

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### Stronger Families

#### 1. Oberhausen Exchange 2015

Stronger Families Service staff, have been working with a group of twelve Middlesbrough young people, aged between 14-17 over the last ten months, in preparation for the Oberhausen Exchange 2015 in which a group of 14 German young people arrived for an eleven day cultural and historical visit to Middlesbrough

The young people have been on a treasure hunt across Middlesbrough with clues leading to The Transporter Bridge, Central Library and Myplace. There was also an opportunity to meet the elected Mayor of Middlesbrough, Dave Budd followed by a tour of the Town Hall. The exchange has seen all of the German young people hosted with Middlesbrough Families. This was a fantastic opportunity for young people to sample life in Middlesbrough and other parts of the North of England, and for Middlesbrough pupils to learn more about other cultures. All of the young people involved from Middlesbrough and Oberhausen have made some great new friendships and will have lots of fantastic memories to share with their friends and families.



#### 2. Early Words Together

Early Words Together a two year literacy programme using volunteers to help families to read with their children has come to an end. Over the two years the service worked with 174 families in Middlesbrough. Eight of the volunteers from Hemlington Children's Centre attended a celebration event to thank them for their commitment and to present them with a certificate. Discussions are underway with the National Literacy Trust on potential follow up activities.

### **3. Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award**

Linda Cunningham, an Early Help Practitioner in the East locality, led a group of five young people out on their DofE bronze award expedition recently with all five achieving their award. The group camped at Trig49 in Whitby in horrendous weather; they were very wet, cold and tired, but smiled throughout. Linda felt the young people all excelled themselves; they pushed their own boundaries and supported each other through some very challenging tasks. Parents and young people made the following comments about the way in which they feel the DofE award has helped them:

- “I am so proud of my son, he has a learning disability and he has amazed the whole family. Working with the group has increased his outlook; he is more confident and trusting. “
- R said: “it was the best thing I’ve ever done and can’t wait to start on my silver award.”
- C and his parents were very emotional and proud of his achievement. C was a strong member of the group, even though he was the youngest. His parents said: “since joining the group, he has turned into a responsible young man.”

### **4. Golden Giveaway**

The Parent Network group at Thorntree Children Centre were supported by the Stronger Families Service to apply to Middlesbrough & Teesside Philanthropic Foundation as part of the ‘£10,000 Golden Giveaway’. The Foundation received 80 applications and the Parent Network group application made it through to the ‘10 strong list’, securing funding of £500. This funding will support children and families in the TS3 area to access some lovely opportunities and experiences.

### **5. Requests for Support: Example of Successful Outcomes**

A request for support was received by the Stronger Families Service regarding a family with:

- Concerns about home conditions, including damp
- Two children with numerous health conditions
- Family bereavements leading to mum’s low mood
- Mum trying to support maternal family with issues such as alcohol misuse, anger issues, OCD, ADHD and Tourettes Syndrome
- Complex benefit issues

This case was allocated to a staff member who worked closely with the family and other local agencies/partners to bring about the following changes within the family:

- Physiotherapist referral for youngest child, which concluded with child progressing from not being able to walk to toddling around the house confidently
- Referral to Speech and Language services, resulting in child’s speech improving
- Successful referral to assisted childcare to progress child’s development until they were able to access an Achieving 2 year old place
- Recent tests showed that youngest child is scoring above on most areas of development, but still slightly behind in social skills and language. This area is still improving
- Housing issues were addressed by Stronger Families Service working in partnership with Sanctuary Housing and this family have now moved to more appropriate, improved housing
- Mum has stepped back from supporting her immediate family as she recognised the impact this was having on her mood and ability to concentrate on her own children’s needs

- Benefits are now being paid correctly

## **Stronger Communities**

### **6. Prevent**

An Operational Prevent group and action plan has been set up as part of the new Community Safety Partnership arrangements. This group is to ensure that Middlesbrough Council is achieving its statutory duty to have '*Due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*'.

As part of this action plan a training plan has been created for front line staff, management and department champions to ensure that each department has nominated prevent leads for staff to consult with in respect to concerns and issues relating to prevent/Counter Terrorism issues.

In addition to this a risk assessment proforma has been created ready for primary and secondary schools to create their own audit to identify any gaps in service for the CSO to assist with addressing to strengthen resilience in schools to combat radicalisation risks.

### **7. Selective Licensing**

The proposed Selective Landlord Licensing is shortly expected to proceed to designation approval, enabling formal notification of the scheme to take place after 7 days, and for it to commence operations after 3 months have elapsed. Website and leaflet information guides are presently being developed to give information to landlords and tenants affected by the scheme, and an online facility to enable easy access to receive licence applications and payments is also being progressed. In addition to this, a schedule of visits has been drafted for the multi-agency team involved in inspections. It is also expected that staff recruitment will commence in the next few weeks.

### **8. Reducing Reoffending**

The Community Safety Partnership has created a multi-agency project to reduce alcohol related disorder affecting the night time economy. The project utilises a combination of enforcement and supportive interventions to deter offenders from offending by diverting them to address their alcohol misuse issues prior to entering the criminal justice system and placing greater burden on emergency services, this is following a successful pilot in 2013.

### **9. Op Autumnus**

Plans are being developed to cover the period of 30<sup>th</sup> October to 6<sup>th</sup> November, which has historically been known for very high incidents of ASB, Fires and Criminal damage. A number of initiatives that worked well in previous years have been identified and, with service agreement, hope to be repeated this year, these include;

- The use of a multi-agency (Police, Fire Brigade and MBC) patrol vehicle acting as a spotter of pending incidents and coordinating responses on the go.
- Dispersal powers and mobile CCTV cameras in hotspot areas identified from last year's data and also from current trends and intelligence.
- Letters to all young people identified as at risk of being involved in nuisance behaviour around this period, warning them and their parents of the impact their behaviour has on the community and the consequences posed to themselves; in addition to generic letters from Police to schools to send out to all children and young people's parents in the Middlesbrough area.
- Cleveland Fire Brigade's Education service to coordinate school talks

- Stronger Families service area to provide ongoing diversionary activities

### **10. Closure Notice- Longlands and Beechwood Ward**

A flat being misused for drug and alcohol abuse, violence and anti-social behaviour has been closed down by the Neighbourhood Safety Team. The closure notice, the first of its kind by the Authority, will see the flat, above a shopping parade, closed for a minimum of three months.

### **11. IT Taster Sessions**

The library service in partnership with Community Learning are running a series of free IT taster sessions for beginners. Customers will be able to sign up to a free 4 week course, after which they will be signposted to other free IT training suited to their needs. The aim is to encourage those who do not have the confidence to sign up for traditional classroom based learning to take the first steps in learning.

### **12. Greggs Foundation**

North Ormesby Hub have developed a partnership with Greggs Bakery on Kings Road through the Greggs Foundation. At the end of each day they now provide the Hub with any bakery products that they have been unable to sell. This has enabled the Hub to give out bread and other baked food products to families in the area who are on a very low income and asylum seeker / refugee families. This has been well received in the local community and provides an alternative to food banks where some people are not eligible to receive a voucher.

### **13. Dementia Cafes**

Due to the continuing success of the Memory Lane dementia cafes in Middlesbrough, currently running in Central Library and North Ormesby Community Hub, the library service in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society, launched the 3<sup>rd</sup> monthly café on the 27<sup>th</sup> August. This café will run on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month. The theme of the first café being memories of the Transporter Bridge.

## **Public Health**

### **14. Headstart**

A competition to design the local HeadStart logo was launched in July. Pupils from the 3 HeadStart pilot secondary schools produced some wonderful images. The winning entry was judged by year 6 pupils from Breckon Hill Primary school. The winner was a year 7 girl from Acklam Grange who is a Looked After Child. The entries were so eye catching all of them will be used to illustrate the HeadStart website.



#### **HeadStart Community Reporters**

A key priority for the HeadStart Programme is transition into secondary education. Safe in Tees Valley has been commissioned to deliver a Community Reporting Programme in Trinity Catholic College.

HeadStart Community Reporters (aged 10-14 years) will use creative digital media to explore the thoughts and experiences of their younger peers; and promote their ideas and solutions to help young people aged 10-14 years learn how to be more resilient

during transition to secondary school. 13 pupils aged 10-14 have been supported through a training programme to become HeadStart Community Reporters through developing skills to collect, report, analyse and share stories about the challenges & successes of transition from primary to secondary school education. The bronze, silver, gold to platinum programme consisted of teaching the pupils how to use digital media, capture & edit digital stories, interview techniques, Internet safety as well as training them to become peer educators in order for them to pass these valuable new skills onto others. Safe In Tees Valley will continue to support the HeadStart project during their summer school and when the school starts the new term in September 2015.



## **15. Safe Haven**

The Safe Haven is an exciting scheme for Middlesbrough which provides a valuable public service. It operates from 48 Albert Road between the hours of 11pm and 5am on Friday and Saturday evenings, providing a place of safety for people who are intoxicated and/or vulnerable. The Safe Haven also operates at key times such as Sundays prior to Bank Holidays, during the Christmas and New Year period, University 'Freshers week', etc.

The Safe Haven is staffed by a professional team consisting of two clinically trained staff, three specialist substance misuse keyworkers and a security person (who is trained in recognising and dealing with vulnerable people). In addition, two Street Marshalls are supported by a third clinical person to walk circuits of the town and identify people who may need help.

The Safe Haven alleviates problems such as potentially vulnerable/intoxicated people in the town centre, substance-related crime, high rates of alcohol related hospital attendances and admissions, demand for emergency services, etc.

The Safe Haven works closely with the Boro Angels volunteer street pastors although they will still predominantly operate on the streets.

The scheme provides a wide range of benefits to the town including:

- Easing the pressure on James Cook University Hospital by reducing attendances at A&E and admissions to wards;
- Reducing demands on the ambulance service by being an alternative option to calling 999 and also an alternative drop-off point to A&E, which reduces both journey and waiting times;
- Assisting Police by offering a safe place to take people who don't warrant being arrested but require an intervention;

- Reducing crime – particularly substance-fuelled violence/domestic violence and the risks relating to potentially vulnerable victims of crime;
- Increasing the number of clients accessing community services – via following up Safe Haven clients and making referrals;
- Promoting healthy lifestyle messages to a key group (i.e. those accessing the night time economy), resulting in increased awareness of alcohol-related harm;
- Increasing the number of brief interventions carried out in Middlesbrough, which are proven to reduce the number of people becoming alcohol dependent/drinking to harmful levels.

The effectiveness of the Safe Haven is closely monitored by the agencies involved and a report on the outcomes will detail areas such as the savings made by reducing hospital visits and any impact on the levels of crime and disorder within the town centre – this will be available in quarter 3 of 2015/16.

### **16. Extra Life - Festival of WellBeing**

Middlesbrough Public Health Team's approach to healthy settings, Extra Life, stages a number of cross setting (University of Teesside, Middlesbrough College and the James Cook University Hospital) health campaigns across the year that reflect the health needs identified. The Festival of Wellbeing, the first of its kind in Middlesbrough, is a celebration of everything wellbeing related in and around these three large settings. With the festival scheduled during the months of September and October, the challenge has been to promote activities that will target an increase in physical activity for Middlesbrough residents, reduce obesity and promote their own activities under one brand, whilst observing the public health outcome of focusing on increasing use of the outdoor space.

The Public Health Team have prepared a core offer, to take place across University of Teesside, Middlesbrough College and James Cook University Hospital. For one day at each setting during the festival, and during the College and University's fresher's weeks, an 'innovation tent' will be present to promote new ideas in improving health, all from local programmes being promoted in the settings themselves. They include a work station which doubles as a mobile phone charging bike whilst using it, an indoor fruit and vegetable hydroponic set up and local growing and cooking initiatives. Furthermore, Middlesbrough Environment city are supporting the tent with a cycling challenge cup, microwave healthy cooking and more. Finally, the Public Health's Communications lead is working to provide branding in different forms to promote the public events taking place during the week including a public lecture on students and alcohol and the buy local produce event for local businesses who purchase food.

### **17. Street Play**

Orwell Street in Gresham will be closed to through traffic on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September from 3 – 5pm to promote street play. This is a pilot to try and get children taking part in doorstep play (being more physically active) and to encourage cohesive communities. It involves a street closure for a few hours so children can play in a safe environment near their homes.

Through traffic will be redirected though resident traffic is allowed but guided by a street play helper to ensure children are not at risk.

### **18. Healthy Child Programme (HCP)**

Public Health have been working hard to stimulate the market in relation to the procurement of the Healthy Child Programme 0-19 (and up to 25 for those with a special education need or disability). A number of market engagement events and 1-1 meetings

with potential providers have been held where information has been provided to potential providers on our requirements for the HCP 0-19 service and our intention to work collaboratively with providers in developing the service specification and procurement approach. As a result of this and following feedback from potential providers, we are confident that there is the market to tender for this service.

The Council is utilising the competitive procedure with negotiation tender route for this procurement. The invitation to tender was released on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and to date we have had a number of 'intent to respond' from providers, including four Foundation Trusts (NHS). Submission of the pre-qualifying questionnaire is 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015 which will give a clearer indication of market interest and those who will be submitting a tender.

Public Health have established a project management team to twin track the procurement and in the event of further market failure the Council will bring the service in-house. The twin track approach will ensure the Council has the right infrastructure in place to facilitate a smooth transition, including appropriate clinical and information governance arrangements; ICT; estates and facilities.

Whether the service is provided by an external provider or internally via the Council, Public Health are aiming to have a new service in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.