

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
Wednesday 28th March 2018

Events & Culture

1. Successful Funding: Musinc

Over the next four years, the *musinc* project, run by Middlesbrough Council will receive more than £630,000 in funding from a national alliance led by Youth Music

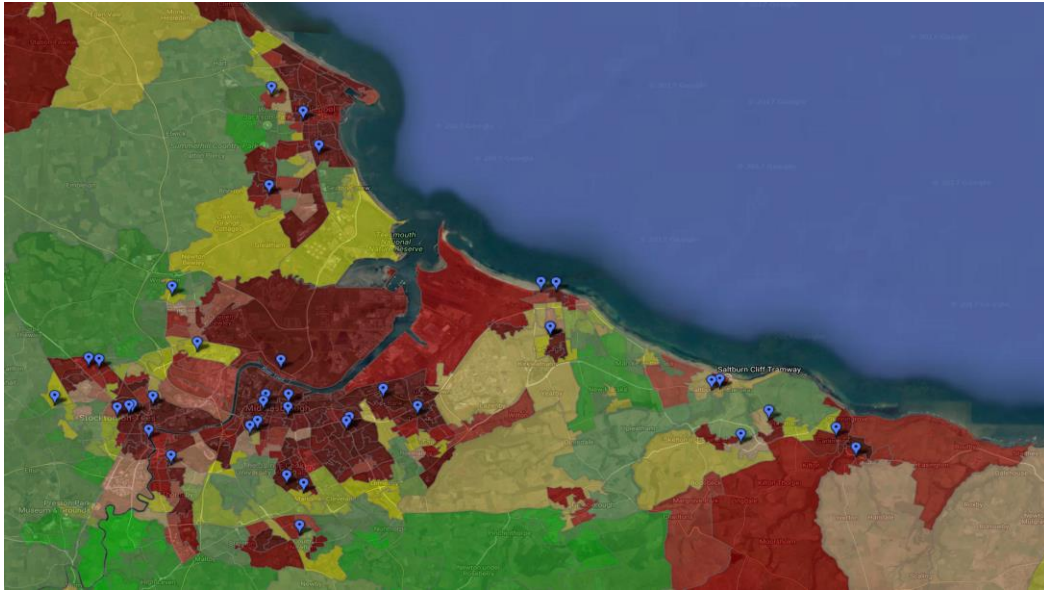
The Alliance – led by national charity Youth Music – is a collective of leading music organisations working together to promote diversity and cultural democracy in music education. Middlesbrough Council is the only local authority that is part of this collective. It aims to transform music education in England by challenging policymakers, education providers and arts organisations to ensure that all children and young people can access music-making which is suitable for their needs and relevant to their interests. This means diversifying the genres of music on offer, giving young people ownership of their musical learning, removing the structural barriers which prevent participation, and forming strong links locally, nationally and with the music industry to support future generations of musicians.

Each project is united in a common purpose to get more inclusive music-making taking place across the country by forming partnerships with local organisations and providing advice, championing the benefits of inclusive practice, and delivering activities for and with children and young people in their local area. Musinc is delivering work across the Tees Valley, led by Middlesbrough Council and will be focussing on a number of youth led music making activities, including a youth social impact fund, a young people's gathering, arts award, and performances. Musical activity is mapped against indices of multiple deprivation.

The Youth Music fund is a highly prestigious grant and we are looking forward to working with young people across the Tees Valley. This programme will be aligned with the outputs of Town Hall.



Young people playing piano and signing as part of Musinc



Musical activity (in blue) is mapped against indices of multiple deprivation (in red)

2. Successful Funding: Great Places

Middlesbrough Council is part of the Tees Valley Great Places scheme and we have secured additional funding (total funding £100,000) to pilot 'Creative Factory.'

Creative Factory responds to the sector need in Middlesbrough for active maker spaces, workshops, and creative enterprise development for artists. Working with key strategic partners, Teesside University and Navigator North, Middlesbrough Council will lead the development of a dispersed settlement, which bridges the gap between emerging artists, artists' collectives and Teesside University. Creative Factory will have a significant impact on developing the cultural infrastructure in Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley – this will be the first time that communities and the cultural sector will have access to University assets and equipment.

Creative Factory will develop the cultural infrastructure in Middlesbrough through delivering the following outputs:

- 1) Digitally mapping the assets of existing maker spaces, creative support and equipment at Teesside University and across Middlesbrough.
- 2) Creating a series of pop up Fabrication Laboratories (Fab Labs) in existing Middlesbrough Council buildings including Middlesbrough Town Hall, the Central Library, and the Dorman Museum. Labs will be accessed by artists and community members.
- 3) Providing creative enterprise mentoring to artists and creative practitioners, led by Teesside University.
- 4) Creating sector-led networking and training opportunities for artists and arts organisations, and strategic partnerships with non-arts organisations through Middlesbrough Council's Community Infrastructure Manager.

This project actively builds the relationship between Teesside University, artists, and creative practitioners in Middlesbrough, creating a stronger, more resilient cultural sector for Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley.

3. Successful Funding: Building the Cultural Infrastructure

Middlesbrough Council has worked with The Auxiliary as partners on an international artist's exchange. The Auxiliary, the organisation behind Middlesbrough Art Weekender, have created a funding bid for the Arts Council and have secured over £40,000 of support. There is an open call for 4 international artists to undertake a 6 week artist in residence programme in the Tees Valley to engage and network with local artists and students from Teesside University and Cleveland College of Art and Design. Each international artist has committed to showcasing two exhibitions to be held in Middlesbrough this year.

4. Building Team Capacity: Recruitment

Two new senior key roles have been created in Cultural Services, a Town Hall Head of Programmes, and a Museums Head of Transformation. Both roles signify a step change in the approach to culture and the ambition of the service.

5. Museums Innovation: Class in residence at the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum

Children from Lingfield Primary, Middlesbrough re-located their learning to the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum and Stewart Park for a week. Drawing on previous research of longer residencies and experience of extended visits, as part of the Museums and Schools programme, the Museum was keen to explore whether there would be demonstrable benefits for children in moving their curriculum learning to a new environment for just a single week. In particular the week focussed on communication and independent learning skills. The week was a huge success for the children and teaching staff. Parents reported remarkably high levels of motivation for learning and attending, with teachers noting a high standard of behaviour all week. Parents and teachers noted increased confidence and improved communication skills in children. In particular the teacher highlighted improved vocabulary and writing and strong retention of new knowledge and skills once back in school.



Children taking part in the 'Class in residence' programme

6. International Women's Day: 8th March.

Middlesbrough celebrated International Women's Day with three different events beginning with the Middlesbrough Libraries presentation of live and pre-recorded screenings from the British Library.

Beginning at 5pm, Harriet Harman MP, former Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and author of *A Woman's Work*, discussed 100 years of the vote for women. What has been achieved, and how much is still to be done? In conversation with Joan Bakewell.

At 18:00 it was out onto Centre Square to see the Bottle of Notes be illuminated with the colours of International Women's Day.

The colours of illumination were those used by the Women's Social and Political Union, which was led by Emmeline Pankhurst and was one of the leading groups in the suffrage movement.

The same colours were adopted by Unison who sponsored this year's lighting ceremony. June Stubbs Unison Local Government Branch Chair said: She was delighted that the Branch could contribute towards the marking of this special day.

Representatives from the Middlesbrough Labour Party Women's Forum joined Local Schools and Community groups in sharing a moment and saying a few words about what international women's day means to them.

At 7pm it was back into the warmth of the library, to hear leading women's rights campaigner, Helen Pankhurst, great-granddaughter of suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst, Jill Liddington and Robert Wainwright discuss the struggle for the vote and ask how far women have come since the suffragettes, how far they still have to go and how they will get there.

7. Middlesbrough Mela: 11th 12th August 2018

Work has begun to plan this year's Mela – a new executive committee has been formed with some old and new faces stepping forward to help drive the event.

For the first time in 6 years, the event is planned to be delivered in Albert Park – many things have led to the decision to move the event back to the park for a one year special and the committee is overwhelmed with the positive reaction to this decision. The park, despite not being the place of the event's birth, is seen as its historical home - so it seems fortuitous that the Mela is returning to the park on the weekend of its 150th birthday. Albert Park will celebrate its birthday with a very special sporting spectacular on Saturday 11th August.

8. Local History Month: May 2018

The collection of walks, talks, tours and exhibitions will feature some old favourites and some new and exciting additions. Highlights of this year's program include - The Empire theatre tour with time traveller Martin Peagam, The Mystery history bus tour with The 500s club and lots of new and exciting events showcasing the fabulous new spaces in the Town Hall.

The programme is put together with the support of many different venues, community groups and passionate individuals.

The Programme of events is being sponsored by Aging Better Middlesbrough who will be delivering two events as part of this year's program.

Stronger Communities

9. Place based approach to resettlement and asylum – Home Office and Local Authority pilot

At the beginning of 2017 the Home Office sought to develop a more joined-up coherent conversation on asylum and refugee matters with local authorities by creating a new directorate bringing together the delivery of the UK's asylum support system (i.e. accommodating and supporting asylum seekers, providing integration loans, the operation of the national scheme for unaccompanied children) and refugee resettlement programmes such as those supported refugees from Syrian together into one place.

The Home Office has been considering its next steps to move this approach forward with a small number of local authorities across the country, around the concept of adopting a place based approach. This approach would seek to promote a greater partnership with local authorities and enable the Home Office to better understand how their systems and processes interact with local services.

The Home Office has approached Middlesbrough and a handful of other local authorities nationally, to explore piloting this approach to develop how central, local and devolved governments, as well as civil society could be working more closely together to improve the management of newcomers into places.

The types of issues that local authorities have identified through early conversations are:

- Improved data sharing.
- More joint planning.
- Ensuring Home Office processes and systems complement rather than conflict with local service provision.

The pilot will provide a space to examine what changes might mean in practice and develop a series of recommendations.

The work is intended to be collaborative in its way of working over the first half of 2018/19. Pilots have been focussed initially on places with potential for the most impact; building a closer and more strategic relationship. Participation at the pilot stage will enable Middlesbrough to influence and shape how the approach emerges nationally.

How will it work?

- A Single Point of Contact (SPOC) will be provided from the Home Office to work intensively with Middlesbrough Council teams and other local partners as well as key Home Office staff to explore if there are ways to work better together.
- The SPOC will draw on knowledge and expertise from across the Home Office.
- A Governance arrangement will be established which will support existing work on the Controlling Migration Fund projects and provide an outlet for early wins and

outcomes from these projects as well as effective internal management. This will involve key representation from council services.

- A number of bi-lateral meetings will be held involving key players leading to a workshop with the expectation that the Home Office, Middlesbrough Council and partners will jointly agree actions and next steps/recommendations.
- As the local impact and solutions extend beyond immigration control and local authority remit, other key government departments and their local delivery organisations will need to be involved such as Department of Work and Pensions, Health and Police so a whole-system approach can be developed across the range of social policy factors.

The North East Migration Partnership (NEMP) will lead on the initial stages and provide the SPOC for Middlesbrough Council working closely with the Head of Stronger Communities. The Home Office has committed that where change is possible within economic, commercial and political constraints then it will work closely to address the outcomes of the pilot.

Middlesbrough Council is expecting a formal invitation to join the pilot this month and this work will be developed jointly and form a key component to developing social regeneration conversations with key agencies on areas where the council wishes to build its understanding and influence.

10. Care and Support for Homeless

A warm bed and a roof over head was made available for all in Middlesbrough as the “Beast from the East” cold weather snap took hold. All rough sleepers referred to the homeless team via Middlesbrough’s Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) were placed in bed and breakfast or other temporary accommodation over the recent period of severe weather. These individuals are also being supported to help them find suitable longer term accommodation and help with any other complex issues they may have.

11. Integrated Community Safety and Prevention Approach

A pilot project helping some of the most vulnerable people in Middlesbrough change their lives for the better will be rolled out across the town.

In September last year Middlesbrough Council and Cleveland Police began working jointly on an intensive approach to support those in the town centre who have serious personal issues to address and who cause issues for others.

Since then, the impact of the work has been significant with the team assisting a number of individuals, helping people to find a place to live, help with benefit entitlements, support for drug and alcohol dependency and other medical issues.

Here are a few examples:

Example 1) *X was rough sleeping in Middlesbrough for over a year after things went wrong in his personal life. To help him cope, he started drinking heavily. He was not in receipt of any benefits so started to beg and rummage through bins for food. He suffered with anxiety whilst sleeping rough and was assaulted a few times. What little belongings he had were stolen, making his anxiety much worse. X told the multi-agency team that during this time he didn’t trust any agency.*

X started to work with the team in December 2017, after a member of the team approached him on the streets. The Councils Homeless Team were contacted and he was offered emergency accommodation. The team accompanied X to the property to meet the landlord and he was happy to stay in the temporary accommodation offer.

*He has been working with the team since then and is contacted on a daily basis. He now has all of his benefits in place and has since transferred to another property and is working with a local support group. X has advised officers that knowing he has a bed to sleep in each night has reduced his anxiety significantly. He told the team **“I’m much happier in myself, more confident and am proud that I have been able to reduce the amount of alcohol I am drinking. What about my future? I am dreaming about having my own place with my own things around me. I want to see myself as ‘normal’ like I see other people. I am confident that with help and support I’ll get this one day”.***

Case Study 2) *X was homeless, sleeping on the street and begging in the Town Centre, he was a drug user and wasn’t engaging with any services. He had benefits in place however couldn’t access them as he didn’t have a fixed address for the bank card to be sent out to. X struggled to gain housing in Middlesbrough as he had “burnt his bridges” with most landlords.*

The team started to engage with X and he was housed in temporary accommodation, with continued support from the team X continued his engagement and was offered a more permanent address. He is now attending all of his Probation appointments and is also in receipt of Housing Benefit. He has held down his tenancy and pays his rent top up and he now has a bank card and can therefore easily access his benefits.

The team organised an assessment with drug treatment services and supported X who is now on a drug treatment programme. X states he hasn’t used drugs since he started the programme and is now feeling much healthier. The team have also arranged for him to attend a support group once a week.

With continued support X now feels ready to start looking for a permanent tenancy and he has asked the team if they can also help him look at his mental health once he has settled.

*X told the team **“Thanks, I wouldn’t have been here if it was left to me, so thanks very much it means a lot”.** **“I wouldn’t have known where to start without your support”***

12. Selective Landlord Licensing

North Ormesby’s Selective Landlord Licensing scheme is continuing to make a positive impact on the community – both through improving housing standards and through the early help work it enables.

During a tenancy inspection visit with a landlord, it was identified that the tenant was struggling with their mental health due to spiralling debts. Whilst at the property a debt enforcement agency arrived to reclaim goods to the value of the debt. Both the Council officer and landlord negotiated on the tenant’s behalf, providing evidence that the property was a furnished tenancy and that their only belongings were, clothing and toiletries. The officer arranged an appointment for the tenant to attend Citizens Advice and also made a

referral to Firmer Foundations (mental health support). During the Citizens Advice appointment the tenant disclosed significant debts therefore a Debt Relief Order was applied for and a food bank voucher was issued. The tenant has now applied for benefits and is receiving the much needed support required.

On another occasion staff within the selective landlord licensing team were contacted by a managing agent in North Ormesby asking if they could offer support to one of their tenants who was struggling financially. The tenant explained that she was working part time and earning £120 a week but had to pay £115 a week in rent. The tenant explained that as a result, she was suffering from anxiety and depression. She also divulged that she had been in a violent relationship previously, which had not been addressed. Officers advised the tenant to make an appointment with her GP, whereby she was issued a doctor's note declaring her unfit to work. Referrals were made to Firmer Foundations (Mental Health support) and My Sisters Place. Staff also helped the tenant set up a Compass account so that she could bid on more affordable properties and also signposted her to the Homeless Team. The tenant was supported to move in to 'move in move out' supported living. The tenancy relations officer has received an update from the tenant to say she is now receiving ESA, counselling for DV and is happy in her supported living accommodation which is helping her with budgeting skills. The managing agent showed responsibility by asking the Selective Landlord Licensing team to support this tenant and by waiving the six month tenancy agreement she had entered into.

13. Retail Crime

Support to reduce shop theft is continuing with a combination of enforcement and supportive interventions expanding to five East Middlesbrough and Newport stores. An additional area of focus has been the development of two specific training packages for shop staff to help train them to reduce stock loss utilising the retail crime partnership deter system. The products were so positively received, Cleveland Police have adopted the preventing stock loss presentation into their education resources across the force area.

14. Antisocial Behaviour at Berwick Hills and Pallister Park

A mobile CCTV camera has been installed at Berwick Hills shops and this is being monitored by the Councils CCTV team and the Wardens and Neighbourhood Police Teams have been visiting the location and speaking to business. The Neighbourhood Safety Officer has been liaising with schools in the area regarding education around antisocial behaviour and full school assemblies are being arranged. This will be followed up by letters to parents.

15. Building Stronger Britain Together (BSBT) Grant applications

The Community Co-ordinator has been supporting organisations to make grant applications to the BSBT Grant Fund. Ten bids have been submitted from a diverse range of organisations including; Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation, Halo Project, Tees Valley Arts, Trans Aware, The Aapna Project, Streets Ahead, Media Cultured, Breckon Hill Community Project and Justice First.

16. Antisocial Behaviour in Newport Ward

A multi-agency meeting has been held to increase and encourage resident reporting and create an action plan to tackle various issues around the Outram Street area of Middlesbrough.

A residents meeting was held after numerous reports of antisocial behaviour from properties in the Portman Street area. Police colleagues also attended the meeting and several joint visits were conducted to properties identified, this resulted in enforcement action and referrals to appropriate support services.

17. Antisocial Behaviour in Hemlington

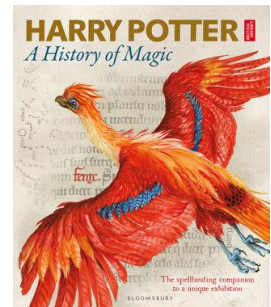
Ongoing enforcement of antisocial behaviour in Hemlington is in the process of reaching a positive conclusion, with a core group of 5 prolific perpetrators identified. A multi-agency group has been convened to manage the issues. Four perpetrators have been issued with final warnings and a Civil Injunction is being considered against the fifth individual.

18. Antisocial Behaviour / Drug Related Activity in Grove Hill

Following a positive drugs raid in January 2018 The Neighbourhood Safety Officer attended an address with police immediately after the raid. The landlord has served a Section 21 notice and staff are working with him to ensure the Notice is enforced. The residents of the area have expressed gratitude and satisfaction with the outcome.

19. Harry Potter: A History of Magic exhibition

Over 7,800 visitors have enjoyed the Harry Potter: A History of Magic exhibition held at Central Library between 20th October 2017 and 28th February 2018. The exhibition featured panels based on the British Library's exhibition with original manuscripts from JK Rowling and facsimiles of British Library artefacts as well as material curated by Dorman Museum relating to Harry's adventures. Standout events related to the exhibition include a series of live screened lectures from the British Library, a Harry Potter quiz for adults and around 350 people attending the annual Harry Potter Book Night to enjoy magic shows, fantastic beasts and crafts.



Comments from attendees include: 'Excellent exhibition – lots of fun facts and the kids enjoyed the activities'

"Absolutely loved it – I thought I knew everything about Harry Potter until I came here"

"Fab exhibition. The kids loved it. Please bring more things like this to Teesside"

"Just popped in and what a great exhibition. Really livens up the library and takes things in a whole new dimension"

20. Dementia Cafes

The service has started new cafes at Hemlington and Easterside. Following a slow start, numbers are growing as word spreads. Café attendees enjoyed sessions with Lego. Central Library café was well attended in February. For the first time, a number of those attending, informed us that the café had been recommended by their GP.



21. Community Hub Refurbishments

Refurbishment works at Acklam Hub are now completed. The programme of works has involved updating the facilities and the addition of a small meeting room, perfect for 1-1 meeting and advice sessions. An open day on Friday 9th March has showcased the refurbished hub. Marton Community Centre is also undergoing refurbishment with a view to re-opening in late Spring 2018.

22. My Place

My Place have been working with The Goethe-Institute, the German Institute of Communities and Culture who invited the German rapper CHEFKET to the UK with stops in London, Ipswich, Hull, Whitby and My Place Young People's Centre. The concert and workshop gave young people the opportunity to learn about the German culture and language. Chefket's songs engage young people with issues such as everyday school life, first love and their future; his songs also focus on German society and culture. The workshop, held in German, gave insight into the life of a rapper and the art of rapping, as well as the roles of the entire band including what it is like to be a technician, singer or DJ. After the event the Goethe were so pleased with the interaction between staff and young people they have invited the team to London to look at further ways we can work together to introduce more activities which will join our communities together.

Also in February, Young People from My Place attended the the Big Music Project Live in Manchester, where Middlesbrough's youngsters teamed up with Myplace Chesterfield to perform 'Don't Look Back In Anger' by Oasis. This ended the day on a great note as young people from youth centres from across the country all joined in. The young people took part in hip hop dance, rap and DJ workshops. They also had the opportunity to have a Q & A with many talented people from the music industry.



23. North Ormesby Hub

A week of activity aimed at preventing loan sharks proved popular at North Ormesby Hub with agencies interacting very well. The Credit Union signed up 15 new savers. The Mayor and the Police Commissioner signed the Charter along with all of the other agencies that were present.

