

Children's Services Executive Member Report to Council 4th September 2019

PERFORMANCE

Children in Need @ 18/08/2019	1846
Children subject to a Child Protection Plan @ 18/08/2019	296
Children Looked After @ 18/08/2019	552
Care Leavers in receipt of Leaving Care Services @ 18/08/2019	154

- 1 Following Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection of South Tees Youth Offending Service (STYOS) in April 2019, STYOS were required to develop an action plan in response to the recommendations. The action plan was submitted in June and HMIP have subsequently endorsed the plan. Significant progress has already been made. HMIP will require an update against the plan in 12 months' time to ensure the recommendations have been fully implemented.

Progress against Strategic Plan and Directorate priorities

- 2 Continue work with our partners to deliver the adverse childhood experiences project, to prevent the damaging impact of such experiences on children's lives:

The Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) project was commissioned by the Children's Trust Board, and the multi-agency 'Family Roots' team remains in place working across two schools in Middlesbrough offering support and intervention to families. This pilot is in its infancy and progress on this project is reported in to the Children's Trust Board as a standard agenda item.

- 3 Develop and deliver a new South Tees Local Safeguarding Arrangement with statutory partners:

From September 2019 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's) cease to be the mechanism for multi-agency safeguarding. 'Safeguarding partner' arrangements, comprising of three key agencies (local authorities, health and police) will replace LSCB's and Middlesbrough and Redcar will join together to have 'south tees' safeguarding arrangements going forwards, with Middlesbrough being the host authority. A prospectus was submitted to the Secretary of State in June outlining our new arrangements which has been accepted. An implementation plan with key milestones is in place to ensure a smooth transition. The arrangements will be reviewed after one year.

- 4 Improve the quality of social work practice, to improve outcomes for children and families:

Quality assurance work within the service is evidencing clear improvements over time with some strong child centered practice being demonstrated and also strong partnership working with Health and Education colleagues. Over the next few months we will focus on consistency of practice and ensuring that planning for children is of a high quality.
- 5 Deliver edge of care, increased residential and in-house fostering provision in Middlesbrough to meet the needs of children and families.
- 6 Work continues at pace on Middlesbrough's role as a trailblazer for the 'No Wrong Door' model. On 31st July the Department for Education Strengthening Families Project Board agreed to fund our partnership working with North Yorkshire County Council with funding of over £1.5m over three years. A detailed project plan is scheduled to be submitted by the end of August to the Department for Education setting milestones for progress and detailed estimates for resource requirements. There has been progress on identifying appropriate premises for the Hub and proposals were discussed in detail with senior officials from the Department of Education when they visited Middlesbrough on the 15th August. Representatives of North Yorkshire County Council will be in attendance at the Corporate Parenting Board on the 11th September to provide further information about the model and the benefits of its implementation in Middlesbrough.
- 7 We have been successful in a bid for funding to the Department for Education. The funding will allow us to extend and further develop our Family Group Conferencing offer to families. Family Group Conferencing is a process lead by families to plan and make decisions about a child who is at risk. The process has been very successful across the world in enabling families to stay together.
- 8 Create a Youth Parliament to give young people a greater say in the development of services and outcomes.
- 9 A timetable has been produced for the election of a Member of the Youth Parliament for Middlesbrough and to then work with the successful candidate to develop a strong Youth Council for the town. Engagement will take place with schools, youth groups and national organisations over the next few months with the election taking place in January 2020. By February 2020 a pilot Youth Council will be in place which will be evaluated in consultation with young people in Middlesbrough with the aim of the full Youth Council being in operation by July 2020.

Progress against approved savings plans

- 10 Progress is being monitored against the departments approved savings plans and mitigations are being put in place to replace savings that are delayed.

**Councillor Barrie Cooper
Executive Member for Children's Services**