

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 6 January 2016

### Ofsted Inspection

1. A team of Ofsted Inspectors arrived in Middlesbrough on 24 November for four weeks to inspect Children's Services and the Middlesbrough Child Safeguarding Board. At the time of writing the report the outcome of the inspection is not known and we are unlikely to receive official confirmation until early in the new year.

### Performance Information

2. As of December 2015:

Current Children Looked After figures are: 374 – 117.61 per 10,000

Current Child Protection figures are: 204 – 64.15 per 10,000

Current Children in Need figures are: 1403 – 441.18 per 10,000

### Youth Offending Service

3. Work is ongoing with Cleveland Police to reduce the time children, young people and vulnerable adults spend in police custody. The all age liaison and diversion team screen all those being brought into police custody and identify and refer those who would benefit from a wider service. There is increased focus on children and young people, identifying 'frequent flyers' to the police station in order that intervention can be targeted.
4. The Senior Legal Adviser to the Youth Bench at Teesside Magistrate Court spent a day with YOS staff. The purpose of the visit was to give the Courts a more detailed understanding of what happens when a young person is subject to YOS intervention. Observations of assessments, direct work with young people, restorative interventions and discussion with Managers gave a full and real picture of practice in a YOS. The feedback received was really positive, the legal advisor describing the levels of enthusiasm and dedication as outstanding and has briefed both colleagues in the Court and Magistrates of her experience.

### Gleneagles Resource Centre

5. Gleneagles Resource Centre continues to provide a valuable service to children with disabilities and their families. The feedback from families is always very positive – no complaints have been received in the last year and there have been a number of compliments.

6. The annual Ofsted inspection of Gleneagles has just taken place. The Inspector spent two days at Gleneagles, he examined all documents and spoke with staff, children and young people. The Inspector made no recommendations – the outcome of the inspection was that Gleneagles was deemed to be an “outstanding” service. This is due to the hard work and enthusiasm of the Manager and the entire staff team.

### **Care Leavers**

7. Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland, along with the CCG, are taking part in a National Project looking at the health needs of Care Leavers. The project will run for two years and is funded by the DfE under the innovation scheme, being led by the Care Leaver’s Association. Our group is the only one in the North East Region (there are 12 CCGs taking part altogether) therefore will be setting a standard for others to follow. The aim of the project is to improve health outcomes for this vulnerable group by increasing ‘user voice’. It is a huge piece of work which will ultimately identify any gaps in services, via a targeted needs assessment, and lead to informing the CCG on future commissioned services.

### **Adoption**

8. The five Tees Valley Local Authorities which bid for DfE funds to set up a regional adoption agency, were advised that the bid was successful. Middlesbrough is leading on the project and has brought together the LAs with our Voluntary Adoption Agency partners to share the ‘vision’ for the adoption service going forward. Next steps are to meet with Middlesbrough’s DfE coach on 3 December for his views on our proposed arrangements and then to appoint project lead(s) to start the work. The timescale for implementation is 18 months.

**Councillor Michael Carr**  
**Executive Member, Children’s Social Care**