



Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 27 January 2026

Report of Councillor Richard Cleaver,
Cabinet Member for Property and
Public Engagement

South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the progress and delivery of the South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, and to provide an update on the progress of the work being undertaken in South Kesteven as part of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1. Note the information provided within this report and suggest any enhancements to the extent and clarity of the information produced for the next six-monthly update.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication? No

What are the relevant corporate priorities? Connecting communities

Which wards are impacted? All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 There are no financial implications for the Council in relation to this report. The work completed to date has been undertaken within identified budgets. If any initiatives are identified which require budget or investment, then an appropriate business case will be developed which identifies the cost and the associated benefit to the community.

Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 There are no significant legal or governance implications arising from this report.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion

- 1.3 The Equality Act 2010 protects people from discrimination based on a range of characteristics, one of which is age. The Health and Wellbeing Action Plan covers activity for people of all ages and abilities regardless of any additional protected characteristic and every effort is made to meet the needs of participants in, and beneficiaries of, the work which is undertaken to meet our health and wellbeing commitments.
- 1.4 In addition to the legal duty, there are many advantages to providing an environment in which people can grow old well and feel supported. Feeling disconnected from society can have an adverse effect on people's mental and physical health, which in turn can lead to increased support being required from the Council and community health services.
- 1.5 The ability to grow old well and live an independent life does not only rely on an individual's personal capability but also on the social and physical environments in which they live. Ensuring the district provides a supportive environment can play an important role in assisting older residents to maintain activity levels and their independence for longer.

Completed by: Carol Drury, Community Engagement Manager

2. Background to the Report

2.1. This report is broken down into two key areas as follows for ease of reading:

- A. An overview of South Kesteven's Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and progress made to date.
- B. An update on the progress of Age Friendly Communities work in South Kesteven.

A. An overview of South Kesteven's Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and progress made to date.

2.2. The Council's Corporate Plan (2024-2027) identifies Connecting Communities as a key priority. This includes an ambition to work effectively with partners in the voluntary, private and public sectors to tackle inequalities including those relating to health and unemployment, especially in areas of highest need.

2.3. The Action Plan is aimed at achieving improved health and wellbeing outcomes for the residents of South Kesteven and is structured around five lever areas:

- Housing and Homelessness
- Activity and Wellbeing
- Environment and Climate
- Economic Inclusion
- Working with Communities

2.4. Officers continue to work collaboratively across service areas to deliver the actions identified, with the Lead Officers for each of the five lever areas providing an update on progress.

2.5. Since June 2025, Officers have continued delivering the actions on the Action Plan which can be found at **Appendix One** of this report.

2.6. It is worth noting that many of the actions within the Action Plan are considered as 'ongoing' as some of these are continuous or span several years. The commentary provides a clearer picture of the great work that is being delivered across the district.

2.7. The seven Lincolnshire districts continue to work together, with representatives from each district meeting regularly to provide updates and share ideas. The working group continues to work alongside partners and stakeholders via representation on the Health and Wellbeing Board, to develop and deliver plans to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

B. An update on the progress of Age Friendly Communities work in South Kesteven

- 2.8. Within the Council's Corporate Plan (2024 - 2027) the Council has identified its mission to be 'A thriving District to live in, work and visit'. This is under-pinned by the priority of Connecting Communities which aims to enhance the strength, wellbeing and capacity of communities across the district, and work towards providing a cohesive society that all our residents can be proud to belong to. Particularly pertinent to this report, the Corporate Plan recognises that South Kesteven has an ageing population.
- 2.9. The Council will need to follow the four-step programme as set out by the World Health Organisation (WHO), with the first step being 'Engage and Understand'. As political commitment has already been obtained, the next steps are to form a committee of stakeholders and gather findings.
- 2.10. The Council has engaged with organisations that work directly with, or support, older adults with a survey which was launched in July 2025. A total of 44 organisations responded.
- 2.11. A further survey is due to be circulated in early 2026 to residents aged over 50 within the district, to understand what it is like to live, work and age within South Kesteven. The Centre for Ageing Better note that inequalities start to form in individuals aged 50 and over.
- 2.12. This survey will gather insights from people in specific geographic areas. The data will be reviewed, and this will form our three priority domains for the work that is undertaken within South Kesteven over the next 4 years. Three further subgroups will be formed with older people to focus on each priority.
- 2.13. Walking audits in each market town and select rural destinations is due to take place in early 2026, monitoring what it is like to walk through a neighbourhood. The aim is to identify any barriers such as uneven paths, poor crossings and lack of seating, whilst also identifying strengths such as safety and accessibility.
- 2.14. The baseline profile for South Kesteven will be finalised by March 2026 and this will lead the direction of future work that will be undertaken.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1. The adoption of a bespoke local action plan for South Kesteven has allowed the Council to tackle health inequalities across the district in line with the Council's Corporate ambitions and has ensured actions are targeted to drive improvements at a local level.
- 3.2. Continuing to work collaboratively with the other six Lincolnshire district authorities provides the opportunity to identify synergies across Lincolnshire and allows district colleagues to share best practice and learn from each other.

3.3. Becoming an Age Friendly Community allows the Council and its residents to access tools, support and guidance from the Centre for Ageing Better and other networks across the UK. It also supports the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic ambition to coordinate a county-wide response to the opportunities and challenges presented by ageing.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1. South Kesteven District Council is committed to developing an ambitious agenda for improving health and wellbeing across the district. Continuing to work on and deliver the actions identified will drive forward these results. In addition, Members of the Cabinet have approved the Council working towards becoming an Age Friendly Community. Therefore, the 'do nothing' option was discounted.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

5.1. The local action plan has been developed to ensure the identified activity to improve health and wellbeing outcomes across South Kesteven aligns with the Council's corporate vision and will deliver benefits for district residents.

5.2. Members are requested to monitor progress on the delivery of the identified actions to ensure the positive outcomes the Council is seeking, are delivered.

6. Appendices

6.1. **Appendix One** – South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan – Update as of December 2025.