



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 1 July 2026

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

South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan

Report Author

Bethany Goodman, Physical Activity and Wellbeing Lead

✉ bethany.goodman@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the progress and delivery of the South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan along with 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 asked to:

1. Note the information provided within this report.
2. Consider the cessation of six-monthly updates on the South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.
3. Agree to receive six-monthly updates on the work being undertaken in South Kesteven as part of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities which will include an overview of work being undertaken in relation to health and wellbeing.

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Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?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 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.
- 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:

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, with future recommendations.
- 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, with future recommendations

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. Officers have continued 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.

2.4. Since January 2026, Officers have continued delivering the actions on the Action Plan which can be found at **Appendix One** of this report. Many of the actions are still considered as 'ongoing' as some of these are continuous or span several years.

2.5. The seven Lincolnshire Districts continue to work together, with representatives from each district meeting regularly to provide updates and share ideas. The working group has highlighted the need for the South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan to be reviewed.

2.6. The South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan was developed following the adoption of the Lincolnshire District Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy in February 2023. The intention was to use the Lincolnshire Strategy as a framework to create a bespoke local action plan for the South Kesteven in accordance with identified health and wellbeing priorities, over an initial twelve-month period.

2.7. Regular six-monthly updates have since been presented to Members of the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee highlighting the success of the bespoke South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan. The initial twelve-month period was extended for another twelve months with a refreshed action plan developed in June 2025. The second twelve-month period has now come to an end,

which has led to further discussions with other district council representatives within Lincolnshire around the direction of this work.

- 2.8. A summary of the work that other district councils in Lincolnshire are undertaking in relation to Health and Wellbeing can be found in **Section 6: Consultation**.
- 2.9. It is evident that whilst great work is being undertaken across South Kesteven, several of the actions are considered as 'ongoing'. In addition a number of these actions are also reported as Key Performance Indicators which are considered by the relevant scrutiny committee and therefore continuing to report on the action plan represents a duplication of work.
- 2.10. Therefore, Members of the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider ceasing the six-monthly South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan updates. However, it is proposed that a six-monthly update on the significant work being undertaken for South Kesteven to become an Age Friendly Community continues to be reported and this report includes an update on work being undertaken in relation to health and wellbeing.
- 2.11. South Kesteven continues to be committed to improving health and wellbeing across the district, and working collaboratively with a shared vision and agenda with other district colleagues allows for greater collaboration.

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

- 2.12. 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.
- 2.13. The Council is committed to developing the district as Age Friendly through a four-step programme cycle. Since April 2025, Officers have been undertaking work through Step 1: Engage and Understand. Through this first step, political commitment has been obtained, an officer working group has been created and the work is being led by the Leisure team along with support from other Council service areas.
- 2.14. The final stage in Step 1 is to pull together the local data that has been collected over the last 12 months to create the baseline profile. The baseline profile will in turn move us into Step 2: Plan Strategically. This second step will determine the vision, priorities and an action plan for South Kesteven.

2.15. The development of the baseline profile is underway and will be available for consideration at a future meeting of the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.16. The table below shows the work undertaken to date which will feed into the Baseline Profile:

Work undertaken	Detail
Officers completing desk-based research and information collated into dedicated mapping tools	The council officers working group leads have focused on domains relevant to their work areas and provided information around - 'What is already happening?', 'What opportunities are there?', 'How are older people involved in shaping the community?' and 'Who are the relevant stakeholders?'. This provided a basic insight into the current state of play.
Organisation survey	A survey was circulated to organisations who have a role in supporting people over the age of 50. The results will help to underpin the understanding of existing support and services, and a total of 44 responses were received from organisations across South Kesteven.
Resident survey	A survey, 'The Future of Growing Older' was circulated to residents aged 50 and over in South Kesteven to ask how they feel about their local communities and to understand the different issues facing people of this age group. A total of 1029 responses were received, and a detailed breakdown of this information will be presented in the baseline profile.
Engagement with older people	Older adults are a key partner therefore direct conversations and consulting with them is essential. Officers have attended various social groups such as the Dementia Singing Group in Fulbeck, to enable informal conversations with older adults around growing older.
Walking audits	Walking Audits have been completed in Grantham and Bourne to identify the barriers currently faced by older adults in the district. These focused on five key areas; Footpaths, Crossings & Traffic, Safety, Pleasant Environment & Information, and Seating and Toilets. The findings for Grantham and Bourne can be found at Appendix Two . Future walking audits covering Stamford and Market Deeping are scheduled for June and July 2026.

2.17. The Council also celebrated Age Without Limits Day on Wednesday 10th June, with the view in future years to collaborate with local organisations to encourage events across the district.

2.18. The Centre for Ageing Better have recently released a 'Age Friendly Quick Guide Collection' which are designed for:

- **Built environment professionals and local council teams** who want to know how to build in age-friendly considerations. Officers will be sharing these with town and parish councils for information and knowledge sharing purposes.
- **Council officers working on ageing and older people's issues** who want to understand how their built environment can become more age-friendly and how to advocate those changes.
- **Older people and community members** who want to champion age-friendly changes in their community.

2.19. A copy of the Age Friendly Quick Guide can be found at **Appendix Three**.

2.20. As part of 'The Future of Growing Older' survey, respondents were asked if they would like to opt in to one of the following three categories:

- Become a Community Champion/part of the South Kesteven Older Persons Forum (*51 responses*).
- Fill in additional questionnaires/surveys (*153 responses*).
- Work with other people to design, deliver or evaluate projects or services in relation with Age Friendly Communities (*86 responses*).

2.21. In support of the Age Friendly Work and interest levels from residents wanting to become a community champion, officers are currently exploring options to launch a Community Champion scheme/Older Persons Forum in South Kesteven.

2.22. Residents from the other two above mentioned categories were contacted to attend the Age Friendly Lincolnshire Over 50's Conversation Event in June which was organised by Lincolnshire County Council and held in Horncastle. The information gathered from this event will help to inform how services are developed in Lincolnshire.

3. Key Considerations

3.1 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.

3.2 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 United Kingdom. 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.

- 3.3 Once the position regarding Local Government Reorganisation is clearer, this recommendation can be reviewed, and discussions can commence with the proposed partner authorities to develop a shared direction for health and wellbeing

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The Council could choose to continue reporting on a six-monthly basis on the Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, but most actions are considered as ‘ongoing’, with several actions also being reported as Key Performance Indicators in other council areas. In line with what is happening across the other district councils, and to prevent a duplication of work, it is recommended to cease this activity and focus on the work towards becoming an Age Friendly Community. These reports will still contain an update on work the Council is doing in terms of improving the health and wellbeing of the district.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1. Within the established six-monthly reporting framework on the action plan, there is limited change in commentary and updates as most of the actions are classed as ongoing or business as usual. It is evident that the implementation of the bespoke local South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan was successful to highlight the importance of collaborative working but could be considered to no longer be required.
- 5.2. Relevant Health and Wellbeing updates will continue to be presented to this Committee through the body of the proposed Age Friendly Community report.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Recent discussions with the other districts within Lincolnshire have taken place in relation to work undertaken to support the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy. A summary of the work being undertaken can be found below:

District	Action
South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (SELCP)	The coming together of three council’s superseded any bespoke district Action Plans. SELCP established a ‘Healthy Living Board’ to reduce health inequalities, with a key strand being ‘Healthy Lives’.
North Kesteven District Council (NKDC)	Infographic reporting of NKDC’s Health and Wellbeing KPI’s has been developed but this does not align to the Lincolnshire Districts Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

West Lindsey District Council (WLDC)	WLDC has no specific District Health and Wellbeing Action Plan but reports all activity under a general health and wellbeing umbrella.
City of Lincoln	No response

7. Appendices

- 7.1. **Appendix One** – South Kesteven Health and Wellbeing Action Plan – Update as of June 2026
- 7.2. **Appendix Two** – Grantham and Bourne Walking Audit Findings
- 7.3. **Appendix Three** – Age Friendly Quick Guide Collection