

# THE HEALTH SQUAD

*Tackling Health Inequalities  
Jane Sunter & Alan Hodgson*

Providing support to people who have disengaged with health services,  
to re-engage and take the first steps in improving their health.

# THE HEALTH SQUAD IS:



## The “Health Squad” operates on an outreach basis across County Durham to:

- Offer mobile health and wellbeing engagement and screening of clients identified as **part of vulnerable groups**.
- Create **bespoke plans** to navigate at-risk people through generic and specialist healthcare services, tailored to their needs.
- Focus on working with **Health Inclusion Groups as part of those identified with support needs under the CORE20PLUS5** through a team in each of the North, East, and South localities.
- Advocate on behalf of vulnerable clients to ensure they access healthcare **equitably**.

**The Health Squad engages with a range of partners and settings to increase positive health and wellbeing outcomes for people with long-term conditions, protected characteristics, and those experiencing social exclusion.**

# OUR VISION

*The provision of unwavering support to individuals who have faced adversity in life, guiding them towards transformative lifestyle choices that lead to lasting **well-being, resilience, and a brighter future.***

## *Health Squad Team:*

- 1 x Band 6 Health Squad Programme Lead
- 2 x Band 5 Health Squad Locality Co-Ordinator
- 6 x Band 4 Advanced Wellbeing practitioners
- Rough Sleeper Social Worker (joint funding with Housing Solutions)



# THE WHAT SQUAD?



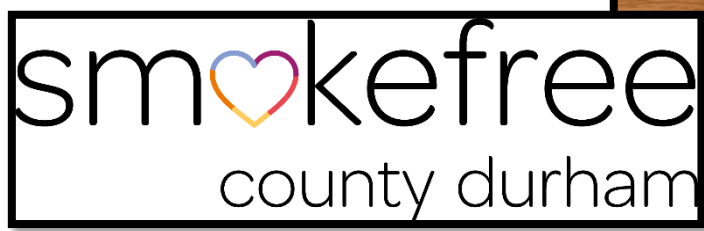
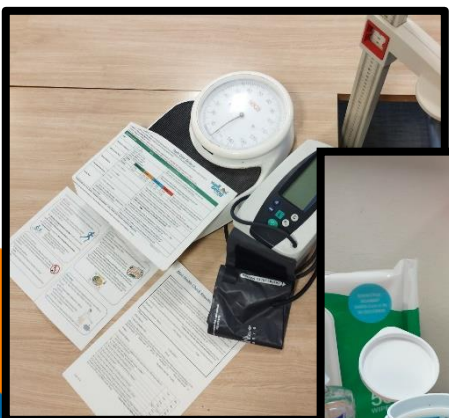
Funded through NHS North East and North Cumbria (NENC) via the ICS Prevention Board, the Health Inequalities Grant funding in County Durham is being used to target:

- ***substance misusers***
- ***those at risk of homelessness***
- ***rough sleepers***
- ***GRT communities***
- ***victims of domestic abuse***
- ***veterans***
- ***prison leavers***
- ***those in contact with the criminal justice system – Probation***
- ***ethnic minority communities***
- ***Asylum Seekers' Migrants, Refugees***
- ***Areas with low uptake for Health Checks***

*The Health Squad team also advocate on behalf of vulnerable clients to ensure they are registered with a GP.*

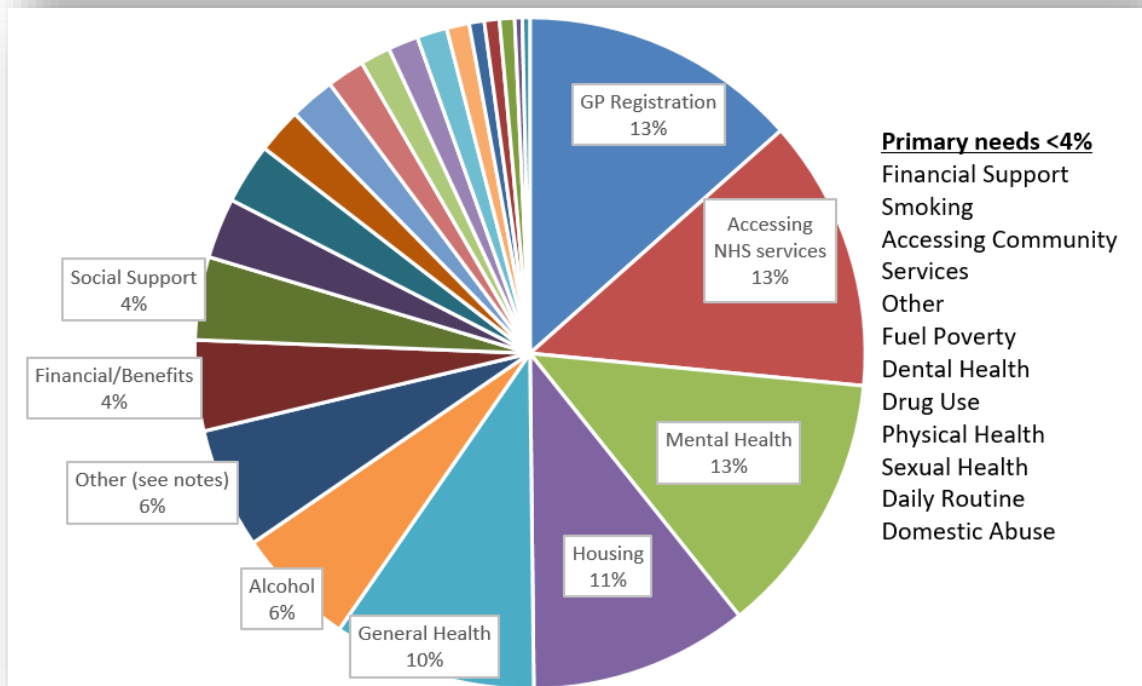
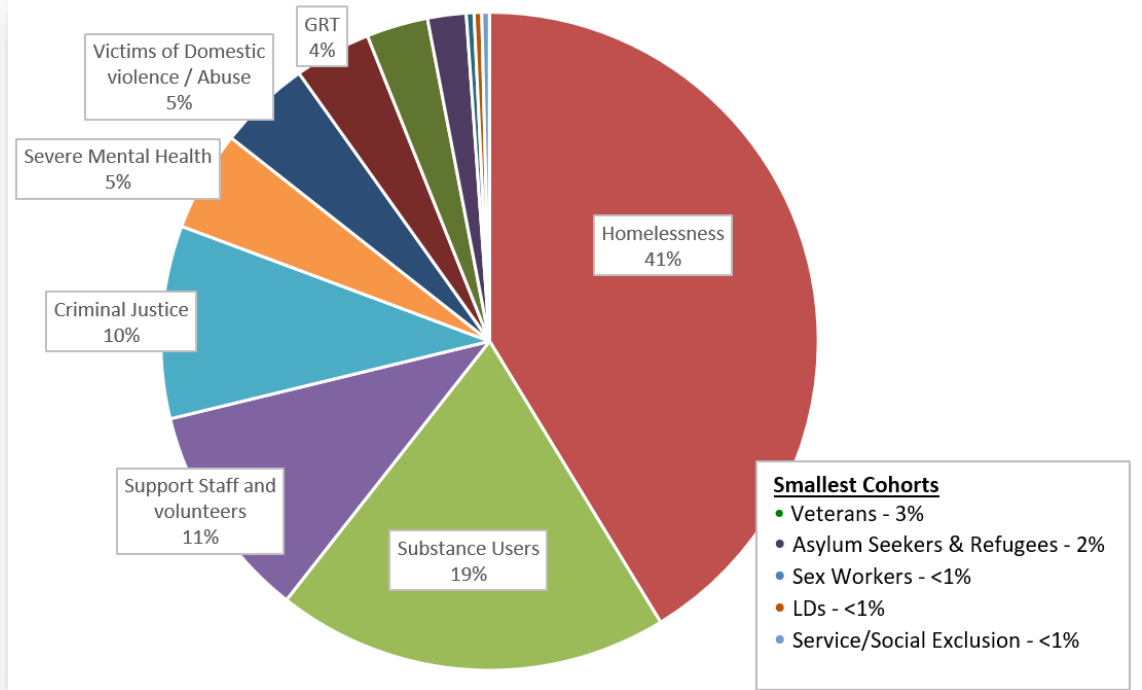
# AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- The Health Squad are qualified to deliver both mini & full NHS Health Checks
  - **Mini:** *Height, weight, BMI, Personal/family health, lifestyle factors, blood pressure, pulse, diabetes risk assessment*
  - **Full:** *Cholesterol Check, Dementia Risk Assessment*
- We are moving to 'Health Diagnostics' client record management system for both service delivery & analytics
- The team are accredited to deliver:
  - Level 2 smoking cessation
  - Sexual health advice & support (C-Card)
  - Direct First Aid (St John's Ambulance)
- We will shortly be delivering spirometry testing & Naloxone in the community



# COUNTYWIDE FINDINGS

- The largest cohorts we've worked with across the county are those in the **homeless cohorts, substance misuse and criminal justice service recipients.**
- The largest primary needs identified across the county have been **getting registered with GPs, accessing NHS services, and mental health support.**



# SOME SURPRISES – WE'RE ONLY HUMAN

- Hep C re-testing & re-referring
- Starting the conversation a different way – “Have you got a GP?”
- Everybody knows it - severe mental health needs in all localities
- People in supported accommodation in need of cancer support
- Health inequality identified for smears and women’s health
- Issues in accessing sexual health for communities in various regions



Any Questions?

