

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 1 November 2017

SEND Implementation Group

The SEND Improvement Group which was set up to address the outcome of the Local Area SEND Inspection has a strong membership from across all required stakeholders. The SEND Improvement group worked on the Written Statement of Action which addressed the key areas of concerns identified within the Local Area Inspection. This was submitted to Ofsted on the 20th September for approval. Ofsted have confirmed that they have approved the Written Statement of Action. This requires some minor amendments which will be completed by the SEND Improvement Group and then shared with all stakeholders. The Written Statement of Action will be published on the Local Offer website.

Early Years Specialist Support Model

Through the SEND and Vulnerable Learners review 2016 it was recognised that there were some key strengths and areas of good practice across Middlesbrough as well as some key areas for development. One of these areas of development was the need to increase the capacity for inclusion for children with SEND within mainstream settings.

The LA consulted with stakeholders over the restructure of the Cleveland Unit and the Inclusion Support Team to develop and implement one Early Years Specialist Support Service which would support the building of inclusive capacity within the Early Year Sector.

The model was implemented in September 2017. Within this new model which will be further reviewed in April 2018:

- There will be key leads in Communication & Interaction Needs, Social, Emotional & Mental Health Needs, Cognition & Learning Needs and Physical & Sensory Needs.
- All staff from both services will become one team and work for one service. They would be able to provide support wherever it is needed whether that is in mainstream early years settings, within the Cleveland Unit or in family homes.
- The new service will provide both outreach and inclusion support.
- Outreach support will be provided to the setting by an outreach worker, this would include support with identifying and assessing children's individual needs and accessing appropriate strategies, resources and equipment to support them.
- Inclusion support will be provided in the form of a member of staff who will work with the child for a period of time alongside staff from the setting.
- The new service will provide a personalised approach to meeting a child's needs within early years settings, moving away from the current 3 hours per week for 12 weeks.
- Children will be supported through the transition from early year providers into school.
- Funding will be in place to support settings to further build inclusive capacity,

Shared Hearing Impaired and Visual Impaired Service

Middlesbrough Council hosts the shared HI/VI service which works across the Tees Valley. Through discussion with stakeholders and partners this service, as from September 2017 will work with young people with SEND up to the age of 25. Previously the service ceased at 19. This way of working will provide greater support for young people during transitions and ensure a consistency of support and intervention across the FE Sector.

Unicef's Rights Respecting School Award

Unicef's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. Since September 2016 in Middlesbrough:

- 3 schools have applied for the award
- 2 schools have achieved a Recognition of Commitment
- 6 schools have achieved a Level 1 award:
 - St Edwards Primary
 - Archibald Primary
 - Ayresome Primary
 - Sacred Heart Primary
 - Thorntree Primary
 - Breckon Hill Primary



The RRSA takes a staged approach to schools becoming Rights Respecting:

- The Recognition of Commitment is awarded once schools have audited their current practice and written an action plan
- Level 1 focuses on the commitment of school leadership, knowledge of the UN Convention on the Right of the Child and the setting up of the school infrastructure
- Level 2 is reached when the values and ethos of the rights respecting framework are fully embedded in policy and practice, and there is evidence of impact from children.

More than 4500 schools across the UK are involved with RRSA; 15% of all schools in the UK and 50% of schools in Scotland. Over 1600 schools have been granted a level 1 or 2 Award, the highest stages of the award. Schools guided by the framework explicitly respect, protect and fulfil children's rights in their daily practice. Evidence shows that some of the benefits can be:

- Children and young people experience showing improved self-esteem and wellbeing
- Schools have identified improved relationships and behaviour, including reductions in bullying and exclusions and improved attendance
- Teachers observe improved engagement in learning

Admissions

Since the Supreme Court term time holiday ruling on 6th April 2017 Middlesbrough LA continues to apply its code of conduct in relation to school absence and in accordance with this judgement. 476 penalty notices were issued last academic year from the date of judgment to end of the summer term for unauthorised leave of absence (holidays) taken in term time.

199 penalty notices have been issued in the first 4 weeks of the new school year and a high volume of referrals are coming into the service daily.

Lunchbox Project Community Hub@Newport Settlement

The Lunchbox Project took place during August 2017, organised by Nusrat Hussain, Community Hub@Newport Settlement and facilitated by the Ethnic Minority Achievement team. Costed at £100 per session, the objective of the project was not only to meet the holiday hunger needs within the community but also to provide new experiences and build new relationships between residents and access to the Hub.

Over three weeks, six sessions ran on Tuesday and Thursday for a minimum of 2 hours. Part funded by The Church Urban Fund and Lottery funding, the project was able to provide a substantial healthy lunch, sporting activities, reading time and day trips. Each session was very well attended, with the maximum capacity of 45 attendees being reached most days. Over 300 meals were provided over the course of three weeks, with free food provided by Quorn for the final session.

The LunchBox Project included activities such healthy cooking and smoothie making on bikes with Middlesbrough Environment Centre, Zumba and circuit training with Nur Fitness. The exercise classes provided as part of the session provided a great opportunity for International New Arrivals to rehearse and understand school expectations and routines.

The group also worked in partnership with North York Moors. 41 people came to the day trip at the Danby visitor's centre which they thoroughly enjoyed. Plus, 45 attendees enjoyed a full day out to Whitby with fish and chips, which was such a memorable experience for many of the children.

We were also able to overlap with the School Nurse drop in, which provided informal health advice and signposting. Oral health also provided the EMAT team with toothbrushes and toothpastes to distribute to all attendees, which provided an opportunity to discuss oral hygiene with families and how often toothbrushes should be changed.

This year's Lunchbox Project was a great success. A diverse set of attendees provided an excellent opportunity for marginalised members of the community to come together, as we had Roma families, local residents and asylum seekers all enjoying the events and sharing food.

School Readiness

Children's Centres across Middlesbrough are now mobile phone free zones



Parents will be asked to switch off their phones when visiting Children's Centres. The aim is to emphasise the importance of parent-child interaction, which is crucial for learning and development from an early age.

The move is part of Middlesbrough Council's School Readiness drive to ensure that children are ready for nursery and school. The campaign is to highlight the impact of overuse of technology on the speech and language development of children.

The five images that make up the campaign highlight the lost opportunities for learning due to parents using their mobile phones. The initiative is part of Middlesbrough's School Readiness approach which has been recognised by the Early Intervention Foundation as 'hugely innovative' and aims to put Middlesbrough's children at the forefront of learning and school excellence from an early age.

A new survey recently released by BookTrust, the UK's largest children's reading charity finds that UK mums and dads are spending nearly four times the amount of time (over 1.5 hours) engaging in screen time each day than they are reading with their children (25 mins).

By supporting parents, the Council wants to help children develop the simple skills needed to accelerate their learning once they reach nursery. A child who

knows 8 nursery rhymes from memory by the age of 4 years are usually among the best readers by the time they are 8 years old.

The 'mobile-free' approach was well received in consultation focus groups run through Children's Centres, and it is hoped that the programme will lead Middlesbrough to surpass the national average of 69% of children exhibiting 'good' development at the end of reception year.

The poster campaign and mobile free Children Centres campaign has also generated local media interest with filming on BBC Look North and ITV regional news along with radio interviews on BBC Radio 5 Live, Heart, TFM and BBC Northern Ireland. Comments posted on Social Media have had an overwhelmingly positive response from members of the public.

Work Readiness

High Tide Work Experience

This Summer Stronger Families have taken young people on work experience from High Tide. These young people have had a diverse timetable of activities including family work, supporting baby play sessions and helping on reception in one of the Community Hubs.

A young person named Mahmoud, was one of the participants in the High Tide projects said "My week working alongside Stronger Families was a wonderful and valuable experience. I felt welcomed by the dedicated and friendly staff and enjoyed working with them. I learnt a lot about the work and effort that goes on, which sometimes is under appreciated. Visiting different neighbourhoods in the local area showed me places in Middlesbrough I've known for years in a different perspective. Instead of seeing these areas as houses and roads, I saw individuals and people who have their own stories and problems and seeing this organisation actively trying to help them out really inspired me. I also had the privilege of seeing the local care homes and meeting the people at Pathways who work to ensure children in care always have somewhere to go. It was a pleasure working with Stronger Families and seeing their dedication into ensuring teens leaving school or college are getting assistance in building themselves a better future".

Another young person on the High Tide work experience programme was unsure about what she wanted to do after leaving school and staff in the Work Readiness team offered her personalised careers guidance, then took her to an interview where she later was offered an apprenticeship.

Youth Employment Initiative

Stronger Families Work Readiness team are working in partnership with Middlesbrough Community Learning (MCL) who are a delivery partner for the European Funded Programme, Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). Young people, including teenage parents who are currently not in education, employment or training are being supported to attend new provision which is called 'Stan's Place'. This and is named after the local war veteran Stan Hollis who hailed from North Ormesby, which is the delivery location.

Matthew Brown the Project Leader says;

At 'Stan's Place' we will be teaching participants a selection of dishes using healthy ingredients and teaching them a basic understanding of sensible and cost effective food shopping as well as making great new healthy dishes. Prospective employers will be invited along to join us and meet the "Stan's place" team and members of the community will be invited to a delicious meal prepared and served by the programme participants.

Stan's is more than a catering course. Applied learning, ongoing support into and within employment and a belief that everyone should be given the chance to progress, this is training as it is meant to be: Providing a context and a foundation where people can achieve – and believe once again'

Stronger Families Apprentices

We have had a number of apprentices who have progressed into employment opportunities within Stronger Families. Amy Kelly who has joined the School Readiness Team as a Support Worker, Courtney Webber who has joined the Work Readiness Team as a Support Worker, Jade Fuller who has joined the Early Help Hub as a Support Worker and Nicola Hyde who has joined the Family Case Work Team as a Practitioner.

Over the summer we have also welcomed Abbie Mc Carrick and Jessica Hill as Level 3 Children and Young Peoples Workforce Development Apprentices and three new Level 2 Administration Apprentices have joined the teams, Jessica Rose, Lucy Pay and Liam Christon. The majority of the above apprentices are Middlesbrough residents.

Councillor Janice Brunton-Dobson
Executive Member for Education & Skills