Select Committee – Healthy Stevenage Update

Overview

- Current position & health profile
- Changing landscape
- Reflection of strategy & new strategy development
- Emerging priorities & development timeline
- Current projects and initiatives

Current Position

- Time to develop a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, reflecting current health inequalities
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2025 - identifies worsening trends: obesity, mental health, frailty, dementia
- Delivery of preventive health and wellbeing initiatives to tackle health inequalities



JSNA – Key Findings

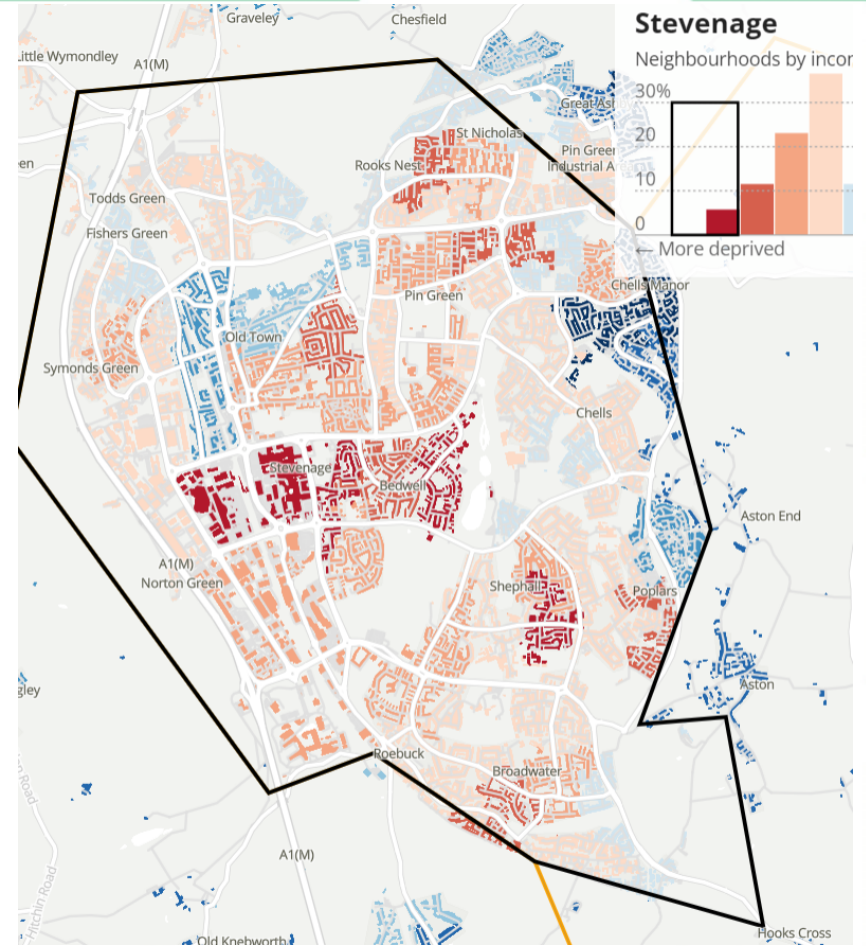
Headline findings from the Stevenage Health Inequalities JSNA (2025)

Population profile

- 90,146 residents • 20% are children (0–15)
- 16% are 65+.
- Older population (65+) expected to grow by around 30% by 2043.

Deprivation & Life Expectancy

- Most deprived district in Hertfordshire (IMD score 19.7).
- Average life expectancy at birth is 80.8 years – lower than the county average.



JSNA – Key Findings Cont.

Headline findings from the Stevenage Health Inequalities JSNA (2025)

Weight & Physical Activity

- 18% of Reception and 37% of Year 6 pupils are overweight or obese – second highest Year 6 rate in Hertfordshire.
- Inactivity and excess weight are more common in more deprived wards.

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Mental Health & Risk Behaviours

- Patterns of severe mental illness and depression reflect deprivation.
- Self-harm admissions are similar for men and women, but admissions for alcohol-related mental and behavioural disorders are around five times higher in men.

Ageing, housing & wider determinants

- Dementia diagnosis rates are higher than in Hertfordshire and England, with mortality higher among women and those in more deprived areas.
- Stevenage has higher rates of statutory homelessness, adult smoking and violence-related hospital admissions, and lower GCSE attainment – all concentrated in more deprived communities.

Changing Landscape

National direction – prevention & community first - 10-Year Health Plan and Hertfordshire's Public Health Strategy shift the system from hospital to community, analogue to digital, and sickness to prevention, with a clear focus on obesity, smoking, mental health and reducing health inequalities.

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CB & ENH Health & Care Partnership changes - ENH Health & Care Partnership now operates under a host-provider model with ENHT, with a vision of “one system, one team, one purpose” and a 5-year transformation plan focused on Care Closer to Home, frailty, long-term conditions and children & young people.

New neighbourhood models - Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, PCNs and neighbourhood hubs bring multi-disciplinary teams together around populations of c.30–50k, aiming for “no wrong door” access, more care closer to home, and a stronger role for community pharmacy, Healthy Hubs and the voluntary sector.

What this means for Stevenage - As one of the most deprived district in Hertfordshire, with rising obesity, mental health needs and an ageing population, Stevenage has to lean into this shift: our new Healthy Stevenage Strategy will align with ICB neighbourhood plans, double-down on prevention, and use our local assets (Healthy Hub, leisure, parks, housing and Co-operative Neighbourhoods) to narrow life-expectancy and health-outcome gaps.

Purpose of the Strategy

- Set a clear, preventative vision owned by SBC that works in collaboration
- Provide a coordinated action plan to reduce inequalities in partnership with key partners
- Strengthen place-based delivery through Integrated Neighbourhood Teams & Co-operative Neighbourhood Programme

District councils play a key role in keeping us healthy. They provide core local services, including economic development, planning, housing, leisure, wellbeing and environmental services for local communities - areas that are increasingly recognised as vital components of population health systems.



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Lessons Learned from Previous Strategy

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Strong foundations – clear vision, good partnership working, and a whole-council approach to health.

Inequalities remain – outcomes in our most deprived neighbourhoods have been slow to shift.

Weak outcome framework – activity is good, but data and evaluation haven't been strong enough to show impact.

Right focus areas – physical activity, healthy weight, mental health, healthy ageing and healthy places.

Delivery limits – too many short-term, small-scale projects, reliant on limited capacity and external funding.

Key lesson – next strategy must be more targeted, at greater scale, monitoring & evaluation, and health embedded in every major SBC decision.

Strategy at a Glance – Emerging Priorities

Healthy Stevenage STRATEGY AT A GLANCE

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VISION

To reduce health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of all residents living in Stevenage



MISSION

To enable people to live well for longer by creating healthy places, promoting prevention and strengthening partnership working across the town



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1 Healthy Weight and Active Lives
- 2 Good Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- 3 Ageing Well, Frailty Prevention and Dementia Support
- 4 Creating Healthy, Safe and Connected Places
- 5 A Strong and Collaborative Healthy Stevenage Partnership

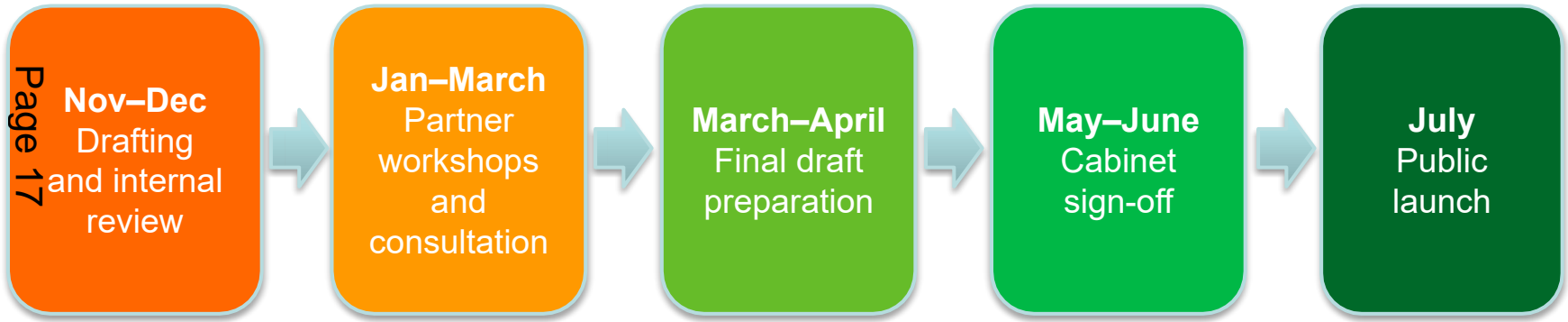
CROSS-CUTTING ENABLERS

- Evidence and Insight
- Co-Production
- Community Engagement
- Partnership Governance
- Data Sharing and Evaluation
- Inclusive and Accessible Design

Alignment with National & Local Strategies

- Aligned with Hertfordshire Public Health Strategy 2022–27
- Reflects NHS 10-Year Health Plan: prevention, community models, early intervention
- Consistent with wider district role in housing, environment, and wellbeing

Healthy Stevenage Strategy – Development Timeline



Healthy Stevenage Partnership



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Promoting Physical Activity



SUMMER ACTIVITY

FREE FOR 11-17 YEAR OLDS

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays
Basketball 10am-12pm KGV Playing Fields Starting 7/8/23	Herts Summer Programme 4pm-7pm KGV Playing Fields Starting 1/8/23	SG Youth Hub 10am-3pm Stevenage Leisure Centre Starting 2/8/23
Thursdays	Fridays	
SG Youth Hub 10am-3pm Stevenage Leisure Centre Starting 2/8/23	SG Youth Hub 10am-3pm Stevenage Leisure Centre Starting 2/8/23	Premier League Kicks 6.30pm-8pm Nobel School Ongoing

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Building
Life
Chances

everyone
ACTIVE

herts
sports
council

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EVERYONE LET'S GET STARTED



Looking for a healthier lifestyle?

We can do that together!

Join our 3 months free exercise course where you can use the gym, go to group exercise classes or swimming. During this time start new habits that lead to a healthier you.

For more information and to sign up please contact:



STEVENAGE BASKETBALL ROADSHOW

MAY HALF TERM

TUESDAY 30 MAY - 10AM - 12PM
ST NICHOLAS PARK, SGI 4PT

WEDNESDAY 31 MAY - 10AM - 12PM
HAMPSHIRE PARK, SGI 5QU

THURSDAY 1 JUNE - 10AM - 12PM
KING GEORGE PLAYING FIELDS, SGI 3LS

FREE BASKETBALL SESSIONS FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11-17 YEARS OLD
FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK A SPOT OR CANCEL OR VISIT THE LINK IN THE SECTION BELOW



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NEW STEVENAGE YOUTH HUB

10AM - 3PM

WHICH?

STEVENAGE LIFESTYLES
LUTON NW, SGI 1LZ

11th	12th	13th

SCAN UP

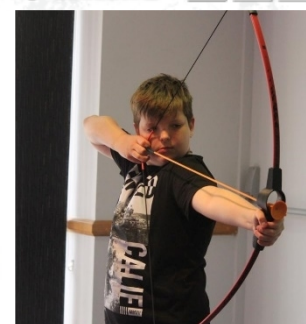



EVERYONE LOVES GARDENING

Community Garden

Tuesdays 9.30am-12.00pm
Thursdays 1.00pm-4.00pm

everyone
ACTIVE



Promoting Healthier Lifestyles – Healthy Hub

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Promoting Healthier Lifestyles – Aging Well

Age Friendly Communities

Dementia Friendly Communities



Age-Friendly
Stevenage



Promoting Healthier Lifestyles – Active Travel

Health Walks



Stevenage Cycle Hub



Beryl Bike Scheme

Supporting those in Crisis

The No More
SERVICE

Accessing services for support with:

· Drugs · Alcohol · Adult Offenders · Youth Offenders



**Stevenage NightLight
Crisis Café**



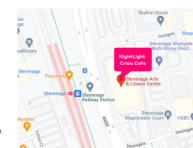
**In a crisis and need someone to talk to?
We are here for you**

Our Crisis Café is open
every day from 7pm - 1am

If you would like to arrange
a visit, call us on:

01923 256391

We are based at Stevenage Arts & Leisure
Centre, Lytton Way, SG1 1LZ











E: nightlight@hertfordshiremind.org
 W: www.hertfordshiremind.org

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Place Making

The Stevenage Bus Interchange



Stevenage Sport & Leisure Hub



Diversification of Retail and Public Realm Improvements



Station Gateway



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Station North multi-storey car park



The Forum

Find out more about our **£1billion** Stevenage Regeneration Programme

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Cycling & Pedestrian Connectivity
(incl. Arts & Heritage)



Kenilworth Road



Guinness Partnership

Questions

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