

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 11 JANUARY 2017

### Adult Social Care

1. Tees Community Equipment Service (TCES) returned to the Social Care outcome area from Corporate & Commercial Services with effect from 1st December 2016. This move will support the prevention agenda and align the services with those who requisition equipment and the wider Health & Social Care economy.

### Adult Mental Health

2. The Adult Mental Health teams have now moved back into a newly built and re-furnished Parkside, opposite Albert Park.
3. This will allow the Psychosis Team and the Affective Disorders team to work much closer together, as one Local Authority mental health service, as well as being co-located with Health colleagues and services in one building. This will greatly enhance communication, partnership working and offer a more comprehensive response for service users

### Adult Health

#### Better Health at Work

4. The Better Health at Work Award in Middlesbrough is delivered by the Public Protection Service. The award scheme recognises the efforts of employers in the North East and Cumbria in addressing health issues within the workplace. It is free, flexible and open to all employers regardless of size, location or type of business.
5. Since April 12<sup>th</sup> businesses, who signed up to the award scheme in Middlesbrough, have been supported with advice and guidance on improving workplace health and wellbeing and have worked towards achieving a Better Health at Work Award. In November, each organisation was assessed against the award criteria to achieve either a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Continuing Excellence award and the assessors are confident that each organisation will achieve success. Award winners will be invited to attend an annual Tees Valley awards ceremony, which is to be held in Stockton in March 2017.
6. Award winners include Middlesbrough Council, Middlesbrough Environment City, Riverside English Churches Housing Group, Middlesbrough Community Learning and the Princess Trust.

### **Food Store Ordered to Close**

7. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Environmental Health Officers from the Public Protection Service visited Mini Food Store in Clarendon Road, Middlesbrough, in response to an allegation of poor hygiene standards. During the inspection the Officers found evidence of a widespread mouse infestation and poor standards of cleanliness. The conditions led to the use of emergency closure powers under food laws.
8. A Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notice was served requiring the business to cease trading. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the actions of the Public Protection Service were confirmed by Teesside Magistrates Court and a Court Order was granted to keep the premises closed until the Council was satisfied that the health risk conditions had been removed.
9. An investigation into the cause of the conditions found and breaches of food law will be carried out to determine if further enforcement action is appropriate.

### **Gresham Road Flat closed**

10. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016 a garage/storage area which had been poorly converted to provide a flat was closed by Environmental Health officers. The electrical system had failed, the roof was leaking and the flat was cold and draughty.
11. The occupying tenant made complaint about his living conditions. On investigation it transpired that the conversion to a flat was carried out without planning permission or Building Regulation inspections.
12. The tenant moved out within days of the Council taking action to close the flat. The flat will remain closed until major improvements are made and the relevant permissions have been sought.

### **Positive work with Dogs in 2016**

13. Dogs Trust, our major partner in animal health and welfare work, have just released some statistics to us to summarise the work that we have done with them during 2016. The results are impressive and we are very grateful that we have them as our partners in this work.
14. During the year we held six events around Middlesbrough – in North Ormesby, Berwick Hills, Whinney Banks, Hemlington, Albert Park and the Metz Bridge travellers site. During these events 308 dogs received a free health check, 270 of them were micro-chipped at the event and 267 responsible dog ownership packs were issued containing advice and guidance on neutering, micro-chipping, responsible dog ownership, dog behaviour and a training DVD.
15. It has been a fantastic year for this work, and we plan to continue along the same lines in 2017.

### **Elderly Couple Helped**

16. Trading Standards Officers are always alert to reports of rogue traders. Often they try to exploit vulnerable consumers after bad weather to carry out unnecessary repair

work. After the recent heavy rain and winds officers responded to a call from Cleveland Police who were concerned about work which was being carried out on the roof of a house belonging to an elderly couple in Acklam. The Trading Standards Officers discussed the problem and the potential criminal offences with the roofer, with the residents and the Police officers present. In order to protect the residents they appointed the Trading Standards Officers to act on their behalf to discuss the terms of their contract for the roof works with the trader. As a result he clarified the price that he quoted for the job, which saved the elderly customers £2,600. In this case the roofer has been provided with advice and a warning regarding his trading practices.

Councillor Julia Rostron  
Executive Member for Adult Health & Social Care