



Middlesbrough Achievement Partnership

Addressing Poverty Issues in Schools and Removing Barriers to Learning

16 December 2019



Introduction

- Middlesbrough Achievement Partnership (MAP) works closely with schools and key partners to remove barriers to learning
- Set up in 2012 to support school improvement
- New focus in 2017 through School Improvement Project – to address unmet need in Middlesbrough schools
- Strong partnership working in collaboration with a range of agencies

‘Together we will secure a brighter future for all Middlesbrough children and young people’



Context

- High levels of deprivation and disadvantage
- Unemployment
- Mental Health issues
- Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) – 5th most deprived Local Authority Area in England and most deprived ward in Tees Valley
- 27% of students on Free School Meals (15.4% nationally)
- 37% of children in Middlesbrough Living in Poverty (17% nationally)

This can result in:

- Lower starting points for children
- Lack of aspiration
- Lack of parental engagement
- Social, emotional and behavioural challenges
- Poor attendance



Identifying Priorities

- Head Teacher and LA representatives – Removing Barriers Strategic Group
- Consultation with schools
- School Improvement Board
- Local Strategies
- Delivery Groups – wide range of partners/multi agency
- Local data
- Evidence Based Research



Key Priority Areas

New priorities identified through consultation with schools from 2017:

- Removing Barriers to Learning
- Parental Partnership
- Careers and Employability

These priorities address the needs of schools and link to the wider social issues including poverty, deprivation and removing barriers that children and young people face in succeeding in life.



Removing Barriers to Learning

A range of support is delivered to address child poverty and support schools to be better placed to poverty proof the school day and offer a wide range of opportunities to children, young people and their families.

- Bespoke support to schools to address needs
- Multi agency Team Around the School support
- Roll out of Restorative Practice training – 20% of schools implementing approaches in first year following training
- Whole school training and conferences
- Poverty Proofing Working Group
- Poverty proofing the school day – developing best practice guide
- Weekly update to schools sharing a wide range of support and services
- Funding support – Find a Funder
- Development of a Cultural Passport - Empower
- Previous work includes Pupil Premium events, funding pilot schools to access Children North East 'Poverty Proofing the School Day', sharing of guide



Parental Partnership

Working closely with parents and those supporting parents and families enables schools to receive vital information that improves family lives and the lives of children, addressing a range of issues for those families living in poverty.

- Multi-agency Parent Group Leader Team to deliver parenting programmes
- Pilot year delivery of Family Links Nurturing Programme and Talking Teens
- End of programme support sessions for parents to support progression, Welfare Rights, CAB, NHS, Job Centre Plus, Middlesbrough College, Middlesbrough Community Learning
- Bespoke support to schools – family learning, wellbeing sessions for parents, multi-agency support
- Parent Support Advisor (PSA) Network – including: food power, holiday hunger, Fare Share, keep warm campaign, help through crisis, substance misuse, benefit take up campaign, DWP, parental conflict programmes
- Upskilling PSAs to support parents and families
- Strong links with Financial Inclusion Group (FIG), Middlesbrough Environment City, Early Help and many others



Careers and Employability

This strand enables schools, children, young people and families to be aware of the many opportunities available to them, increasing aspiration and key employability skills needed to succeed and achieve the best outcome in life.

- Globalbridge – digital profile connecting students to employers – 2,300 student profiles
- 60 employers – Middlesbrough Council, Middlesbrough College, Royal Navy, BT, NHS, Cleveland Police, TTE Technical Training, Via Creative, Tad Web Solutions
- Secondary Careers Leaders Network – newsletter, resources, Gatsby Benchmarks, access to funding
- Primary Careers Network
- Primary Careers pilot – aspiration and employability skills
- Bespoke support – vocational and alternative curriculum
- Links to Tees Valley Combined Authority and Careers Hub Links
- Global Entrepreneurship Week – Making a Difference ‘Food Poverty’



MAP Annual Review 18/19

- Wide range of much needed support delivered across Middlesbrough schools, students and parents
- Clear impact of work and support to improve life chances of children, young people and families
- York St John University Evaluation “The value of MAP support for poverty proofing and other initiatives should not be underestimated”
- Feedback from parents “the parenting programme has changed my life”
- Feedback from pupils “I have learned that it is busy, very tiring and there are lots of jobs to pick out of and to find out what you could be”
- Feedback from schools “I have supported families to access services with confidence that they will provide appropriate interventions and have a positive impact. We have increased parental engagement in our school from building links with services that have been promoted promoted via MAP”



Links to Key Strategies

Clear links to the local and national agenda and key strategies:

- New Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF)
- Middlesbrough Social Regeneration Strategy
- Middlesbrough Parenting Strategy
- Middlesbrough Inclusion Strategy 2019-2021
- Tees Valley Unlocking Potential
- Tees Valley 'Inspiring our Future' Strategy
- Middlesbrough Strategic Plan 2018-22
- Middlesbrough Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Children and Young People 2018



Opportunities

- Further development of work of MAP linking to Local Authority priorities and key issues such as poverty, exclusions, attendance and behaviour
- Explore closer links to wider Social Regeneration
- Explore links to locality working in areas of high deprivation (targeted approach to addressing poverty)
- Consideration of addressing wider poverty issues beyond MAP remit with schools, potential joint working for Children's Trust partners