



Borough of Tamworth

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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 October 2024

Dear Councillor

A Meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will be held in **Town Hall, Market Street, Tamworth on Thursday, 24th October, 2024 at 6.00 pm**. Members of the Committee are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. C. V.'.

Chief Executive

### A G E N D A

### NON CONFIDENTIAL

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 8)
- 3 Declarations of Interest

*To receive any declarations of Members' interests (personal and/or personal and prejudicial) in any matters which are to be considered at this meeting.*

*When Members are declaring a personal interest or personal and prejudicial interest in respect of which they have dispensation, they should specify the nature of such interest. Members should leave the room if they have a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of which they do not have a dispensation.*

**4 Update from the Chair**

**5 Responses to Reports of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

*(Update on responses to the Reports of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee)*

**6 Consideration of matters referred to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee from Cabinet or Council**

*(Discussion item)*

**7 Update on health related matters considered by Staffordshire County Council**

*(To receive the Digest from Staffordshire County Council's Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and an update from County Councillor J Jones)*

**8 Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk of abuse report Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 24.10.24 (Pages 9 - 16)**

*(Report of the Portfolio Holder for Cooperative Council, Community Partnerships and ASB)*

**9 Working Group Updates**

*To provide any update on any working groups*

**10 Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan (Pages 17 - 20)**

*(Discussion Item - To review the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Plan)*

**11 Forward Plan**

*(Discussion item – link to the Forward Plan attached)*

[Browse plans - Cabinet, 2024 :: Tamworth Borough Council](#)

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### **Access arrangements**

*If you have any particular access requirements when attending the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on 01827 709267 or e-mail [democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk](mailto:democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk). We can then endeavour to ensure that any particular requirements you may have are catered for.*

### **Filming of Meetings**

*The public part of this meeting may be filmed and broadcast. Please refer to the Council's Protocol on Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council meetings which can be found [here](#) for further information.*

*If a member of the public is particularly concerned about being filmed, please contact a member of Democratic Services before selecting a seat.*

### **FAQs**

*For further information about the Council's Committee arrangements please see the FAQ page [here](#)*

To Councillors: C Bain, M Bailey, R Claymore, S Doyle, H Hadley, P Pallett, N Statham, P Turner and A Wells

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 17th SEPTEMBER 2024**

PRESENT: Councillor C Bain (Chair), Councillors M Bailey, R Claymore, S Doyle, H Hadley, P Pallett and N Statham

County Councillor

CABINET Councillor Ben Clarke  
Councillor Lewis Smith

The following officers were present: Lisa Hall (Safer Communities and Homes Manager), Leanne Costello (Senior Scrutiny and Democratic Services Officer) and Laura Sandland (Democratic and Executive Support Officer)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) P Turner and A Wells

**16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Wells and P Turner.

**17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were approved as a correct record.

*(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor P Pallett)*

**18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**19 UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR**

The last meeting of the County Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July and 29<sup>th</sup> July and the minutes and recording are available online. The next meeting is due to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, details have been shared by Democratic Services.

**20 RESPONSES TO REPORTS OF THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were none.

**21 CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS REFERRED TO THE HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM CABINET OR COUNCIL**

There were none.

**22 UPDATE ON HEALTH RELATED MATTERS CONSIDERED BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Chair encouraged the Committee to read the digest and highlighted that it noted seven deliverables and two key priorities whilst reporting a £91 million deficit and would like to know how these are going to be delivered in the difficult financial services. The Chair advised that as the County representative was not able to attend that he would ask this in writing before the next meeting.

**23 HOUSING STRATEGY BI-ANNUAL UPDATE TO 30 JUNE 2024**

The Chair welcome the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning and the Safer Communities and Homes Manager to update the Committee on actions within the Tamworth Borough Council Housing Strategy to 30 June 2024 which directly impact on health and wellbeing of Tamworth communities.

The Portfolio Holder introduced the report highlighting that this was a bi-annual report as requested by the Committee in January. A new contractor had been appointed to undertake work on the new strategy for 2025 – 2030 before handing over to the Safer Communities and Homes Manager who provided a summary of the five priorities.

The Committee made the following comments/observations and asked the following questions:

1. Acknowledged the Council is taking a comprehensive approach to fuel poverty and congratulated them on this.
2. Whether any of the priorities are more important? And if they are all equal, how is progress monitored and if progress is not as expected, how this is addressed?

It was confirmed that all of the priorities were equal.

For internal services there are monthly performance monitoring processes in place. Some areas are delivered by third parties, however in these

cases there are quarterly performance meetings to check expected progress and if this is not on track, they are given the opportunity to get back on track, but if that is not achievable funding can be clawed back and they look at reallocating the service.

Community Home Solutions (CHS) who are commissioned as HEAT (Home Energy Advice Tamworth) who are now delivering the service previously delivered by Beat The Cold are met on a monthly basis due to being new to the contract.

**Resolved** that the Committee:

1. Considered and endorsed the report as presented.

*(Moved by Councillor N Statham and seconded by Councillor H Hadley)*

## **24 BRIEFING NOTE ARMED FORCES COVENANT PLAN UPDATE**

The Chair of Committee introduced report of the Assistant Director, Partnerships to update the Committee on the Armed Forces Covenant plan discussed at the Committee on 16 July 2024.

The Portfolio Holder highlighted that this is a briefing note following the concerns of the Committee discussed at the meeting in July highlighting that the budget change to agree to grant the Royal British Legion £1000 for the hiring of the castle lower lawn was not put in place, so the cost has been waived.

The Committee discussed the possibility of having a Member Champion in addition to the Member lead and agreed to recommend that whilst there are serving veterans on the Council, that there is a Member Champion appointed who is a veteran.

It was noted that the Constitution currently only allows for Member as Champions.

**Resolved** that the Committee:

1. Consider the information in the briefing note in relation to the queries at the meeting on 16 July 2024.
2. Endorsed proposals for a named Council Lead Member and the updated Armed Forces Covenant plan.

**A further recommendation was moved to be presented to Cabinet to recommend that:**

3. Consider the appointment of a nonpolitical role for an Armed Forces Champion whilst there are serving Members who are veterans.

*(Moved by Councillor S Doyle and seconded by Councillor C Bain )*

## **25 WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

The Chair asked that further to the previous decision to set up a working group to look at Disabled Facilities Grants, they would like to focus to be on making a case to reduce inequalities in allocations across the borough and asked for volunteers for the group.

The group was established as Cllrs C Bain, M Bailey, S Doyle and H Hadley.

## **26 FORWARD PLAN**

There are no new items to be added from the Forward Plan.

It was requested by the Committee that the order of the agenda is amended in future to consider the work plan before this item. The Chair agreed with this request.

## **27 HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY WORK PLAN**

The Committee received the workplan and requested the following items be added to the work plan for consideration –

Damp and Mould Update  
Pension credit/Changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance

The Chair closed the meeting at 6:48pm.

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Chair



## HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR  
COOPERATIVE COUNCIL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND ASB  
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK OF ABUSE REPORT  
(MARCH 24- OCTOBER 24)**

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the report is to provide a biannual safeguarding update to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

1. The Committee review the report and raise any questions in relation to the content with the Assistant Director Partnerships in collaboration with the Portfolio Holder for Cooperative Council, Community Partnerships and ASB, and note report.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Tamworth Borough Council has a legal responsibility to safeguard children and adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. The Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy and Procedure provides a framework for safeguarding and demonstrates the council's commitment to safeguard children and adults at risk.

Safeguarding is integrated into the day-to-day operations of the council. The council responds to all safeguarding concerns raised in line with the safeguarding procedure. Reporting of concerns is fundamental in ensuring that children and adults at risk receive the necessary support to safeguard and promote their welfare.

The following information provides an overview of the number of safeguarding

referrals received and an update on the safeguarding work that has taken place since the last update provided to the committee on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**Safeguarding Statistics**

The number of safeguarding concerns referred via the council’s safeguarding reporting procedure for the date period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 are detailed in the table below:

Referral type	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Total
Child referrals	1	4	5
Adult referrals	4	7	11
Total combined referrals	5	11	16

Table 1: Safeguarding concerns raised by staff 2024 (Numbers as of time of report 03/10/24)

Miscellaneous	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Total
	3	2	10

Numbers of referrals for quarter 2 have increased this quarter, this may be due to updated training that has been delivered to members along with street scene staff. Further awareness raising on referrals has moved into referrals to Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership (TVP) so the adult/ family will not always hit the threshold for a safeguarding enquiry, but professionals will meet to discuss a plan of action. Increased knowledge and awareness of what constitutes a referral through the delivery of up-to-date inhouse training along with outside agencies has supported this.

Referrals continue to be received from a wide range of council staff including, customer service officers, housing solutions officers, tenancy sustainment officers, sheltered housing managers, private sector housing officers, environmental health, street scene, members. We have also had received safeguarding referrals/ information from contractors and the fire service.

The miscellaneous table covers referrals that come through mainly the council enquires or maybe to gather further information to decipher if it hits the threshold for a referral to be made into safeguarding. We have also continued to work alongside our contracted agencies such as Wates and Engie to support their safeguarding referrals. Quarterly meetings take place for updates with the 2 contractors to make sure that we can offer support and advice, and any new updates needed.

**Safeguarding Training**

We have continued to deliver the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) core slides for the delivery of level 1 safeguarding training. This helps to update staff/members in line with the updates for Staffordshire.

Staff can access a range of training modules through the SSCP [home page](#) .

Safeguarding training has been delivered to all our street scene, cleaners, operatives and members over the last 6 months.

## **Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse & Neglect Policy and Procedure**

Version: 19 of the Policy is now live on infozone and the astute training has been disseminated to all Staff/ Councillors.

The main update within the policy is the change within the Partnerships team to include the role of the Safer Communities and Homes Manager to the role of Deputy Safeguarding Officer.

## **Tenant Consultative Group Meetings – 10th September 2024**

The purpose of the Tenant Consultative Group is to provide a united voice, representing the views and interests of Tamworth Borough Council's tenants and leaseholders. The group is a non-political consultative group that works closely with Neighbourhood services to discuss and resolve issues and make recommendations for service improvements. This group is consulted on a wide range of tenant related policies, practices and procedures and current issues affecting Tamworth Borough Council and its tenants.

The partnerships and vulnerability officer attended in September to give a safeguarding briefing to tenants and leaseholders.

## **Adult Safeguarding Board**

The council is still an active member with information received regarding updates, training and events.

Stafford Borough Council have taken the main lead to represent all the districts and boroughs at the quarterly meetings. The districts then attend quarterly catch ups.

## **Domestic Abuse (inc Stalking and Harassment)**

Domestic abuse remains a priority for the Community Safety Partnership. The support service through New Era has been commissioned for a further 3 years for the County by the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire and Crime.

Training is ongoing for relevant staff to refer victims of domestic abuse to services.

As part of the training updates New Era run a wide range of training events for staff to attend throughout the year. [New Era \(Ending Relationship Abuse\) Events - 3 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

The Assistant Director Partnership remains on the County Domestic Abuse Commissioning and Development Board.

Proposed Membership of Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance

As part of the commitment to the Social Housing Regulation Act, the Council is in the process of starting the accreditation process. The mission of DAHA is to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process and was established in 2014 as a partnership between **Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse** (STADA), **Gentoo** and **Peabody** housing associations.

It is leading specialist domestic abuse organisation supporting housing providers to improve their response to domestic abuse, through our membership model, accreditation framework and training packages.

Our model for a housing response to domestic abuse is nationally recognised as best practice, through the Domestic Abuse Act Statutory Guidance 2022, and is endorsed by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England & Wales.

The Partnership Vulnerability Officer along with the new Partnerships Officer will explore options and benefits for the Council to be accredited.

The council also fed back into Domestic Abuse Self-Assessment Peer Review 2nd October 2024.

The event showed lots of good practice and positive discussions/ ideas of how we can work better together to improve the lived experience and outcomes for children who live in households where there is domestic abuse.

The next steps are for all assessments to be sent on to Staffordshire University colleagues to support the needs assessment.

The Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's business team will also be analysing the information from the event alongside the SEFs and pulling together a brief report for safeguarding partners to consider.

## **Community Safety**

Tamworth District Children's Services Networking Partnership Event September 2024.

The event was hosted by Staffordshire County Council children's social care, with the aims to foster collaboration and enhance partnership working within our district.

The highlights of the event include:

- District Model Partnership Working
- Presentations and discussions on our collaborative approach and shared objectives for the benefit of our community.
- Presentations from social care, parents and partner agencies.
- The event gave partners the chance to ask questions, raise awareness of local intelligence around referrals and updates within children's services.

## **Contextual Safeguarding <sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Contextual safeguarding is an approach to safeguarding that recognises that young people may be at risk of significant harm not only within their home environment, but also outside it. The traditional safeguarding

The Multi Agency Child Exploitation Panel (MACE) is the forum for safeguarding children at risk of exploitation within a partnership arena. MACE meetings take place bi-monthly, the Partnership Vulnerability Officer attends and contributes to this meeting.

Children who are discussed at MACE can be subject to ASB interventions so this information will link in with the work we do within the ASB Coordination group.

The ASB Engagement officer, commissioned until March 2025 continues to work with schools, Staffordshire County Council safeguarding teams and police for early intervention.

### **Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership (TVP)**

The Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership meetings continue to take place on a weekly basis with the Partnership Vulnerability Officer, Safer Communities and Homes Manager and Police supporting the overseeing of the referrals and updates.

The weekly partnership meeting continues to be well attended by representatives from statutory organisations. The partnership provides a joined-up response to vulnerability within the community and endeavours to provide help at the earliest opportunity to improve outcomes for vulnerable people.

This is also linked into meetings to support Anti -Social case reviews previously known as Community Triggers and youth ASB.

As of January 2024 73, cases have been discussed at the TVP meeting.

34 Housing  
4 Anti-Social Behaviour issues  
5 Domestic  
9 Mental health  
9 Vulnerability  
7 Community Safety  
5 Concerns for safety

As of 01/10/24

### **Anti-social behaviour coordination group**

The ASB Coordination group is a weekly TEAMS meeting that links all our partner agencies within and outside the borough to discuss all concerns relating to anti-social behaviour. It also helps support the links established with other partnership meetings and helps the mechanisms in place for actions that have and can be taken.

The meeting is chaired by our Safer Communities and Homes Manager and extended to all agencies within the public and private sectors to share information and to support intervention and signposting of services.

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approach does not consider extra-familial contexts, which has led to cases of abuse and exploitation falling under the radar.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. The cost of training and materials will be met from existing budgets.

## **LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND**

The Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect Policy has been risk assessed and no significant risks exist. From a legal perspective the authority is meeting its expectations and requirements in relation to vulnerable children and adults at risk.

## **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The bi-annual report provides information on the actions taken by Tamworth Borough Council in its duty to safeguard children and adults at risk, therefore meeting all duties under the Equality Act.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The policy and staff in this important service will continue to operate locally and in conjunction with partners to sustain the levels of support, training and guidance required.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Tamworth Borough Council has both a legal and moral duty to protect children and adults at risk from harm and abuse. The Children Act 1989 and 2004 along with the associated government statutory guidance sets out our legal responsibilities for protecting children. The Care Act 2014 along with associated statutory guidance recognises and reinforces that organisations make a significant contribution to adult safeguarding.

## **REPORT AUTHOR**

Jackie Hodgkinson  
Partnership Vulnerability Officer

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Children Act 1989](#)

[Children Act 2004](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)

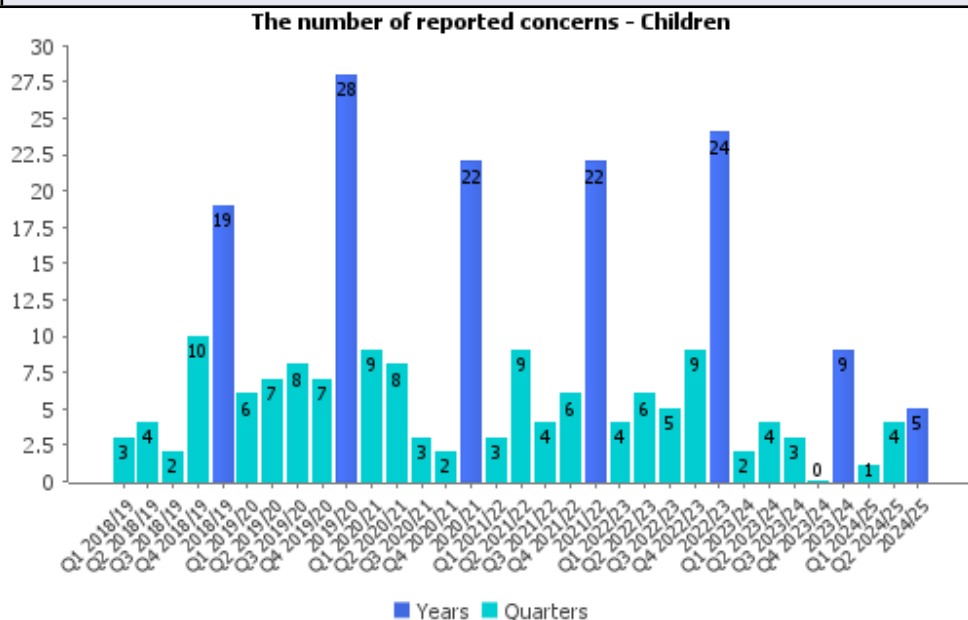
[Care Act Statutory Guidance](#)

# Safeguarding Performance Indicators

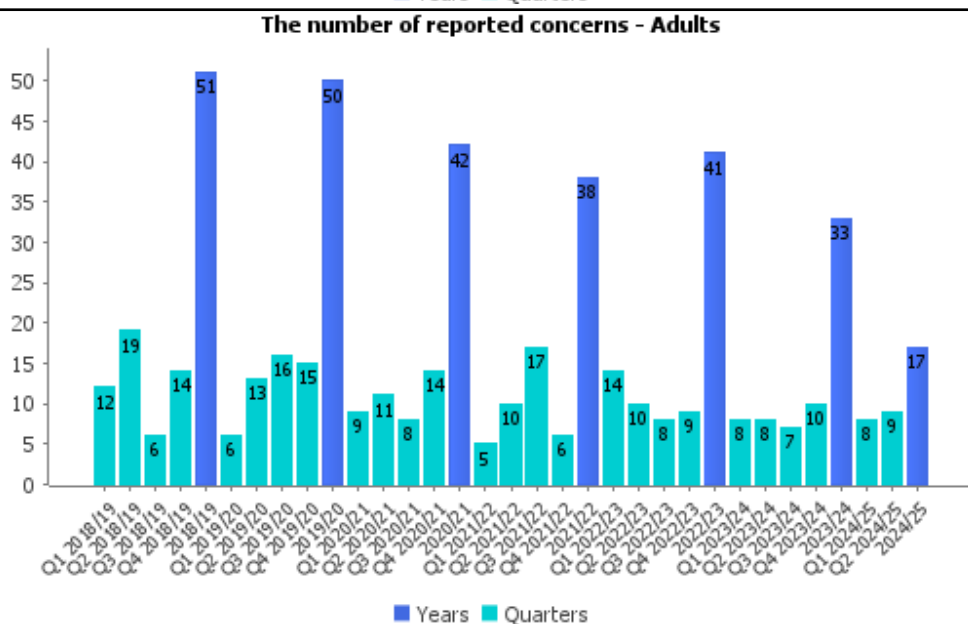
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PI Code & Short Name	Trend Chart
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LPI\_PCDCFS\_001 The number of reported concerns – Children

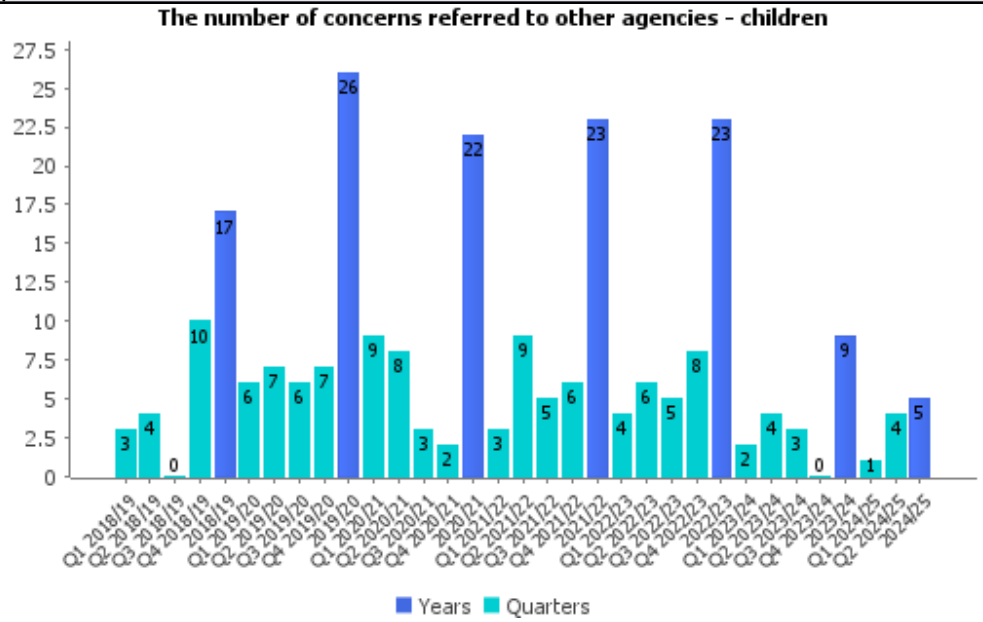


LPI\_PCDCFS\_002 The number of reported concerns – Adults

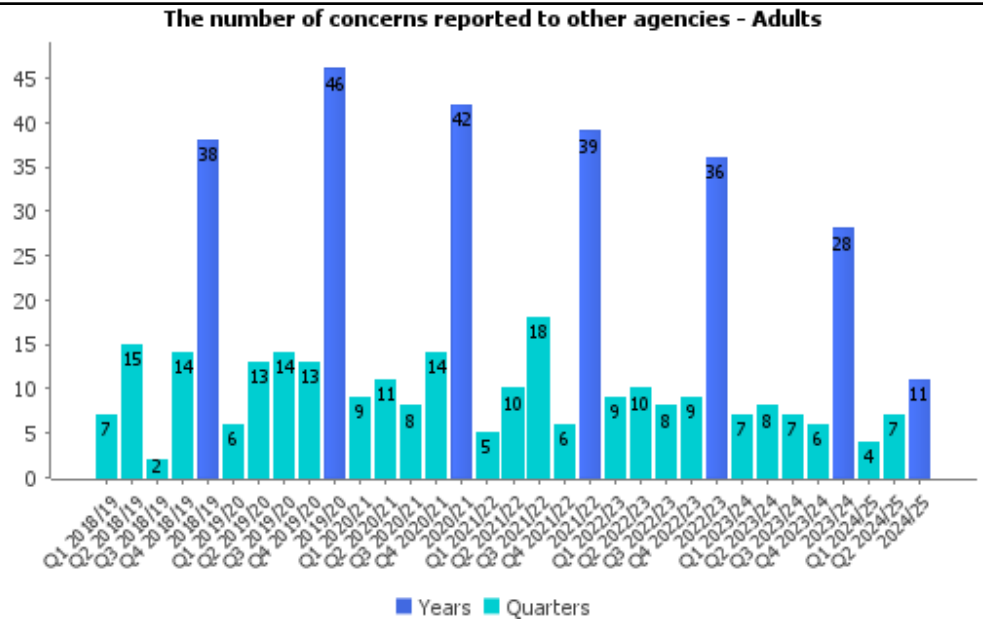


PI Code & Short Name	Trend Chart
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LPI\_PCDCFS\_003 The number of concerns referred to other agencies – children



LPI\_PCDCFS\_004 The number of concerns reported to other agencies – Adults







**Tamworth Borough Council**  
**Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Plan**  
**2024 - 2025**

To provide effective scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities by scrutinising the performance of the Executive and external providers in securing a safe environment in which local people can reach their full potential and live longer, healthier lives :-

- Statutory Health Obligation
- Leisure
- Voluntary Sector
- Non HRA Housing
- Disability Service
- Social Care
- Elderly and Vulnerable People Services

To undertake such other scrutiny activities relevant to the committee's scope, as may be required in relation to the performance of the Council, governance, financial management and discharge of statutory functions.

Membership: (The Committee shall comprise 9 members of the Council and one co-opted member with voting rights being a member nominated by Staffordshire County Council) :

Chair: Councillor Chris Bain

Committee Members: Councillors M Bailey, R Claymore, S Doyle, H Hadley, P Pallett, N Statham, P Turner, A Wells

County Council Representative: Councillor Jason Jones

Date	Issue	Reason	Lead Officer	Lead Member
24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Safeguarding Update	Twice Yearly	AD, Partnerships	People Services, Leisure & Engagement
26 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Damp and Mould	Update report on progress against previous recommendations	Ad Assets	Housing, Homelessness and Planning
TBC	Fuel Poverty/Pension credit	Member request – matter of important to residents	AD, Partnerships	Co-operative Council, Community Partnerships and ASB
TBC	Housing Strategy	Bi-Annual Update	AD, Partnerships	Housing, Homelessness and Planning
TBC	Wellbeing Strategy	Follow on – Last update 28.11.23 To return to committee 2024	AD, Partnerships	People Services, Leisure & Engagement

#### Items Considered/Recommendations to Cabinet/Further Action

Date of meeting	Item	Action	Cabinet Meeting Date	Response from Cabinet /Any further action
16/07/24	Armed Forces Covenant	Review action plan	NA	Briefing note to be presented at the meeting on the 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
17/09/24	Armed Forces Covenant	Recommendation to cabinet	10/10/24	Recommendations approved by Cabinet

#### Items Considered/No further action

Date of meeting	Item	Action
16/07/24	Disabled Adaptations Policy	Recommendations endorsed
	Disabled Adaptations Service Development Plan	Recommendations endorsed
17/09/24	Housing Strategy update	Recommendations endorsed

#### Working Groups

Working Group	Members	Current Work
Disabled Facilities Grants	Cllrs C Bain, M Bailey, S Doyle and H Hadley	

**Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meetings**

Meeting dates :  
24/10/24

26/11/24  
11/02/25  
20/03/24

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