

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 25 November 2015

Members Seminar

1. A School Improvement seminar for Council Members took place on 14 October and outlined the work of the school improvement team and the context in which it is currently working. Attendees were given a copy of the revised School Effectiveness Strategy document which is the key document which drives school improvement in Middlesbrough. Councillors were asked to reflect on how they could support their local schools to meet the educational challenges faced by many communities. The councillors asked questions in areas such as :
 - The role of the Local Authority in holding schools to account
 - The difference between academy and LA maintained schools

Middlesbrough Leaders Event

2. An event entitled 'What makes Great Teaching?' took place on 19 October as part of a series of the Middlesbrough Achievement Partnership events supporting school leadership. The keynote speaker was Rob Coe from Durham University who has conducted research into the subject and is linked closely with the Education Endowment Foundation, Teaching and Learning toolkit. There were case studies of good practice in the town and opportunities for discussion. This was very well attended by school leaders and governors.

Ofsted Inspections

3. Three Ofsted inspections have taken place in schools Requiring Improvement – Sunnyside Academy, Ayresome and Newham Bridge. It is very pleasing to report that Sunnyside Academy has been judged as Good. The reports on the other schools are yet to be published.

Middlesbrough Co-operative Learning Trust Celebration Event

4. An event was held on 16 October in the Town Hall to celebrate the first birthday of the Middlesbrough Co-operative Learning Trust. Children from seven of the Trust schools entertained parents and guests to drumming, street dancing, ukuleles, recorders, singing, poetry and hoop hop. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Local Area SEND consultation: October 2015 - January 2016

5. The purpose of this consultation is to gather views on how Ofsted and the CQC can inspect and evaluate how effectively local areas meet their responsibilities towards disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs.
6. The consultation is of particular relevance to disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs, their parents and carers, early years settings, schools, the further education sector, and other educational, social care and health services who provide services to these children and young people.
7. New duties regarding disability and special educational needs are contained in the Children and Families Act 2014. These are explained in The Code of Practice, which is statutory guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department of Health, on the duties, policies and procedures relating to part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014. These duties came into force in September 2014 and place responsibility on the local area, which includes the local authority and health commissioners and providers, together with all of the area's early years settings, schools and post-16 further education sector, to identify and meet the needs of disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs aged 0 to 25.
8. The Department for Education (DfE) has requested that Ofsted and the CQC inspect local areas on their effectiveness in fulfilling their new duties. The inspections will be resourced by additional funding provided specifically for the purpose and will be part of the DfE's broader national accountability framework.
9. This will be a new form of inspection under section 20 of the Children Act 2004. There are no inspections taking place at this time that evaluate these local area responsibilities.
10. Over the last few months Ofsted and CQC have held discussions with young people, their parents and carers, disability and special educational need support groups, local authorities and health groups about the most important responsibilities that should be inspected. The common themes to emerge from all groups were that inspections should evaluate whether disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs are identified properly and whether their needs are met and their outcomes improve.
11. It is planned that the first local area inspections will start to take place from May 2016.

Apprentices within the Council

12. Four Business Administration Apprentices have progressed from Intermediate onto Advanced Apprenticeships within Middlesbrough Council as from 1 October 2015. This is an 18 month commitment by Middlesbrough Council.
13. The areas are:
 - Wellbeing Care & Learning - Safeguarding Services

- Wellbeing Care & Learning – Safeguarding Intervention
 - Neighbourhood and Communities Environment – Street Scene
 - Commercial & Corporate Services – Business Development Commissioning
14. One of our recent achievers, has secured a place at Teesside University to study Business Management. He started with us as a Level 1 pre apprenticeship trainee, progressing to level 2 and then level 3 Business Administration apprenticeship. He continues to be employed part time as a payroll team member with HR Employee Services department alongside his University study course.

Councillor Janice Brunton
Executive Member for Education & Skills