This response is from the Public Health Improvement Team Re: Site of Former Arena Young People's Centre, Moorlands Road, Dewsbury WF13 2LF. Completed by Louise Muhammad. Date: 6th March 2026
Planning Officer: Ellie Thornhill

In Kirklees, the Public Health Improvement Team has developed a rapid health impact assessment (HIA) framework and guidance tool for planning applications. The purpose of this is to assess the broad health impacts of proposed developments. The rapid HIA is a material consideration in the Kirklees Local Plan and is listed in the Kirklees Validation List.

The Public Health Improvement Team will carry out its responsibilities, as a consultee for the Kirklees Planning Authority to:

- Apply an agreed rapid HIA screening methodology at the pre-application / application stage, to identify if a rapid HIA is required for a proposed development.

- Review and respond to a submitted HIA, focusing on the health improvement themes relevant to local and national planning policy and the public health priorities which impact on the immediate and surrounding areas of the proposed development.

The Public Health Improvement Team do not provide specialist technical advice or feedback on development proposals, such as around waste, noise or air quality. This responsibility lies with other council teams and their responses will be provided separately.

Dewsbury West Ward is one of the five most deprived wards in Kirklees, as ranked using data on Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

Local intelligence shows that the following health indicators for adults within **Dewsbury West** Ward, where the proposed development is taking place, are higher than the Kirklees average.

- Levels of obesity (adults and children)
- Levels of physical activity
- Rates of emergency admission due to respiratory disease
- Rates of adults feeling lonely or isolated – UNDER 65

The submitted rapid health impact assessment has been reviewed. The Public Health Improvement Team have identified further measures and considerations surrounding the development issues, as outlined in the table below, which look to enhance the proposed development and further improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people and place. We kindly request that the measures set out in the table for each development issue are incorporated into the submitted Rapid Health Impact Assessment and implemented should the application progress.

Development issue	**Further measures and considerations** *A really comprehensive HIA submission that gives a good indication of the quality and design of the proposed development. The comments below are just a few additional ways the development could be enhanced further where capacity allows.*
Construction phase	Public Health would just add that the welfare and wellbeing of construction site workers should also be considered. For example: access to facilities to reheat/eat food and sit away from the dust/machinery. In addition, the developer could consider promoting local offers that enhance wellbeing. *For example, Kirklees Wellness Service (https://kirkleeswellnessservice.co.uk/) provide support around smoking cessation, healthy weight, mental health, etc.*'
Housing	N/A
Active travel and sustainable transport	Nothing further to add
Access to open and green spaces	It is unclear whether this particular development will include a 'garden' room. Public Health would encourage the inclusion of one which would enable residents to enjoy the semi outdoors in inclement weather and the winter months.
Access to healthy and affordable food	The site could be enhanced by the provision of a small 'growing area' or 'a couple of 'raised' beds. This would allow for some facilitated resident group activity as well as provide a small amount of food.
Community and personal safety	Nothing further to add
Employment and economic vibrancy	Really good to see up to 40 local jobs will be created in addition to temporary construction jobs.
Community cohesion and social support	Seating pepper-potted around the external area would be of benefit if not already included.
Climate change	Nothing further to add