

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### **STRONGER FAMILIES**

#### **1. Resource Hub Event**

An initiative to help people find work after the closure of SSI is currently being rolled out across the Tees Valley. Middlesbrough hosted an event on the 21st January held at the STEM Centre at Middlesbrough College. The resource hub brought together 23 agencies in total to provide advice and support to individuals affected by the closure of SSI, in particular those who had been made redundant. A range of services were in attendance including Job Centre Plus, National Careers Service, MIND, Achieving Change through Enterprising Solutions (ACTES), Pay Plan, HMRC, Barclays Bank, Middlesbrough College and Pension Wise. The event was attended by 59 people all requiring different levels of support ranging from debt advice to how to write a CV. Feedback from the agencies that attended as well as from individuals seeking support was entirely positive.

#### **2. Youth Provision Development**

An event led by Stronger Families and Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency has been held to develop Middlesbrough's Youth Offer. This was attended by relevant stakeholders who are currently delivering youth provision in Middlesbrough including Tees Valley Arts; ACTES; All in Youth Project; NACRO; Barnardos; Safe in Tees Valley; Thirteen; and Kinship Carers. During the session partners discussed current youth provision in different areas of the town, to identify what is available as well as any gaps in provision. A focus group will now continue with this work to develop a coordinated Youth Offer for the young people of Middlesbrough. This will also allow an analysis to be completed to ensure the statutory duties of the Council are met. As part of the approach, young people will be consulted about the type of provision they would prefer to engage in and other agencies that are not part of the focus group, will also be consulted.

#### **3. Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods**

The Department for Communities and Local Government visited Middlesbrough in December for an update on the Delivering Differently in Neighbourhood's School Readiness Project. This included visits to a number of Children Centre's and meetings with relevant staff from Stronger Families and Public Health to gain a better understanding of how the proposed model will work in practice. The visit has received positive feedback in terms of progress made and also that once embedded the potential of the new model to positively influence School Readiness in Middlesbrough. Work continues towards the project roll out in April 2016.

### **STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

#### **4. Street Wardens**

The Street Wardens have recently been working with Neighbourhood Policing and communities in the North and the East of Middlesbrough to build relationships with 'communities of interest' and engage 'hard-to-reach' households. The Street Wardens

have regularly patrolled these areas with the aim of reassuring residents, providing a visible presence and improving community cohesion. This work will continue for the foreseeable future and is in addition to the core tasks of the Street Warden service which include responding to community concerns and tackling anti-social behaviour across the town.

## **5. Prevent**

The Community Safety Team continues to deliver the HM Government Workshop to Raise Awareness for Prevent (WRAP 3) and has recently held a group training session to all designated safeguarding leads from primary & secondary schools across Middlesbrough. In addition to this WRAP has been provided this month to The Prince's Trust and several MBC sponsored Care homes across Middlesbrough. To aid this Middlesbrough Council is also in the process of appointing departmental Prevent champions and a WRAP 3 train-the-trainer event was held on the 27th January 2016 with guest speakers discussing Islamic awareness training and the behaviour of Far Right and Extreme Far Right organisations.

The Community Safety Team has also commenced council-wide training on a community intelligence model which has been designed to share information on key areas of concern to increase staff vigilance i.e. Child Sexual Exploitation, Safeguarding, Organised Crime and Terrorism. Following attendance at the training event staff will then receive a card with specific contact details to enable the swift sharing of front-line intelligence with appropriate agencies/departments.

## **6. Linthorpe Road Security**

Neighbourhood Safety Officers have recently worked with a retail management agency to erect a security fence to the rear of the retail units around Linthorpe Road. This action, with the addition of regular patrols from Street Wardens, has ensured the area remains secure and the potential for the building to be misused has been significantly limited.

## **7. Domestic Violence**

Following a recent procurement exercise the contract for delivering the Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme has been awarded to Harbour. The programme forms part of the Council's proactive strategy to reduce reoffending of domestic violence by offering perpetrators an educative programme that works to fundamentally change their thinking and behavioural responses.

In addition Middlesbrough Council is one of 46 local authorities across the country to benefit from an award of £100,000 over two years to help victims of Domestic Violence access the accommodation support they need. The money will be used to create 710 new bed spaces in a range of safe accommodation and in Middlesbrough this will lead to the creation of at least 4 bed spaces in dispersed units such as flats or houses throughout the town.

## **8. Selective Landlord Licensing**

The Selective Licensing scheme in North Ormesby scheme went live on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 and applications and payments are being received for eligible properties via an online facility. Scheme officers are now working in the North Ormesby Community Hub on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings to assist landlords to submit their applications and to answer general scheme enquiries.

Enforcement work in the area has also started with the aim of supporting the scheme. Following the launch of the initiative a recent joint clean-up operation was succeeded by targeted police interventions to tackle suspected criminal activities. Local neighbourhood enforcement were also conducted and focussed upon anti-social behaviour perpetrated by families and young people, measures to tackle these issues included letter drops, communication with residents, tenancy breaches, referrals to 'positive activities' and community protection proceedings.

### **9. Official Launch of Middlesbrough's third Dementia Café**

On 28<sup>th</sup> January the third Dementia Café was officially launched at Acklam Community Hub. Due to the huge popularity of Dementia Café's within Middlesbrough the Acklam site was seen as a great way of extending the reach of the café's and improving access for users in the South and West of the town.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **10. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Transformation Plan**

Middlesbrough Council has collaborated with key partners and South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group and has secured a £240k grant funding from NHS England to deliver locally a CAMHS mental health transformation plan. A Middlesbrough's Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan has therefore been developed in response to the national ambition and principles set out in the key document: *Future in Mind – Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing* as well as guided by our Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2014/15 which focused on emotional wellbeing.

The commitment from NHS England is to recurrently provide around £240k locally over five years to improve children and young people's emotional wellbeing. The council as the lead partner has been notified by South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group that our grant bid has been accepted by NHS England for the first year funding. The overarching objective for this funding is to integrate mental health service provision and improve their wellbeing outcomes of children for the next 5 years.

### **11. Sporting Chance**

Sporting Chance is an innovative 3 year Big Lottery Funded initiative which aims to reduce isolation, improve physical and mental health and wellbeing, and increase the skills of men aged 50+. The project uses a combination of physical activities and social activities such as regular reminiscence sessions to combat social isolation and health and wellbeing issues.

The project, now in its final year of funding, currently provides 12 weekly sessions with a variety of activities ranging from supervised gym sessions, walking football, Nordic walking, aqua circuit, chair based exercise and Boxercise. The project attracts over 100 men per week and over the past two years, 278 men have registered with the project resulting in a total of 6338 attendances and 511 sessions being delivered.

Outcomes to date from the project are very positive:

- 89% reported increase in physical fitness resulting in less visits to their GP;
- 97% reported an improvement in their mood, feeling more positive and increased confidence;
- 97% reported increased contact with other people thus reducing loneliness and isolation;
- 94% reported an increased social life;

- Four have become Volunteer Organisers with a further eight volunteering to help at the physical activity and reminiscence groups increasing skills, confidence and resilience

In addition to this, 40 men have registered with Sporting Chance Plus which was introduced in July 2015 and gives the men the opportunity to undertake regular health checks and fitness tests.

## **12. Supporting Physical Activity in the Community**

The Public Health Physical Activity Grant Fund has been running for over a year. Grants are awarded to eligible groups including community, voluntary and sporting organisations to promote and increase participation in physical activity across Middlesbrough.

There have been approximately 25 organisations to date that have received grant funds supporting activities and initiatives as diverse as walking groups, disability exercise sessions, BME physical activity sessions, outdoor exercise equipment and sporting clubs.

Successful applicants include the HEAL project which is an allotment based physical activity initiative; the installation of an outdoor 'gym' and physical activity / exercise area in Fairy Dell; establishing a football team for young people on the autistic spectrum and expanding provision of a disability specific Zumba session.

The STAGES Academy Homeless Clinic opened on the 5th January and provides clinical services for vulnerable people who are not registered with a GP and are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It is operated on a drop-in basis and NHS health practitioners provide general health advice, referrals and signposting to other support services, whilst also treating acute conditions that are presented to them. Once the clinic becomes established, more services could potentially be offered including health risk assessments (such as NHS Healthy Heart Checks and Mini Checks), sexual health, chiropody and dentistry. The clinic operates twice-a-week, providing access to health services in a location that is easily accessible and well known.

The homeless clinic bridges the gap for vulnerable people who would otherwise struggle to see a GP. It also ensures that anyone accessing the service will be able to be registered with a GP and referred to other support services who can manage long- term conditions or provide specialist interventions.