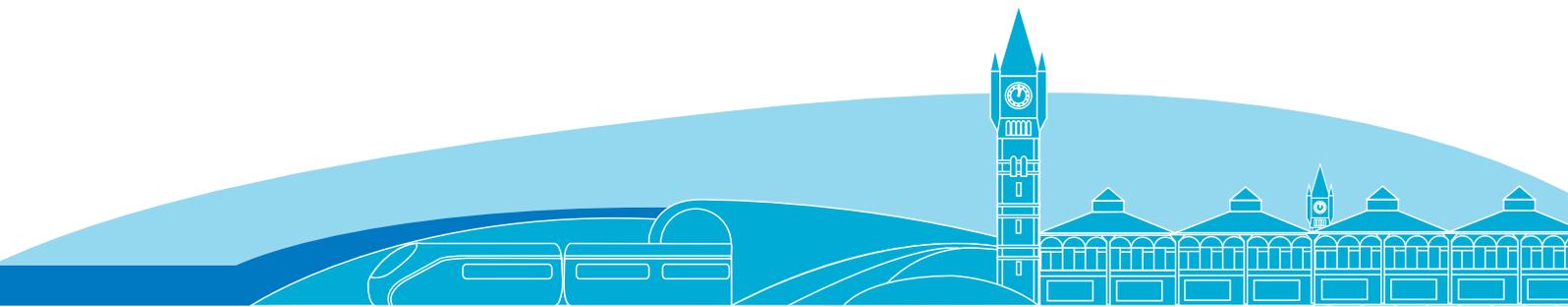




# Darlington Unit of Planning **Strategic Plan**



Working together to improve the health and wellbeing of Darlington

## Who we are



The Darlington unit of planning is a group that has been formed to set common goals and work more closely together, so that we can make public money go further and develop services that will help the people of Darlington live longer, healthier lives.

These include:

- NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group
- Darlington Borough Council
- County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees, Esk & Wear NHS Mental Health Foundation Trust
- NHS England Durham, Darlington & Tees Area Team
- Darlington General Practices
- North of England Commissioning Support Unit
- Healthwatch Darlington
- Darlington Primary Care & Voluntary and Community Sector
- Health Education England (HENE).

We share an 'Ambition for Excellence' that delivers right care, right place, right time with no waste, which means:

- All organisations will work together as a collaboration of commissioners and providers
- The health and wellbeing of the people of Darlington is paramount and at the centre of what we do
- Individual organisational plans will not get in the way of service improvement for the people of Darlington
- Where improvements affect other organisations we will work together to manage the change
- Best care and support is shared by all organisations to benefit all those using the services
- Our 'people', patients, public and staff, will be proud of the care and services delivered.



## Why things need to change

- Health and social care face difficult, competing and often conflicting financial decisions and pressures, especially as demand and complexity of care delivery increases
- Over the next few years we expect the number of older people living in Darlington to grow because we are all living longer. This is great news, but older people often need more from their local services and have more complex long-term health conditions
- We know that cancers and heart disease are the main causes of early deaths in Darlington and cases of stroke, dementia and long-term conditions like diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are increasing.
- Public services are facing tough financial challenges. We need to consider how every pound is spent to maintain financial sustainability
- Rightly, public expectations are rising for the standards of care they receive. Services need to change to provide the level of convenience and access, which is tailored to individuals needs
- Across the system recruitment is challenging whilst there is a mismatch between where the current workforce is and where it is needed, for example more community staff. We need to ensure we have a workforce with the right skills in the right place, now and in the future, to deliver safe sustainable care.

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## How will we achieve our objectives?

Services will be planned and developed using three equally important elements; **talking to the public; professional input including health professionals such as doctors and nurses, public health, and social care** and use of the most recent **evidence base**.

Knowing what local people think of the services they use and understanding what is important to them is a real priority for us. We will talk to our community and those that receive care through organisations such as Healthwatch Darlington, voluntary and community groups and our Community Council, which is made up of patient volunteers from local GP practices.

This helps us listen to, and act upon, what local people tell us and work to improve health and wellbeing across Darlington.

The use of robust clinical evidence will be complemented with non-clinical evidence. The information used can range from national guidelines, to local demographic and public health data along with local feedback and views.

In summary we will talk to the public and professional people and gather other information to create realistic plans.

# What needs to be in place to make sure we deliver our plans?

- An environment where people can positively influence their healthcare experience and outcomes
- Services are safe and of the highest quality
- All the people who work for us have the right skills and attitudes
- Our services are delivered in buildings that are fit for purpose
- Peoples mental health is given equal importance to their physical health
- People are not limited by being diagnosed with a mental health condition
- People receive support and care in, or as close as possible to, their own homes, although for regional specialist services or centres of excellence, such as cancer treatments, people may need to travel
- Improved waiting times for Accident and Emergency, and for people with urgent care needs
- Reduced use of hospital services and an increase in care delivered outside of hospital
- Joined up care, partnership and multi-agency working
- Less people going into care homes
- Community support to spot needs early
- GPs are central to the coordination of care
- Health and social care services are sustainable in Darlington through working together
- Latest technology and evidence is utilised
- A focus on early intervention and prevention services
- People feeling less socially isolated
- Easily accessible and timely information for people
- We need the public working with us to help manage their condition now and the impact of their current lifestyles on future conditions.

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## When will this be delivered?

The Unit of Planning have established a vision which will be delivered over the following five years. The plan will be rolled out over the next five year.

We will need to understand we are getting value for money and people's views will be important moving forward.