

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

14 October 2015

Hobby Fayre, Middlesbrough Central Library

1. Staff from the Community Learning Service have worked with a range of clubs and societies to encourage participation in hobbies, sports and crafts. This was showcased in the first Hobby Fayre to be held in the town in the central library. There was free advice on a whole range of subjects including photography, art, games, collecting, scrabble, miniaturist, languages and much more.
2. The aim of the work was to raise awareness of the wide range of leisure activities available within the town. The funded support from the Community Learning Service is linked to health, wellbeing and social exclusion. The concept is to encourage more people out of the house to join a club and do something different.

Cleveland Unit

3. The Cleveland Unit Child Development Centre is an early year's assessment, therapy and teaching centre based at James Cook University Hospital. This service was rated 'outstanding' across the board by Ofsted following a recent inspection.
4. The unit which is part of the Special Education Needs and Vulnerable Learners service supports children up to the age of five with complex special educational needs and has a current roll of 52. During their latest visit, Ofsted found the quality and standard of early years provision, its contribution to children's wellbeing and the Unit's leadership and management all to be outstanding.
5. The Unit's 'passionate and knowledgeable' staff have been praised in the inspection report for their contribution to a 'vibrant and nurturing' learning environment in which they act as positive role models.
6. Partnership working with parents and other agencies was found to be 'highly effective', with robust safety measures in place to ensure the safety of children at the Unit.

Leadership Network

7. The recent Leadership Network meeting focusing on achievement was well attended and showcased good practice in early years at North Ormesby Academy and in KS1 and KS2 at Easterside Academy and at KS 3 and KS4 from All Saints Academy in Stockton. We are trying to build in a culture of learning from each other.

Primary School Admissions

8. There has been a very tight Primary School admissions around in September and consideration was given to expanding capacity in the primary sector.
9. The number of late school applications in August and September are being worked through but all-in-all this looks to be a typical number for this time of year. It continues to be tight in our primary schools with complex cases taking longer to resolve now that there is less surplus in the system and parental preferences and multiple children families are harder to accommodate.

Councillor Janice Brunton
Executive Member for Education & Skills