

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### Public Health

#### **1. The Tees Valley BME Achievement Awards 2015**

In 2014 Middlesbrough Council Public Health and NHS South Tees CCG commissioned Middlesbrough Environment City (MEC) to work with BME Communities to find out more about their health and social needs. With funding from Public Health MEC has worked with partners to address some of the findings. A strong partnership has developed between MEC and a local charity Investing in People and Culture (IPC) who are committed to supporting asylum seekers and refugees living in Middlesbrough and to promoting integration. This year IPC won the Community Organisation Tees Valley BME Achievement Award in recognition of the work achieved by the Albert Park Community Growing Project. This project not only aims to develop the horticultural skills of participants who are able to grow and harvest produce to share with their families, friends and community, but also aims to increase understanding of cultural differences and behaviours to support integration and reduce isolation within communities. The project is also supported by a 10 week English language course (ESOL) in horticulture.

#### **2. Sexual Health Service**

Sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates in the UK have been rising steadily over the past decade with more than 1.5 million episodes of STIs seen in UK clinics every year. In Teesside the main concerns are increasing rates of some STIs such as gonorrhoea as well as high rates of unintended pregnancies in particular teenage pregnancies. There is a need for accessible and equitable services in particular for young people as well as for vulnerable and at higher risk groups.

On Teesside there has been an Integrated Sexual Health Service in existence since 2010 provided by Virgin Care Stockton LLP. Over the past 12 months there has been a process of review and consultation around this service and this has resulted in four Local Authorities jointly tendering with NHS Commissioners to identify a prime provider who will be responsible for the delivery of Sexual Health Services within Hartlepool, Stockton on Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland from 1 July 2016 for a period of 5 years.

The aim of the procurement is to ensure that there is a high quality service in place for the population of Teesside which includes treatment and care for Sexual Health. This includes contraception and genitourinary medicine, chlamydia testing, sexual health promotion, cervical screening, vasectomy, and psychosexual counselling. The tender process will close on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2015 with the successful provider announced early January.

#### **3. Drugs & Alcohol Service**

Drugs and alcohol have a significant impact on individuals, families and communities. The impacts range from health, social care, safeguarding adults and children, crime,

anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, sickness and absence from work. Middlesbrough has high levels of estimated drug and alcohol misuse amongst the population. Experience of serious substance-related problems is strongly correlated with economic disadvantage and/or deprivation. Tackling drugs and alcohol requires a collaborative and multi-agency approach to:

- Reduce supply, availability and strengthening enforcement activity
- Prevention and early intervention
- Treatment , rehabilitation and recovery

The service review will evaluate the effectiveness of the current model and make recommendations for service improvement. Public Health England, who have a local representative on the review Board, has recently published guidance for commissioning drugs and alcohol services and this together with the findings from the service review will be used to inform the new service specification. The existing contract for the drugs and alcohol service will end on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The Council expects the formal tender process to commence in January 2016 and a procurement plan will be developed in line with the procurement rules and to reflect the findings of the review and complexity of the contract.

A project team is being established to oversee the service review and the procurement process.

#### **4. Hearty BEATS**

The Hearty BEATS project funded by Public Health and provided by Middlesbrough Environment City has been working with five schools in Middlesbrough for the past twelve months. This is a special project promoting healthy hearts and lifestyles and is proving to be very popular in all the schools. The five primary schools involved are Abingdon, Newport, Ayresome, St Thomas More and Breckon Hill. Artie, the Hearty BEATS Mascot, has had a busy summer term visiting schools and giving out his Artie's Stars awards.

Breckon Hill students worked hard on a heart health topic learning all about the heart and circulatory system, and how to keep the heart healthy and in tip-top condition. They finished their topic by holding a fundraising event and designed their own games and challenges and raising a whopping £109.37 for The British Heart Foundation.

A team of Year 6 cooks at Abingdon Primary School have been showcasing their cooking and budgeting skills by designing, planning and cooking a healthy three course meal, which they served to their teachers at a special dining event. On the menu was a starter of carrot and coriander soup, followed by butternut squash tagine served with a side salad and potato wedges, and a dessert of yogurt and fruit granola with a slice of carrot cake - "delicious!" was teachers' official verdict.

The project is set to continue until March 2017 and aims to improve nutrition and physical activity behaviours in both pupils and their families. The project will continue to work with

all five schools to build on their healthy living activities and continue to develop sustainable programmes after this project finishes.

## **Stronger Families**

### **5. BME Award - Newport Youth Team**

All of the hard work and commitment of the Stronger Family team delivering at Newport Hub Thursday evening session has been recognised. The Newport Youth Team have been successful and won the 'outstanding organisation' at a BME awards on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. The award was presented by Zoe Lewis, Principal of Middlesbrough College and was collected by Oz Sadiq, Family Support Worker for Stronger Families on behalf of the service.



### **6. Park House Official Opening**

Park House at Ayresome Primary School offers care and education for two-year-olds, building on the Early Years Quality Mark awarded to the school in May. The facility was officially opened by Mayor Dave Budd on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

A new team of highly qualified and experienced staff have been welcoming new starters since the start of term following renovation of the Park House building, which provides 15 hours of education each week for eligible two-year-old children within the school's catchment area.



## 7. September Guarantee

The Council has been responsible for reporting to the Government on an annual basis the proportion of young people aged 16 and 17 who have a suitable offer of an apprenticeship, college course or employment with some form of training component. This is known as the September Guarantee. Since the Guarantee was created, the Council has worked together with partner agencies to improve performance year on year, by tracking and engaging more young people to ensure that the maximum number receive an appropriate offer.

The 2015 figures reflect yet further improvement, with 96.3% receiving an appropriate offer – up by a full percentage point on last year's figure of 95.3% (which was already above the 2014 national rate of 93.2%).

Although this progress contributes positively towards reducing the overall number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET), there still remains a significant challenge to retain such a high proportion in learning and minimise the number of young people dropping out that can lead to longer term disengagement.

## 8. Achieving Two Year Olds

Staff from the Stronger Families service have presented at a regional conference in Newcastle regarding Middlesbrough's success in the Achieving Two Year Olds (A2YO), with children across the town taking up their entitlement to 15 hours per week of free childcare.

This conference was attended by Local Authorities from the North East region and the Department for Education requested this presentation so that other Local Authorities could pick up good practice and look at how in Middlesbrough's improvements in take up



rates have gone from 52% where we were at the bottom of the regional performance tables to 81% where we are second place in the region, in the space of two terms

### **9. Team Around the School**

Following an initial pilot at Linthorpe Primary School, the Team Around the School model is to be rolled out to two further schools (Beckon Hill Primary and Abingdon Primary) for a period of six weeks before being offered to every primary school in the town. The model involves a member of the Supporting Communities Service being attached to a school to provide advice and support around early help issues as they emerge and are flagged by members of the school's teaching staff. The initial pilot at Linthorpe Primary has proved successful in ensuring the school are aware of the different options to bring support into the school where they feel a multi-agency response is required, and providing advice to members of the school's support staff to enable them to manage cases within the school rather than seek referrals into acute services. The second phase of the roll out is to ensure that the experience at Linthorpe Primary is 'typical' of what could be expected, so that the benefits can be articulated clearly to all schools.

### **10. Fire Brigade Visit**

The Stronger Families Service organised a trip for the young people who attend the Grove Hill Junior Youth Club to Middlesbrough Fire Station. This was to promote safety and community engagement.

Twelve young people from the Grove Hill Junior Youth Club went on the trip. Young people had a tour around the Fire Station building and met some of the Fire Fighters. The young people all had a chance to go in the fire engines and learnt about the different types of fire engines. There were also demonstrations about the functions of a fire engine and young people were able to have a go at using the hose. Whilst on the trip there was a call out so they witnessed the Fire Fighters getting prepared and going out in the fire engine.

They also had the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about the Fire Service and what the job entails. The young people said that they enjoyed the trip and found it very interesting.



## **Stronger Communities**

### **11. SSI**

Staff from Supporting Communities and Economic Development have been involved in the immediate response to assist people in the wake of the job losses from SSI UK, their on-site contractors and wider supply chain. The Resource Hub established on the site (and now located in Redcar and Cleveland College) in the days following the closure announcement has pulled together people from a variety of agencies including JobCentre Plus and National Careers Service. Council staff have been involved in co-ordinating the client appointments, providing front office support, and delivering welfare rights and benefits advice. The Resource Hub is expected to continue to be delivered at Redcar and Cleveland College until at least the second week of November. Specific follow up sessions are also being offered by the Council's Welfare Rights Team at Middlesbrough House for residents affected by the announcements.

### **12. Domestic Violence**

A number of exercises are underway to assist delivery of the Preventing Domestic Abuse Strategy, particularly around the issues of preventing offending and preventing reoffending. Commissioning is underway to procure a perpetrator programme for the authority, and a business case has been developed to strengthen the Troubled Families Team around the Family approach by adding a specific domestic violence worker to tackle situational couple violence, where the violence may be mutual between partners, and have a long term corrosive effect on any children in the household. A bid was also submitted to Communities & Local Government for additional funding to develop more dispersed units for victims of domestic violence in need of accommodation, but who may be unable to access traditional refuge settings, for instance, where they may be older male children in the household, or for households who require accommodation but who may have complex issues that could be a risk to others.

### **13. Selective Landlord Licensing**

The Selective Landlord Licensing with Early Help Scheme has now been officially designated, and sealed, and will go live January 2016. All private landlords were consulted with, and support continues to be offered in respect of queries they may have. The scheme has the backing of a large number of stakeholders, including local residents, who are actively participating in the regeneration of the area through the Big Local project. Website content has been developed with advice for both landlords and tenants, and with links provided for useful resources, including support services. In addition, an online application form/ payment system is currently being built and tested. The aim is to offer landlords or managing agents access to modern, user friendly technology that will help them comply with the scheme. Mailshots and visual audits of the area will be carried out over the next month to ensure all stakeholders have information on the scheme, and where they can ring for advice.

### **14. Preventing ASB on Bonfire night**

Easterside historically is a hotspot for crime and anti-social behaviour on Bonfire night, with this particular ward utilising a lot of agency resource. Last year two youths were

arrested for firing rockets at a Fire Brigade Officer whilst trying to extinguish a fire. Neighbourhood Safety Officers have been working closely with Acklam Rugby Club and Thirteen Group to purchase 20 family tickets for their Bonfire Night Display. Young people that have a history of causing anti-social behaviour in the area have been identified and invited to attend the organised display with their families.

### **15. Drug Dealing at Portman Street**

Following an increase in reports of drug dealing in the Portman Street area of Newport, the Neighbourhood Safety Officer arranged for a residents meeting to take place. This had a positive impact with numerous residents attending in order to discuss their concerns and share information. The NSO installed overt CCTV in the street to monitor the behaviour of named perpetrators and provide necessary evidence. All information was shared with the local Neighbourhood Police Teams along with the central drugs intelligence unit which resulted in two positive drugs raids being executed on the street. The NSO immediately contacted the landlords of the properties to ensure they were aware of the issues and requested they serve the tenants with an eviction notice.

The tenants of these properties were served with relevant notices and moved out of the property providing other residents with some much needed respite. The NSO has spoken to the responsible landlords and asked that they now utilise Community Safety's Tenancy Referencing Service, to ensure future tenants are suitable. Residents have reported a marked improvement in the area and have informed officers "it is like living in a different street compared to a few months ago".

### **16. Fires in Beechwood**

The Neighbourhood Safety Officer together with Cleveland Fire Service issued 15 warning letters to youths allegedly involved in setting fires in Beechwood Avenue, around the Beechwood School area. The Fire Service had reported an increase in deliberate fires within the ward and intelligence was received from members of the community. Some of the individuals involved have agreed to attending a fire prevention course and the fire intervention team have delivered an awareness-raising session within the school. Deliberate fires have since drastically reduced.

### **17. Community Hubs**

Two extra debt advice and welfare sessions have been added to the current provision for North Ormesby Community Hub thanks to funding from Thirteen, Accent Housing and North Ormesby Hub Friends of group (£8.5k in total)

Working in conjunction with the Big Local, a new youth club has been established at North Ormesby Hub. The numbers are increasing each week and include many of our hard to reach families who are now attending on a regular basis

### **18. Welfare Rights**

The Welfare Rights Service has opened 302 new cases in the last quarter which has led to over 500 appointments and in the same period the service has represented residents at 32 appeals. The unit also provided 469 advice line appointments. In total £ 848, 218, 59 has been secured as a result of the cases dealt with during this period for



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Middlesbrough Residents. Our Pilot project in Redcar GP Surgeries also generated £100,367.15. Our Hospital Social Care Service advice work generated over £85,000 in the same period. The Unit has raised over £1 million in Quarter 2. The figures represent confirmed cash outcomes currently in payment.