

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 15 March 2019

Adult Social Care

Occupational Therapy

1. A joint presentation was completed 31.01.19 by Rosalind Grainger Social Worker, Ongoing Interventions Team and Debbie Rowden, Occupational Therapist to a Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group to provide information about the services available from Middlesbrough Social Care. This demonstrated the close working relationship between teams, the difference between the roles and some of the overlaps.
2. The presentation included eligibility criteria, how to make a referral, what assessments include and the services available, (both financially assessed and provided free of charge), other useful contacts and ongoing referrals. This demonstrated promoting both of the professions, services and working with community groups.
3. The feedback provided by those attending was very positive as noted below:-
 - 100% of respondents stated that the Quality of the information was of high benefit.
 - 90% of respondents rated the relevance of the information was of high or very high benefit to them and
 - 90% of respondents rated the information provided about both the Occupational Therapy services and Social Work services increased their knowledge of the services.

Community Inclusion Service (CIS) – Cumberland and Pavillion

4. Both Cumberland Resource Centre and the Pavillion, Albert park are both shortly to have their Wifi links up and operational. This will be a great help towards the work we are looking to develop during 2019 with our technology developments. Besides the imminent launch of our facebook page we are wanting to deliver our service users reviews through I Portal / computer /big screen formats thus showcasing what individuals have achieved and are undertaking through more person centred visual profiles . We are wanting to deliver a learning and development pathway through using mobile tablets /apps and open up access to the wider world and use of social media. Within all aspects we will ensure that appropriate information governance safeguards and support are in place.

Independent Living Centre – Blue Badge scheme

5. Two Blue badge system pilot schemes that have been in place recently around the new blue badge systems that co-ordinate the blue badge on line and badge release processes have been completed for DFT and Northgate. The new system went live on February 5th 2019. The new systems intention is to streamline and simplify the whole process from application to issuing of the blue badge. The ILC will be more heavily involved in co-ordinating and monitoring the whole process, including continuing with the physical assessment processes. The changes will help alleviate the different processes that have previously existed around the old system.

6. Work also remains ongoing around what assessment process (not just physical) would be needed around the added changes for the Blue Badge scheme in April 2019 when it is opened up to people with Learning Disabilities , Hidden Disabilities (Re: Autism and Dementia) and people with Mental Health issues .

North Ormesby Resource Centre- Internal refurbishment

7. All being well the North Ormesby Resource Centre is due to have some internal refurbishment work carried out in the summer. This will include replacement of the single glazed windows, a revamped main kitchen, a new reception area and the lowering of a suspended ceiling in the main community room. The work will greatly enhance the building and provide improved facilities and amenities for older people. As a result the service itself will be temporarily moving to MICC while the work is carried out.

Public Health

Period Poverty Update

8. The term period poverty relates to when women and girls are unable to, or struggle to, pay for basic sanitary products. Awareness of period poverty has risen over recent months, with national campaigns demonstrating the impact that period poverty can have on the health, hygiene and wellbeing of women and girls who are unable to afford basic sanitary products. Work is progressing in Middlesbrough to offer support to address period poverty within the town by working in partnership with external and internal partners to make a positive impact on this issue.

9. Progress completed to date in Middlesbrough includes :

10. **Working with the Red Box Scheme:** The Red Box scheme is a national community project led by volunteers to assist with period poverty within schools and colleges. The project works by locating red donation boxes in businesses/venues that agree to support the programme, where donations of sanitary products can be collected. The volunteers then distribute the products received to local schools and colleges for free use by girls needing products. Meeting have been held with the local representative and Cllrs Rooney and Rostron to see what practical assistance we can offer to this volunteer programme, resulting in the following:

- Council premises as donation points: We would like appropriate Council premises to act as red box donation and/or collection points, so that products can continue to be donated and supplied to girls and women who need them.
- Assistance with transport and storage of products: The Council's courier system has agreed to pick up sanitary donations from Council premises involved the scheme, and drop off at donation points that are already on their courier rota. Storage of products may be available at the Cargo Fleet stores (this has now been confirmed)
- Promotion to Schools: Following a poor response from schools to contact by the Red Box volunteers, we are encouraging more schools to get involved in the scheme to access the free products available and make them more accessible to girls at school.
- Community Chest Fund: Red Box are completing an application to the Community Chest fund to access additional funds to support the programme.

11. Funding: Public Health are now able to offer a small pocket of funding to front-load the Red Box programme as it develops. This will be used to purchase red boxes, promote the programme, and purchase products for distribution as awareness increases. An update paper is being taken to the South Tees Health & Wellbeing Board in January 2019.
12. MBC wrote to the Secretary of State in June 2018 asking him to consider a sustained, national approach to address period poverty, including abolishing tax on sanitary products. A response to this letter has not been received, so a further letter has been sent in January requesting a response to our correspondence.
13. We are continuing to raise awareness of period poverty with wider partners including workplaces, unions and pharmacies and aim to achieve an article in the next Love Middlesbrough magazine.

Public Protection

Food premises prosecutions for serious hygiene failures

14. Environmental Health Officers team are continuing to carry out inspections of food premises, provide advice and support and respond to complaints from the public about hygiene standards. Most food businesses have excellent hygiene standards however a small number are found to be operating in poor hygiene conditions. In most cases the decision to take legal action is taken when conditions are found to be extremely poor, food safety is put at risk and there is no confidence in the management of the business. Three prosecutions of food businesses have recently been concluded:

- Mr Daniel Wilkinson, the owner of a catering premises trading as Sundays on Cargo Fleet Lane pleaded guilty and was fined £1,000 and was also ordered to pay £500 in costs and a £100 victim surcharge following three visits to the premises in December 2017, February and August 2018 which identified unacceptable risks to food safety.
- Mr Dana Soliq Mustafa, the owner of Restaurant Marmaris Shawarma, Parliament Road, Middlesbrough was fined £432 and ordered to pay £200 towards the Council's costs, plus a £43 victim surcharge. After advice from his legal representative, Mr Mustafa changed his plea to guilty for five food hygiene offences. Mr Mustafa was out of the country when the poor standards were found in his business - this case is important to demonstrate that owners are still responsible for their food business even if they are temporarily absent.
- Mr Jabar Mohammed Hussain, the owner of Boro Parade, a retail shop at 128 Parliament Road, Middlesbrough, pleaded guilty to food hygiene offences. He was fined £560 and ordered to pay £56 victim surcharge and costs of £547. Environmental Health Officers found evidence of a widespread mouse infestation and foods were found contaminated with mouse droppings.

Using social media to promote and support food businesses in Middlesbrough

15. Officers in the Public Protection team have been regularly "Tweeting" positive messages about food safety and other Environmental Health matters on the Council's Twitter page. Tweets have been posted about current food related matters and to promote 4 and 5 Hygiene Rated Chinese restaurants and takeaways to coincide with Chinese New Year celebrations. Officers have also started Tweeting to recognise businesses that have been awarded a 5 hygiene rating, which is the highest standard and well deserved recognition.

Improving information on allergens for consumers in catering premises

16. Environmental Health and Trading Standards Officers are carrying out work to protect consumers with food allergies from the potential risks when eating out at catering premises in Middlesbrough.
17. All fast food takeaways in the town have received practical advice and toolkits on allergens and how to make sure the food they sell is safe. Officers are now carrying out sampling of foods which will be tested for food allergens. The results of this sampling will be used to educate and raise awareness in food businesses about the risks of allergens in food they sell.

Councillor Julia Rostron
Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health