

Northern Health and Social Care Trust Feedback Report to Trust Board

Report from:	Northern Partnership and Population Health Committee
Author of Report:	Anne O'Reilly, Chair of NPPHC
Lead Director:	Neil Martin, Director SPPICT
Presented By:	Anne O'Reilly
Date of Meeting:	26 March 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the business undertaken by the Northern Partnership and Population Health Committee (NPPHC).

Strategic Objectives (select)

<i>Build Northern Partnerships and Integrate Care</i>	<i>Continue to improve Outcomes & Experience</i>	<i>Deliver value by optimising Resources</i>	<i>Nurture our people, enable our talent and build our Teams</i>	<i>Improve population Health and address health and social care inequalities</i>
X				X

Summary of Committee Business

The sixth meeting of the Committee took place on 25 Feb 2026.

Carers' Strategy

The Committee welcomed Virginia Maxwell and Sam Bell representing the Carers' Forum to the meeting as co producers of the Draft Carers' strategy which was presented to the committee for approval. Kelly Mc Bride (Head of Equality) outlined the engagement process consisting of surveys across carers, listening forums and other events involving carers and young carers. The resultant strategy outlines 9 priority areas set out across a 5-year action plan. Following discussion and some suggested input and amendments from the committee, the draft carers' strategy was approved. This will now proceed to consultation.

Community Appointment Days

Further work has been carried out to develop and expand on Community Appointment Days. Under the DOH waiting well initiative, there has been several applications for funding to support service users working in partnership with community and voluntary organisations.

Will Nicholson from Thrive Sperrins is proposing waiting well initiatives focused on mental health CADs to target psychological therapies with confirmation that the application had succeeded through the first stage of the proposal.

Jill Bradley outlined the planned CAD at the end of March, for children with sensory needs delivered in partnership between the council and the Trust. The CAD is focused on identifying early intervention, working with families at a pre referral stage and reducing waiting lists. CADs have been received positively with staff and provide new and innovative ways of working for the Trust. The committee discussed how these might align and integrate into the new neighbourhood model and how we might plan for this.

School based Occupational Therapy pilot

Maired Gribbon Occupational Therapist and Will Nicholson reported on the success of a pilot programme placing student OTs in schools to assist pupils in managing anxiety, mental health interventions, and the

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school environment. The project received media coverage by the BBC and is being considered for wider adoption and scalability in partnership with the universities. There is continued focus in the Take 5 steps to wellbeing creating local health and well being champions amongst the pupils.

Retirement – Hugh Nelson

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting for Hugh Nelson ahead of his imminent retirement at the end of March and acknowledged and thanked him for his commitment to the work of the committee and beyond.

Partnership working and Neighbourhood model

Hugh emphasised the importance of partnerships, the benefits and opportunities that this brings not just for collaborative funding opportunities but for strengthening resource and knowledge to benefit local communities, particularly those hard-to-reach populations. Partnership will be key to the new neighbourhood model and delivery of services particularly resource shift from acute to community. This will be a continued focus of the committee moving forward as we learn more about the structures of this model.

Reports Approved by the Committee

NHSCT Draft Carers Strategy 2026 -2031

Items for Escalation to Trust Board

None.