

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 6 December 2017

New Behaviour Panels

Following the high levels of pupils permanently excluded from Middlesbrough schools in academic year 15/16 (80 pupils excluded) the Middlesbrough Behaviour Partnership was established to seek to reduce the numbers of pupils excluded in the town. This is a partnership between Middlesbrough schools and the local authority. The focus of the work of the Behaviour Partnership has been around intervening earlier with pupils whose behaviour is causing concern and developing new strategies to avoid permanent exclusion. The strategies employed so far have been successful in reducing the permanent exclusion levels by 50% in 16/17 (39 pupils excluded). The recent scrutiny investigation and report endorsed the work of the Behaviour Partnership and made some very useful suggestions on further developments in this area.

The next stage of the work of the Middlesbrough Behaviour Partnership to help reduce the number of exclusions in Middlesbrough is the first Pupil Placement Panel which will be held on the 7th December. Pupils whose behaviour is proving difficult to manage in schools will be referred to this new multi- agency panel and the appropriate support and education pathway determined. This could be a support package back in school, a 'fresh start' managed move to a new mainstream school, a short term 'turnaround' place in an alternative education setting or some more specialist assessment.

Panels members will include representatives from all parts of education in Middlesbrough including Headteachers, Education Psychologists, Alternative Education providers, Early Help, SEN, Inclusion case officers, Headstart etc..

SEND Improvement 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. Following some minor amendments by the SEND Improvement Group the Written Statement of Action has been published on the Local Offer website.

Stronger Families

Middlesbrough Children's Centres and Library joint Borrow-a-Book scheme allows all families using the Children's Centres to join and borrow library books whilst accessing Children's Centre activities. Quarter 2 data (July – Sept 2017) indicates there were 165 new library joiners in this period and that those new joiners borrowed a total of 142 books.

We also ran a 'Bath, Book, Bed' campaign for a week, beginning 2nd October. Again this was a joint Children's centre and health activity and key messages were shared with 158 families and bags of books gifted to those families.

Some comments received from parents were:

- *Current routine is bath and bed, will introduce a book too*
- *We follow a routine already, new books will be lovely to use*
- *Made me think about the important of a routine*
- *I struggle to settle my baby but will give this a try*
- *We don't have a routine for bedtime, this would be good to try with my three kids*

Following the success of this campaign, we intend to run this quarterly.

The **30 hour childcare entitlement** came into effect from 1st September 2017. This is an entitlement for working families of 3 and 4 year old children to take up 30 hours of funded childcare a week, within a private day nursery, a childminder or a school. In the Autumn term, 399 families took up their 30 hours entitlement in Middlesbrough. Although we don't have a figure of eligible families that we can benchmark against, the Department of Education have been monitoring how many families have applied for a code against how many have had their code validated by either the LA or the childcare provider. In Middlesbrough this equates to 77% of families and compares well to regional and national performance.

The Junction Young Carers Project is commissioned by Stronger Families to provide a vital support service for young carers and their families. Without support and activities the children and young people could become very isolated, caring for family members. The children and young people were asked their views on how they felt about the support from The Junction.



Tell us why and why The Junction young carers is important to you

You get to go places you can't go because of your family and I get a new experience	They are very important to me because they help me out and when I'm lonely they play with me	They help me to get out of the house and get stuff off me chest
They help upper my confidence	Make new friends and helps you refresh your head	Because they look after us and they take us out away from home
Because I went to a new place and met new people	It is important to me because I get a break from looking after my Dad	It makes me feel happy
Because they are full of joy and because I went somewhere new.	Because I get some of my time	It is because I get away from my brother and it takes bad things off my mind
Because it makes me feel happy and they help us if we have anything to say	I get to know people who are in similar situations to me	Because they help me
Because they help me and make me feel proud and they are kind	Because it gets me away from the house and prevents me from arguing with my sisters	Because it is fun and I really enjoy it and I make friends
It is good for The Junction to pick me up	Because I get to go to different places, get me out of the house. I meet new people	I can socialise with new people
Because I made new friends and sun fills my heart	To help me get stuff off my chest	Helps me get out and see places I wouldn't normally go to
I helps us stop worrying for a while about our Mum	Because my Dad was really poorly and I know I can tell you everything	Because they help me, and teach me new things and make me happy

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 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.

Councillor Janice Brunton Dobson
Executive Member for Education & Skills