

THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 7 October 2025

Dear Member

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 2025

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 15th October, 2025** at **7.00 pm** in the Council Chamber to transact the following business, namely:-

1. Welcome and Fire Evacuation Procedure

In the event the fire alarm sounds attendees will be advised to evacuate the building via the nearest fire exit and assemble at the Bottle of Notes opposite MIMA.

2. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest

4. Minutes - Council - 10 September 2025

5 - 12

To receive the minutes of the last meeting

5. Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Council or the Chief Executive

6. Mayor's Report

13 - 18

To receive a written update from the Mayor, and deal with questions and answers arising therefrom

7. Executive Member Updates

19 - 74

To receive written updates from Executive Members, and deal with questions and answers arising therefrom

8. Questions from Members of the Public (if any)
To receive questions from members of the public
9. Petitions (if any)
To receive petitions
10. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board 75 - 82
To receive the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board
11. Local Plan Examination Modifications - Delegated Authority 83 - 92
Report for decision
12. South Tees Youth Justice Service Plan 2025-2026 93 - 152
Report for decision
13. Revised Political Balance 153 - 160
Report for decision
14. Annual Report of the Audit Committee 161 - 176
Report for noting
15. Update on Urgent Decisions (if any)
To receive a report on any urgent decisions taken since the last Council meeting
16. Members' Questions on Notice (if any)
To receive questions on notice from Members
17. Motions on Notice (if any)
To consider any motions on notice
18. Urgent Motions on Notice (if any)
To consider any urgent motions on notice



Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS RESTRICTED
DISABLED ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Inspection of Papers – Documents referred to on this Summons may be inspected between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm Monday to Friday at the Town Hall, Middlesbrough. Copies may also be downloaded from the Council's Website.

Questions / Motions – Details of questions or notices of motion received and not enclosed with the Summons will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Should you have any queries in regard to the items on this agenda please contact Sue Lightwing/Scott Bonner, Democratic Services on (Direct Line 01642 729712/729708 or e-mail on: sue_lightwing@middlesbrough.gov.uk/scott_bonner@middlesbrough.gov.uk.

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Website: www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

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COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday, 10 September 2025.

PRESENT: Councillors J Banks (Chair), J Kabuye (Vice-Chair), I Blades, E Clynch, Mayor C Cooke, J Cooke, D Coupe, D Davison, J Ewan, T Furness, L Henman, L Hurst, D Jackson, L Lewis, L Mason, D McCabe, M McClintock, J McConnell, J McTigue, T Mohan, I Morrish, J Nicholson, M Nugent, J Platt, S Platt, A Romaine, J Rostron, J Ryles, M Smiles, P Storey, J Thompson, S Tranter, Z Uddin, N Walker, G Wilson, J Young and L Young.

OFFICERS: C Benjamin, B Carr, T Frankland, A Glover, L Grabham, A Humble, R Johansson, C Jones, C Lunn, J McNally, E Scollay, K Whitmore and A Wilson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors D Branson, C Cooper, P Gavigan, S Hill, B Hubbard, N Hussain, T Livingstone and M Saunders.

25/38 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and read out the Fire Evacuation Procedure.

25/39 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

MEMBER	TYPE OF INTEREST	ITEM/NATURE OF INTEREST
Councillor M McClintock	Non-Pecuniary	Item 15 – a former colleague was a Member of the Independent Remuneration Panel; however, there had been no communications in respect of this matter.
Councillor L Young	Non-Pecuniary	Item 13 - employed as an Education Campaigns Manager for a national charity.

25/40 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 9 AND 16 JULY 2025**

The minutes of the Council meetings held on 9 July and 16 July 2025 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

25/41 **SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 4.13.2 - ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chair proposed a motion without notice to change the order of business in the agenda of the meeting in accordance with the Constitution paragraph 4.30.1 (c). The motion was seconded by the Mayor.

On a vote being taken, the motion was declared **CARRIED**.

ORDERED that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 4.57, Council agreed to vary the order of business to deal with the items in the following order: Agenda Item 13, Agenda Items 5 - 12, and Agenda Items 14 - 16.

25/42 **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

Motion No. 175

The Chair advised this item had been withdrawn.

Motion No. 176

The Chair advised this item had been withdrawn.

Motion No. 178

Consideration was given to Motion No. 178 moved by Councillor McTigue and seconded by Councillor S Platt of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

“This Council resolves to:

Write to the government requesting it to carry out an urgent review of home schooling to ensure that:-

1. Any child so educated, receives a minimum level of education comparable with that which the child could have otherwise received, had the child been educated at an Ofsted inspected school.
2. Adequate child protection procedures are in place to ensure, so far as possible, that the child is safe and free from potential harm.
3. Ofsted has a requirement, to carry out inspections to assess the quality of education, care and training, to ensure that the parent, or whoever is providing the education, meet the required standards.
4. Public bodies such as the police and social services have a statutory right of access to ensure the safety and/or protection of the child.”

Councillor McTigue spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor S Platt spoke in support of the motion.

The Chair invited Members to speak to the motion.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor L Young declared a non-pecuniary interest, owing to being employed as an Education Campaigns Manager for a national charity. Councillor Young referenced the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill that was currently in the House of Lords and spoke in support of both the Bill and the motion under consideration.

Councillors Henman, McTigue and Smiles spoke in respect of the motion. Consideration was given to the number of home educated children in Middlesbrough; the safeguarding and authoritative arrangements that the Council currently had in place; and the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill.

On a vote being taken the motion was **CARRIED**.

Motion No. 177

Consideration was given to Motion No. 177 moved by Councillor J Platt and seconded by Councillor Storey of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

“Motion on the introduction of a Sports Persons Honours Board in Middlesbrough

This Council notes:

- Middlesbrough has produced a remarkable number of elite athletes across a wide range of sports, who have represented England at a senior level, including but not limited to:
 - Football: Brian Clough, Don Revie, Alan Peacock, Jonathan Woodgate, Stewart Downing
 - Rugby: Alan Old
 - Cricket: Chris Old, Bill Athey, Liam Plunkett
 - Athletics: Chris Tomlinson, Richard Kilty
 - Table Tennis: Carol Knight, Paul Drinkhall, Dennis Neale

- That these sportsmen and woman should have their outstanding achievements of representing England at senior level in their respective sports formally recognised.
- That the Council agrees in principle to commission and fund the creation of a permanent Honours Board listing the names of these individuals, and any others identified. Costs to be identified.
- That the Honours Board will be installed in a prominent location within Middlesbrough Town Centre, ensuring visibility and accessibility to residents and visitors alike.
- That the Council consults with local historians, sports organisations, and community groups to compile a comprehensive and accurate list of qualifying individuals. The lead in liaising with the bodies and agreeing the initial list for the honours board will be Councillor Jim Platt.

This Council resolves to:

Formally recognise the outstanding achievements of sportsmen and sportswomen born in Middlesbrough who have represented England at senior level in their respective disciplines since the end of the Second World War.

This will be by way of the introduction of a Sports Persons Honours Board which will serve as a public tribute to the town's sporting heritage, celebrating the talent and dedication of those who have brought national pride through their representation of England.

These individuals exemplify Middlesbrough's rich sporting legacy and a dedicated Honours Board would not only celebrate their achievements but also inspire future generations."

Councillor J Platt spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Storey spoke in support of the motion.

The Chair invited Members to speak to the motion.

Councillor McTigue spoke in support of the motion.

On a vote being taken the motion was **CARRIED**.

25/43 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no Announcements or Communications for this meeting.

25/44 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (IF ANY).**

There were no valid questions submitted from members of the public, within the required timescale for this meeting.

25/45 **TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY (TVCA) UPDATE**

The Mayor advised that Agenda Items 7 ('Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) - Update') and 8 (Mayor's Statement and Report) would be considered concurrently; the following updates were provided:

- The Mayor had recently acquired the Finance portfolio and would ensure that all monies available to the town were secured to enable it to thrive.
- Work on the improvement plan continued, the outcome of which would be published in due course.
- Talks were continuing with the TVCA in respect of the Transporter Bridge, its infrastructure and heritage.
- In relation to environmental standards, it was hoped that additional Neighbourhood Caretakers would be employed soon.
- Regarding the Local Government Finance Settlement, a significant amount of lobbying had taken place to achieve the best possible result. The initial forecast was

not being taken as certain; the final allocation was awaited.

- IRIS, a specialist domestic violence and abuse programme, would be funded through the Middlesbrough Initiatives Fund. As part of the programme, a Domestic Abuse Coordinator would be appointed; enhanced grants would be available to schools on an application basis; a needs programme would be established; and a financial programme created.

A Member congratulated the Community Caretakers team in South Middlesbrough, as well as the wider Area Care teams, for the excellent work undertaken and positive feedback received from residents. A further Member supported this, whilst also expressing thanks to the Mayor for undertaking a ward walkabout. The matter of co-ordinating caretaking activities with other volunteer group activities was also raised. In responding to these comments, the Mayor highlighted the importance of environmental standards to all residents across Middlesbrough. It was noted that the Community Caretakers were a resource for the whole town, and investment in environment services was crucial to everyone.

A Member referred to individuals litter picking in their own time and queried whether litter picking equipment could be provided upon request. In response, the Mayor indicated that equipment would be made available; Newport Hub currently had some in stock. An upcoming report would include further information regarding a Neighbourhood Model and the utilisation of Community Hubs.

Members raised several queries, as follows:

- Reference was made to the national interest in immigration matters and a query raised around the use of hotels for housing asylum seekers. In response, the Mayor indicated that no hotels in Middlesbrough would be used for this purpose; an agreement had been made with government for a pause in the number of asylum seekers for this region. The Mayor referred to untrue rumours currently being circulated, and the need to be mindful of misinformation.
- Reference was made to Linthorpe Road cycle lane and a query raised regarding the timescale for removal. In response, the Mayor explained that the timescale was contractor based; Linthorpe Road would not need to be closed during the works, which was positive. Following a subsequent enquiry from the Member, the Mayor indicated that the proposed one-year timescale for removal of the cycle lane was acceptable, as the road would remain open throughout.
- Reference was made to the recent announcement of Town Guards and a request made for an update. In response, the Mayor explained that this was a Council proposal and in the early stages; the announcement was unplanned. The guards would not surpass the role/duties of the Police. The Mayor clarified that the Police and Crime Commissioner had secured four additional Town Centre officers to commence at the end of the year.
- A Member referred to asylum seekers and commented that, as human beings, asylum seekers had a right/need to be here and it was the Council's responsibility to look after those being persecuted. The Mayor agreed with this point and highlighted the importance of balancing numbers with the respect and treatment that asylum seekers deserved. Reference was made to the need for fair funding and ensuring that Middlesbrough was resourced sufficiently to help everyone.

NOTED

25/46 MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT

As per Minute No. 25/45.

25/47 EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability.

Councillor Wilson agreed to email her question to the Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability.

Question in relation to the Report of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture.

Councillor Wilson on Changes to School Uniform.

The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture explained that Academies had control over their own uniform policies. New legislation would be introduced in 2026 which would have some impact, but in cases such as specific trouser style, there was nothing that the Council could do.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Children's Services.

Councillor Clynch on Joe Tynan.

The Executive Member supported Councillor Clynch's message of thanks to Joe Tynan for the work undertaken during his two years at Middlesbrough Council, and wished to place a note of his gratitude on formal record. A new permanent Executive Director of Children's Services would be commencing in post in the near future.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Development.

Councillor McCabe on HMO Article 4 Direction – 6 Months On.

The Executive Member explained that there were approximately 280 HMOs with over five occupants currently in Middlesbrough. 18 applications were currently being processed: 11 had been accepted; seven were being considered. Applications for HMOs could not be determined by officers if any objections had been received - those would be a matter for the Planning and Development Committee.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Finance.

Councillor Morrish on Budget Forecast Year-End Outturn Position at Quarter One 2025/26.

The Executive Member explained that transparency in relation to budget-related matters is provided at every quarterly meeting. Reference was made to the budget monitoring process and the importance of recognising and addressing emerging issues to meet budget projections/expectations at year-end. Efforts had been made to rebuild the number of usable reserves, which had depleted by 75% from £16m down to £4m.

The Executive Member advised that a Members' briefing would be scheduled in respect of Children's Services. Reference was made to the provision of a range of other Council services, including youth provision, environmental and ward services, in relation to the current budget position.

Questions in relation to the Report of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture.

Councillors Wilson's enquiry related to Exclusions and Suspensions.

Councillor Thompson on Exclusions.

Councillor Uddin on Exclusions.

The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture explained that the Council could not force Academies to have a specific uniform code, but Academies needed to remain mindful of the reasons for excluding children from school.

23 Alternative Provision (AP) providers were on an Approved Tees Valley AP Framework. Of those 23, Middlesbrough Council currently used 7 of them.

Rather than a Pupil Referral Unit in Middlesbrough, there was the River Tees Multi Academy Trust (RTMAT), which acted in a similar capacity and were commissioned by day six following a permanent exclusion.

During the last financial year, the Council spent £5.369m on AP, which was an average of £23,000 per child.

Reference was made to impending legislation, i.e. the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill, and the potential impact that this could have on this area of concern.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Children's Services.

Councillor Uddin on Fir Tree.

The Executive Member commented that working on the frontline of Children's Services was not easy and that those staff had excelled on the improvement journey. Work was currently taking place to determine how children's homes could be best utilised to provide the best offer for children in Middlesbrough.

Question in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Development.

Councillor Morrish on Nunthorpe Community Centre.

Owing to the potential for exempt information being discussed in a public forum, Councillor Morrish advised the Mayor and Executive Member that he would be willing to meet with them, or whomever, to discuss the contents of his question outside of the meeting.

25/48 **REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board presented a report, the purpose of which was to provide an update on the current position regarding progress made by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the individual Scrutiny Panels.

The Chair of the Board thanked the Mayor for his attendance at the last meeting to provide an Executive Member Update. During that same meeting, the Board agreed its 2025/2026 work programme; the first topic to be investigated would be 'Poverty, its impact, and efforts to tackle it'.

At the Board's next meeting, the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture would be in attendance to provide an Executive Member Update. At the subsequent meeting, the Chair and chief officer for the Middlesbrough Development Corporation (MDC) would be in attendance.

A Member sought clarification as to whether meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board were public meetings. In response, the Chair of the Board indicated that they were.

The Chair invited Members to ask questions and to note the report.

ORDERED that the report was noted.

25/49 **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

25/50 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

There were no Members' Questions submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

25/51 **NOTICE OF URGENT MOTIONS (IF ANY)**

There were no Notice of Urgent Motions submitted within the specified deadlines for this meeting.

25/52 **MEMBERS' SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES**

A report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services, on behalf of the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration, was presented in respect of the Members' Scheme of Allowances.

Following its 2025 review of Members' allowances, the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration recommended an increase to the Basic Allowance from £7,608 to £8,999 (the Teesside Average). The Panel also recommended freezing Special Responsibility Allowances, and all other allowances, at their current levels. Neither Basic nor Special Responsibility Allowances should reflect Staff Pay Awards.

The Council was asked to consider the Panel's recommendations and either accept or reject them. If, after having due regard of the Panel's recommendations, the Council rejected the Panel's proposals, it would need to create its own Scheme of Allowances.

The Chair invited Members to speak.

Councillor Morrish proposed a motion without notice to adjourn the debate until the next Council meeting. This would allow Members sufficient opportunity to meet with officers and consider the implications of any recommendations made/decisions taken. The motion was seconded by Councillor Clynch.

On a vote being taken, the motion was declared **CARRIED**.

25/53

VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES 2025-2026

A report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer) was presented to seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on Committees, Scrutiny Panels and Outside Bodies, due to vacancies that were not filled at the Annual Council meeting and resignations from Committees.

The report included a list of current vacancies on various Committees and Outside Bodies and nominations were put forward at the meeting by individual members.

ORDERED that the following appointments, allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups, be approved by Council:

YOU MATTER TO US – CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

2 vacancies – Councillor S Platt appointed

1 vacancy remains

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY STEERING GROUP

3 vacancies – Councillor J Thompson appointed

2 vacancies remain

HARTLEPOOL POWER STATION LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

1 vacancy – Councillor I Blades appointed

NORTH EAST REGIONAL JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1 vacancy – no nominations

STAYING PUT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1 vacancy – Councillor D Davison appointed

TENNIS WORLD

2 vacancies – Councillors D Davison and J McConnell appointed

25/54

REFRESH OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Chair presented a report in respect of a refresh of the Constitution.

The Constitution and Member Development Committee had led a review of the provisions of the Constitution to remove duplication where possible and improve its usability. The current draft document in its entirety was presented to Full Council for approval.

The Chair referred Members to section 4.3 of the cover report, which stated that 'In addition to noting some technical amendments and typographical changes, the Constitution and Member Development Committee made the following further substantive amendments', which included that 'Chairs and vice chairs will be appointed by Committees'.

The Chair explained that at the Constitution and Members' Development Committee meeting held on 20 August 2025, it had been agreed that this would be amended to 'Chairs and Vice Chairs will be appointed by Full Council' - as was set out in the proposed Constitution.

The Chair highlighted that, for the avoidance of doubt, the proposed Constitution that had been circulated was correct, it was the cover report that did not reflect the up to date position, as agreed at the Constitution and Member Development Committee meeting.

In light of this, the Chair proposed an amendment to the cover report so it reflected what was agreed at the Constitution and Member Development Committee meeting.

The proposed amendment was to replace the sentence at paragraph 4.3 'Chairs and vice chairs will be appointed by Committees' with 'Chairs and Vice Chairs will be appointed by Full Council'.

Councillor L Young seconded the proposed amendment.

On a vote being taken the amendment was **CARRIED**.

The Chair invited Members to speak.

Councillor Walker referred to page 43 of the Constitution and noted that, in relation to the budget meeting, although mention was made of the mover, seconder and group leaders, it did not state that Members could speak on the budget report. It was covered elsewhere in the Constitution but, for clarity, Councillor Walker proposed that the following sentence be added at section 4.3.4 (h) iii – 'any Member not spoken may speak for up to 3 minutes'.

Councillor Storey seconded the proposed amendment.

On a vote being taken the amendment was **CARRIED**.

A Member commented that there were some minor governance issues that would be raised at a future meeting. In response, the Monitoring Officer explained that the Constitution was a live/working document; the Constitution and Member Development Committee was in place and a rolling programme of Constitution review had been established. It would be kept under review; an updated version would be presented to Council before the AGM next year.

The Chair thanked all those involved in updating the Constitution for the vast amount of work undertaken.

MAYOR'S REPORT

DATE OF MEETING: 15 October 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity across the town.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

The details outlined in this report support delivery of the Council's strategic priorities:

- **A successful and ambitious town** – Maximising economic growth, employment and prosperity in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable way
- **A healthy place** – Helping our residents to live longer, healthier lives
- **Safe and resilient communities** – Creating a safer environment where residents can live more independent lives
- **Delivering best value** – Changing how we operate, to deliver affordable and cost-effective outcomes for residents and businesses

Update:

- We've continued to make strong progress in delivering on our commitment to "get the basics right" - investing in clean neighbourhoods, supporting young people, and improving community safety.
- We've launched new funding schemes, refurbished key assets, and introduced practical, visible services that respond directly to what residents have told us they want.
- Our focus remains on delivering improvements that are felt in every street, park and community, and doing the simple things well, consistently.

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

1.1 Community Caretakers Launched

1.1.1 We've introduced a brand-new team of 16 Community Caretakers - four in each of our neighbourhood areas - to deliver visible improvements across the town. This is the first time in over 15 years that we've seen this level of investment in practical, on-the-ground services. The caretakers are already making a difference: from graffiti removal and fence repairs to weeding and repainting, they're helping restore pride in our communities. Their early work includes a full refurbishment of Pallister Park's play area and a joint clean-up of Park End skate park with young people from the Junction Foundation.



1.2 Neighbourhood Safety Wardens Commended

- 1.2.1 **Bravery in Action:** Our Neighbourhood Safety Wardens have been rightly praised for their bravery after confronting a knife-wielding individual in the town centre. Their quick thinking and professionalism helped protect the public and led to the individual being restrained until police arrived. These officers are a credit to the town and play a vital role in keeping Middlesbrough safe.

1.3 Recovery Month

- 1.3.1 **Raising Awareness and Promoting Hope:** September marked Recovery Month in Middlesbrough, with events and campaigns celebrating the strength of individuals and families overcoming addiction and mental health challenges. I was proud to plant a memorial tree in Albert Park alongside members of the recovery community, and to see our Town Hall lit in purple to mark the occasion. The message is clear: recovery is possible, and support is available.



2. THE TIME AHEAD

Update:

2.1 Clean Neighbourhoods and Community Safety

- 2.1.1 **Communal Bin Upgrade Programme:** Since August 2024, over 500 new steel-lidded communal bins have been installed, with all bins in North Ormesby now replaced. A further 270 bins will be rolled out in Newport, Central and Park wards. This investment supports cleaner back alleys and encourages responsible waste disposal and recycling.
- 2.1.2 **Back Alley Clean-Up:** A major clean-up of an overgrown alley between Burlam Road and Linthorpe Cemetery has restored access and improved the local

environment. The Area Care team removed ivy roots, trimmed trees, and cleared vegetation, with the work completed sensitively to avoid damage to boundary walls.

- 2.1.3 **New CCTV Installation:** A rapid deployment CCTV camera has been installed on Burlam Road following concerns about drug-related activity near Linthorpe Cemetery. The camera is actively monitored by our CCTV control room and is already showing positive results. This is a direct response to residents' concerns and part of our wider commitment to community safety.



2.2 Supporting Young People

- 2.2.1 **Youth Group Seed Funding Scheme:** We've launched a new seed funding scheme to support emerging youth groups and resident-led initiatives working with young people aged 8–16. Grants of up to £250 are available for small-scale projects that promote learning, wellbeing, community cohesion, and aspiration. This scheme removes barriers for grassroots groups and reflects our commitment to investing in young people and empowering communities. As of this report's publication, applications are now closed – I look forward to seeing some of the fantastic groups that will benefit from this scheme.

2.3 Recycling Innovation

- 2.3.1 **Reverse Vending Machine Trial:** A pilot scheme has begun at the Community Grocery eco shop in Linthorpe, featuring a reverse vending machine that rewards residents with vouchers for recycling eligible cans and bottles. Inspired by a similar initiative I saw in Finland, this is the first of its kind led by a UK local authority. If successful, we'll expand the scheme to other locations across the town — helping residents recycle more and save money.



2.4 Holiday Activities and Food Programme – Long-Term Funding Secured

- 2.4.1 The Government has announced a £600 million funding package for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme over the next three financial years. Middlesbrough's own scheme, Bring It On Boro, has been recognised nationally as one of the top ten in England for its reach and impact.
- 2.4.2 This summer, the programme offered 27,000 places across 50 providers, with activities ranging from gymnastics and football to swimming and cheerleading. I've also extended the programme into half-term holidays using Council funding, ensuring even more children benefit year-round.
- 2.4.3 A multi-year settlement gives us the certainty to plan ahead, strengthen partnerships and continue delivering high-quality, enriching experiences for children and families across Middlesbrough.

2.5 Multibank – Two-Year Funding Commitment

- 2.5.1 Last year, we made an initial £25,000 investment into the Tees Valley Multibank - a new initiative based in Middlesbrough that helps families with essentials like clothing, hygiene products, bedding and school uniforms. It was clear from the outset that this was a project making a real difference.
- 2.5.2 That's why we've now committed a further £60,000 over two years from the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund to support its continued growth. Run by The Junction, the Multibank works with major retailers like Amazon to redistribute surplus goods to those who need them most, and it's already helping thousands of families across the Tees Valley.
- 2.5.3 This isn't just about funding, it's about dignity, hope, and making sure no one goes without the basics. I'm proud that Middlesbrough is leading the way, and I want to thank everyone involved for the compassion and hard work they bring to this vital service.

2.6 £40m Regeneration Funding for East Middlesbrough

- 2.6.1 East Middlesbrough is set to benefit from two major long-term investments totalling £40 million.
- 2.6.2 Park End will receive £20 million through the Government's Pride in Place programme - a guaranteed £2 million per year for the next decade. Residents will lead the way in deciding how the money is spent, supported by a new community board made up of local people, Councillors and community groups.
- 2.6.3 Separately, this summer Thorntree was named in the Spending Review as one of 20 trailblazer neighbourhoods nationally, also receiving up to £20 million over ten years. This funding will support community-led regeneration and provide early support to prepare for further investment.
- 2.6.4 These announcements represent a huge opportunity for our communities. For too long, areas like Park End and Thorntree haven't had the investment they deserve.

Now, we have unlocked the resources to match the strength and spirit of local people and deliver real change to help these communities thrive.

2.7 Corporate Peer Challenge – Follow-Up Visit & Continuous Improvement Plan

- 2.7.1 In January, we invited the Local Government Association to carry out a Corporate Peer Challenge - a key moment in our improvement journey. Their report recognised the progress we've made, particularly in pulling back from the financial precipice in 2024, but it also made clear that we're not out of the woods yet.
- 2.7.2 The peer team highlighted the need to build capacity, strengthen governance, improve recruitment and retention, and reset our transformation programme to deliver long-term financial sustainability. They also recognised the strong working relationship between myself and our new Chief Executive, Erik Scollay, and the optimism that's beginning to grow across the organisation.
- 2.7.3 We've responded with a Continuous Improvement Plan, and we're reporting progress quarterly to Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Board. In November, members of the original peer team will return to review our progress and help us stay on track.
- 2.7.4 This isn't just about recovery, it's about delivering better outcomes for the people of Middlesbrough. We're committed to building a council that's resilient, outward-facing, and focused on making a real difference.

2.8 Fair Funding Review – Fighting for Middlesbrough

- 2.8.1 I've continued to engage directly with ministers on the Fair Funding Review, making the case for a funding system that recognises the scale of the challenges we face in Middlesbrough and the impact of years of underfunding under the austerity agenda.
- 2.8.2 The previous government acknowledged the broken funding model and the need for change, but failed to deliver it. I've made clear to the new ministerial team that areas like ours, with high levels of deprivation and historically low tax bases, must be prioritised in any new settlement.
- 2.8.3 With a reshuffled team now in place, I'm continuing to advocate for a fairer, simpler funding system that targets money where it's most needed, and ensures Councils like ours can deliver high quality services which our residents rely on.

2.9 Performance Improvements

- 2.9.1 As part of the work to improve how we measure projects and performance, we now have a more in-depth way of tracking the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund. Given the scope of the fund and the many fantastic projects it supports, I'm more than happy to share the full breakdown with members should they wish.

Youth Group Seed Funding: Milestone Plan		Responsible	Start	End	Individual RAG	RAG by metric
REF	£0.100m supporting the growth, development, and long-term sustainability of smaller youth providers across Middlesbrough					
YSF 01.01	Agree grant criteria	Sharon Barker	Aug-25	Aug-25		
YSF 01.02	Set up new cost centre	Josh Heathcock	Aug-25	Aug-25		
YSF 01.03	Grant applications to be submitted	Sharon Barker	Sep-25	Sep-25		
YSF 01.04	Grant panel to review applications (15 October)	Sharon Barker	Oct-25	Oct-25		
YSF 01.05	Contract exchange with successful applicants	Sharon Barker	Oct-25	Nov-25		
YSF 01.06	Grants awarded	Sharon Barker	Nov-25	Nov-25		



Executive Member Reports and additional Executive decision information

Council Meeting: 15 October 2025

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **15 October 2025**.

The booklet, in addition to containing details of Executive Member activities covering the period following the last Council meeting (section 1), also details those Executive decisions taken since the last booklet was published (section 2) together with those decisions planned to be taken from dispatch of this booklet up until the date of the Council meeting (section 3) and those decisions planned to be taken following the Council meeting (section 4).

The table at section 2 contains details of decisions taken by individual Executive Members, the full Executive, Executive Sub-Committees and Joint Archives Committee. The public reports that were considered are also available through the Modern Gov system.

The tables at section 3 and 4 contain details of the decisions to be taken by individual Executive Members, the full Executive, Executive Sub-Committees and Joint Archives Committee. Further details on key decisions that are to be taken can also be found on the Modern Gov Forward Plan.

The Executive Member reports and the additional decision-making information will hopefully assist Members when considering any questions they may have for Executive Members at Council, which can be asked within accordance of the Council's procedure rules.

Details of those decisions to be taken, as outlined in Section 3 and 4, may sometimes be subject to change (e.g. dates of meetings may alter). Members are therefore advised to check with the Democratic Services should they have an interest in specific issues.

Charlotte Benjamin
Director of Legal and Governance Services
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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 15 OCTOBER 2025

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SECTION 2 – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 2 September 2025.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Philippa Storey - Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture

DATE OF MEETING: 15 October 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

- *Successful & Ambitious Town*
- *A Healthy Place*

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

Education and Partnerships

1.1 Family Hubs

Work is progressing on Middlesbrough's Family Hubs, with refurbishments now complete at West Middlesbrough and Park End Hubs. Services continue to be delivered across all sites and planning is now underway to refresh the offer at our Best Start Family Hubs to bring them in line with new national guidance. The new guidance will ensure that Best Start Family Hubs address school readiness to improve a child's Good Level of Development (GLD) by providing holistic, family-wide support and moving beyond just early education. This contrasts with the narrower, child-focused approach of previous models and acknowledges that a child's readiness is deeply influenced by their entire home environment. This takes the model back to the original ambitions of Sure Start.

Key changes are being introduced to Family Hubs to significantly expand their reach, strengthen integrated services, and improve data and digital capabilities. The current government's Best Start in Life strategy is driving these changes, aiming to establish up to 1,000 "Best Start Family Hubs" across every Local Authority in England by 2028. This builds on and extends the previous Family Hubs and Start for Life programme. This will include a family hubs delivery grant and funding for the delivery of parenting and home learning interventions to support the 0–5 period. There will be a particular focus, in the first two years.

1.2 Education Alliance Board

The board is developing at great pace and much work has been undertaken to develop action plans to drive forward the agreed priorities of:

- School readiness

- Attendance
- Suspension and exclusions
- NEETs

The first meeting of the academic year took place on Friday 19th September and focused on understanding 2025 attainment outcomes and workstream updates.

There is great enthusiasm and commitment within the education community and partners in ensuring that collectively, we can and will make a difference. Relationships have blossomed and sharing best practice meetings have taken place enabling school to school support. From this, schools and partners have planned further meetings aimed at supporting the development of the priorities as well as addressing any emerging issues.

1.3 Exclusions and suspensions

Last academic year we saw a small reduction in the number of permanent exclusions from Middlesbrough schools. This is the third year in a row that the number has decreased, and although levels are still higher than regional and national rates, the work that is being done locally to tackle exclusion is starting to have an impact.

Suspension rates also remain high, but the number of days lost to learning has reduced significantly meaning that although suspension continues to be used as a sanction for behaviour, children are not spending as much time out of school losing learning.

This impact is likely in part due to recent increases in intervention capacity in alternative provision, along with the continued work of schools via the inclusion partnership and education alliance board to address exclusion. The Local Authority has been invited to discuss the approach to exclusions at a national Council for Disabled Children webinar which is taking place in November.

1.4 Grants for Schools

9 grant applications have been made by schools so far and I look forward to more coming forward.

1.5 Schools received an email in September offering them the opportunity to apply for a small grant to support with the purchase of equipment such as sports, arts, play equipment and books. To date we have received 14 applications. These are from:

- Parkend Primary
- Acklam Whin
- Archibald
- Discovery Special School
- Lingfield
- Lift North Ormesby
- River Tees
- Sacred Heart
- St Augustine's
- St Bernadettes
- St Gerards
- Sunnyside
- Thorntree
- Whinney Banks

1.6 South Tees Youth Justice Inspection - result to follow

Culture

1.7 Middlesbrough Museums

Thanks to successful funding application to the Arts Council England's Museums Renewal Fund programme, the Museum Service has been awarded a grant of £239,551 to support a range of improvements to the visitor experience including new digital interactives, signage and creative programming, plus the relocation of the Walkabout Gallery at the Cook so that it becomes part of the main visitor route. It also includes funds for staff to open the Cook for a period over the winter, marketing of the museum service, the establishment of a volunteer programme across the two museums, and a contribution towards the feasibility work being undertaken on a new Captain Cook Museum at Stewart Park.

The supported winter opening of the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum will run from 3 October 2025 to 25 January 2026, with a short closure for Christmas between 25 December 2025 and 3 January 2026. During the new opening period, the museum will be open to the public from 10:00 – 16:00, Tuesday to Sunday.

I'd like to thank JR and the museum team for all the effort and work they have put in.

1.8 Town Hall

Programming highlights for September included:

- Southpaw Rehearsals
- Fenwicks Christmas Shop window rehearsals
- Jimmy Carr – two sold out shows
- Smoggy Queens Series 2 Filming
- Tees Dance & Anthony Lo-Giudice Dance Showcase & Performance
- Middlesbrough Art Week Launch night
- Middlesbrough Pride 2025

Upcoming Highlights – October & November 2025:

- Comedy – Georgie Carroll, Jason Manford, Rhod Gilbert, Iain Stirling, Jimeoin
- Theatre – Sherlock Holmes Theatre Go Round with Middlesbrough Theatre
- Music – Lightning Seeds, Elvana, Skindred, The Younguns, Fishermans Friends
- Taste Of Africa Showcase
- Classical Season 25/26 Launch & Classical Café
- An Audience with – Bernie Slaven, Brett Tippie
- Middlesbrough College graduations
- Middlesbrough Christmas Light Switch On

The Town Hall takes a great of management and I'd like to thank Kesia and the team for their amazing hard work.

1.9 Theatre

1.9.1 In September, the Theatre welcomed back two international companies who have placed the theatre firmly on their touring circuit such as The Crown Ballet with Swan Lake

which will return in November with another perennial and personal favourite, The Nutcracker.

1.9.2 The month also saw the first visit by Northern drama company Thunder Road with their visually stunning production of an original sci-fi horror “The Void” which attracted an encouraging and appreciative audience.

1.9.3 Highlights in October include the classic 60s radio comedy Round the Horne and The WOW Show (Women of the World) on its first visit to the North-East, whilst in November the theatre sees the return of the joyful adaptation of A Christmas Carol as well as Count Arthur Strong with his unique take on the Dickens classic.

1.9.4 Local amateur companies are also well-represented with Tees Valley Gilbert and Sullivan Society’s production of the rarely-performed The Sorcerer, Teesside Musical Theatre Company’s 42nd Street and Middlesbrough Little Theatre’s production of The Laramie Project – a bold choice for the company.

The year is rounded off by the annual pantomime- Goldilocks and the Three Bears – which is being presented for the first time since 1999 and is not to be missed.

1.9.5 Schools who have currently applied for the Theatre Grant:

Outwood Academy Ormesby	Confirmed Booking 18 March
Priory Wood	Confirmed Booking 4 June
Archibald Primary	Pencilled 10 June
Tees Valley Education	Pencilled 16-17 June
St Edwards	Confirmed Booking 15 & 18 June
Sacred Heart Primary	Confirmed Booking 22-23 June
Pallister Park	Pencilled 30 June
Linthorpe Primary	Confirmed Booking 1-2 July

Quotes from Schools regarding Schools Theatre Grant:

It absolutely filled me with joy. It’s wonderful to read the Council share their recognition of how ‘truly life-changing and inspirational’ participation in the performing arts can be. – Lisa Connor, Priory Woods.

I have spoken to our RSC partner and we would love to use the theatre for our festival. – Jackie Blyth, Archibald Primary.

I would just like to say again a massive thank you for the staff and support for our production of Shrek. It was just magical and I am sure will be remembered by staff and children for a long time. It is wonderful to hear that you have remaining funds to cover the rest of Shrek- this really does go a long way to ensure we can do even more activities like this. The production was a great success with 150 primary and secondary children involved. – Louise Stockdale – Tees Valley Education.

Completely agree about being a life-changing experience and so glad that it has been recognised by the town. – Kerry Mallam, Sacred Heart.

Events

1.10 Community Action Day, Sunday 14 September

As part of their We Shall Be programme, Navigator North held a Community Action Day in the historic station quarter. The purpose of the day was to clean up the area with the support of volunteers and partners. 20 bags of rubbish were filled, planters refreshed, the team from STACK did a brilliant job pressure washing the square, and Council teams commenced repainting of the railings, with more to be completed over the coming weeks.

This focus on improving how people experience the town, is also behind the public artworks currently going into the same area. Also funded through the We Shall Be programme, new murals have appeared on the A66 bridge over Albert Road and a new large-scale sculpture by Stuart Langley on the rail station concourse. All of these pieces have been shaped by community input over the past few months and reflect the people of Middlesbrough's stories and ambitions for their town.



Left: Volunteers at the Community Action Day. Right: Stuart Langley's 'Hold Me & Show Me You Love Me'

1.11 Parking Day, Friday 19 September

Teesside-based creative placemaking and fabrication studio SAWDUST presented Middlesbrough's first [PARK\(ing\) Day](#) on Albert Road — a one-day transformation of a town centre parking space into a temporary public spot for creativity, music, and conversation. Part of a global movement reimagining urban streets, the project invited passers-by to take part in a playful, community-led space built with local makers. Parking Day was made possible thanks to support from Borderlands and our amazing Town Centre Team of Michelle Shelton and Tom Rhind.

1.12 Middlesbrough Pride, Saturday 27 September

Middlesbrough Pride 2025 brought a colourful celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community to the heart of the town, with the Town Hall team and Curious Arts.

The Town Hall hosted a vibrant Pride market with local support services, businesses and makers. An array of artists performed on the market stage and the Pride stage. There were also family friendly art workshops, which were excellent.

A Pride Parade made its way around the town centre where other events were also taking place at the Holiday Inn Express, MIMA and Centre Square, where there was an outdoor theatre performance of the 'Turkey and the Caterpillar'.

1.13 Middlesbrough Art Week, Thursday 25 September – Saturday 4 October

Middlesbrough Art Week kicked off with a spectacular launch night on Thursday 25 September with events and installations taking place across the town, including a performance from A Man Called Adam at the Town Hall. The festival runs until Saturday 4 October.

2. THE TIME AHEAD

Update:

2.1 Upcoming Events

Saturday 4 October 2025	Orange Pip Market (Baker & Bedford Street, & Albert Road) – weather dependent
Sunday 12 October 2025	Trafalgar Day Parade & Service (Civic Event)
Saturday 25 October 2025	HMS Jupiter 50 th Anniversary Service (Civic Event)
Saturday 25 October 2025	Diwali (Centre Square)
Thursday 6 November 2025	Laying of the First Poppy (Civic Event)
Sunday 9 November 2025	Remembrance Day (Civic Event)
Tuesday 11 November 2025	Armistice Day (Civic Event)
Sat 22 – Sun 23 November 2025	Shine on Boro (Town Centre)
Sunday 23 November 2025	Middlesbrough Lights Switch On
Fri 28 – Sun 30 November 2025	Nightfall at Stewart Park

**All Civic Events of this nature will take place at Middlesbrough Cenotaph*

I'd like to thank Lisa Templeman for her exceptional hard work and welcome to the events team Ellen Howarth - Creative Programmes Officer, and Louise Williams, Events Assistant Apprentice.

2.2 Teesside Archives

At the forthcoming JAC (Joint Archives Committee) meeting, the committee will be asked to agree an interim plan for the service whilst work continues on a longer-term development plan following the completion of the Tees Valley Heritage Feasibility study, commissioned by TVCA but with no financial support from TVCA in place to implement any of the suggestions.

As the lead authority we are proposing a number of interim arrangements for the service including:

- Agreeing a new 3-5 year Service Level Agreement
- Extending the current collections contract with Restore to July 2028
- Agreeing annual targets for outreach programme delivery in each of the four boroughs
- Pursuing the conversation with TVCA and OPCC and Mayoral Development Corporations about becoming a partner in Teesside Archives

- Developing the relationship between Teesside Archives and Tees Valley Museum Group NPO
- Committing to find funding to implement a digital preservation system for the management of digital collections

In Middlesbrough, our Community Engagement Officer led a heritage walk, in partnership with the Carers Together Service. 13 participants met at the Transporter Bridge visitor centre and walked through Transporter Park, talking about the first industry of the town - Middlesbrough Pottery - and the modern industries making their home in this part of town including the digital/gaming sector. The group visited the Old Town Hall to discuss the future regeneration of this important symbol of the first planned railway town in the world and returned past the Customs House, before ending again at the Transporter Bridge.



2.3 Breastfeeding Update

- The South Tees “Mamazing” breastfeeding campaign, a collaborative project involving colleagues from Public Health, Family Hubs, Marketing and Communications, Maternity Services and the Middlesbrough 0-19 team was delivered between April and June 2025, with further marketing messages delivered during World Breastfeeding Week in August 2025. During this week, one of the “Mamazing” Ambassadors featured on BBC Radio 5 Live, engaging in a discussion about the importance of breastfeeding and the benefits for mother and baby. We are currently undertaking public consultation on the campaign, with the aim of using this information to inform the next phase of the campaign, which will take place between January and March 2026.
- The aim of the campaign is to increase breastfeeding rates, encouraging mothers to breastfeed for longer, and normalising breastfeeding. The campaign contributes towards Middlesbrough becoming a Breastfeeding Borough and the Start for Life offer within the Middlesbrough Family Hubs.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Julia Rostron - Executive Member for Adult Social Care

DATE OF MEETING: 15 October 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

Safe and Resilient Communities – Creating a safer environment where residents can live more independent lives

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

1.1 On Friday 5 September, staff from across Adult Social Care came together to celebrate the fantastic work they do every day across the directorate. The event hosted at the Town Hall was a chance for teams to share examples and stories of how they make a real difference.

1.2 It was an excellent opportunity for teams to get to know each other better from across the broad spectrum of Adult Social Care, share best practices and outcomes and congratulate each other on the amazing work they do, often in difficult circumstances. As Executive Member for Adult Social Care, I had the pleasure of opening the event and experienced the enthusiasm and commitment on display. A highlight for me was the performance from the Impact drama group – support by staff from Middlesbrough Independent Living Services.

1.3 Louise Grabham, Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration said: “We want to turn the tide of adult social care. People focus on the things that aren’t going well but there are so many positives and we want to start celebrating those. It’s been great to come together as one directorate especially in person.”

1.4 Rachel Jenkins, ACT Middlesbrough Lead Officer said: “I’m so proud of our teams. They often work with people who have complex needs, but they never give up.”

1.5 Linda Ford from Stay Included said: “Today has been great. Our services are constantly evolving and if we didn’t have events like these you’d never know.”

1.6 Dave Mallett, Assistant Manager at TCES said: "It's so important to raise awareness of all the things we do. I thought I knew all the services we have on offer, but it turns out I didn't. I can't believe how much is there – it must really make a difference to people's lives."

1.7 The Impact Drama Group's performance was a firm highlight of the day for all of those that attended. Their enthusiasm and joy in performing was a pleasure to see and it was a great way to celebrate.

1.8 A huge well done to the team who organised the event.

1.9 A series of video's showcasing the broad range of services were created for this event, you can view these by clicking the link : [Middlesbrough Independent Living Services](#)

2. Executive Member Site Visits

2.1 This month I visited Tees Community Equipment Service (TCES) - an integrated shared service across social care and the NHS, hosted by Middlesbrough Council.

2.2 The service delivers equipment to residents across Middlesbrough, Stockton, Redcar & Cleveland and Hartlepool. Equipment is ordered via an occupational therapist, community nurse or physiotherapist, and the service will deliver and fit the equipment in residents homes. They provide a significant range of equipment from hoists, slings, bath lifts, beds, mattress and mobility aids.

2.3 This both helps people (Adults & Children) to live independently at home for as long as possible and facilitate safe discharge from hospital.

2.4 The service deals with over 150,000 different pieces of equipment in a year, with a value of £20million. £6.6million of equipment is recycled, as the service will collect, refurbish and clean equipment ready for re-distribution.

2.5 The service has 2 large warehouses that are 14000sq ft, 20 vehicles and over 50 staff, and in addition to the core service they also operate a 24/7 breakdown service for vital equipment, in case of breakdowns outside of normal business hours.

2.6 Last year the service delivered 10,000 pieces of equipment that required same day delivery highlighting their commitment to residents across Teesside.

2.7 It was a pleasure to see the service in operation, walk around the stores and see the staff in action cleaning and recycling the equipment for re-distribution. Whilst the service is run by ourselves, it is governed through a partnership board of the four authorities across Tees and the NHS.

3. Achievement

3.1 Middlesbrough's Staying Put Agency has been recognised as one of the strongest performing services nationally following an independent review of Disabled facilities Grant (DFG) delivery.

3.2 The DFG Quality Standard Report, carried out by Foundations, the Government-appointed national body for Home Improvement Agencies, has rated Middlesbrough's service as exemplary in several key areas, **including:**

- Person-Centred Delivery - ensuring independence, dignity, and resident priorities are at the heart of our work.
- Housing Options - offering innovative pathways including rehousing support where appropriate.
- Value for Money - strong contractor relationships, equipment recycling, and support for local supply chains.
- Commissioning - alignment with wider Council priorities such as health, safety, and transformation.

3.3 The report also praised Middlesbrough for its Rekindle digital inclusion service and the Rekindle Co-Production Group, which have been nationally recognised for their commitment to making digital services accessible and inclusive for all.

3.4 The review forms part of a North East wide programme, with every local authority assessed to ensure residents receive the best possible outcomes from Disabled Facilities Grants. Middlesbrough's strong performance places it as a leader within the region and nationally.

4. THE TIME AHEAD

Update:

4.1 Information briefings

Adult Social Care will be running a series of information briefings regarding the Directorate work and support provided. The first session will be an information session regarding Blue Badges, including how to apply, eligibility and enforcement action. This information may support members when receiving queries from residents. Teams meeting invites will be sent for the all member briefing in due course.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Luke Henman - Executive Member for Children's Services

DATE OF MEETING: 15 October 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

We will show Middlesbrough's children that they matter and work to make our town safe and welcoming and to improve outcomes for all children and young people.

Update:

- **Number of young people accessing early help via Middlesbrough Council:** 559
- **Number of foster carers with Middlesbrough Council:** 56 foster carers looking after 199 children, 48 connected carers, looking after a total of 63 children
- **Number of children in our care:** 502
- **Percentage of children in our care attending school:** 86.4% of all children. primary school age - 92.9%. Secondary school - 79.3%. Post 16 in education, employment and training - 63.3%.

1. HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 Early Help via the Stronger Families Service

1.1.1 The Stronger Families service aims to support families early in order to stop the need for young people being taken into care. Working with families to keep children in a safe home is better for the young person's wellbeing and it is more cost effective.

1.1.2 The workforce continues to be stable in early help. The average caseload size within Early Help is now 18.1% children per FTE which is an increase on the previous month. During August, there were 109 children opened and 85 closed. Compliance within the teams is consistently met, across all target areas. In August:

- 93% of families were contacted within 3 days of allocation into the early help service. This swift response ensures that families engage with Early Help, and we had no families who declined Early Help services in August.
- 90% of children were seen within timescales for direct work in August (minimum every 4 weeks).

- 98% of children had a My Family Plan completed within timescale in August, Family Feedback informs us that Families feel involved and have ownership of their plan.

1.1.3 The Tees Valley Youth Trailblazer is a new programme to help young people into work and training. Young people across Tees Valley are to benefit from a landmark new training and employment programme to unlock their potential and build the career they want. Tees Valley is one of eight UK locations selected to run a UK Youth Guarantee Trailblazer, a UK Government-funded programme providing up to £5 million to support youth employment. High-quality paid work placements and non-paid work taster sessions will be provided for young people aged 18-21 across the region who are not in work, education or training.

1.1.4 Eligible young people are now being urged to sign up to the scheme while local businesses are being called on to provide placements, which will be critical in tackling a lack of work experience which acts as a barrier to employment. The Trailblazer programme includes structured, paid work experience placements. There will be financial support for IT equipment and travel and a two-week course at the employment hub to prepare people to engage with work.

1.2 Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH) and Assessment

1.2.1 The MACH is our front door – the first point of contact for concerns about a young person. The social work staff team within the MACH are permanent workers and are very effective in the day-to-day screening and signposting to appropriate services to the children of Middlesbrough and their families.

1.2.2 Earlier this month, I attended our Middlesbrough Children's Improvement Board which included a deep dive into the MACH and Assessment Services. The session demonstrated that we have continued with our improvements in MACH and are starting to see a more consistent threshold in decision making. Timescales have greatly improved as was seen in most recent improvement board. This means we are getting the right services to the right children at the right time in a greater number of cases.

1.2.3 Closer co-ordination with partners is key as we continue to see some fragmentation within our partner network. We are leading a cross-partnership training event in relation to thresholds in October 2025 to make sure all partners are on the same page. Our Head of Service is working to strengthen relationships by meeting with leaders across the partnerships.

1.2.4 I was impressed by discussions about a new approach being developed called the team around the school model which will help schools drawn down support for children at an earlier point.

1.2.5 The Assessment Service continues to hold strategy meetings and early anecdotal evidence is that there is a more proportionate outcome to the concerns coming into MACH. Staff have focused on increased visiting to children and management oversight in our improvement work this month. We are starting to receive some positive feedback from families and also schools in relation to some of the changes we have made and social workers are also giving positive feedback.

1.3 Learning, Review and Development

1.3.1 Audit return numbers have remained positive, reflecting strong engagement across the service. However, the quality of audits continues to be an area for development. To support this, a new Moderation Panel will commence in October, made up of Heads of Service. This will increase their input and oversight in the audit process, while also

strengthening their capacity to address audit skills and outcomes within their own service areas. Additionally, individual audit actions are now automatically pulled into case file supervision records, enhancing Team Managers' oversight and ensuring follow-through on identified actions.

1.3.2 Our Social Work Academy is supporting its Newly Qualified Social Workers (NQSWs) as they settle into the academy and begin their initial training as they await confirmation of their Social Work England registrations. A new temporary Team Manager joined the academy on 19th August to cover sickness and maternity leave. They are already developing positive relationships across Children's Social Care and working closely with teams to ensure that NQSWs are supported to meet the needs of children and young people, while gaining valuable experience. Our two Frontline units have also welcomed a new cohort of students, who are settling in well as they embark on the first steps of their social work careers.

1.3.3 The Review and Development Unit continues to experience some long-term sickness. Despite this, the team remains committed to ensuring that appropriate challenge is made in the best interests of our children and young people. The temporary agency IRO, through the capacity it provides, has ensured IROs maintain the improvements made in reducing meeting minute backlogs and sustaining service stability.

1.3.4 Our Participation team is actively planning Halloween and Christmas parties for our cared-for and care-experienced young people. They are also in the midst of recruiting new volunteers and care ambassadors to further strengthen the voice of young people in service development. As part of this they have also developed an induction programme to ensure our volunteers and ambassadors have clear guidance and expectations relevant to the roles. Their work in local schools continues, gathering the views of Middlesbrough's children and young people to inform future improvements.

1.4 Safeguarding & Care Planning, Children with Disabilities, Aspire and Pre-birth Team

1.4.1 The Safeguarding & Care Planning team support children on a Child in Need and Child Protection plans, as well as children that are looked after for up to six months. Our Aspire team sits within this team and focusses on supporting children who are vulnerable to exploitation, trafficking or falling into criminal activity.

1.4.2 The numbers of children allocated to social workers has continued to rise which is placing pressure on our staff and their time though we are clear that the priority is seeing children within timescale and assuring ourselves that we understand their lived experiences. We are working with our social workers across the teams to consider how to maximise impact they have with the limited time they can spend with them. The delay in the implementation of our edge of care model and the difficulty in recruiting contribute to the challenge. To further mitigate the risk that is aligned to higher numbers of children allocated we have considered the tasks undertaken by qualified social worker that could be performed by alternatively qualified staff, a particular demand of the service as time spent supervising family time, which is an integral part of care planning and the most significant aspect of the care plan for most children in our care. We have begun service wide discussions to alleviate this pressure whilst not jeopardising relationships and consistency for children and their families.

1.4.3 We have updated and agreed the operating model for our Edge of Care service which is to be named Families Together. The aim is to recruit more successfully by reducing the number of qualified social worker and increasing the number of alternatively qualified staff, this will enable more response to crisis across the threshold, supporting other social

workers in other areas of the service to stabilise children at home and in placements, whilst dedicated social worker provide more focused support with some families. We will now actively recruit to this model over the coming weeks and months.

1.4.4 For Children with Disabilities we are continuing to review our Short Break offer, including in house and what we commission. We have met with the Parent Carer Forum this month and updated them, asking for their input into this review, which they are keen to be involved in to ensure we can consult and co-produce the offer.

1.4.5 In December we will commence staff training Harm Outside The Home conferencing, an approach that will ensure we adapt the children protection process for those children at risk of exploitation. This is in line with the Tess Valley approach.

1.5 Cared for Children

1.5.1 Within Middlesbrough there are currently 502 children who are cared for across the teams, including Safeguarding and Care Planning and Assessment. Work continues in the service regarding the reunification of children who no longer need a Care Order. So far this financial year, we have reunified or changed orders for 16 children, either returning children to their parents or to extended family members. We have maintained lower caseloads for Social Workers, and this is enabling staff to work effectively with children, young people, families and their care teams. The service continues to be in a positive position with staffing, with agency numbers in the service continuing to reduce.

1.6 Pathways team - supporting our young people moving into adulthood

1.6.1 There are two staff moving to take on new roles and recruitment is underway. The team has remained stable overall. We are looking at how we respond to the increased number of young people becoming eligible for this service ensuring it remains fit for purpose. Work is also underway with the Care Leavers Covenant, with meetings planned in October, to develop the offer to local businesses and encourage the opportunities for care experienced young people to access apprenticeships and employment opportunities.

1.7 Fostering

1.7.1 There are 74 mainstream carers, including respite carers. 56 of these carers are providing care to 199 children on a short or long-term basis. There are 48 connected carers providing care for 63 children. The post Order Kinship Team has its launch this month. The service is also currently assessing 6 mainstream foster carers.

1.7.2 Discussions are ongoing with the collaboration with Foster with North East (FwNE). The work has continued, with consideration of fee harmonisation, which the Fostering Network is leading on, on behalf of the DfE. An outcome to this work is delayed but expected in October 2025, for the region. At this time, it is not possible to provide an analysis of the potential risks to Middlesbrough, until the outcome of this work is known.

2. THE TIME AHEAD

- I will continue to support Children's Services with its work to improve practice across the service through my work at the Children's Improvement Board and directly with service leads
- I will work to organise events for corporate parents to participate in Care Leavers' Month
- I will be working to ensure changes of senior leadership are smooth and continue our record of stabilising Children's Services and creating a supportive culture

amongst our workforce. I would like to thank all our staff for their hard work in keeping young people safe and giving them the best start in life

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Theo Furness - Executive Member for Development

DATE OF MEETING: 15 October 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

Place & People

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

1.1 Planning Policy

The Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on 30th September. This statutory stage is formal start of the Independent Examination, and a Planning Inspector will now be appointed to conduct the Examination. In accordance with the legislation, the Local Plan consultees have been notified of the submission and the Local Plan Examination web page is now live. All the submission documents and evidence library can be found on the web page, which will also be used to publish any future news, correspondence and other examination documents. www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/local-plan/local-plan-examination/

1.2 Central Library Reopens

One of Middlesbrough's most iconic buildings, our Grade II-listed Central Library, has reopened following a £1.9 million refurbishment. Funded by the Arts Council, the Future High Streets Fund and Middlesbrough Council, the project has delivered a redesigned children's library, new ICT suite, flexible event spaces, and improved accessibility. Historic features have been sensitively restored, ensuring the building remains a cultural cornerstone for generations to come.

1.3 Shopfront Improvement Grants

1.3.1 In September, we launched a new grant scheme to support small businesses in improving the appearance of their shopfronts. £180,000 has been made available through the Middlesbrough Priorities Fund, with grants of up to £5,000 available to eligible businesses in the hospitality, leisure, personal care and non-essential retail sectors. These grants can be used for signage, lighting, and improvements to doors and windows - small

changes that make a big difference to the look and feel of our high streets. Applications are open until 31 October 2025.

1.4 Outwood Academy Riverside – Construction Begins

Work has begun on the long-awaited permanent home for Outwood Academy Riverside in Middlehaven. The Department for Education has appointed Bowmer and Kirkland as contractors, with the new three-storey building expected to open in Spring 2027. This marks the end of years of delay since the school was first announced in 2018. I want to thank the school community for their patience and resilience, and acknowledge the combined efforts of Council officers, Outwood Grange Academies Trust, the DfE, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, our MP, and colleagues across the Council in securing this breakthrough. The new school will not only benefit students and staff who have coped with temporary arrangements for far too long, but also unlock further development opportunities in the surrounding area.

2. THE TIME AHEAD

Update:

2.1 Development of Middlehaven

Plans are being brought together for a major development in Middlehaven. We intend to first share with central Councillors and then will share with all Councillors, to be scheduled shortly. While this site has had previous proposals which haven't come to fruition, we have worked closely with an experienced and highly credible partner to bring together a plan which, if successfully delivered, will have a positive impact not just on the town centre but on the town as a whole.

2.2 Investment in Temporary Accommodation

We are currently exploring new ways of working to look at how we can invest in long term empty properties in order to bring them back into use. This will not only tackle buildings which are becoming sources of blight in our town, but also make sure that we have more access to a reliable housing stock which is in our control, improving our ability to support people and families across Middlesbrough facing homelessness.

2.3 Capital Investment in Council Buildings

It is vitally important that we invest in our own buildings across our Council sites. The report which will come to Executive on 12th November will consider both buildings and repairs needed, in order to make our buildings environmentally efficient and fit for the future. If Councillors would like a briefing on this I am more than happy to arrange.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Peter Gavigan - Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability

DATE OF MEETING: 15 October 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

- *A healthy place - Protect and improve our environment*
- *Safe and resilient communities - Improved transport and digital connectivity*

Update:

- *I continue to work on policy proposals for the short, medium and long-term.*
- *We will continue to work closely with local communities to protect our green spaces, and make sure that our roads and open spaces are well-designed, clean and safe.*

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

I had the pleasure of attending the Tees Valley Nature Partnership, Nature Conference 2025 at Ormesby Hall on 26th September.

2. THE TIME AHEAD

Update:

Preparations for the introduction of Simpler Recycling and Weekly Food Waste collection continue to progress.

2.1 Traffic Signals/UTMC

Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2025/26:

- Awaiting designs for 25/26 schemes.
- Work started in September at Acklam Road/Levick Crescent to upgrade puffin crossing point.

2.2 Highways

Verge replacement and footway improvement work programmes have been developed, and we are underway with implementation of the programme for 2025/26.

- Verge works complete so far: 4 of the planned 13 schemes.
- Footway Works complete so far: 7 of the planned 22 schemes.

2.3 Bridges and Structures

2.3.1 Emergency Repairs to Ormesby Beck Culvert

Following the development of a significant defect at Ormesby Beck Culvert on Ladgate Lane, the decision was taken to close the westbound carriageway to reduce the risk of further damage. We are prioritising the repairs and have engaged with a civil engineering contractor to undertake the necessary works. A suitable repair may take several months.

2.3.2 Transporter Bridge

Digital monitoring of the movement of the bridge continues and will feed into the design/repairs going forward. Discussion around options for the future operating model of the structure are ongoing and funding streams need to be clarified but an announcement by Mayor Houchen of £30m has been secured through TCR. Preliminary design programme confirmed with regular meetings scheduled with contractor to discuss updates. Presentation held at the NEPO civils engagement to encourage early contractor involvement to help progression of the project. This is ongoing.

2.3.3 Newport Bridge

The additional bearing works to the main bridge span have now been completed and the temporary vehicle restraint system is now in place. The works were led by Stockton on Tees Borough Council in collaboration with Middlesbrough Council.

2.3.4 Newport Approach Road Bridge & Structures

All the 2024-25 planned works to the Newport Approach Road and Bridges were completed.

Future programme: Works to replace/ rebuild the footways on the main part of the approach structures will be programmed over the next 2-3 years subject to funding. Temporary netting is required to the underneath of the footways to ensure the safety of the rail infrastructure – these works will be undertaken in collaboration with Network Rail, and we are negotiating rail possession with a works start date to be confirmed. Consultation with Network Rail has started and is ongoing.

2.3.5 Principal and General Bridge Inspections

We are liaising with the contractor to complete two reports for the 2024-25 inspection work.

The final inspection of Works Road bridge took place, which was awaiting a rail line closure, and organisation for a confined space inspection on the A66 Station Viaduct are underway.

2.3.6 Longlands Road overbridge

The bridge inspection has taken place, and the report has been submitted - we are currently reviewing the report. A design, principal designer, AIP, and technical approval phase will follow in 2025-26. The major works are likely to be programmed for 2026/27 subject to the necessary funding being in place.

2.3.7 A66 Structures

We have put together a specification for a works programme to the bridges at Cannon Park Interchange (Newport Roundabout), Hartington Interchange, and All Saints Viaduct. Once approved we can begin to engage and procure contractors for design plans and works.

2.3.8 Borough Road Flyover

Concrete testing works and report due to be undertaken. Works on the design, Approval in Principle, Principal Designer and technical approval for replacement of the bridge joints, bearings, and carrying out localised hydro demolition and concrete repairs, will likely take place in year 2026-27 based on current budget projections.

2.3.9 A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge

A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge includes replacing the bridge deck waterproofing and resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments and the installation of suicide prevention parapets.

Work has been delayed due to contractual reasons; a new draft programme is being reviewed, with works due to start imminently once agreed, and the contracts are signed. The start date for the works to commence is now January 2026.

2.3.10 Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges

Work includes: Painting; installation of suicide prevention parapets/cages; structural repairs to piers and decks; new bearings; concrete repairs; other repairs; and lighting installation. The design phase is coming to a close. The next stage is to undertake the works. This work will progress after year 2025/26.

2.3.11 Bridges Small Schemes

Several minor footbridge railing repairs are due to take place within the next two months at Kader Primary Footbridge (Blue Bell Beck), and the footbridges at Stainton Way/Newham Way.

2.4 Carriageways

Surface dressing schemes at Stokesley Road, Coulby Newham, and Brass Castle Lane are now complete. The lining will be installed when the new carriageway surface allows.

The micro asphalt contract has been awarded, and we are currently undertaking the necessary procurement processes and legal contract stage with works to start as soon as practicably possible.

The main 2025-26 resurfacing contract is in the tender process with the remainder of Glendale Road and the associated traffic calming is programmed to take place as part of the 2025-26 works. Stand out classified road schemes involve three eastbound sections

of the A66, a further phase on Marton Road, and a large phase on Longlands Road. The unclassified roads programme will see eighty-two thousand m² of asphalt laid; covering 12.6km (7.8 miles) of the road network.

A full list of resurfacing schemes is published on the Councils website and is available via the following link: <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/media/hh2hn2ch/highway-infrastructure-maintenance-plan-sept20.pdf>

The weekly road works report will regularly update start and duration dates of all the works, and this can also be viewed on the Council's website.

2.5 Flood Management

The Gully Cleansing Programmes has been implemented, and we continue to work through the Gullies in line with this programme's schedules. We continue to work proactively on flood risk management through joint working with EA and NWL and increasing our knowledge of the network and improving the long-term planning for reducing flood risk. We are currently looking at the potential impact of surface water in the Marton East Ward.

The new surface water flood maps have been published, and we continue to review them to identify any new areas affected by flooding and if a flood protection scheme is required. Work also continues reviewing and updating the Flood Risk Asset Register and in identifying potential flood risk of Culverts.

2.6 Public Rights of Way

A full survey of the currently recorded Public Rights of Way network continues to be undertaken.

A small number of furniture improvements and drainage works are due during 2025.

2.7 Highway Licences

Work continues to make more applications available online along with payments. The migration of highway licence management to our updated Asset Management Software System is complete.

The Highway Improvement works licenced on Keith Road, The Vale, Marton Burn Road, Ashfield Avenue as part of the development continue as advertised.

2.8 Street Lighting

The 2025/26 column replacement programme is underway in various wards throughout the town.

Works are ongoing to upgrade the street lighting and subway lighting in TS1 & TS3 with funding from DLUHC.

We are also installing new street lighting on behalf of Esh Construction/Thirteen in Grove Hill and Union Street.

We have commenced the annual test/inspect/repair on our Christmas motifs and garlands in preparation for installation in October.

2.9 Waste Services

We are well underway with our plans for weekly food collections and getting ready to go live for July 2026.

We have procured the following services:

- Paper Cardboard Bins
- Food Caddies
- All food waste caddies are here, and the distribution centre is established at a new unit in Cannon Park.
- First meeting with the distribution company has commenced and we are underway with planning the delivery routes that will be shared with members and the public as soon as possible.
- All the container style bins in North Ormesby have now been replaced with full steel lidded bins.
- The new rounds for collections of food waste and recycling paper cardboard have been developed. Again, this will be shared with the public and members as soon as possible.
- Food waste vehicles and recycling vehicles fully procured.

2.10 Area Care

Area Care are continuing with our Summer Grass Cutting Program with the hire of the additional 4 front deck ride on rotary cutters. We are also continuing weed spraying on quad bikes and backpack sprayers.

A66 Sunday closure maintenance works have now commenced across the town.

Area Care have also commenced with some winter schedule works regarding hedge cutting across the town and will continue until completed.

The 16 Neighbourhood Caretakers have now been placed in their allocated areas across the Borough and are being put to work in a variety of tasks which include painting of street furniture, strimming, pruning, litter picking and other duties that improve the town.

2.11 Transport Planning and Road Safety

2.11.1 Linthorpe Road Cycleway removal

- Removal work has commenced and making good progress.

2.11.2 Newport Road sustainable transport corridor

- Detailed design nearing conclusion
- Early contractor engagement

2.11.3 Longlands Road cycleway

- Scheme on hold, to re-commence upon discussions with TVCA
- On-going design works

2.11.4 Capital Programme

- Commencing with consultations for schemes
- New Civils team are supporting where practicable

2.11.5 Travel planning

Working with James Cook University Hospital to identify solutions to their parking issues. These include promoting alternate existing modes, identifying demand for shuttle/supported public transport services and other key information dissemination

2.11.6 Road Safety

- On-going liaison with Cleveland Casualty Reduction Group
- Attended promotion events at Middlesbrough College and Teesside University freshers fayre

2.11.7 School Crossing Patrols

- Several casual employees have been recruited who will be able to cover sickness at short notice, reducing the number of crossings un-patrolled for the coming school year
- Refresher training delivered for all colleagues in September

EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Nicky Walker - Executive Member for Finance

DATE OF MEETING: 15 October 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

- Delivering Best Value

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

1.1 Amended Household Support Fund

1.1.1 As mentioned in my previous report to Council, our Household Support Fund (HSF) scheme was approved by Council on 14 May 2025 and is based on the Council's previous successful HSF schemes. In relation to pensioners, my approach, agreed by the Executive under the existing 2025/26 scheme included an amount for pensioners who were no longer eligible for the state Winter Fuel Payment under the changed criteria introduced in 2024. This meant that those in receipt of Council Tax Reduction (CTR) or Attendance Allowance who were not eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment from the Government could receive the amount of the Winter Fuel Payment of £300 or £200 depending on age, in full, from Middlesbrough Council's HSF.

1.1.2 However, on 9 June 2025 the Government amended the criteria for the Winter Fuel Payment again, meaning that pensioners with incomes of less than £35,000 will now be eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment, without HMRC taking it back. This has greatly reduced the number of pensioners in Middlesbrough who aren't eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment and consequently also reduced numbers of those eligible for the £300 or £200 HSF payment under the previously agreed scheme.

1.1.3 Following consultation with officers, on 08 October 2025 I will be taking a report to the Executive which amends the scheme to redistribute the £330,000 of funding that it is estimated won't now be called on, some to payments to pensioners in addition to the Winter Fuel Payment and some to other elements of the existing scheme.

- Widen the criteria for pensioner support to include all on Council Tax Reduction who do receive the Winter Fuel Payment (previously had to have Pension Credit Guarantee Credit as well) and increase the payment from the Household Support Fund from £50 to £100. This is in addition to the Winter Fuel Payment they will receive from the Government

- An increase of £10 per child for those in receipt of income based free school meals, Council Tax Reduction (CTR), Universal Credit (UC) or Housing Benefit (HB)
- Increase the amount provided to singles / couples in receipt of benefits from £45/£55 to £75/£100
- An additional £38,000 to Community Support to assist with crisis applications
- An additional £17,000 allocated to the provision of third party support

1.1.4 It is worthy of note that those pensioners in receipt of Attendance Allowance or Council Tax Reduction and who are not eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment (without clawback through HMRC) will still be eligible for the full amount of the government Winter Fuel Payment of £300 or £200 per household, depending on age, through the Household Support Fund.

1.1.5 The above represents amendments to the scheme to redistribute anticipated surplus funding. Those who were eligible previously do not miss out and the delivery plan remains designed to provide support to the town's most vulnerable residents and low-income households who have a Council Tax or rental liability for their home in a similar way as for previous rounds of HSF funding, as outlined below:

- Families with children in receipt of benefits.
- Pensioners in receipt of CTR
- Singles/Couples which includes those of pensionable age in receipt of benefits
- Application-based awards for residents not in receipt of CTR or other benefits including those of pensionable age

1.2 Members Priorities Fund Ward Allocations

1.2.1 Just a reminder that all wards have an allocation of revenue funding, which depends on the size of the ward and is allocated at the rate of £5,000 per councillor. Guidance and application forms were last emailed to all councillors on 16 July.

1.2.2 To ensure that as many schemes as possible can be delivered within the financial year councillors are asked to submit initial schemes if they have not already done so by 31 October 2025 and any remaining schemes by 31 December 2025. The officer panel will sit in November 2025 and January 2025.

1.2.3 The first officer panel met on September 30 and members are being informed of the outcome of bids already submitted.

1.2.4 I'm informed that proposals submitted so far include:

- Barriers, knee rails and bollards
- Improvements to play areas
- Removal of planters
- Flashing speed awareness signs
- Ornamental structure and planting at roundabout
- Christmas lighting and festivities
- CCTV cameras
- Contribution to pathway, alongside MSS Capital scheme
- Contribution to pedestrian crossing, alongside MSS Capital scheme

1.2.5 Schemes submitted by ward members will be approved if they are deliverable, affordable, and have no ongoing revenue implications, and that they will benefit the ward

and have a positive impact on Council Plan ambitions Middlesbrough Priority Fund applications will be programmed for delivery on completion of the Panel stage based on officer recommendations.

2. THE TIME AHEAD

Update:

2.1 Medium Term Financial Plan

2.1.1 All members were invited to a briefing on the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) on 23 September 2025. The briefing provided an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and outlined the approach and timetable for developing the 2026/27 budget and MTFP to 2029/30. The latest report updating this was presented to the Executive on 03 September 2025.

2.1.2 Unfortunately, due to technical issues some members who were trying to join the briefing remotely were unable to do so and so the Director of Finance will be offering those unable to attend the opportunity for an additional briefing, as well as sending out the slides used to all members.

2.1.3 The briefing covered:

- Members's responsibilities
- Current financial position
- Budget development strategy
- Fair funding review consultation
- General economic climate
- Service demand pressures
- Emerging financial pressures and other key considerations
- Investment in the Capital Programme
- Budget strategy, funding allocation priorities and timetable
- Key messages and next steps

2.1.4 Some of the information in the briefing was covered in my last report to Council. It was confirmed that main pressures are in Children's and Adult Social Care, Environment & Community Services and Strategic Commercial Properties. Directorates are currently working on Financial Recovery Action Plans

2.1.5 I have previously referred to the Government's Fair Funding Review which was also covered in the briefing. The approach by the Government in their fundamental reforms to local government funding is to make the way funding is provided for local authorities fairer and simpler and aims to move funding to authorities who have the greatest need, such as Middlesbrough. Officers confirmed at the briefing that Middlesbrough likely to benefit due to high service demand and historical underfunding.

2.1.6 However, at the briefing we were informed that timescales have changed which mean that we will not receive the details of the Settlement when previously expected and the provisional Local Government Settlement will not have been announced before the budget report goes to Executive at the beginning of December:

- The Autumn Budget 2025 will now be delivered on Wednesday 26th November 2025 (originally expected October 2025)

- The Government's decision to defer the budget could impact elements of the Fair Funding Review, as it is closely tied to the wider fiscal policy and public spending commitments
- The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement is now expected in mid to late December 2025 (originally expected late November 2025)

2.1.7 A report will be submitted to Executive on 03 December 2025 which will update the MTFP and include budget proposals for the 2026/27 budget and following which public consultation will commence on the budget proposals. Prior to that there will be a further briefing for all members which is planned for 25 November 2025. Meetings of the cross-party Financial Resilience Working Group which includes all group leaders are also timetabled with the first for this forthcoming budget being on October 13 2025. I included the 2026/27 Budget Setting Timetable in my last report to Council.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Ian Blades - Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

DATE OF MEETING: 15 October 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

- *Neighbourhoods*
- *Neighbourhood Safety*
- *Community Cohesion*

Update:

This report highlights some of the initiatives and success of the past month.

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

Great Work Wardens

1.1 I want to recognise the heroism and bravery of our wardens after helping to tackle a knife-wielding man in a terrifying town centre incident last month. I join Mayor Chris Cooke in praising their courage and professionalism as they responded to events that were captured on CCTV. Their quick thinking actions helped to bring a swift end to the incident preventing anyone from being hurt until police arrived. Well done and thank you!

Central Library is open!

1.2 I am delighted to say that the much-loved Central Library has reopened after a 20-month major overhaul. The refurbishment of the Grade II-listed building on Centre Square followed a successful bid to the Government's Cultural Development Fund. The improvements are part of a £1.9m project, funded by the Arts Council, the Future High Streets Fund and Middlesbrough Council and include a full redesign of the main ground floor area to create a children's library with play areas and family facilities.

1.3 This fantastic refurbishment has given this wonderful building a whole new lease of life, while retaining the stunning features which keep people coming back throughout their lives. These improvements will stand it in good stead for the next century and beyond, helping future generations develop a life-long love of books and creativity. I'm enormously grateful to the Arts Council for helping to make this possible – countless lives will be enriched as a result, and that is simply priceless.



East Middlesbrough

Neighbourhood Caretakers

1.4 Our newly appointed caretakers have been extremely busy in their first couple of months whilst undergoing all of their required training they have been involved in the following projects over the last few weeks;

- Installed signage on every alley gate in North Ormesby to help tackle fly-tipping.
- Cleaned up and cut back lots of overgrown shubbery on Esk Street, North Ormesby
- Removal of broken glass and waste at Colmore Avenue, Thorntree.
- We identified lots of offensive graffiti on an electricity station on Ormesby Road. We took immediate action to remove this
- Cut back overgrown bushes and reduce the risk of the resident's properties suffering from fire damage in Berwick Hills
- Removing overgrown weeds in Netherfields



South Middlesbrough

Hemlington Library and Community Hub

1.5 Tai Chi sessions with the Elmstone Gardens Community Group. Keeping the community active. All participants really enjoyed the sessions and requested for them to be repeated weekly.

Community Meetings

1.6 I attended Nunthorpe Parish Council and Marton West community council, and I'd like to thank them for the warm welcome. I would also be more than happy to try to attend other community groups on request so please get in touch with me if you would like me to attend your community group and I will do my best to attend.

Neighbourhood Caretakers

1.7 South Middlesbrough Neighbourhood caretakers have already made a huge difference to the area. They have carried out projects in all wards with residents coming to speak to

them and thanking them for their efforts. Tidying Lingfield Play area Coulby Newham and Hemlington Lake.



West Middlesbrough

Great Work Wardens

1.8 Wardens responded to an unconscious male on Marton Road, where they administered first aid and got him an ambulance to ensure he was safe. The male had overdosed therefore wardens administered naloxone whilst waiting on ambulance to arrive.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER UPDATE TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Jan Ryles - Executive Member for Public Health

DATE OF MEETING: 15 October 2025

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

A healthy place:

- *Improve life chances of our residents by responding to health inequalities*
- *Promote inclusivity for all*
- *Reduce poverty*

1. HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Suicide Prevention

To mark World Suicide Prevention Day 2025, Public Health and key members of the Tees Suicide Prevention Taskforce produced a short video showcasing the organisations actively working to prevent suicide across Teesside. The central message is clear: suicide prevention is a shared responsibility. It requires collaboration between organisations, communities, and individuals, all united in the goal of reducing suicide deaths in our area. The video also encourages organisations to reflect on how they can contribute to suicide prevention efforts and help shift the narrative around suicide: <https://youtu.be/WNj4X5laakY>

The Suicide Postvention Service, 'If U Care Share', has received NHS funding to provide immediate, practical support to families following a suspected suicide. Public Health has supported the launch of this new service by raising awareness locally and working with Cleveland Police to develop referral pathways for those affected.

1.2 Mental Health Training Hub

The commissioned provider of the Mental Health Training Hub hosted their annual event in Middlesbrough in September for our local workforce to further develop their knowledge and skills based on the Mental Health Awareness Month theme of 'Community and its impact on Wellbeing'.

Ageing Well Updates

1.3 Dementia Friendly Care Home Guide has been introduced across Middlesbrough care homes and includes a self-assessment tool to enhance dementia support through improvements in the physical environment, staff training, leadership, and activities. It's

now part of the care home service specification and was highlighted in the LA CQC inspection report as best practice.

- 11 care homes have expressed interest
- 4 are actively using the tool
- 4 have been accredited by Dementia Action Teesside for their commitment to dementia-friendly communities

1.4 Dementia Friendly Transport

Public Health are working with colleagues at Stockton Borough Council to co-designing an e-learning package for Stagecoach and Arriva Bus Drivers on Dementia Friendly Transport to help make transport more accessible. This should increase independence, confidence in using public transport and travelling alone and improving access to health services and social activities.

1.5 Increasing Dementia Diagnosis in South Asian Communities

This is a collaborative project between Public Health, TEWVT, HDRC, Teesside University and BME Network to increase diagnosis, explore the way in which modifiable risk factors can be reduced, and to ensure pathways to treatment and engagement approaches are culturally relevant and appropriate.

We have secured a joint bid via Tees Eske & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust from the research capability funding to facilitate a series of creative workshops with members of South Asian communities. Workshops will be co-created and facilitated by creative artists and a research assistant and structured around identifying the components of effective and cultural appropriate information, advice and support on dementia, dementia prevention, diagnosis and post diagnostic support.

1.6 Seniors Connected Project

We have secured an additional £23k Know Your Neighbourhood Fund Grant Extension for procuring alternative provision for longer-term continuation of Seniors Connected and age friendly activities, securing a project legacy and for supporting ongoing groups and community events.

1.7 Ageing Well Hub

Since opening the Hub in the Live Well Centre we have seen people utilising the space to access advice and information and support and signposting to alternative support services.

Weekly activities include Movie Club, Mindfulness, Digital walks, Carers group, Bereavement support, Chair Exercise, and coffee mornings. Liaising with providers to facilitate additional support groups for older people including Domestic abuse support, Ageing without children, Young Onset Dementia, Over 50s recovery group, over 50s LGBTQ+ group, Wellbeing Plus for people living with chronic pain and Long-Term Conditions.

Vulnerabilities

1.8 Changing Futures

The duty walk-in service remains busy in quarter 2 with 217 people accessing the service at Middlesbrough House. The top three presenting issues were housing support, financial support, including foodbank vouchers and general advice and guidance. Although there is

still a waiting list for Key Worker support, this has reduced from an average of 9 weeks to 4-5 weeks.

1.9 Recovery Solutions

Recovery Solutions has trained staff at the Longlands Club, making it the first pub in Middlesbrough to have all managers and staff naloxone trained to respond to overdoses. This has been very positively received locally, with several other pubs, services – and even a barbers – now approaching us for the same training.

This demonstrates strong community demand for lifesaving skills and highlights the role of Recovery Solutions in building safer, more resilient neighbourhoods

The night clinic that was set up to support vulnerable women and those sex working has been successful in supporting people out of hours, to date it has achieved:

- 4 have gone to detox and rehabilitation with a further 3 on the pathway
- 2 no longer sex work as they no longer need to buy heroin due to being in treatment
- 8 have been supported into accommodation from being street homeless
- 20 are now in structured treatment
- Further 28 have been supported through the night clinic
- Recovery Solutions represent the women within the safeguarding arena including the High-Risk Adults Panel and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- We have administered naloxone 4 times in the night clinic. These women may have died if out on the streets without this connection and intervention
- One of our women recognised an overdose in someone else and ran to the clinic to get our help and naloxone and she stated that was from us talking to her every week about overdose and naloxone
- We have created safe space and a community in the night clinic where the women come together, eat together, chat and engage with whichever part of the clinic they need in that moment.

1.10 Continuity of Care

Continuity of care rates supporting people from Prison into support services have risen to 62% – the highest level in over a year. This is particularly encouraging given that other areas nationally are seeing a decline. The improvement reflects the introduction of new pathways, including Service presence at probation, pre-release visits, arranged prison pick-ups, and enhanced post-release support for a set period.

1.11 Successful Completions

Successful completions have increased across all groups (opiates, alcohol and non-opiates). Outcomes remain below national averages – particularly for opiates – but there has been clear progress, with alcohol and non-opiate completions now moving much closer to the national benchmark.

1.12 Numbers in Treatment

Alcohol and non-opiate treatment numbers have both risen, bringing us closer to our 2025/26 targets. If this upward trend continues, we are on track to achieve them. Opiate referrals have also started to increase, but volumes remain a significant challenge. Dedicated working groups are in place to strengthen pathways and improve referral numbers to help close the gap

III Health Prevention

1.13 Stop Smoking Service

Due to the improved referral pathways and access points this has also resulted in an increase in those accessing service following a referral. This again can be explained by the improved referral routes for both professionals and Self-referrals resulting in reduced inappropriate referrals being placed.

1.14 Social Prescribing

The Social Prescribing model is expanding into the Cardiology pathway to support patients more broadly in managing their condition and connecting to local support services. Q1 has involved co-development of Standard Operating Procedures, setting up systems, evaluation plans, community partnership development and service promotion.

Health Protection

1.15 Increasing uptake of Immunisations

Following the childhood immunisations behavioural insights trial in Middlesbrough, resources (red book stickers, leaflets, and posters) have been developed to increase uptake. Changes to the national schedule have been accounted for, so the 5-step resources are now 6-step resources. We are currently awaiting guidance on the introduction of the varicella vaccine (chicken pox) before finalising the materials. School admissions will continue to distribute the “it’s not too late” leaflet, designed to encourage parents to complete the set by catching up on any missed vaccines before their child starts reception.

Similarly, following the adolescent immunisation behavioural insights trials in Macmillan Academy, the Health Protection Team are working closely with NHS England and the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) to roll out the resources (letters, e-mails, texts, and leaflets) to all secondary schools in Middlesbrough. The leaflets include QR codes to the relevant sections of the regional adolescent vaccine video commissioned by the North East Association of Directors of Public Health (NE ADPH) network. Teaching resources (presentations) to educate pupils about the importance of the adolescent vaccines are also being developed.

1.16 Communicable Disease

Funding has been provided to continue the JCUH opt out testing for hep C, HIV and Syphilis which has detected a higher rate than other pilot areas funded via the Government funding. This pilot is testing for syphilis and Hep C whereas the government funded ones just test for HIV. High numbers of Hep C have been detected.

A procedure is being adopted to deal with hospital discharges for TB patients that are homeless and vulnerable. This procedure will involve several agencies meeting to discuss each case in order that the patient has suitable accommodation, financial provisions and assistance to allow them to live within the community safely with appropriate support to allow them to continue with their treatment.

Healthy Environments

1.17 Run Middlesbrough

The council and its leisure partner, Everyone Active, have teamed up with Event of the North to deliver Run Middlesbrough’s programme of running events from 2026. Events of the North, operated by former 1500m world record holder and world champion, Steve

Cram, will deliver the Middlesbrough 10k and Ali Brownlee 5K on Sunday 30 August 2026. These events will be complemented by Paula Radcliffe's, former women's marathon world record holder and world champion, 'Families on Track' relay at Albert Park on Saturday 29 August 2026. These events will link with local running programmes and other running events to increase the uptake of running by local residents as well as contributing to shining a positive light on Middlesbrough. Further details about Run Middlesbrough 2026 can be found via the following link [Middlesbrough Runs – Events of the North](#)

1.18 Homeless Football

Working with our partners Street Soccer London/Scotland, Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation and Everyone Active; Public Health South Tees and the Council were proud to host the first northern regional trials to select a team to represent England at the Football Homeless World Cup that took place in Oslo in August. The northern trials, that took place at Middlesbrough Sports Village in May, attracted over 100 participants from across the North East, Liverpool and London, that had either experienced homelessness, addiction or social isolation. The northern trials proved to be an enormous success that was received well by its participants and provided two players to represent England at the Homeless World Cup in Oslo. Moving forwards Public Health South Tees will seek opportunities to provide a year round programme of homeless football activation, sustain the delivery of the northern trials for the annual Homeless World Cup event, and consider the viability of a bid from Middlesbrough to host the Homeless World Cup in 2030.

1.19 Sport Gifted and Talented Identification Project

Working in partnership with Middlesbrough Mandale Athletics Club, Public Health South Tees has attracted funding to support the delivery of a pilot sports gifted and talented identification project. The project will see the delivery of an identification programme for all year 5 and 6 children across 6 primary schools in East Middlesbrough. Up to 48 children will then be invited to a free 2-day holiday programme at Middlesbrough Sports Village linked with local sports clubs. It is hoped that the project will identify children that didn't realise they had a talent in sport, link them directly with local sports clubs and facilities where they can express their talents, and in so doing contribute to raising the aspirations and confidence of children identified.

1.20 Managing Undernutrition South Tees (MUST): Elderly Care Homes

All care homes in Middlesbrough are now either actively working towards or already exceeding national nutrition standards. This milestone reflects our strong commitment and the dedicated efforts of care homes to improve nutritional standards for every resident despite the nutritional needs.

Eat Well

Healthy Weight Declaration (HWD)

1.21 Marketing & Comms Workshop

HWD & Marketing workshop held in September 2025, where commitments aligned to marketing & comms were presented for discussion and actions on how to improve the cross-department priorities around healthy weight messaging were agreed. Where HWD can be conflict of interest to priorities of the Council's comms such as regeneration of the town we have seen positive steps to reframe messages. We are working with Marketing to use nutrient profile modelling (which reduces the calorific value of advertisements and dependant on the scoring selects whether certain food or drinks can be used when advertising food and drink related content). Changes have also been made to staff

discounts on staff website, 'Meal out in Middlesbrough' and social media posts relating to unhealthy food. In addition, no photos of unhealthy foods are seen on the landing pages or social media.

1.22 Good Food Local

In July 2025, as part of the Good Food Local programme, colleagues from Middlesbrough Council attended a workshop hosted by Sustain and the Association of Directors of Public Health. The workshop looked at how to drive forward change and improve food-related outcomes for Middlesbrough residents while leveraging co-benefits to meet the Council's environmental, economic growth and health and wellbeing objectives.

1.23 Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

The HAF programme continues to offer a great programme to our children and young people in receipt of benefit related free school meals, with a good and consistent number of providers delivering programmes across Middlesbrough. HAF is now delivering programmes during the October and February half term periods, through funding awarded from the Mayors Priorities Fund.

Funding for the HAF programme has now been extended for an additional 3 years 2026-2029. Detailed planning will take place once guidance has been issued from the DfE – this is expected at the end of the year.

Best Start in Life

1.24 Oral Health

We have commenced distribution of the Colgate toothbrushing resources for settings and services, starting with early years settings initially, including nurseries, before moving on to schools. Commissioning continues with dental practices across South Tees to award contracts for the targeted schools fluoride varnish programme. We have received additional funding from the NHS ICB for the fluoride varnish programme, to contribute towards the three-year programme.

1.25 Healthy Weight

We are engaging with schools to recruit into the SHINE research programme (Studying Happiness, Self-Image, Nutrition and Eating in children) across South Tees, working with University College London (UCL). This research will also look at the cost effectiveness of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

1.26 Infant Feeding

The "Mamazing" breastfeeding campaign, a collaborative project involving colleagues from Public Health, Family Hubs, Marketing and Communications, Maternity Services and the Middlesbrough 0-19 team was delivered between April and June 2025, with further marketing messages delivered during World Breastfeeding Week in August 2025. During this week, one of the "Mamazing" Ambassadors featured on BBC Radio 5 Live, engaging in a discussion about the importance of breastfeeding and the benefits for mother and baby. We are currently undertaking public consultation on the campaign, with the aim of using this information to inform the next phase of the campaign, which will take place between January and March 2026.

1.27 Health Determinants Research Collaboration South Tees

Coming into our third year, under our Research Support Process and Coordination workstream we continue to work to develop research questions into robust funding applications. Since the programme began the number of research ideas submitted by Council staff has doubled and surpassed the number from academics. Through our Culture Change workstream we have conducted a “sandpit” to explore the barriers and facilitators to research in Adults and Communities and plan to do so in Children and Families (Education), Regeneration, and Environment and Commercial Services (Neighbourhoods management team).

We have launched our HDRC ST Training and Development Programme that consists of a series of online sessions that LA staff can sign up to. The session recordings are saved on our HDRC Portal <https://hdrcsouthtees.co.uk/> . Engaging with elected members is an essential part of our work and we continue to attend Council meetings to promote the HDRC and share our progress.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECTION 2 – DECISIONS TAKEN THAT HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE CALL-IN PERIOD

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
The Mayor				
3 Sep 2025	Executive	Corporate Performance Quarter One 2025/2026	That Executive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notes the progress and position of the corporate performance disciplines, including activity within the Transformation Portfolio • approves proposed changes to the Executive actions, detailed at Appendix 1 • notes delivery status of the Council Plan 2024-27 supporting workplan, detailed at Appendix 2 • approves the proposed changes to the Council Plan 2024-27 supporting workplan actions, detailed at Appendix 3 • notes the Strategic Risk Register, at Appendix 4 	No
Executive Member - Finance				
3 Sep 2025	Executive	Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) update and 2026/27 budget approach and timetable	To provide an update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), and to seek approval of the budget development approach and timetable for the 2026/27 budget and MTFP for the four-year period 2026/27 to 2029/30.	No

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
3 Sep 2025	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget – Forecast Year-end Outturn position at Quarter One 2025/26	The report advises the Executive of the Council's financial position as at Quarter One 2025/26	Yes

SECTION 3 – DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN UP UNTIL THE COUNCIL MEETING

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
The Mayor				
8 Oct 2025	Executive	Information Strategy 2025-2029	To approve the information strategy 2025-29	No
Deputy Mayor and Executive Member - Education and Culture				
8 Oct 2025	Executive	People Scrutiny Panel Report on Children Missing Education (CME)	That Executive notes the background information and contextual factors contained within this report. This report is presented in support of the People Scrutiny Panel Report on Children Missing Education (CME).	Yes
Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability				
8 Oct 2025	Executive	Place Scrutiny Report – Home to School Transport Service	To inform Executive of the scrutiny review in the Home to School Transport Service and to set out the proposed actions of the Integrated Transport Unit to address the recommendations from the report.	Yes
8 Oct 2025	Executive	Waste Disposal Options	To seek executive approval for Middlesbrough Council to accept the preferred bidder with respect to the procurement of the energy from waste plant and to enter with the other relevant north east authorities a special purpose vehicle to manage the waste disposal contract for	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
			MBC.	
Executive Member - Finance				
8 Oct 2025	Executive	Household Support Fund 2025/26	To agree changes required to the original delivery plan	Yes
Executive Member - Public Health				
8 Oct 2025	Executive	Recovery Solutions Delivery Model	To set out future site delivery options for Recovery Solutions, our in-house substance misuse service, in response to recent operational challenges.	Yes

SECTION 4 – DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
The Mayor				
12 Nov 2025	Executive	Continuous Improvement Plan	To set out the expanded Continuous Improvement Plan.	Yes
3 Dec 2025	Executive	Corporate Performance Quarter Two 2025/2026	That Executive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notes the progress and position of the corporate performance disciplines, including activity within the Transformation Portfolio • approves proposed changes to the Executive actions, detailed at Appendix 1 • notes delivery status of the Council Plan 2024-27 supporting workplan, detailed at Appendix 2 • approves the proposed changes to the Council Plan 2024-27 supporting workplan actions, detailed at Appendix 3 • notes the Strategic Risk Register, at Appendix 4 	No
Deputy Mayor and Executive Member - Education and Culture				
3 Dec 2025	Executive	SHiFT Programme Progress Update	To present findings from the Annual Partnership Review	No

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
Executive Member - Adult Social Care				
21 Jan 2026	Executive	Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-2028	For executive approval of Domestic Abuse Strategy developed by Middlesbrough Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership to fulfil statutory duties within Domestic Abuse Act 2021	Yes
12 Nov 2025	Executive	Levick Court	Development of Respite Provision and partnership working with TEWV.	Yes
Executive Member - Development				
12 Nov 2025	Executive	Development of Middlehaven	Proposals to commence preparatory work for the comprehensive redevelopment of Middlehaven	Yes
12 Nov 2025	Executive	Investment in Temporary Accommodation	Proposals for investment alongside a social investor to purchase properties to reduce the expenditure on temporary accommodation	Yes
12 Nov 2025	Executive	Capital Investment in Council Buildings	Proposals to invest in major reconfiguration and repair of Council buildings	Yes
3 Dec 2025	Executive	Middlesbrough Street Security	Approval to enter into a funding agreement with TVCA to deliver 3 year pilot	Yes
Executive Member for Environment and Sustainability				
3 Dec 2025	Executive	Cemetery Expansion Proposals	To update and inform on the current and proposed plans to ensure current and future burial plots supply	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
Executive Member - Finance				
12 Nov 2025	Executive	Treasury Management Mid-Year Review - 2025/26	The report provides an update to the Executive on performance in relation to the Council's borrowing, investments, cash-flow, and prudential indicators, for the 2025/26 financial year to meet the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and the Local Government Act 2003.	No
12 Nov 2025	Executive	Service Response to Final Report of the Place Scrutiny Panel "Empty Properties	Respond to Panel Recommendations	No
4 Feb 2026	Executive	Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2026/27 to 2029/30	The report outlines the Council's prudential indicators for the financial years 2026/27 – 2029/30 regarding the affordability of the capital programme, and sets the framework and approves the limits within which the treasury management operations for this period will work. It fulfils key legislative and guidance requirements in this area and is an essential part of the annual budget setting process.	Yes
3 Dec 2025	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget - Forecast Year-end Outturn position at Quarter Two 2025/26	The report advises the Executive of the Council's financial position as at Quarter Two 2025/26	Yes
12 Nov 2025	Executive	Tees Valley Investment Zone Memorandum of Understanding	Seek approval for governance and Business Rates retention arrangements for Investment Zone Programme	Yes
Executive Member - Neighbourhoods				
12 Nov 2025	Executive	TS1 PSPO Extension	To present the findings of the consultation and request a decision on extending the PSPO for the TS1 area for a further 3 years	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
12 Nov 2025	Executive	Warm Homes: Local Grant – Home Energy Efficiency Improvement scheme	<p>To seek approval for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entering into the agreement for the Warm Homes: Local Grant scheme in Middlesbrough as part of a Tees Valley Authorities' consortium. • Darlington Borough Council to manage and administer the grant • Delegation of the operation and delivery of the grant to the Director and Head of Service 	Yes

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Councillor L Young, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer)
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Relevant Executive Member:	The Mayor
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Submitted to:	Council
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Date:	15 October 2025
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Title:	Scrutiny Progress Report
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Report for:	Information
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Status:	Public
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Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
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Key decision:	No
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Why:	Report is for information only
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Subject to call in?:	Not applicable
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Why:	Not Applicable Council Report for information only
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Proposed decision(s)
That Council note the report.

Executive summary
To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels. The current position regarding progress made by the Board and each of the panels is set out below.

1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

- 1.1 To update the position in respect of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board and scrutiny panels.

1.2

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	By responding effectively and efficiently to constitutional requirements the Council will maintain effective and robust governance arrangements. Robust governance arrangements will allow for effective decisions which inform all the Council's ambitions.
A healthy Place	
Safe and resilient communities	
Delivering best value	

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council note the report.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

4. Background and relevant information:

Overview and Scrutiny Board

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 17 September 2025.

4.2 The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture was in attendance and provided an update on her portfolio. The presentation focussed on three areas: Culture, Education and Partnerships and Other Areas. The Deputy Mayor updated Members on recent events, priorities and future challenges.

4.3 A copy of the Executive Forward Work Programme had been circulated to the Board. The Chair expressed the view that although the Executive Forward Plan was fuller but it should contain more decisions than were currently being listed. It was agreed that the Democratic Services Officer would write to the Council's Leadership Management Team to express this view.

4.4 The Panel also considered and approved Terms of Reference for the Board's scrutiny review into "Poverty, its impact, and efforts to tackle it".

4.5 The next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board is scheduled for 22 October 2025, when the Executive Member for Children's Services will be in attendance. There will also be an update from the Middlesbrough Development Corporation.

5. Scrutiny Panel Updates

- 5.1 The updated position in respect of the work of each of the Council's scrutiny panels is shown below.

Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel

- 5.2 The Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel last met on 8 September 2025. The panel considered the following items as part of its agenda:

- Communications with South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Health Determinants Research Collaboration
- Care Quality Commission (CQC) September Update
- Scrutiny Topic Overview – 'Healthy Placemaking Across the Life Course with A Focus on Children and Young People'
- Overview and Scrutiny Board Update

The Vice Chair provided a verbal update on his role with the South Tees NHS Foundation Trust's Council of Governors, including recent Board engagement and the upcoming Annual General Meeting. The Panel discussed ongoing communication with the Trust following its Draft Quality Account presentation in May 2005. It was agreed that Democratic Services would explore scheduling a special meeting early in the New Year to consider NHS matters, with informal liaison also to be considered with the Integrated Care Board and South Tees Trust.

The Panel received a presentation from Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) South Tees on fostering positive research culture within local authority. Key priorities, funding, and community impact were outlined through case studies. It was confirmed that resident engagement is supported via charity networks, local projects, and elected members.

The Panel received a quarterly update on the CQC Improvement Plan. Following a 2024 inspection, Adult Social Care was rated 'Requires Improvement'. Progress was reported across key areas, supported by 36 projects and an Improvement Board. A 10-Year Vision Strategy is being developed with Healthwatch. Updates included a new leadership in housing, improved multi-disciplinary working, workforce recruitment, and trials of 'Magic Notes' to streamline case recording.

Public Health and Sport England presented on childhood obesity in Middlesbrough, highlighting above-average rates, especially in deprived wards. A whole system approach was emphasised, with local initiatives including:

- Healthy weight declaration
- Planning toolkit for health impact
- Advertising restrictions
- Breastfeeding campaign
- Holiday activities and healthy food
- Active schools programme
- Eat well standards in education settings

Members were asked to consider draft terms of reference for the review.

The Chair provided an update from the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 30 July 2025. Key items noted:

- Continuous Improvement Plan update
- 2025/26 Scrutiny Work Planning
- Pre-Decision Scrutiny Protocol
- Final Reports: Children Missing in Education and Empty Properties

The next meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel is scheduled for 20 October 2025. The Panel will receive presentations from Planning and Transport and Infrastructure on how the built and planned environment influences childhood obesity in Middlesbrough.

Children's Scrutiny Panel

5.3 The Children's Scrutiny Panel last met on 15 September 2025.

5.4 At the 15 September meeting the Interim Executive Director of Children's Services, Interim Director of Education & Partnerships and Head of Inclusion, Assessment & Review were all in attendance to provide Members with an overview of Out of Area Specialist Provision. It was explained that work had been done to reduce the amount of children accessing Out of Area placements and Middlesbrough performed well in this aspect compared to its national and regional counterparts but due to uplifted fees and costs from independent providers, the financial impact of reducing reliance was not always fully realised. Information on the following was provided to the Panel:

- Reasons for Out of Area Specialist Provision
- Characteristics of children in out of area specialist education provision
- The cost of other local authority specialist provision The cost of independent provision – day placements
- Residential Education Placements
- Performance data and statistics – Independent Specialist Education Provision
- Quality
- Next Steps

5.5 Officers answered questions from the Panel and it was suggested that the Panel would look to agree the Terms of Reference at the next meeting which would focus on several of the topics discussed in the meeting, including:

- What had worked well in the past – good practice
- Upcoming government SEND reforms and the potential impacts of these
- Middlesbrough's SEND Workforce Strategy and the impact of this

5.6 The Chair provided an update from the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 30 July 2025.

5.7 During the AOB agenda item, it was requested that the following reports be recirculated to Members of the Panel, which has since been done:

- The 'Final Report of the Place Scrutiny Panel – Home to School Transport', which was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 9 April 2025, and which will next be considered by the Executive on 8 October 2025.
- The 'Management of the Dedicated Schools Grant Risk Within the Strategic Risk Register' report, which will be considered by the Audit Committee on 25 September 2025.

5.8 The Panel's next meeting was scheduled for 27 October 2025 at 4:30 pm.

5.9 **Place Scrutiny Panel**

5.10 A meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel took place on 29 September 2025.

5.11 At the 29 September meeting the Head of Growth and Town Centre Manager were in attendance to provide Members with an overview of the Barriers to Regeneration in Middlesbrough Town Centre, with a focus on Anti-Social Behaviour. The Panel noted the information provided and a discussion took place regarding potential ways in which the barriers could be overcome. The draft Terms of Reference were presented and it was agreed that the focus on anti-social behaviour would be omitted from ToR 1 & 2 to widen the scope of the scrutiny investigation and the Terms of Reference were agreed as follows:

Terms of Reference:

- 1) To establish what the barriers to regeneration are
- 2) To identify good practice from other local authorities in relation to attracting businesses to the area.
- 3) To investigate what measures are in place to make people feel safer in our town centre and neighbourhoods
- 4) To gain an understanding of current legislation available to local authorities to tackle antisocial behaviour

5.12 The next meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel is scheduled to take place on Monday 27 October 2025 and the Panel has invited a representative from Locus to attend the meeting and present the latest findings of their Economic Assessment of Middlesbrough.

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

5.13 The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee last met on 2 October 2025 to consider the following items:

- Suicide Prevention - Public Health Update.
- Community Mental Health Transformation - Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust.
- Vaping/Nitrous Oxide - Public Health Update.

- Winter Plan Update - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.
- Work Programme 2025/26.

Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive

5.14 Two Final Reports are due to be submitted to Executive on 8 October 2025 as follows:

- Final Report of the People Scrutiny Panel – Children Missing Education.
- Final Report of the Place Scrutiny Panel – Home to School Transport Service.

6. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate.

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

7.1 That an update on the work of the scrutiny function is not provided to full Council. This would not comply with the requirements for updates on the scrutiny function, to be reported to full Council.

8. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications or impact on any budgets or the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) arising from the content of this report.
Legal	The Constitution requires regular updates on the scrutiny function, to be submitted to full Council.
Risk	Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement. If updates on the work of the scrutiny function were not provided to Council, this would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.
Data Protection	Not applicable as this a report to update Council on the work of the scrutiny function and does not change any policy.

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin

Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Richard Horniman - Director of Regeneration
Relevant Executive Member:	Cllr Theo Furness - Executive Member for Development
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	15 October 2025
Title:	Local Plan Examination Modifications – Delegated Authority
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	A successful and ambitious town
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?	No
Why:	Decision made by the Council

Proposed decision(s)
<p>That Full Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves a formal request from the appointed Planning Inspector, under Section 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to recommend modifications to the Middlesbrough Local Plan, where necessary, in order for it to be found sound during the Independent Examination; and • Approves the delegation of authority to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Development, to agree with the Planning Inspector a list of proposed modifications and undertake the consultation associated with this process.

Executive summary
<p>The Report seeks confirmation that the Council formally asks the appointed Planning Inspector to recommend modifications to the Middlesbrough Local Plan, where necessary, in order for it to be found sound during the Independent Examination. It also seeks approval to delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with</p>

the Executive Member for Development, to agree with the Planning Inspector a list of proposed modifications and undertake the consultation associated with this process.

The implications of the recommendation have been considered by the appropriate officers of the Council and are set out in the main body of the report.

1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

1.1 The Report seeks confirmation that the Council formally asks the appointed Planning Inspector to recommend modifications to the Middlesbrough Local Plan, where necessary, in order for it to be found sound during the Independent Examination. It also seeks approval to delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Development, to agree with the Planning Inspector a list of proposed modifications and undertake the consultation associated with this process.

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	The Local Plan sets out policies, allocations and designations for the delivery of sustainable development that supports new housing development and economic growth.
A healthy Place	The Local Plan includes policies that seek to improve outcomes through the consideration of health impacts at the planning stage of developments.
Safe and resilient communities	The Local Plan includes policies that are focused on securing high quality, well-designed development that helps design out crime. It is also supported by policies and an Infrastructure Delivery Plan that will ensure that new development is well served by all types of infrastructure.
Delivering best value	The Local Plan has been prepared to positively secure new, high-quality development that will deliver new homes, economic growth and help retain and grow our economically active households.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Full Council:

- Approves a formal request from the appointed Planning Inspector, under Section 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, to recommend modifications to the Middlesbrough Local Plan, where necessary, in order for it to be found sound during the Independent Examination; and
- Approves delegation of authority to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Development, to agree with the Planning Inspector a list of proposed modifications and undertake the consultation associated with this process.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 The Local Plan must be subject to Independent Examination before it can be adopted by the Council. The decision will help ensure that all procedural matters regarding modifications are dealt with in line with the legislation, and that the necessary delegated authority is in place to support the smooth running of the Examination should any modifications be proposed by the Inspector.

4. Background and relevant information

- 4.1 In March 2025, the Council approved the Publication Local Plan and its subsequent submission to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination. As part of this decision, delegated authority was given to the Director of Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Development, to agree minor changes to the plan during the Independent Examination.
- 4.2 Since then, the statutory consultation has concluded, and the Council has been collating the representations and preparing responses to the issues raised. Further preparations for the Examination have also been made, including further evidence base work and appointing the Programme Officer, who will support the Inspector and help run the Examination.
- 4.3 As the Examination preparations have progressed, the Council has been advised by the appointed Programme Officer that it needs to resolve that, by submitting the Local Plan for Examination, it is requesting that the Planning Inspector propose making modifications where they are considered necessary to address matters of soundness. This is a specific requirement under Section 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Without making such a request, the Inspector will not be able to propose modifications to address any soundness issues. Instead, any concerns over the soundness of the Plan would result in it being found to be unsound.
- 4.4 Local Plan modifications are a common part of Local Plan Examinations and can range in scope from minor wording changes to more substantive changes, such as the changing of key policies, removal of proposed site allocations or the inclusion of additional site allocations. The process requires that such modifications be agreed by the Council and subject to a further statutory period of consultation before the Planning Inspector can produce their final report.
- 4.5 The Programme Officer has also recommended that the Council puts in place an appropriate delegated authority to agree and consult upon any proposed modifications. This will allow the Examination to progress efficiently, and for any necessary public consultation to be undertaken as quickly as possible.
- 4.6 Whilst the approval in March 2025 delegates authority for the agreement of minor changes, it does not allow for agreeing more significant modifications to the Local Plan. It is important to note that at this stage it is not clear if any modifications will be recommended by the Inspector, significant or otherwise. Nor do we know the scope of potential modifications. However, the Council will be asked by the Planning Inspector to confirm that such delegated arrangements are in place ahead of any public hearings taking place.

5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

- 5.1 Not Applicable.

6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

6.1 These are procedural matters that we have been advised is necessary to ensure the smooth running of the Examination. No alternative options have been considered.

7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no additional costs associated with seeking the delegated authority. If modifications are proposed during the Examination, there may be some cost savings as a result of making this decision now by minimising the processes associated with agreeing and consulting upon the modifications at a later date.
Legal	The decision will enable the Local Plan Examination to progress in accordance with Section 20 (7C) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the procedural processes set out by the Planning Inspectorate.
Risk	<p>The following high-level risks identified in the Strategic and Directorate Risk Registers will be reduced as a consequence of preparing the Local Plan:</p> <p>O8-055 - If the Council doesn't respond effectively and efficiently to legislative changes it could be in breach of statutory duties in relation to service delivery and fail to make the most of opportunities.</p> <p>O1-005 - If poor economic growth occurs, then this will reduce public and private sector investment in the town, including town centre retail, housing development and business.</p> <p>O1-051 - A major downturn in housing growth that results in a significant decline in new housebuilding in Middlesbrough, resulting in lower house building rates lower Council Tax receipts and thereby increasing the risk of impact on successful delivery of the MTFP.</p> <p>O1-052 - Substantial areas of the town have high residential voids/low sales values and high population churn, effectively creating market failure resulting in significant social consequences which in turn have implications for Council resources and service delivery. Such an approach is unsustainable and will result in the need for significant market invention at great cost to the Council.</p>
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	The proposal is not judged to have any impacts on Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

Reducing Poverty	The proposal is not judged to have any impacts on Reducing Poverty
Climate Change / Environmental	The proposal is not judged to have any impacts on Climate Change or the Environment
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	The proposal is not judged to have any impacts on Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers
Data Protection	The proposal is not judged to have any impacts on Data Protection

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Ask the appointed Planning Inspector to recommend modifications to the Middlesbrough Local Plan, where necessary to make the Plan sound.	Alex Conti, Strategic Policy Manager	31 October 2025

Appendices

There are no appendices.

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Middlesbrough Council	Publication Local Plan	5 March 2025

Contact: Alex Conti, Strategic Policy Manager
Email: alex_conti@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Initial Impact Assessment of the Publication Local Plan

Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

Subject of assessment:	Local Plan Examination Modifications – Delegated Authority			
Coverage:	Crosscutting			
This is a decision relating to:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Review
	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)		
It is a:	New approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision of an existing approach:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Description:	<p>Key aims, objectives and activities</p> <p>The report seeks to secure the necessary approvals are in place to request that the Planning Inspector is able to recommend modifications to the Local Plan during the Independent Examination, and to allow the agreement of a list of modifications with the Planning Inspector.</p> <p>Statutory drivers</p> <p>The Council must prepare Local Plans and associated planning documents, under the requirements of Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Localism Act 2011, and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>Differences from any previous approach</p> <p>The Local Plan will update the whole of the Council's planning framework (except that relating to minerals and waste development) in line with the latest legislation and policy/guidance. This includes new policy approaches for all areas with a strengthened focus on placemaking, good quality design, a revitalised town centre and a strong network of infrastructure. New site allocations have also been identified for the location of new development.</p> <p>Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries (internal and external as appropriate)</p> <p>The key stakeholders are: The Council, Middlesbrough Development Corporation, developers, businesses, investors and the local community.</p> <p>Intended outcomes.</p> <p>To secure the necessary approvals are in place to request that the Planning Inspector is able to recommend modifications to the Local Plan during the Independent Examination, and to allow the agreement of a list of modifications with the Planning Inspector.</p>			

Live date:	The Council will consider the report seeking approval for the Publication Local Plan on 15 th October 2025.			
Lifespan:	Until the Local Plan is finalised for adoption following Independent Examination.			
Date of next review:	Not applicable			
Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
Human Rights Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The decision is solely to secure the necessary approvals to enable the Planning Inspector to recommend modifications and for a delegated approval to allow the agreement of a list of modifications. If modifications are proposed and agreed, they will be subject to sustainability appraisal, public consultation and further consideration by the Council ahead of adoption. This process is in line with legislation and national policy. In light of the above, it is not considered that the decision will have an adverse impact on individual human rights.
Equality Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The decision is solely to secure the necessary approvals to enable the Planning Inspector to recommend modifications and for a delegated approval to allow the agreement of a list of modifications. If modifications are proposed and agreed, they will be subject to sustainability appraisal, public consultation and further consideration by the Council ahead of adoption. This process is in line with legislation and national policy. In light of the above, it is not considered that the decision will have an adverse impact on different groups or individuals in terms of equality.
Community cohesion Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The decision is solely to secure the necessary approvals to enable the Planning Inspector to recommend modifications and for a delegated approval to allow the agreement of a list of modifications. If modifications are proposed and agreed, they will be subject to sustainability appraisal, public consultation and further consideration by the Council ahead of adoption. This process is in line with legislation and national policy. In light of the above, it is not considered that the decision will impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town.
Next steps: ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed.				

Assessment completed by:	Alex Conti	Head of Service:	Claire Holt
Date:	25/09/2025	Date:	25/09/2025

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Interim Director of Education and Partnerships, Caroline Cannon
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Education and Culture, Philippa Storey
Submitted to:	Full Council
Date:	15 October 2025
Title:	South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2025/26
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Safe and resilient communities
Key decision:	No
Why:	Decision does not reach the threshold to be a key decision
Subject to call in?	Not applicable
Why:	Decision is made by Full Council

Proposed decision(s)
<p>That Full Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - APPROVES the South Tees Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2025/26.

Executive summary
<p>The Youth Justice Plan is a legally required strategic document as set down by Section 40 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and by National Standards for Youth Justice. Section 40 states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partners, to formulate a youth justice plan which outlines how youth justice services in the area are to be provided and funded.</p> <p>The plan provides an overview of the work of the Youth Justice Service over the previous year, including an overview of performance against the 3 main Youth Justice National Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Time Entrants • Use of Custody

- Re-offending

The plan also outlines the priorities for South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) in 2025/26, and how those priorities will be achieved.

TO NOTE: Youth justice plans, in England only, must be signed off by the full council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'.

1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

1.1 To seek approval of Full Council in accordance with Regulation 4 of the 'Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'. The STYJS Youth Justice plan 2025/26 (attached) requires approval by full council.

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	Ensuring we have a plan that reduces offending and re-offending will ensure we are able to deliver the ambitions around this theme.
A healthy place	The Youth Justice Plan promotes inclusivity and sets out how the service works with partners to ensure pathways are in place to improve life chances of children.
Safe and resilient communities	The principal aim of the Youth Justice Service is to prevent offending and re-offending, and ensure children are accountable for their actions. A key priority for the Youth Justice Service this year is work with victims and keeping communities safe. Actions that successfully prevent re-offending will contribute toward the priority of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
Delivering best value	South Tees Youth Justice Service receives grant funding from the Youth Justice Board and additionally from a range of partners including Middlesbrough Council. Robust governance of the pooled budget is provided by the South Tees Youth Justice Management Board which ensures value for money.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Full Council:

- **APPROVES** the South Tees Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2025/26.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 In preparing this Youth Justice Plan a comprehensive consultation process was entered into and this included consultation with staff, partners, and young people. The purpose of the consultation was to share the plans and service priorities, as proposed by the STYJS management team and to secure the views of staff and partners on these proposals. This consultation ensured that all key stakeholders had a voice in the plan, and the actions detailed in this plan are owned by all.

3.2 The Youth Justice Board requires approval of the document as part of the grant terms and conditions. Failure to approve this plan would result in the council not fulfilling its

statutory obligations and the service not receiving funds from the YJB to provide a statutory service.

4. Background and relevant information

4.1 The Youth Justice Board (YJB) have issued a framework which Youth Justice Services must use when designing their plans and this is detailed in the YJB document Youth Justice Plans: guidance for youth justice services. This will assist the YJB to gather the information and data contained within the plan to support their oversight of services, offering more consistency of structure and content. This document allows for the YJS to present the plan covering all key areas of the work of the service, affording the YJS the opportunity to highlight achievements over the past year, challenges faced by the service in the delivery of services and to offer the scope for new priorities for the coming year.

4.2 YJS Management Boards should govern and own the process of producing the local youth justice plan; it is their opportunity to collectively shape the direction of the delivery of youth justice so that it best meets the needs of the locality, children, families, victims and communities. Opportunities for wider participation, significantly where children and their families can themselves shape and influence the delivery of your service, are also strongly encouraged. STYJS Management Board has overseen the production of this plan and approved its content. The plan will be governed by the STYJS Management Board which meets on a quarterly basis. The YJB Regional Advisor is a member of the STYJS Management Board and therefore has oversight of the progress against priority areas.

4.3 The priorities identified by STYJS to support the development of the service during 2025-2026 have been designed to reflect issues affecting the service at a local, regional and national level. Consideration has also been given to factors impacting on the young people, families, victims and communities to ensure the service can affect positive change in these areas. STYJS has sought to focus on four key areas for service development to reflect current key issues. It is also intended that key themes such as prevention and the voice of the child will underpin the approaches taken to meet these priorities.

4.4 The priorities to support ongoing service development are:

- Priority 1: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation
- Priority 2: Work with Victims
- Priority 3: Child First
- Priority 4: Engagement and Participation

4.5 The Youth Justice Plan is underpinned by a Service Development Plan which sets out how each priority will be delivered. The Service Development Plan is attached to the YJ Plan as Appendix 5. The Service Development Plan is monitored monthly by the YJS management team who are responsible for the operational delivery of the YJ Plan.

Progress against the Service Development Plan is also presented at the STYJS Management Board on a quarterly basis to provide assurance to Board members.

5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

6.1 Do nothing – the Youth Justice Plan is a legally required strategic document as set down by Section 40 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and by National Standards for Youth Justice. Not having a plan would result in the Youth Justice Board withholding all the grant and therefore this is not a viable option.

6.2 Service priorities for 2025/26 were carefully considered by key stake holders, staff and partners and have been included in the current document. The council can be assured that progress against priorities are monitored by the STYJS Management Board on a quarterly basis as is progress of the delivery plan

7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact												
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	<p>The YJB grant allowance for 2025-2026 is £1,054,844. As a statutory duty, local authorities are required to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. This duty is also outlined as a requirement of the terms and conditions of grant. The provision of youth justice services in Middlesbrough are set out in the South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 (Appendix1). There is a statutory and legal obligation for South Tees Youth Justice Service to provide Full Council sign-off. Failure to do so could impact on receipt of the core grant (not being distributed or delayed) due to Full Council sign-off being part of the grant terms and conditions. Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, and Hartlepool Local Authority provide income contributions along with Police and Probation 'in-kind' contributions to resources to the STYJS. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner also provide funding. Currently there are also additional grants that are being utilised to enhance the service. The YJB grant covers part of the structure as shown in the table below.</p> <table> <tr> <td>YJB Grant</td><td>£1,054,844</td></tr> <tr> <td>Middlesbrough LA</td><td>£220,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Redcar LA</td><td>£200,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Office of Police and Crime Commissioner</td><td>£80,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Probation Service</td><td>£5,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hartlepool LA</td><td>£4,999</td></tr> </table>	YJB Grant	£1,054,844	Middlesbrough LA	£220,000	Redcar LA	£200,000	Office of Police and Crime Commissioner	£80,000	Probation Service	£5,000	Hartlepool LA	£4,999
YJB Grant	£1,054,844												
Middlesbrough LA	£220,000												
Redcar LA	£200,000												
Office of Police and Crime Commissioner	£80,000												
Probation Service	£5,000												
Hartlepool LA	£4,999												

	<p>The financial risk is around remand placements and is managed within the service finances. If this remand budget became overspent the STYJS Management Board would need to report and request funds from MBC and Redcar and Cleveland LA for the statutory Looked After provision. However, there has been no overspend in this budget in over 5 years. There is a financial risk within the terms and conditions of the grant, that Middlesbrough as lead partner, requires to submit this annual plan and is signed off along with commitments from partner agencies. Budgetary controls include monthly and quarterly budget monitoring and partnership reporting which would identify any overspend and remedial action, and the STYJS Management Board would need to enter discussions with partners to seek a solution within its own resources. The partnership surplus brought forward into 2025-26 is £439,000 that covers the risk around remand costs though the partnership are reviewing both this and service delivery requirements in light of new inspection framework.</p>
Legal	Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services as per Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Having the Youth Justice Plan in place ensures the council is compliant.
Risk	The proposed plan will positively impact on the strategic risk that the "Council could fail to work effectively with partners". It will do this by putting in place a plan which sets out how the Council and its partners will work effectively together to reduce youth crime and anti-social behaviour in the town.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	STYJS is mindful of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion were also considered in the preparation of the plan to ensure fairness and equality in the functions and services provided.
Reducing Poverty	STYJS complete robust assessments and have strong partnerships arrangements in place to refer children, families and victims to appropriate services where a need is identified.
Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable. The Youth Justice Plan has no direct impact upon climate/environmental change.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	South Tees Youth Justice Service has strong partnership arrangements with children's services at strategic and operational levels and engage at a managerial level at a number of multi-agency forums designed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of young people. Reducing the number of Children who are Looked After in the criminal justice system is a key priority for STYJS. The service work proactively with those young people who experience

	significant vulnerabilities including children in local authority care. Work with looked after children is in line with the national protocol on reducing unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers 2018.
Data Protection	STYJS works to all Middlesbrough Council policies and procedures including data protection. The service has a Privacy Notice in place explaining how data is collected and how it is used.

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Disseminate the plan to the STYJS Management Board and key stakeholders.	Kay Dargue	15 th October 2025

Appendices

1	South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2025/26
2	Youth justice plans: guidance for youth justice services https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Full Council	Youth Justice Plan 2024/25	11 September 2024

Contact: Kay Dargue, Head of Partnerships and South Tees Youth Justice Service
Email: Kay_dargue@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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Youth Justice Plan 2025-2026

*Building bridges and changing the course for
young people*

Service	South Tees Youth Justice Service
Service Manager/Lead	Kay Dargue Head of Partnerships
Chair of the YJS Board	Joe Tynan Executive Director of Children's Services

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FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE YJS BOARD

I am delighted to present the South Tees Youth Justice Plan for 2025-26. Reflecting upon the past months, the service has had some real challenges and successes. The Custody Navigator project continues to receive positive feedback from children, parents/carers and partners based in Police custody. Positively, funding has been secured for a further 12 months through to March 2026 with options currently being explored to ensure the longevity of this important work.

Serious violence has been a challenge across South Tees for several years and sadly this continues to be the case. Increasing numbers of children are assessed as having complex needs and requiring access for specialist support. In August 2024 Middlesbrough experienced violent disorder in the town centre with significant damage caused and many young people being identified as being involved. The service was proactive in working with Cleveland Police in response to the incident however, ensuring children were dealt with in a fair and proportionate way.

Workload within the service has increased significantly this year and re-offending levels remain a challenge. An exciting development during 2024-25 was the service partnership with SHiFT, an agency supporting young people at risk of exploitation and offending. The service is working in partnership with SHiFT with the aim of achieving positive change for a number of children open to both services.

During the last year investment was made into the Restorative Justice section of the service and the reparation offer made to victims and communities. In the next 12 months, this additional investment should provide the opportunity to align to the new HMIP framework and further improve the restorative justice offer and increase the support to work with victims.

During 2024-2025 the service also invested in Child First practice across all areas of the service, and this is one of the 4 key priority areas this coming year. Staff have received Child First training during 2025 to assist their understanding of how their practice is key to supporting the Child First principle in their work. This will be developed further and embedded in practice during 2025-26.

The views of children are important to assist in understanding the impact of our work. Responses to surveys show a high level of satisfaction in the work of the service and experience they had with staff. A new user experience survey has been developed and this year focus groups are being established for young people and their parents/carers to provide the opportunity to have their say and influence service improvement. Furthermore, volunteers continue to provide invaluable support to the service and in 2025-6 the service plans to engage parents/carers and others with lived experience as this will be invaluable to shaping the service delivered going forwards.

Staffing levels remain stable with a dedicated and passionate workforce, and the priorities identified in this plan aim to provide positive steps forwards for children and victims in 2025-26 and beyond.

Joe Tynan

Executive Director of Children's Services

Chair of the South Tees Youth Justice Board

INTRODUCTION, VISION AND STRATEGY

Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement a Youth Justice Plan setting out:

- How Youth Justice Services in their area are to be provided and funded
- How the Youth Justice Service (YJS) will be composed and funded
- How it will operate and what functions it will carry out
- The priorities for the YJS

In addition to the production of a Youth Justice Plan, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a range of other statutory duties on YJS, these include:

- Complying with National Standards for Youth Justice
- Compliance with requirements of Sections 38-40 of the Act

South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) is a statutory multi-agency partnership including:

- Middlesbrough Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Council
- Cleveland Police
- Probation Service
- North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board

The strategic purpose of STYJS is:

- To reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system
- To prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people
- Reduce the use of custody for young people (both sentenced and remanded)

This Youth Justice Plan 2025-2026 will provide:

- An overview of STYJS performance and achievements during 2024-2025
- An overview of service developments during 2024-2025
- Details of STYJS structure and governance arrangements
- An overview of the principal partnerships STYJS engages in to support the delivery of services
- Assurance to the YJB in relation to STYJS plans for the use of our YJB Grant Funding
- Details of the principal areas for service improvement and development during 2025-2026
- Identification of any potential risks and challenges to the future delivery of Youth Justice Services
- STYJS strategies to mitigate against these risks

The Principles and Values that underpin our work

STYJS embraces the YJB child first, ethos and this approach has been used to inform the values and principles which underpin our work with young people and their families. STYJS aims to work in partnership with young people, their families and all other services who are engaged with the young person to achieve effective and lasting outcomes through engagement, challenge and support.

STYJS seeks to ensure that the needs and wishes of victims and communities unpin the work we deliver with young people. The wishes of victims and restorative practice form a 'golden thread' which

informs our work ensuring that victims are engaged, they are listened to and we provide them with regular updates on the work with young people and the outcomes achieved.

To achieve positive interaction the following values will inform and direct our work:

- Promoting engagement with the young person and their family to ensure their voice is heard in YJS processes
- All young people will be engaged as individuals with all interventions designed to meet their needs
- Young people will be challenged to take responsibility for their behaviours to protect the public and the communities we serve
- Intervening early to divert a young person away from crime and anti-social behaviour and prevent offending
- Ensuring a focus on the whole family in particular in the work of Turnaround and Prevention activities
- Working in partnership with other agencies to maximise opportunity and ensure access to services for all young people
- Identify and overcome any barriers to accessing information that can inform and guide our work
- Promote the rights of victims and ensure they have a voice in our work
- Engage with victims to ensure that they are satisfied with the services provided to them
- Provide high quality services that are effective, efficient and provide value for money

Our Vision

In line with the principles detailed above STYJS has established the following vision for the service, and this is shared by all staff, partners and stakeholders.

“Building bridges and changing the course for young people”

In addition, our mission statement has been designed to reflect the approaches taken by the YJS in our work with young people:

“Working together to create a safe, positive community to allow children and young people opportunities to achieve their full potential whilst reducing offending behaviour”

Discussions with young people and staff places significant emphasis on the word ‘opportunity’ and young people in particular are passionate about how their work with the YJS has created new opportunities for them.



Consultation with Staff and Partners in the Preparation of the 2025-2026 Youth Justice Plan

In preparing this Youth Justice Plan a comprehensive consultation process was entered into, and this included consultation with staff and partners and young people. The purpose of the consultation was to share the plans and service priorities, as proposed by the STYJS management team and also to secure the views of staff and partners on these proposals. This consultation has ensured that all key stakeholders have had a voice in the plan and the actions detailed in this plan are owned by all.

YJS staff supported the service priorities and agreed that these reflect the issues and factors which impact on their work with young people. Staff felt that there had been some significant successes achieved by the service during 2024-2025 including:

- Having a good and strong group of support workers to work with and support young people
- The range of Reparation Projects available to young people
- Tuff Tees group work with boys and young men
- Work with Schools
- Multi agency working with CSC, ASPIRE SHiFT, MFC etc
- Child First Training Opportunities
- Opportunities for Career Development and Progression
- School Holiday Activities
- Support from the Speech and Language Therapist
- The introduction of the PAD
- Embedding of the Custody Navigators and securing funding for another year
- Case Management approaches to working with the most complex and challenging young people, including responses to Serious Violence
- A motivated and resilient workforce with high levels of staff morale
- Training Opportunities including the PAD rollout, AIM, SAVRY, Child First
- New approaches to meet the ETE needs of young people

Looking forwards to 2025-2026, YJS staff identified the following areas of development which would further enhance our work with young people:

- Education- Further improve our communication with schools to allow direct contact with key links in ETE providers
- Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- continue to raise awareness, adopting child first approaches and working to support families, ensuring staff safety when working in the most challenging environments and with the most complex and challenging young people.
- Prevention and Diversion- ensure we target those young people with identified needs and at risk of becoming involved in the youth justice system. Expanding the offer to schools with a focus on Year 6-7 transition.
- Child First- develop the identity of the service around a child first model, implementing this in practice involving children and young people in service development and the design of interventions
- Work with Victims- further develop the collaborative approach with case managers, ensuring the victims voice is heard and extending the scope of restorative working
- Working with Parents-building on whole family working arrangements and ensuring the voice of the parents is heard in our work with young people
- Establishing community reporting bases to create environments where we can work positively with young people
- Transitions- introduce additional capacity to support young people in transition and through resettlement, re-introduce the Probation Officer
- Extend the SALT Provision
- Engagement and Participation- extend the voice of young people in the service, with focus groups, young people evaluation and feedback, young people on Interview Panels, peer mentoring

- Intervention-maximising the use of resources available, using technology smartly and more effectively, extending the reach of intervention including Tuff Tees and holiday activities.

STYJS partners were consulted during the STYJS Executive Board Meeting in April 2025, and the service priorities detailed below were presented to board members for their consideration. Board members supported the service priorities presented by the YJS Management Team. Board members stressed the importance of the voice of the child and the engagement and participation of all service users in the design and future direction of the service. Board members also highlighted the importance of prevention work and Education, Training and Employment as important themes which must underpin the work we deliver against our key priorities.

2025-2026 STYJS Service Priorities:

The priorities identified by STYJS to support the development of the service during 2025-2026 have been designed to reflect issues which affect the service at a local, regional and national level. Consideration has also been given to factors impacting on the young people, families, victims and the communities we serve to ensure that we can affect positive change in these areas. STYJS has sought to focus on four key areas for service development to reflect those key issues we believe impact on the work of the service. It is also intended that key themes such as prevention and the voice of the child will underpin the approaches we take to meet these priorities.

The priorities to support ongoing service development will include:

- Priority 1: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation
- Priority 2: Work with Victims
- Priority 3: Child First
- Priority 4: Engagement and Participation

THE LOCAL CONTEXT

South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) delivers Youth Justice Services within the local authority areas of Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. Communities in both local authorities are impacted upon by a range of social, economic and environmental factors. Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland have been identified as two of the most deprived local authorities, as detailed in the English Indices of Deprivation 2019 with communities being affected by high levels of unemployment, poor health outcomes, crime and anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, as well as challenges around educational access, inclusion and attainment. The 2019 Indices of Deprivation identified that Middlesbrough had the highest proportion of children effected by income deprivation, with Redcar and Cleveland rated at number nineteen.

Both local authorities also experience higher than average numbers of children in the care of the Local Authority and significant pressure and demands placed on Children's Services and Early Help provision to support families in need. These communities have also been identified as experiencing higher than average issues of violent offending and offending where weapons have been used.

The geography and cultural make-up of the area presents further challenges. Redcar and Cleveland has large rural communities spanning across 96 square miles of rural land which can be isolated and transport links can be challenging. Middlesbrough is a compact urban community with a diverse ethnic and cultural make up, with large Asian and Eastern European communities. Young people face significant challenges in each local authority area and these impact on their behaviours and influence outcomes.

The behaviours of young people continue to be highlighted by negative factors including violent offending and the use of weapons. In addition, there are hot spot areas with high levels of anti-social behaviour by large groups of young people across both local authority areas, some of which receives national media attention.



In August 2024 Middlesbrough experienced a significant incident of violent disorder across communities in the town centre with significant damage caused and a large number of young people being identified as being involved in these behaviours. STYJS has sought to work with Cleveland Police and the communities affected to ensure that those young people involved in the disorder are identified, engaged and encouraged to repair the harm they have caused. STYJS supported young people to engage with the research commissioned by the Children Commissioner to understand young people's involvement in the disorder which resulted in the report 'Children's involvement in the 2024 'riots''. This research found that many young people became involved by chance and out of curiosity, rather than any political motivations and for many this involvement was the result of a distrust of the Police and offered an opportunity to retaliate against the Police. Such responses reflect the issues raised by young people who have engaged with STYJS as a result of their involvement in this disorder. STYJS continues to receive referral for young people identified as being involved in the incident and we ensure that the responses offered reflect the individual situations of the young people.

The Cleveland Police area is also a designated Violence Reduction Unit area and the three Youth Justice Services in the Cleveland area have played a significant role with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to ensure that young people and early intervention and prevention are priorities for the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV). Examples of such work include the development of a trauma informed, youth custody suite in Middlesbrough Police HQ supported by the introduction of Custody Navigators into the Middlesbrough Police Custody Suite, a high-profile project for CURV. The role of the Custody Navigators is to promote engagement and support young people during the 'reachable and teachable' moment offered by their presence in police custody. The funding for the custody Navigators was extended into 2025-2026 to support the further delivery of this successful project. During 2024-2025 there has been a great deal of interest in the Custody Navigator Project with visits by other YJS and Police Services and visits from the Home Office, the Policing Minister and the YJB.

STYJS has evolved in recent years to respond to changing local circumstances, social and economic factors affecting young people. The current service model is a traditional YJS model with operational teams delivering case management in each local authority. The operational teams are supported by a Resource Team which includes Restorative Practice, Education, Training and Employment Support, SALT, Preventions, performance management, service planning, policy and procedures and back-office support in the form of admin and information management services. The rationale behind this is to ensure that the service can meet the challenges placed by users and changes to legislation with a 'fit for purpose' structure which supports high quality service delivery but flexible enough to adapt to changing priorities. Central to this is the recognition that our staff will need to be well equipped with the knowledge and skills to support a wide variety of service user needs and the risks posed by an increasingly complex and challenging cohort of young people.

During 2025-26 STYJS is investing in additional resource to support our work with victims with the introduction of an additional Restorative Justice Worker to support this area of work.

The profile of young people who engaged with STYJS in 2024-2025

During 2024-2025 STYJS worked with 536 individual young people.

By local authority area the figures show that there were 320 (59.7% of the cohort) young people from Middlesbrough and 216 (40.3% of the cohort) from Redcar and Cleveland.

The gender profile was:

- 436 male
- 99 female
- 1 other

These figures show that STYJS worked with a higher proportion of girls and young women during 2024-2025 with this figure increasing to 18.4% of the cohort compared to 13.5% of the cohort the previous year. During 2024-2025 STYJS has continued to develop interventions to support the needs of girls and young women, and during the coming year we will be looking to re-introduce the 'Ladybugs' programme a group work intervention providing a safe space for girls and young women. It is also important for the YJS to understand the impact our work has had on the girls and young women who have engaged with the service and to this end we will be undertaking an audit of this work as part of our audit programme

The age profile was:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| • 7 (1.3%) | aged 10 years |
| • 18 (3.4%) | aged 11 years |
| • 61 (11.4%) | aged 12 years |
| • 61 (11.4%) | aged 13 years |
| • 78 (14.5%) | aged 14 years |
| • 83 (15.5%) | aged 15 years |
| • 113 (21.1%) | aged 16 years |
| • 115 (21.5%) | aged 17 years |
| • 1 (0.2%) | aged 18 years |

These figures show that the proportion of the cohort aged 10-14 years during 2023-2024 increased significantly with 41.9% of the cohort compared to 33.9% for the previous year. The figures also show that the peak age of offending continues to be the 16-17 age group.

The ethnic minority profile was:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| • 470 (87.7%) | White European |
| • 7 (1.3%) | Black or Black British |
| • 10 (1.9%) | Asian or Asian British |
| • 27 (5%) | Mixed Heritage |
| • 12 (2.3%) | Chinese or other Asian ethnic group |
| • 10 (1.8%) | Not Known or not recorded |

These figures are consistent with the figures shown by the ethnic minority breakdown in 2024-2025, with the cohort being overwhelmingly White European. The figures for other ethnic groups are consistent with previous years with only slight increases compared to 2024-2025 and these figures show that there is no over representation from any ethnic groups. The figures also reflect the wider populations in the communities we service.

Overall, the STYJS cohort continues to be white, male and this is consistent with the profile for the cohort in recent years. Overall girls and young women are not overrepresented in this cohort.

Profile of Interventions

Data shows that during 2024-2025 STYJS worked on 833 interventions with young people.

By area this included:

- 514 intervention in Middlesbrough
- 320 interventions in Redcar and Cleveland

By programme this includes:

- 276 Turnaround Programme
- 274 OOC (including Community Resolution, Outcome 22, YCC, YC and Restorative Disposals)
- 142 Court Ordered Programmes (Referral Order, YRO and Custodial Outcomes)
- 52 Civil Programmes (ASBI, CBOs and Making Good)
- 61 Custody Navigator Interventions
- 17 Remand Programmes (Including RYDA and RLAA)
- 6 Bail Programmes (including Bail Support and Bail ISS)
- 5 Sexual Risk Orders

These figures show that there has been a significant increase, 188 additional interventions delivered by STYJS compared to 2023-2024, an increase in workloads of 22.5% compared to the previous year. The YJS has been able to absorb this additional work by building extra capacity into key service areas, including an additional case manager in Turnaround and the re-profiling of resources to create a new case manager in the operations teams. One of the challenges we face will be if workloads continue to rise during 2025-2026 and this would mean we would have to undertake discussions with partners regarding the level of resourcing of the service. OOCs continue to represent the highest proportion of criminal justice/diversionary interventions delivered with young people and their families. Turnaround now represents the primary prevention activity offered by the STYJS. Court based programmes continue to represent approximately a fifth of the total interventions delivered with an increase in the number of custodial outcomes compared to previous years. There has also been a significant increase in Civil Programmes delivered by the YJS with the delivery of the Making Good/Immediate Justice Programme.

Profile of the factors influencing the behaviours of young people:

An examination of 523 YJS assessments, undertaken with 120 young people using the AssetPlus tool during 2024-2025 provides an illustration of the principal factors affecting young people and their behaviours.

The key factors that support the young person to desist from further offending behaviours, which provide positive influences over their behaviours include:

- Engagement and participation
- Learning, education, training and employment
- Family and wider networks
- Parenting, care and supervision
- Living arrangements, housing and financial considerations
- Resilience and goals
- Care history
- Emotional development and mental health
- Features of lifestyle
- Attitudes to offending/behaviours
- Substance misuse
- How the young person relates to others

The information drawn from desistance factors in assessments shows that during 2024-2025 engagement and participation, learning, education, training and employment continue to be the most

prevalent protective factors identified with young people. The influence of family, parenting care and supervision, wider networks and living arrangements, continue to be key factors in preventing further offending. This information suggests that where young people have a level of security and support from families, carers and a pro-social peer group and engage in ETE or with other services they have a more positive outlook, and this promotes positive outcomes as well as preventing further offending..

The key factors that increase the risk of the young person re-offending:

- Thinking and behaviour
- Features of lifestyle
- Social community and neighbourhood
- Emotional development and mental health
- Attitudes to offending and behaviours
- Substance misuse
- Learning, education, training and employment
- Family and wider networks
- Parenting care and supervision
- Care history

The risk factors detailed above are broadly in line with those identified in the previous year and reflect the complex nature of the cohort of young people who are referred to the STYJS and the challenges they bring. The above information continues to suggest that the risk factors influencing young people to re-offend are strongest around individual factors including self-identity, Attitudes to Offending and Thinking and Behaviour. The Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health of young people is also a significant factor and reflects the influence of ACES and Trauma upon the young people we work with. The influence of a young person's legal status and care history have become areas of concern, and this reflects the increasing risks of exploitation for this vulnerable group. In addition, where a young person lives and the communities and Neighbourhoods they meet in are also becoming significant factors in influencing a young person's behaviour.

STYJS will continue to monitor the nature of those desistance factors that impact on the young people we work with and seek to shape service delivery to respond and address these specific needs.

Response to HMI Thematic Inspections

During 2024-2025 there were no HMI Thematic Inspection reports which STYJS could respond to.

STYJS continues to review the inspection reports from other YJS areas to identify any learning we can respond to with a view to improving practice and prepare for future inspections.

CHILD FIRST

Embedding Child First practice is one of our 4 key priorities for this year and with the related priority of engagement and participation of young people these will form the basis for developments in the YJS during 2025-2026.

During 2024-2025 we have invested a time and resources into building the foundations for Child First practice across all areas of the service. This has included training and development sessions with staff. The approach has also included an awareness raising session for our Executive Board members to increase their understanding of the Child First principle and to secure their commitments to achieving this. Board members identified 4 key conditions which they agreed needed to be in place to support this area of development:

- Board members accepting and prioritising Child First Model
- The wider partnership adopting the Child First Approach
- Leaders giving wider organisations permission to practice Child First
- The governance and accountability of Child First Approach



During 2025-2026 we will be building on the commitments made by the Executive Board to support the Child First approach to identify how they have taken this principle back to their home organisations and promoted Child First practice.

The YJS Management Team has also been involved in a Child First development programme to create a framework for the operational developments needed to support our Child First practice. This has resulted in the development of a framework which will support training for staff in Child First approaches to assessment, planning and delivering interventions, how we create environments that keep service users safe and an approach to how we can work with victims of the behaviours of young people, keeping them safe and responding to victims needs and wishes.

The wider staff team have received Child First training during 2025 to assist their understanding of how their practice is key to supporting the Child First principle in our work. Staff members recognised the need for a more collaborative approach with young people and their families, 'doing with rather than doing to'. By listening and acting on what young people are telling us we believe that we can make significant progress in this area of our work during 2025-2026.

VOICE OF THE CHILD

The voice of the child is an important factor which influences all of our work with young people and their families. During 2025-2026 STYJS we will be seeking to further develop our mechanisms which support feedback from services users and review and evaluate the information offered to identify areas for development within the service.

A new feedback questionnaire is to be developed and co-produced with young people and this will offer young people feedback on their progress from their case manager as well as offering young people and their parents and carers the opportunity to report on their experiences with the YJS. In addition to this we will be seeking other opportunities to promote the users voice, including taking feedback on the young person's and their parents experience of Referral Order Panels, introducing focus groups and developing a new feedback process for victims.

STYJS has further extended the provision offered by the Speech and Language Service with funding assured to December 2027. This will allow us to build further on the highly effective work undertaken with our SLT Specialist and ensure we can develop fuller understanding of the individual circumstances of the young people we work with. The SLT role will continue to support STYJS staff, promotes engagement and support with young people and support the training and development of STYJS staff.

What young people said about their YJS experience:

STYJS provides all young people who have received an intervention with the service the opportunity to comment on their experience with the service through an online feedback survey. During 2025-2026, 294 young people responded and provided feedback through the survey:

- 95.95% said my YJS workers did enough to help me take part in the YJS work.
- 81.42% said the YJS helped me to feel safer.
- 90.54% said someone at the YJS asked me what I thought would help me stop offending.
- 86.15% said I had enough to say in what went into my YJS Contract/Intervention Plan.
- 93.92% said my work with the YJS has helped me realise I can change.
- 97.30% said the YJS took my views seriously.
- 99.66% said I have been treated fairly by the people who worked with me.
- 87.16% said I think the service given to me by the YJS was good with 0.68% expressing dissatisfaction at the service they have received.

These responses are consistent with responses provided by young people over previous years and show a high level of satisfaction in the work of the YJS and experience young people had with staff in the service.

The outcomes from the survey have been used to target improvements in service delivery and how we engage with young people. Comments received from young people were positive and include young people telling us:

‘They were great’,

‘They helped me get a chance of a job’,

‘They did everything I needed’

‘They did all sorts with me’

GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP & PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Partnership arrangements

STYJS provides youth justice services on behalf of the local authorities of Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. The oversight and governance arrangements for STYJS are provided by Middlesbrough Council and STYJS sits within Middlesbrough Council Children’s Services, in the directorate of Education and Partnerships.

This offers the YJS a broad remit, working across all children service areas ensuring links with those services that can maximise outcomes for young people, including early help and safeguarding services. The Head of Partnerships (the STYJS Manager) is line managed by the Interim Middlesbrough Council Director of Education and Partnerships is also a member of Middlesbrough’s Children’s Services Senior Management Team. The Head of Partnerships contributes and consults with Redcar and Cleveland’s Children’s Services Management Team on a quarterly basis, providing updates on service developments and performance.

Operationally the YJS has a designated Operations Manager who provides the link to partners in each local authority areas and the Partnerships Manager provides the operational links to the Police and the OPCC.

In addition to our links with Children’s Services, STYJS has strong links across other services and partner agencies in both local authorities, including Education Services, Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour Teams and Early Help and Prevention Services. These links ensure that processes are in place that can promote joined up working to support young people into services as well as placing STYJS in a position to influence decision making around issues such as anti-social behaviour and how these impact on young people. Relationships with partners are very mature and create an

environment of mutual respect and trust which allows STYJS to promote our child first approach and secure buy in from partners.

STYJS is also a key partner in the SHiFT programmes in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland, with the Head of Service acting as line manager for the SHiFT lead in Middlesbrough. SHiFT is an initiative that has been introduced in both authorities to support young people at risk of exploitation and involvement in offending behaviours. SHiFT exists to break the destructive cycle of children involved in, or at risk of crime. The service works with children and young people up to the age of 25 for whom things are getting worse and who would benefit most from an intensive and therapeutic relationship. SHiFT aims to safely return children to Middlesbrough or Redcar and Cleveland who are currently cared for and placed outside of the local authority area, to return to live with their families or to live in a suitable setting closer to their family and community. In addition, SHiFT builds trusting professional relationships to support children with whom services have previously struggled to engage, but for whom risks are escalating, placing them at a heightened risk of becoming entrenched in criminal activity and/or exploitation.

STYJS also supports a range of partnerships which are essential to supporting and informing the work we do. These include:

- Work with Community Safety Partnerships in both local authorities with a focus on anti-social behaviour and problem solving with representation at the Community Safety Partnership meetings and AIM in Middlesbrough
- Working with the Safeguarding Children's Services in both local authorities to support service development, inspection readiness and service improvement.
- Supporting Safeguarding Arrangements for children and young people, attending strategies, child protection and planning meetings for children and young people
- Ensuring representation at the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnerships (STSCP), to monitor performance, support quality improvement and staff training and development activity. The Head of Service also has oversight of work of the STSCP Business Manager.
- The Head of Service is the lead manager for the Middlesbrough Children's Trust and is a representative at the Redcar and Cleveland Young People's Partnership Board
- Harm Outside of the Home (HOtH) arrangements for young people identified as at risk forms of exploitation and vulnerable to negative influences which means they may not be safe, in both local authorities, supporting both strategic and operational forums.
- The Head of Service is the lead officer with oversight of SHiFT and attends the partnerships boards in each local authority.
- The Head of Service currently chairs the Children in Custody group which reviews young people held in police custody and PACE decisions.
- Engaging in multi-agency forums for education, training and employment which focus on attendance, inclusion and behaviours in schools and to address issues impacting on NEETs.
- Attendance at the Prevent Bronze group to fulfil statutory duties relating to extremism and community tensions.
- Representation at the OPCC led CURV meetings to ensure involvement in the oversight of the work of the Violence Reduction Unit
- Representation at the Cleveland Local Criminal Justice Board
- Representation at the Strategic MAPPA Board

Within both local authorities STYJS have strong partnership arrangements with children's safeguarding services at strategic and operational levels. The STYJS Service Manager attends the South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership meetings, Corporate Parenting Board Strategic MACH groups and Strategic VEMT arrangements. This is supported operationally by attendance at a range of subgroups, learning and development forums and task and finish processes by other members of the management team.

In addition to the above, at an operational level STYJS is represented at a managerial level at a number of multi-agency forums designed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of young people. These include:

- STSCP thematic groups
- HOtH Multi Agency and strategy meetings
- Safeguarding Risk Management Groups
- Vulnerable Young People's Groups
- Domestic Violence Partnerships
- Problem Solving Groups
- Education, Attendance and Behaviour meetings
- Early Help Huddles

STYJS also ensures attendance at any planning or strategy meetings for young people who are subject to Children's Services intervention.

Strong co-working arrangements are established at an operational level with both Children's Services Teams with clear systems in place for communication within the two Local Authorities. The joint working agreements with both local authorities are subject to ongoing review and updated to reflect current practices. The STYJS safeguarding case managers provide another essential link to Children's Services teams in both Local Authorities as well as providing advice and guidance to colleagues on safeguarding issues and processes.

Arrangements are also in place for YJS single points of contact for the two Multi Agency Children's Hubs and Early Help Hubs and this offers key points of contact for MACH/Early Help staff to contact for information and advice on young people known to STYJS. The MACH case admin has access to STYJS case management system 'Childview' this allows for checks to be made as a referral is received to the MACH to ascertain if the case is open to STYJS and ensure that joint working commences at the earliest opportunity.

Reciprocal arrangements are in place to offer access to case management systems, and this allows YJS Service Support staff to access these systems to identify if new referrals are known to children's services and to access information. STYJS staff log new referrals into individual children's files where they are open to safeguarding teams and this ensures effective communication and joint working.

The culture of working together among the youth justice services in the Tees Valley is well established and such collaboration supported the establishment and embedding of the Custody Navigators project in the Police Custody area. There continues to be a strong collaborative approach to work with the OPCC and Cleveland Police to support the continued delivery of the Custody Navigators Project and to look at future funding a delivery of the project.

As a group of YJS's in the Cleveland area we will continue to work together to respond to challenges placed before us and continue to look for opportunities to develop services and improve practice. As a group we engage positively with the Cleveland Police and Police and Crime Commissioner, through a programme of monthly meetings. This has benefitted the youth justice services and we have achieved greater security in our funding from the OPCC.

A collaborative approach has been established with the Children & Young People's Speech & Language Therapy Service to ensure that the children and young people who work with STYJS have access to a Highly Specialist Speech & Language Therapist to meet their language and communication needs. This project has been established over the past three years and the STYJS Board has recently agreed to support this with funding to December 2027.

The accommodation arrangements of STYJS continue to offer co-location and co-working arrangements with the Middlesbrough Case Management and Resource Teams sharing an office space with Children's Social Care, Early Help and Education Teams. The Redcar Case Management Team will continue to be co-located within the Redcar Police HQ with links into Cleveland Police and Redcar Anti-Social Behaviour Teams. The YJS also has a full-time presence in the Youth Court and continues to provide a commissioned Court Service on behalf of Hartlepool YJS. One of the challenges facing STYJS is access to local reporting bases to support our work with young people. To mitigate against this, we have been able to secure access into the local community hubs and the Live Well Centre in Middlesbrough.

STYJS Management Board

STYJS is accountable to a multi-agency Management Board, currently chaired by the Middlesbrough Executive Director of Children's Services. The membership and terms of reference of the Management Board are reviewed annually and membership is at an appropriate Senior Officer level to contribute to and support decision making in Management Board meetings. The Management Board is reflective of our statutory partners and other essential partners and consists of representatives from:

- Middlesbrough Council, Children's Social Care
- Middlesbrough Council Education Services
- Middlesbrough Council, Elected Member
- South Tees Public Health
- Redcar and Cleveland Council, Children's Services
- Redcar and Cleveland Council, Elected member
- Cleveland Police
- Probation Service
- North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- HM Courts and Tribunals Service
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner(Including CURV-Violence Reduction Unit)

The role of the Management Board is to:

- Provide strategic direction and challenge to the YJS management team on service delivery and development.
- Provide accountability for the performance of the service.
- Provide financial accountability to the service.
- Challenge partners with regards to their commitments to STYJS, including financial and resource commitments

The Management Board continues to ensure the multi-agency co-operation that enables STYJS to deliver effective youth justice services and improve outcomes for young people. Through a programme of quarterly meetings, the Management Board provides the strategic overview and direction and a framework for oversight, support and assurance for the work of STYJS.

The Management Board members provide links into other partnerships, and this offers the opportunity to promote the work of STYJS to a wider audience. This also offers the reciprocal arrangement where board members feed information from their partnerships to other board members and the management team to disseminate as appropriate to YJS staff.

During 2024-2025 we have delivered development sessions with board members. The aim of these sessions will be to support board members to understand their role and responsibilities to the partnership, how they support the Head of Service, Service staff and seconded officers. In addition, there has been a focus on the new inspection standards to ensure that board members understand the expectations placed them by the inspection process and their responsibilities for providing the strategic oversight of the service. This process will continue during 2025-2026 as we build towards a potential inspection and will ensure all partners are prepared for this.

In addition, during 2024-2025 board members have received an introduction to the Child First principle to assist them to understand their responsibilities to support the embedding this principle across the work of STYJS. Also, it offers the opportunity for board members to share the child first principle within their own organisations.

Links to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

STYJS continues to have strong working relationships with the OPCC. The OPCC financially support the work of STYJS, providing funding to STYJS to support the delivery of Out of Court Disposals, with specific reference to the delivery of the Community Resolution as the principal diversion option to prevent young people entering the youth justice system, this has contributed significantly to reducing

FTEs. STYJS will continue to offer a full range of OOCs to support the diversion of young people, including through the use of Outcome 22 to offer education-based alternatives to engage and support the young person.

During 2025-2026 STYJS will be working closely with the OPCC to support the introduction of Young Futures Prevention Partnership Panels during 2026. These will offer the opportunity to introduce multi agency responses to young people to draw them away from crime and anti-social behaviour by offering appropriate support and intervention within their own communities.



Cleveland Police area is designated as a Violence Reduction Unit area and the OPCC has developed the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV) to co-ordinate the delivery of the Violence Reduction Strategy locally.

During 2024-2025 this partnership working with the OPCC and CURV has been further enhanced with the embedding of the Custody Navigators project with additional funding from CURV to extend the programme for an additional year. STYJS and CURV are also currently taking a collaborative approach to design an application to the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) to secure additional funding to support and enhance the Navigator programme for a further 2 years.

The Navigators continue to provide additional support and engagement to young people in the custody area with the priority being those who have been arrested for serious violence offences. The project builds on the 'reachable and teachable' moments where a young person may be more receptive to intervention. Since the introduction of the Navigators over 200 young people from the South Tees area have been supported in police custody. The Custody Navigators project is a central theme of the CURV model enabling services to engage with young people in police custody.

The model has proven to be a significant success and has attracted interest from other Violence Reduction Unit partnerships who are seeking to introduce similar custody-based programmes.

Staffing

STYJS is a multi-agency team with staff drawn from a range of professional backgrounds including Social Work, Probation, Police, Education, Youth Work and Substance Misuse Services. This allows for a complex mix of knowledge and experience which ensures that the service can respond to the needs of young people based on the knowledge and expertise provided by our staff team.

In 2025-2026 the service will have 47 individual members of staff with no vacancies currently. During 2024-2025 we have reprofiled some roles to support the service in how responds to changing priorities and support growth in key areas. A new Restorative Justice Worker has been added to the team and this will enhance the service we can offer to victims and support a broader range of restorative interventions. One of the key risks and challenges for STYJS during 2025-2026 will be to secure the additional funding needed to secure the future of roles funded by short term funding, including the Custody Navigators and we will continue to work with the OPCC/CURV to identify opportunities to secure the future of these roles.

Increases in the workload in case management of young people has meant that we have also invested in an additional case manager and support workers to ensure that workloads are effectively managed, and we can offer appropriate responses to young people.

The service structure, detailed at appendix 3, shows how these staff are deployed. The service currently has 32 female members of staff and 11 males, with currently 4 vacancies which are currently being recruited to. In terms of ethnicity, 1 member of staff is of Pakistani origin, with the remaining staff being white British.

The majority of staff are employed by Middlesbrough Council on behalf of the partnership, with additional staff seconded from partners including Cleveland Police and the South Tees Speech and Language Service. The YJS continues to be without a seconded Probation Officer, despite this being part of the statutory requirements placed on our partners. Arrangements are in place with key points of contact to ensure that a pathway is in place to support transition. Discussions are ongoing regarding how the role can be filled and there is currently an arrangement in place for the service to claim back the financial costs of this role and this funding is used to support a Case Manager role in the service.

STYJS has 3 core teams, these include a case management teams for each local authority area and a resource team which works across the service area and supports the delivery of case management and service development activity.

The Case Management Teams are comprised of:

- An Operations Manager
- Assistant Operations Manager
- Youth Justice Case Managers
- Turnaround Case Managers
- Probation Officer
- Support Workers

The Resource Team is comprised of:

- Partnerships Manager
- 2 Assistant Operations Managers
- Education Training and Employment Specialist
- Restorative Justice Specialist
- Specialist Court Officer
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Police Officers
- 2 Restorative Justice Workers
- 4 Custody Navigators
- Support Workers
- Business Support Officer
- Business Support Workers

The YJS also has access to a Business Analytics Partner who is based within the Information and Governance Team in Middlesbrough Council. Finance support is provided by a Finance Business Partner from Middlesbrough Council's Finance Section and the YJS receives Human Resources support and guidance by the Middlesbrough Council HR section.

The provision of a dedicated Court Specialist ensures that STYJS provides appropriate and timely responses to young people in the Court arena. The Court Specialist also advises and informs Court users and supports decision making. This Court Specialist is supported by other YJS staff during busy Court periods. STYJS also supports colleagues in other YJS areas delivering a Court service on behalf of Hartlepool YJS and supporting other services from the region when young people appear at Teesside Courts. The quality and the effectiveness of YJS staff in Court is recognised and valued by other Court users, including the judiciary.

STYJS structure ensures that the service is adaptable and responsive to changing needs and priorities, whilst ensuring both local authority areas are effectively served. The service model supports effective responses to the challenges posed by the changing nature of the types of offending we encounter with increases in serious and violent crime and the impact of forms of exploitation. The structure has also allowed us to develop opportunities to intervene earlier, expanding the opportunities at OOC, the delivery of Turnaround and group-based activity in the community and with schools. STYJS will continue to promote a learning and development culture in the service, which supports practice improvement and provides opportunity for staff development.

Involvement of Community Volunteers

The work of STYJS is supported by a small group of volunteers recruited from our local community, who offer the service invaluable life skills, life experiences and local knowledge which can be used to great effect to engage and support young people. During 2025-2026 we will be looking to broaden the remit of our volunteer offer. In addition to our volunteers who satisfy a statutory requirement by facilitating Referral Order panels, we are recruiting and training volunteers to fulfil other functions e.g. reparation, assisting with young people's groups and acting as appropriate adult. We are particularly interested in engaging parents of our young people and others with lived experience of the issues faced by young people in the hope of developing their skills and confidence, whilst making a valuable contribution to the team.

Staff Development and Training

An important element in delivering high quality services is to develop the staff team to build an extensive skills, knowledge and experience base to fulfil the duties and requirements of their role. STYJS will continue to follow the Middlesbrough Council People Strategy as we look to invest in our staff team to ensure that we have the right people with the right behaviours and skills to deliver the outcomes as detailed in this plan.

STYJS continues to invest in our staff team using the following processes:

- Using the Middlesbrough Council Corporate Induction Programme for all new staff to ensure that they receive a co-ordinated introduction to the YJS, with all the necessary corporate training to meet statutory duties.
- Provide regular monthly supervision as a tool to support professional judgement, including regular performance related issues and staff development.
- Provide a process of annual appraisal and ongoing appraisal reviews to ensure performance is effectively managed and staff development opportunities can be realised.
- Provide opportunities for staff to access training and development opportunities to support their professional and personal growth, including.
 - Access to Middlesbrough Council Corporate Training
 - Access to the Youth Justice Application Framework
 - Accessing STSCP Training
 - Attending conferences and development sessions relevant to role

During 2024-2025 STYJS has invested in a training and development programme to impart the Child First Principle across all areas of the service. This has included development sessions for staff to assist them with their understanding of how Child First should guide how we assess, plan, deliver and

review the work we do with young people. An awareness session has also been delivered to Management Board members to assist their understanding and how their role can support Child First delivery and present the Child First message to their own service areas. During 2025-2026 we will continue to build on this Child First foundation to ensure staff are equipped with the assessment and planning skills and experience and are able to include young people on this journey.

STYJS has also invested in training for case management staff to increase knowledge and understanding of risk management processes and how this applies to violence with a programme of SAVRY training delivered and MAPPA training for all staff. In addition, we have continued to deliver our programme of Restorative Practice training to staff to ensure that restorative working is a key thread across practice.

STYJS delivers a programme of monthly team meetings with the full staff team. These meetings provide opportunities for professional collaboration among staff, with a focus on emerging issues input from partners and updates on service developments. The team meetings also offer an invaluable social function providing opportunities for the full team to come together and catch up with colleagues and friends.

RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Budget 2025-2026

The final grant figure from the YJB for 2025-2026 has been announced with a figure of £1,054,844 and the settlement figure represents a 1.5% uplift on the figure for 2024-2025. STYJS welcomes this further investment in our work by the YJB. The final budget figure for 2025 -2026 will also include contributions from partners as well as the YJB grant, plus the continued in-kind support of a seconded Probation Officer or a financial settlement if this post cannot be filled, 2 seconded Police Officers and the accommodation provided by Cleveland Police at the Redcar Police HQ. This figure will also include a £6998.25.00 payment from Hartlepool YJS for the provision of Court services.

Staffing costs represent the largest expenditure item for STYJS and as detailed above during 2024-2025 STYJS has continued to invest in our staffing resources with the support of additional funding streams, securing new posts in the Restorative Justice/Victim area of the service which will improve service delivery and promote positive outcomes victims and for young people.

YJB Grant Funding 2025-2026:

The YJB grant allowance for 2025-2026 is £1,054,844 has been agreed. This funding will continue to be the most significant element of the budget and continues to support the work we are looking to undertake in response to our priority areas and statutory duties.

STYJS has been able to maintain service levels, sustain continuous improvements in our performance, achieving positive outcomes for the young people we work with. This has been achieved despite serving communities who experience significant levels of deprivation and with young people who demonstrate increasingly complex needs.

The YJB Grant will continue to be used efficiently and to maximum effect to improve the range of services we have with young people.

Turnaround Funding 2025-2026:

STYJS is to receive a grant of £166,788.40 from the Ministry of Justice to support the delivery of the Turnaround Programme during 2025-2026. This funding will be used to assist STYJS to meet the reduced target to successfully engage 48 young people into the Turnaround programme during 2025-2026. This represents an individual 'base unit' of approximately £3043 per child.

This funding will be used to support the programme and enhance activities with young people through the delivery of bespoke programmes of intervention and support for those young people accessing the programme.

Remand Framework for Children 2025-2026

We are currently awaiting our settlement figure to support Remand costs for 2025-2026.

During 2024-2025 the total remand costs accrued by the YJS for young people RYDA from the STYJS area was £147,928 which represents a 40% increase in the remand costs to the service compared to the previous year.

It is anticipated that the costs for RYDA will continue to represent a significant risk to the service during 2025-2026. There are currently 2 young people whose remand episodes have rolled over from the previous year, who have been charged with murder and their trials are not due to commence until November 2025. A further 2 young people who have been charged with attempted murder are RYDA and no date has yet been set for trial.

The young people we work are increasing complex in their needs and behaviours and can present with significant risks linked to forms of exploitation which can draw them into more serious types of offending. STYJS will continue to mitigate against remands to youth detention through the effective use of our court services and to offer bespoke bail packages which offer opportunities to case manage young people in the community.

The remand grant is complimented by additional funding from the 2 local authorities, £30,400 from Middlesbrough and £35,120 from Redcar and Cleveland, and this additional funding will be used to mitigate against any additional costs over the allocated remand grant from the YJB.



Funding from the PCC:

STYJS will continue to receive funding from the OPCC to support our early intervention and prevention and diversion work through the enhanced OOC model. STYJS has extended the OOC offer for young people with the increasing use of Outcome 22 as an educational intervention with young people, in many cases also supported by Turnaround. The extension of the provision offered as part of our OOC programme has led to a marked increase in work in this area and we continue to have low levels of re-offending by young people subject to OOCs.

During 2025-2026 STYJS will receive additional funding through CURV, of £189,688.00 to support the delivery of a Cleveland wide Custody Navigator project. This funding will continue to be used to

support the staffing costs relating to the project with a small additional fund to support interventions and activities with young people. One of the priorities for the service during 2025-2026 will be to work with the OPCC to identify future funding opportunities to support the work of the Custody Navigators. To this end an application to the Youth Endowment Fund has been made and we are working with the YEF to progress this.

PROGRESS AGAINST THE 2024-2025 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

During 2024-2025 the priorities for STYJS were to focus on further developing the prevention and diversion offer to ensure that we continue to reduce the numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system. In addition, there was also focus on challenging serious youth violence the most significant challenge we currently face in our work with young people, especially those most vulnerable and difficult to engage. Underpinning all our work has been the child first principle, responding to the needs of the individual child and ensuring they have a voice and are listened to.

The 2024-2025 the priorities to support ongoing service development were:

Priority 1: Prevention and Diversion- To further develop opportunities for prevention and early intervention with young people and their families.

Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- To further develop practice to ensure that STYJS can respond appropriately and effectively to the needs of young people involved in or at risk of serious violence and/or exploitation.

Priority 3: Preparation for Inspection- To ensure that STYJS are fully prepared for the challenge of a potential HMIP Inspection during 2024-25.

Priority 4: Education, Training and Employment- To ensure that all young people supervised by STYJS have access to opportunities for Education, Training and Employment.

Priority 5: Resettlement- To ensure that young people are effectively supported upon resettlement to the community.

Priority 6: Restorative Practice- To establish a Restorative Culture in STYJS which supports effective work with the young people and communities we serve.

The priorities in the Youth Justice Plan are supported by a service development plan which details the actions to be achieved in relation to each of the service priorities. The service development plan for 2024-2025 outlined a total of 31 individual actions across the 6 priority areas. The service development plan provides the framework for the YJS management team to monitor progress against the key actions related to each priority area, to identify where progress is being made and to mitigate against those areas where further development is required or provide explanations where this will not be met. This development plan is monitored monthly by the YJS management team at the monthly management meetings.

Progress detailed in the service development plan shows that 29 of the actions were achieved with a further 6 making significant progress. The remaining 2 actions were not achieved over the course of the year, and these will roll over into 2025-2026 development plan. The first such action related to a proposed mapping of services for young people at risk of exploitation, this action was overtaken by wider strategic developments with the change of VEMT processes towards a Harm Outside of the Home model which is currently being embedded. The second outstanding action relates to the renewal of the Restorative Justice Organisation accreditation achieved by STYJS in 2023. It was agreed that the service needed to make further developments to establish restorative practice as a 'golden thread' across all practice and therefore it was decided that this application would be deferred to 2025-2026.

Achievements made against each priority include:

Priority 1: Prevention and Diversion- To further develop opportunities for prevention and early intervention with young people and their families.

- 2024-2025 has been a year of transition with uncertainty over the future of Turnaround. As a result, a scoping exercise was undertaken to assist the YJS to understand what the priorities were to be for prevention and diversion during 2025-2026.
- STYJS has continued to deliver its successful Tuff Tees programme for boys and young men.

- The future of the Custody Navigators programme was secured for a further year with additional funding from the OPCC.
- A programme of group-based work was delivered in schools with an increase in work with primary schools

Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- To further develop practice to ensure that STYJS can respond appropriately and effectively to the needs of young people involved in or at risk of serious violence and/or exploitation.

- STYJS has been an active participant in the evolution to a Harm Outside of the Harm (HOtH) arrangement to address exploitation of young people.
- Partnership working with SHiFT has been introduced to support young people at risk of becoming involved in exploitation and offending behaviours.
- All case holding staff have been training using SAVRY to enhance the levels of understand of risk around violence.

Priority 3: Preparation for Inspection- To ensure that STYJS are fully prepared for the challenge of a potential HMIP Inspection during 2024-25.

- YJS managers attended the HMIP consultation seminars on the new Inspection criteria.
- STYJS has undertaken a bench marking exercise to self-assess our preparation for inspection.
- The YJS Management Board have been briefed and understand their responsibilities to the inspection process.
- A programme of training and support has been introduced to prepare STYJS staff for a future inspection.

Priority 4: Education, Training and Employment- To ensure that all young people supervised by STYJS have access to opportunities for Education, Training and Employment.

- STYJS has employed a new ETE Specialist to lead in this area of work.
- A review and audit of practice was delivered, and this identified areas for development.
- The Inclusion Pathway has now been embedded as the primary pathway to support young people at risk of exclusion or poor attendance.
- The new ETE Specialist has re-established key links to education support services.

Priority 5: Resettlement- To ensure that young people are effectively supported upon resettlement to the community.

- A new Remand Strategy was prepared and agreed with partners.
- Resettlement planning was introduced as part of the wider risk management meeting to ensure a co-ordinated approach to resettlement.
- STYJS has continued to support the attendance of parents/carers in the resettlement process including support and transport to establishments to attend meetings.

Priority 6: Restorative Practice- To establish a Restorative Culture in STYJS which supports effective work with the young people and communities we serve.

- All staff have received Restorative Practice training.
- The Restorative Practice Guidance has been reviewed and update to reflect the changing priorities and requirements of the inspection criteria.
- A new Restorative Justice Worker has been employed.
- An audit of victim focussed work was undertaken to identify areas for service development and areas of good practice.
- A non-managerial, reflective supervision and support service was introduced for staff working with victims.

PERFORMANCE AND PRIORITIES

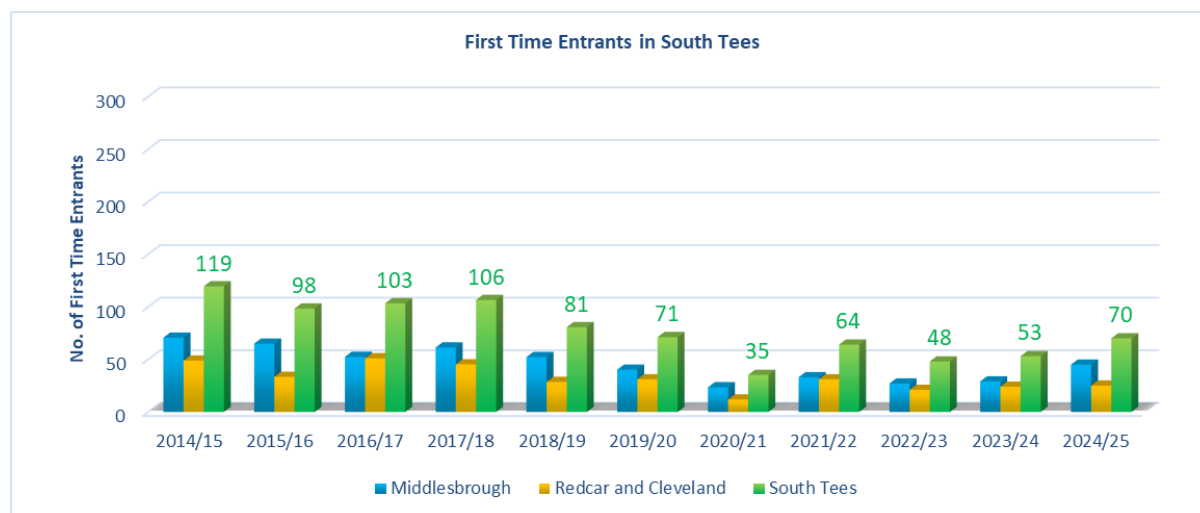
National Outcome Measures

First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System:

During 2024-2025 there were 70 First Time Entrants (FTEs) into the Youth Justice system. This represents an increase of 17 FTEs, 32%, from 53 the previous year, this included 45 from Middlesbrough and 25 from Redcar and Cleveland.

This is continuing a recent trend with increases in FTEs experienced by STYJS over the past 3 years after we had experienced a long period of sustained reduction in FTEs. This also reflects the experiences of YJS locally, regionally and nationally where information shows an upward trend.

STYJS continues to benefit from the enhanced OOCDS model currently being delivered in partnership with Cleveland Police and the OPCC and during 2024-2025 we have continued to promote OOCDS as appropriate responses to young people's behaviours with the use of Community Resolution, Restorative Interventions and Outcome 22 as important options to divert young people away from the youth justice system.



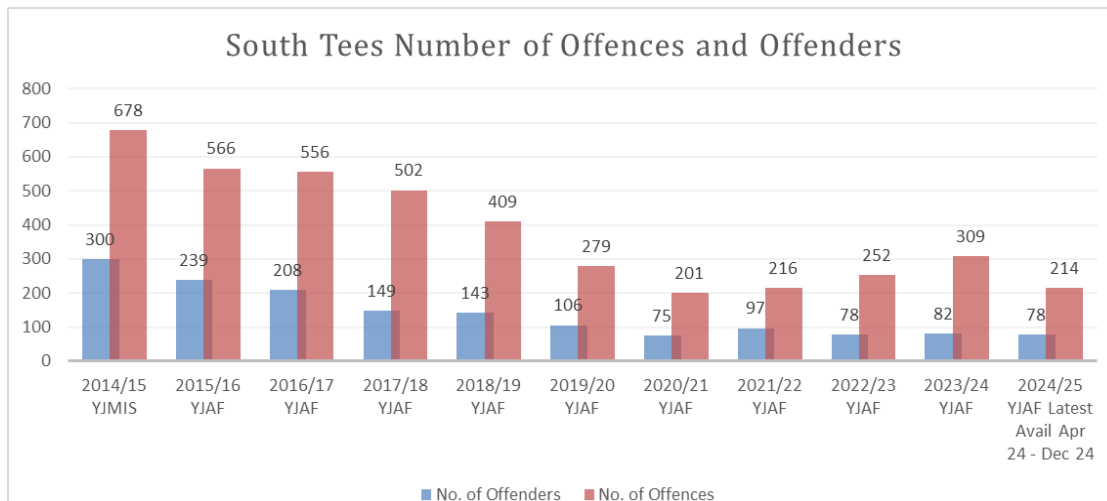
Re-offending:

The re-offending cohort for 2024-2025 consists of 73 and this is an increase of 27 young people based on the cohort for 2023-2024. Broken down further to local authority area this cohort consists of 50 young people from Middlesbrough and 23 from Redcar and Cleveland. The increase in the cohort shows that there is now a trend for the re-offending cohort to be increasing in recent years.

Based on the available data on this cohort a total of 19 young people re-offended or 26% of the cohort, with a total of 106 offences committed by the cohort. This figure compares to a level of re-offending of 26.1% during the same period in 2023-24, where there were 46 young people in the cohort and 13 young people re-offended.

By area 14 young people from Middlesbrough re-offended, 28% of the cohort with these young people committing a total of 63 further offences during this period. For Redcar and Cleveland 5 young people re-offended or 17.2%% of the cohort, with these young people committing 43 further offences.

STYJS uses the re-offending tracking tool to monitor a number of cohorts to assess re-offending levels for live caseloads. These are monitored by the YJS management team on a monthly basis and enable us to identify and track those young people involved in offending and further amend our plans to challenge this behaviour.



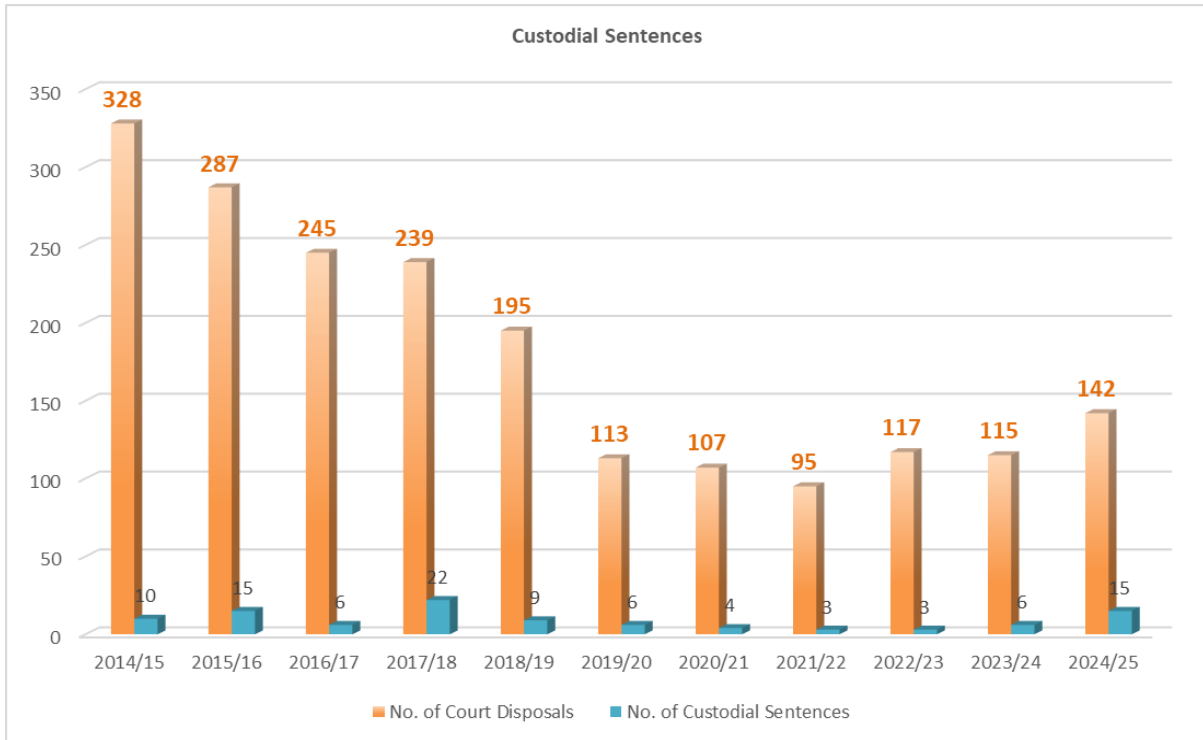
Use of custody - Custodial Sentences

During 2024-2025 there were a total of 15 custodial outcomes out of a total of 142 court outcomes. This represents a significant increase to the previous year's total of 6 custodial outcomes. 8 of the young people were from Middlesbrough with 7 from Redcar and Cleveland.

The overall custody rate for STYJS in 2023-2024 was 10.6% (15 out 142 court outcomes) and means that the custody rate was above the indicative target of 5%.

The increase in the use of custodial outcomes reflects the challenge presented to STYJS with increasing numbers of young people becoming involved in serious and violent offending and more young people becoming involved in forms of exploitation which can draw them into serious offending behaviours.

All custodial outcomes are subject to scrutiny by STYJS Management Team to ensure that these are appropriate. The reviews of custodial outcomes indicate that the young people we are working continue to be very complex and challenging with regards to the risks they pose to themselves and others, their engagement and compliance and levels of re-offending. This is reflected in the higher incidences of violent offending and use of weapons.



Use of Custody- Remands to Youth Justice Accommodation

There were 15 remand episodes for 13 young people in 2024-2025 accounting for 451 remand bed nights. This is a significant increase from the total young number people remanded from 6 in 2024-2025, and a significant increase in the number of remand bed nights from 272.

All young people were aged between 15-17 years at the time of their remands and were all accommodated in a YOI. Overall, the number of remand episodes reflect the serious nature of the offences committed by young people including 2 young people subject to a charge of murder, 1 young person subject to charge of attempted murder, and 3 young people charged with Robbery.

A review of the outcomes for the young people remanded shows that 5 young people subsequently received community sentences despite spending between 22 to 69 nights on remand.

Young people were made subject to a custodial remand because bail was refused in all cases due to the nature of the risks to the public and the seriousness of the offences. STYJS will offer bail packages where it is assessed that the nature of the young person's behaviour and the risk they pose can be managed effectively in the community.

Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation continue to be a significant financial challenge for STYJS with total remands costs of £147,928 for 2024-2025. This figure is significantly higher than the remand provided by the YJB and our partners.

All remand outcomes are subject to scrutiny by the STYJS Management Team to ensure that they are appropriate and in line with the alleged offending by the young person and meet the criteria for remands.

NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS

Children from Groups Which are Overrepresented

As detailed previously the demographic profile for the STYJS shows that the make of the young people we work with is White European and this is representative of the local population. Young

people from Black, Chinese or Asian backgrounds are not overrepresented and children from mixed heritage families represent 5% of the population the highest ethnic grouping other than White European.

STYJS will continue to respond to the individual needs of young people and will adapt practice to meet these needs including introducing interpreters and being sensitive to individual cultural issues.

In regard to other factors impacting on the cohort, for SEND there were 155 young people assessed with special educational needs on the caseload during 2024-2025, approximately 18.5% of the caseload. The YJS Education Specialist has established effective information sharing strategies with the SEND teams in both areas and these allow for case manager to secure information on EHCPs and SEN support to include in assessments and plans for young people.

With regards to the Speech and Language Needs of young people 97 young people were assessed as having speech, language and communication needs using AssetPlus, representing 11.6% of the cohort. The Specialist Speech Therapist role is now established in the service and this worker ensure that information can be shared, referrals can be acted upon, and young people receive the services they need in a timely manner. STYJS has extended this provision to December 2027.

44 young people who were in local authority care were on the YJS caseload in 2024-2025 representing 5.3% of the cohort. This figure is above than the national average of 3% for England. This is an area of significant concern for the YJS and our partners in Children Services and we continue to work together to understand the needs of this group and work together to safeguard these young people. STYJS ensures that we have representations at the child in care planning processes and arrangements to ensure a joined-up approach. In response to this the YJS is:

- Work with Cleveland Police and Children's Home staff to ensure those young people in Children's Homes who offend have their offending behaviour addressed appropriately, including the use of restorative intervention as a solution to minimise prosecution.
- Ensure active STYJS attendance at all planning or strategy meetings for young people with CLA status.
- STYJS safeguarding case managers provide an essential link to Children's Services teams in both Local Authorities as well as providing advice and guidance to colleagues on safeguarding issues and processes.
- Ensure all Intervention Plans for CLA are shared with young people, their carers and colleagues from Children's Services
- Joint supervision arrangements between STYJS and Middlesbrough Children's Services are in place offering the opportunity to share decision making and agree strategies to meet the needs of young people known to both services.
- A working agreement between STYJS and Early Help is in place to ensure joint planning and supervision arrangements. The agreement aims to reduce escalation in the criminal justice and / or looked after system by working collaboratively.
- A YJS 'single point of contact' has been provided to the Multi Agency Children's Hub. This offers MACH staff the direct opportunity for information and advice on young people known to our service.
- MACH case admin has access to STYJS case management system 'Childview' which allows for checks to be made as a referral is received to ascertain if the case is open to STYJS and ensure that joint working commences at the earliest opportunity.
- When any Looked After Child is placed out of area (who is subject to a Criminal Court Order) STYJS retain responsibility for the Order. Care taking arrangements will be put in place for the child with the local YJS in line with the national protocol, however STYJS will remain in contact with the child on at least a monthly basis to maintain the relationship with the child.
- The Turnaround criteria now allows the YJS to work with young people in the care of the local authority.

STYJS is mindful of the recent Casey Report on the impact of grooming gangs and their involvement with looked after children. STYJS will continue to recognise young people impacted by such behaviours as victims and seek to safeguard them against further harm.

Policing

STYJS continues to have a strong and positive relationship with Cleveland Police and the strength of this partnership is evidenced by the presence of 2 highly experienced and knowledgeable Police Officers.

The YJS seconded Police Officers provide a key link into operational police activity, sharing intelligence and information from YJS staff and in the opposite direction from Police systems. The YJS Police Officers have access to all required Police systems, and this supports the referral process for OOCd and the identification process for young people who could be referred to Turnaround. YJS staff use the Police Intelligence form to share any necessary intelligence and concerns with the Police Officers to feed back to Policing teams. The YJS Police Officers are also available as sources of information to Police colleagues and offer advice and guidance on the options available to engage a young person. In addition, they also engage in work with young people, including offence specific work including such things as driving interventions and working with young people from a restorative perspective.

The Children in Police Custody Group provides a forum for positive discussion and learning regarding young people's experience in custody, timeliness of the availability of appropriate adults and other factors such as searches.

Also, the Custody Navigators Programme has now been firmly embedded as a key service for young people in custody and is highly valued by the Police Staff in Custody. The Navigators provide a key support function in custody and can intervene pro-actively with young people in custody and this frees Police Officers and Detention staff to undertake other duties. The STYJS also contributes to the Police Custody Partnership forum for discussing issues arising from custody, sharing information and sharing good practice.

Detention in Police Custody

STYJS takes the lead for a Cleveland area wide Children in Police Custody Group which monitors the experience of young people in Police Custody under PACE. The group meets monthly with a strong involvement from most key partners, including Cleveland Police, Youth Justice Services and agencies working within the Police Custody area.

The purpose of this Children in Police Custody steering group is to scrutinise instances where young people have been held overnight or longer than 12 hours in Police Custody. This group offers the opportunity for professional challenge and multi-agency learning when PACE transfers have been unsuccessful. In addition, the group has evolved to include the review other issues including the timeliness of appropriate adult provision stop and search data and searches of young people in custody. This scrutiny activity offers all stakeholders the assurance that children and young people have been held in Police custody appropriately, and the Custody Concordat has been adhered to.

This group reports on a quarterly basis to the YJS Management Board which provides scrutiny and a performance framework for reporting into other strategic forums. Data from January and February 2024 shows that 39 young people from the South Tees area were discussed, with 6 PACE beds being requested. The outcomes from such requests showed that no children were transferred due to the lack of availability of beds, with 2 young people deemed unpracticable to transfer due to the time of night and requirement to be at Court the next morning. The availability of PACE beds continues to be a challenge, and this is an area for ongoing discussion locally. The group are satisfied all children are safeguarded appropriately during their custodial episode, and most safeguarding referrals were made appropriately and in a timely manner.

STYJS provides an Appropriate Adult service to support young people in custody within the Police Juvenile Custody area in Middlesbrough. The service is available for all instances where parents or other trusted adults and social are unavailable or unable to attend to support the young person in Police Custody. As well as meeting the needs of young people in the South Tees area the service also supports young people from other YJS areas who have been arrested locally. This service is also provided out of office hours by the Emergency Duty Team.

STYJS continue to promote the ongoing development of the Trauma Informed Young People's Custody Area to ensure young people have a less traumatic experience in Police Custody. A key part of this project is the support offered by the Custody Navigators who are available to engage with young people in custody and also offer diversionary tools and other activities including books to support young people in custody.

Prevention

Turnaround continues to be the primary preventions programme available to the YJS. During 2024-2025 198 young people were referred for Turnaround with 90 young people agreeing to engage with the programme and 67 young people successfully completing the programme.

STYJS welcomes the decision to extend the Turnaround Programme for a further year and the revision of the eligibility criteria which now allows young people open to Children's Service under Child Protection or as Children in Care. This allows STYJS to offer the provision to more young people who come into contact with the Police to prevent any further escalation of their offending.

During 2025-2026 we will be working with our partners, including the OPCC to lay the foundations of the Young Future Prevention Partnerships as a basis for promoting collaboration across services to identify opportunities to develop responses to young people who become involved in crime, serious violent behaviours and other issues, including anti-social behaviour.

As detailed below STYJS continues to deliver school-based group programmes and the Tuff Tees and Ladybugs programmes, and this group work provision will be extended to include a group for NEET young people and young people identified as victims of crime.

Diversion

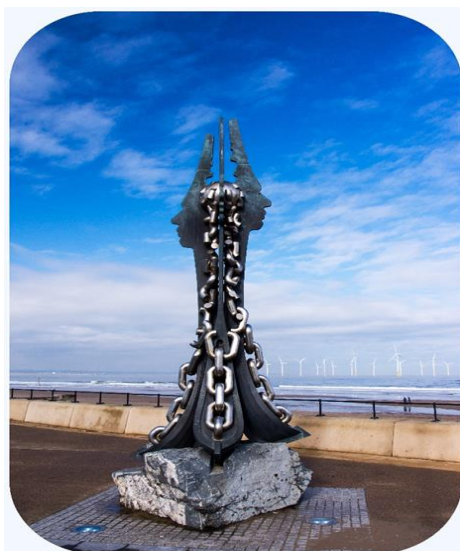
STYJS offers the enhanced OOC as the primary set of diversion activities we provide for young people, and we deliver this in partnership with Cleveland Police. This scheme is based on referrals from Cleveland Police which are screened by the YJS Police Officers and duty manager to ensure they are suitable for an OOC as opposed to being returned to the Police for prosecution. This decision is based on any known previous history of the young person, levels of engagement with previous programmes and the nature and seriousness of the offence. The referral is subsequently reviewed at the OOC Panel, following assessment of the young person before a final decision can be made on the most appropriate option to be offered to meet the needs of the young person and respond to the needs of victims and communities.

The OOC offer includes a range of interventions including Outcome 22, Restorative Intervention, Community Resolution, Youth Caution and Youth Conditional Caution, with Outcome 22 also supported by Turnaround where appropriate. Young people can receive an appropriate OOC at any time, there is no escalator process, and the aim is to address the young person's behaviour without recourse to further involvement in the criminal justice system, through Court for example. The OOC offer is a key tool for reducing FTEs.

All young people who receive an OOC are assessed using the Prevention and Diversion (PaD) assessment tool and this ensures that they have a robust assessment which supports our understanding of the young person's needs and can support the tailoring of interventions to meet this need.

During 2023-2024 there were 274 OOC outcomes and increase from the previous year with 9.9% going on to re-offend and be re-referred to the YJS.

Reporting on performance for diversionary activities is to the YJS Management Board and the OPCC who provide funding to support this area of work.



Remands

STYJS recognises the importance of supporting and engaging young people in community settings and seeks to minimise the use of RYDA where this is possible. However, during 2024-2025 there have been significant challenges presented by the complex nature of the young people we work with, the challenge placed by forms of exploitation and young people's willingness to engage in serious and violent behaviours. And these have contributed to higher levels of RYDA. During 2025-26 there were 21 remand outcomes including 1 RYDA for young people, 3 Remands to Local Authority Accommodation, 2 ISS Bail and 1 Court Bail Support Programme.

When considering options for young people at risk of Remand to YDA, STYJS Court staff will engage in discussion with other relevant court users (CPS and defence for example) to discuss what we feel is an appropriate option based on the nature of offending and the risks presented by the young person. All options will be considered including bail support and remands to local authority care where this is a suitable alternative to a remand to YDA.

The 2023 Standards for Children in the Justice System audit identified that the STYJS Remand Strategy was out of date. A new Remand Strategy has now been implemented and this is used to guide practice in this area of our work. STYJS is also compliant with the requirements of the Remand Concordat.

Restorative Approaches and victims

The revised HMIP inspection criteria has given rise to increased expectation and new challenges in terms of how we evidence our work with victims. There is a shift in emphasis towards ensuring work is "high quality, individualised and responsive", and this has resulted in significant change in how we document our assessment of need, record contacts and monitor performance.

Whilst the revised standard does not represent a significant change in how we currently work with victims, it is acknowledged that child victims in particular are at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity as a result of their experience. We will offer an enhanced service to vulnerable victims, recognising that child victims are considered as such, and will ensure they are able to access a range of services currently enjoyed by other children who are open to our service. This will include the development of a support group to focus on confidence building and increasing self-esteem.

The service has recently invested significantly in this area of work, we have employed an additional RJ/victim worker and purchased increased functionality for our case management system to assist with recording ensure that we can capture victim information which we can use to develop victim profiles and provide analysis to support future service delivery.

To ensure that staff in this area of work receive the support they need we have also introduced reflective supervision and support services through an independent external provider. This service provides staff with the opportunity to talk through their experiences and ensure that they are effectively supported.

The increased capacity in the team will enable the RJ Specialist to focus on quality assurance and performance monitoring and the development of systems and processes to meet the standard required.

We will continue to strive to be a restorative organisation and offer restorative justice as a means of repairing harm. We will also develop our restorative parenting programme and continue to develop meaningful reparation projects, to meet the aims of adopting a child first approach whilst ensuring this is balanced with meeting the needs of victims.

Serious Violence, Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

During 2024-2025 STYJS has experienced a higher-than-average level of referrals for young people who have engaged in serious and violent offending. Currently we have 2 young people RYDA for murder and 1 young person RYDA for attempted murder. Such offences reflect the propensity of a small minority of young people to engage in violent offending, much of this driven by their experience of exploitation and involvement in organised crime.

STYJS has an established relationship with CURV, the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence with representation at both strategic and operational level enabling the YJS to have a voice in key decision making. The Custody Navigators have developed into a highly regarded flagship project for the CURV. The Navigators are based in the police custody suite in Middlesbrough, and this provides the opportunity to engage with young people involved in serious and violent offending and offer them support and access to services. The Navigators work pro-actively with other services in custody to ensure a joined-up approach to meeting the needs of the young person and provide ongoing support in the community where this is needed and the young person agrees to engage, including those young people released on bail or released under investigation.

Multi Agency arrangements to support and guide practice in the area of serious violence and exploitation have evolved with a Cleveland wide Harm Outside of the Home (HOtH) model now being implemented and this has representation from all key partners. STYJS is also represented by the Head of Service in the Tees Strategic Group and representation is also in place at HOtH subgroups and vulnerable children/risk management groups in both local authorities. These offer a co-ordinated case level approach to supporting the young person with each agency accountable for their role in the young person's plan.

SHiFT is now established across the South Tees area and STYJS works closely with colleagues in the SHiFT teams to ensure a joined-up approach with young people on the edge of care and at risk of becoming involved in exploitation and serious violence. The Head of the YJS Service also has the strategic oversight of the SHiFT service in Middlesbrough and this includes the line management and support for the SHiFT Lead Guide.

Working with Families

STYJS recognises the importance of working with the whole family as well as with the individual child. We seek to engage with parents and carers to ensure that they can be supported and to assist our work with their child. STYJS engages with Early Help services to offer pathways for those families which need more support, and we work closely with the Supporting Families Service to ensure that families can be identified for additional support where required.

The prevention group programmes Tuff Tees and Ladybugs also offer support to siblings of young people engaged with this service. In this way we hope to maximise engagement and meet the needs of all family members where appropriate. Turnaround also offers a whole family approach to those families who need it.

Use of Custody and Constructive Resettlement

STYJS has experienced a significant rise in the use of custody during 2024-2025, with 15 young people receiving custodial outcomes at court, compared to the figure of 6 custodial outcomes for 2024-2025. This increase reflects some of the challenges the YJS faces with regards to increases in serious and violent offending and the impact of exploitation on an already vulnerable group. During 2024-2025 we have experienced high levels of violent offending with 1 young person sentenced to custody for attempted murder and current 2 young people RYDA for murder and 1 for attempted murder.

STYJS recognises the importance of a co-ordinated and positive resettlement approach, and we seek to ensure that all sentence planning is robust with discussion taking place from the point of sentence on the most appropriate licence conditions to help support the resettlement of the young person back into the community.

STYJS also recognises the importance of resettlement planning, and we seek to ensure that this starts at the earliest stages. We undertake a multi-agency approach to build on the strengths identified with the young person and address any challenges to effective resettlement with discussions undertaken through the ETE Specialist who will act as a broker to ensure education, training or employment needs are a focus in the resettlement plan. Ongoing liaison takes place with children's services and the allocated social worker, to ensure their duties to the young person are fulfilled and appropriate plans for release are in place within a timely manner. All young people are visited in line with the required standards, a minimum of once per month and families are actively encouraged and supported to attend visits and review meetings. This process is supported by our practice standards framework which underpins joint working with children's services and details the commitments and responsibilities of both service areas to support young people through the resettlement process.

Education Training and Employment

The new ETE Specialist joined the YJS in August 2024. During 2025-2026 the ETE Specialist will be further establishing effective information sharing arrangements with schools and other ETE providers, embedding the Inclusion Pathway and ensuring joined up approaches to meet the ETE needs of young people in partnership with education support services and the NEET teams.

The YJS has not specifically identified Education, Training and Employment as one of our key priorities for 2025-2026. However, we feel that this is key theme which will cut across all the four priorities and engaging young people in ETE will be a key outcome if we are to make progress across the priority areas.

The ETE Specialist role has re-established links with all education, training, employment and support providers in the South Tees area, supporting this work with guidance documents and protocols to ensure joint approaches and the sharing of information. Links have been established with SEN, Inclusion, Schools, PRUs and other providers to ensure that where required additional support can be offered to assist young people to engage or re-engage with education. The ETE specialist attends education panels, forums, networking meetings and multiagency partnership meetings with regards to ETE, to build strong working relationships, have a greater knowledge of provisions available to the young people with the local area, share best practice and offer advice and guidance. STYJS has joint working protocols in place that allows the service to share information and data on a monthly cycle on school age young people. This information goes to the virtual school, SEN and Inclusion team.

A key part of the work of the ETE specialist has been to challenge issues with education providers where young people's educational needs are not being met, requesting further assessments of potential undiagnosed SEN needs, and being an advocate for young people that may be at risk of suspensions or permanent exclusions. The ETE specialist has worked alongside Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Inclusion teams whose role it is to support young people, to improve access to education, improve attendance, and behaviours in schools. The ETE specialist has liaised with Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland's SEN teams, attending EHCP reviews and PEPS for all young people who are working with STYJS.

STYJS have a high percentage of young people on caseload with a SEN need, 95 young people have an EHCP and 53 have a SEN support plan.

	Active YP	155
	EHCP	95
	SEN support plan	53
	SEN need on annual caseload	18.5%

STYJS also have an ETE support worker that has been in role for 19 years, she has a vast amount of expertise and knowledge regarding ETE and is qualified to be able to offer the young people careers advice and guidance. The support workers main role is to support young people that are NEET to get them into some form of training or employment depending on the need of the young person. There have been positive improvements in the NEET data, as shown in the table below:

	Months
Term 1	July-October
Term 2	November- February

Year	Active Cases	In ETE	Not in ETE	NEET %
M'brough Term 1 (2024)	88	68	20	23%
Redcar Term 1 (2024)	46	36	10	22%
M'Brough Term 2 (2024-25)	93	71	22	24%
Redcar Term 2 (2024-25)	52	46	6	12%

From May 2025 we have introduced NEET group for any young person involved with STYJS that is not in any form of Education, training or employment. The group is delivered fortnightly for 2 hours giving the young people an opportunity to discuss careers aspirations, receive advice and guidance on ETE, be supported with practical aspects such as opening a bank account, developing a CV, setting up an online job searching profile etc but in an informal way. There are also aspects of the group which includes building positive relationships and taking part in positive activities.

We have a small cohort of young people that are NEET and due to their offences or risk, education providers will not accept them into their provision. The ETE specialist has liaised with the local authority and discussed the potential of developing a High-Risk NEET panel. The panel would include the local authority, colleges, learning providers and employment agencies where they will be all sat around a table and the YJS ETE specialist will present the case of the young person who they are struggling to get an ETE placement for and Risk assessments will be available. This will allow for a transparent, robust and stronger partnership working which will hopefully encourage partnership agencies give the young person an opportunity to attend the provision.

STANDARDS FOR CHILDREN IN THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM

In 2024-2025 there were no requirements for STYJS to engage in any mandatory self-assessments against the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System. The monitoring we undertake for the National Performance Framework and KPIs means that we continue to monitor areas of the standards in particular those which monitor engagement and compliance by young people. These indicate that STYJS would be compliant against any self-assessments or reviews in this area.

STYJS has a programme of audits every year to assist us to monitor practice, highlight areas of good practice and areas for further development, training and learning. During 2025-2026 the theme of such audits will focus on all areas of case management as we seek to prepare ourselves against a potential HMIP inspection, including generic case file audits and audits of our practice with victims.



Mural by young people in partnership with the YJS, other partner agencies and local residents

PRIORITIES FOR STYJS IN 2025-2026

Following consultation with all stakeholders the following priorities have been identified by STYJS during 2025-2026. These priorities were presented to the YJS Management Board in May 2025 and received the Management Board's agreement.

Priority 1: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation-

Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation continue to represent the most significant challenge to the YJS in our work with young people. During 2025-26 we have experienced a significant increase in the willingness of young people to use weapons and to engage in serious types of offending including incidences of young people becoming involved in alleged murders and attempted murders. The challenge for the YJS is to ensure that services do not work in isolation to address such issues but engage in co-ordinated strategies to support those young people at risk.

The Home Office Serious Violence Duty requires organisations to work together to challenge, prevent and reduce incidents of serious violence to make communities safer. STYJS adheres to this approach. Serious violence and exploitation are significant factors in the lives of the young people we work with and the YJS seeks to work with our colleagues in the Police, children's services and other public and voluntary sector services to co-ordinate our response to these issues.

The introduction of SHiFT and the evolution to the Harm Outside the Home (HoTH) models of working have created additional frameworks for STYJS to engage with partners, identifying those young people at risk of exploitation or involvement in serious violence and co-ordinating and targeting resource to meet their needs.

Priority 2: Work with Victims

During 2024-2025 STYJS made further investment into the Restorative Justice section of the service, with the introduction of a new Restorative Justice Worker, bringing the establishment up to 3 full time workers. In addition, further investment was made in the reparation offer we make to victims and communities we service, with the development of the allotment in Redcar, new projects to work with charities and additional community-based schemes. The

YJS has now also secured an additional non-managerial support service for our staff working with victims of crime.

This additional investment in our work with victims and restorative justice provides the opportunity to further develop the restorative justice offer. We will seek to re-profile the role of the Restorative Justice Specialist to provide co-ordination and development of our Restorative practice, extending the offer made to volunteers and focus on performance and quality of practice.

The new HMIP Inspection Framework has placed a new challenge to YJS with regards to the services we offer to victims of crime. The investment made in this area will ensure that the YJS is well placed to respond to this challenge.

Priority 3: Child First Approaches

During 2024-2025 the YJS invested significantly in building our approach using a Child First Principle. A significant part of this was to roll out initial training to staff to assist them to understand the child first approach and how to develop their work with young people under the child first approach. This included giving them insight into how a child first approach should be used to inform assessment, planning and the delivery of work with young people and the importance of the young person's voice in this.

Placing the needs of young people at the heart of everything we do has been the one of the guiding principles of STYJS for many years. The challenge now is to further develop a Child First culture across all levels of the service including with the management board and how we work with partners.

To this end we will be delivering work with the management board and with the senior management team to create the foundation for a child first culture and approach.

Priority 4: Engagement and Participation

In tandem with the Child First approach STYJS will be seeking to develop how we engage with the young people, parents and carers we work with, to listen, hear and respond to what they are telling us about their experiences and use this to further improve service delivery.

To this end we will be investing in a new user experience/feedback survey, establishing focus groups for young people their parents and carers providing the opportunity for them to meet with the service, have their say and influence the direction of the service.

Broadening the experiences of young people has been a key part of our work in 2024-2025, including the introduction of diversion programmes during school holiday times. We will be seeking to build on the success of this designing an annual programme of intervention offering regular weekly opportunities for young people, further developing the allotment as a means for young people to give back to the community providing produce for food banks for example and build on the success of Tuff Tees to extend this provision and develop a group to engage with young women and girls and a new group to work with young people who are NEET.

We also need to ensure that we make the service we deliver more meaningful to young people, giving consideration to the use of social media and how we communicate with the outside world.



CHALLENGES AND RISKS

The environment in which we work continues to be very difficult and challenging. The financial situation continues to present significant risks to the YJS budget with the potential pressures of higher case numbers, increases in remands and the challenging nature of our young people. Some highly successful projects face uncertain future, and this will impact on service delivery as we move forward.

Risks and challenges include:

1. Increasing Workloads

As detailed previously STYJS has experienced a 22.5% increase in the number of programmes we have delivered with children and young people during 2024-2025. This additional work has not been accompanied by a similar increase in our budget and resources. Workloads are continuously monitored by the management team to identify any risks to service delivery, and these are reported to the board.

2. Access to Specialist Services: Mental Health

Young people's access to Mental Health Services continues to present a challenge for the YJS, with the young people we work with often experiencing delays in accessing the services they need.

This has been mitigated by the introduction of the review Trauma Informed Care Pathway. Which gives young people access to specialist clinical support and intervention. In addition CAMHS staff are also available to offer guidance and consultancy to YJS staff to guide them in methods for intervening with young people.

3. Access to Specialist Services: Health Practitioner

STYJS does not have a designated Health Practitioner who can support case managers with health concerns and access health information to inform assessment and planning. This issue has been raised at board level with the representative of the ICB to highlight this gap in provision and the potential impact this could have on the young people we are working with.

4. Re-offending

Re-offending by young people continues to present significant challenges for the YJS. We are now experiencing a trend of increasing numbers of young people identified in the January to March cohort, the young people tracked for the re-offending KPI. This situation is also impacted upon by the challenges presented by the current YJS cohort many of whom present with significant complex needs and behaviours and are at risk of forms of exploitation. This also has the potential for young people to be drawn into serious and organised crime.

STYJS will continue to track and monitor our quarterly cohorts to identify those young people who are re-offending and in particular those young people whose behaviours present the most significant concerns.

5. Use of Custody

During 2024-2025 STYJS experienced significant increases in the use of custody, both for young people subject the RYDA and young people receiving custodial outcomes at court. This places a financial burden on the service in the case of remands and also adds to additional workload pressures as young people need more intensive supervision upon their release from custody.

With young people becoming drawn into more serious offending the challenge for STYJS is to gain the confidence and trust of Police and Courts to offer opportunities for the risks posed by such young people to be managed within the community. The role of the Custody Navigators offers the opportunity to intervene early, offer intervention with young people and promote their engagement in community level support. STYJS are also currently reviewing our arrangements for assessing young people for potential bail packages when remand to YDA is a risk to ensure that all young people are assessed with the view to offering a community-based bail package.

6. Provision of a Seconded Probation Officer

STYJS has had no seconded Probation Officer. STYJS has sought to work with the Probation Service to provide a solution to this issue. The Chair of the Board has escalated this matter, and the Head of Service developed a 'bridging plan' with the Head of the local PDU to ensure there was a pathway in place with single points of contact to support the transition of young people into adult provision. In addition, STYJS has been able to draw down a financial alternative to the seconded worker and this has allowed the service to appoint additional officers on short term contracts to fill this gap.

7. First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System

During 2024-2025 STYJS has experienced an increase in the numbers of First Time Entrants into the criminal justice system with a 32% increase in the numbers of FTES to 70 from 53 the previous year. This represents a worrying trend for the service and during 2025-2026 we will continue to monitor FTES to identify if there are any specific drivers for this increase and seek to mitigate against this.

STYJS will continue to offer a range of diversionary OOC interventions to engage with young people and divert them away from offending and the introduction of a more wide-ranging preventions offer will also make a positive contribution to reducing offending and diverting young people away from the criminal justice system.

8. Serious and Violent Offending

STYJS is now working with groups of young people who present significant challenges by their involvement in a willingness to commit serious and violent offending. During 2024-2025 the YJS has experience 1 young person sentenced to a long custodial sentence for attempted murder and we currently have 2 young people RYDA for murder and 1 for attempted murder.

Such offending represents a worrying trend for STYJS and our partners and we continue to work together to design a develop new programmes to engage with our most challenging and difficult to reach young people.

EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE AND INNOVATION

STYJS has continued develop and improve our practice to ensure the best possible services available to the young people we work with and the communities we serve. As a service we believe that we are

innovative in our approach, welcome new opportunities and seek to invest in activity which is proven in practice and promotes the best possible outcomes for young people. During 2024-2025 this has included:

Turnaround

The Turnaround Programme has developed is the primary offer for prevention work with young people and their families. We have now embedded this programme as part of our core practice and seek to offer this to all young people who are eligible for support from the Turnaround Team.

Group Based Intervention

STYJS continues to offer the gender-based Tuff Tees delivered in partnership with the South Tees Public Health Service to provide a safe space for boys and young men who have been open to STYJS or who are on the periphery of involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour. Support offered includes interventions such as life skills and access to other support services where these have been identified. In addition, young people have access to other activities and a gym and benefit from a cooked meal during sessions. The food element offers the opportunity for young people to engage with staff and discuss issues which are important to them.

The service has also re-introduced the 'Ladybugs' programme designed for girls and young women with the aim to provide a safe and nurturing environment so that the girls feel valued, we support the girls by building their self-esteem, confidence and encouraging the right mindset in a setting with positive influences which is judgement free.

Interventions in Education Settings

STYJS works collaboratively with local schools and Pupil Referral Units following requests for support and intervention. This includes delivering intervention to primary and secondary provision as well as alternative education providers. Such interventions have focussed on issues which are impacting on the school and include such issues as anti-social behaviour, exploitation, violent crime, vaping and knife/weapon-based crime. Such programmes are tailored to the issues impacting on individual schools. We have received feedback from such sessions including:

We could tell/deliver the talks you do, but they listen because you are not us

You make it real for the children

You coming into school has taught us so much about what goes on in the community and the criminal justice system as a whole

You coming into school has taught us so much about what goes on in the community and the criminal justice system as a whole

Holiday Intervention Programmes

Over the course of the past year, we have laced a renewed focus and effort into offering opportunities for our young people to engage in positive and constructive activities during school holiday periods. These include group activities selected and designed with young people to provide a positive experience, away from their home environment. For many young people these can be completely new experiences, including such everyday activities as a visit to the beach or a country walk, activities they may never have had the opportunity to engage with.

The sessions aim to offer entertainment, a change of scenery, exercise, education and the development of life-skills. They provide an opportunity for the children to experience new things. Such activities also run in conjunction with other planned operations delivered by the Police and ASB Teams, such as 'Operation Autumnus' which seeks to offer diversion during the Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night periods.

We have received very positive feedback in respect of the Constructive Activities from the young people we work with. Those who have attended have enjoyed and have stated:

'having somewhere to go' away from their local area
'trying different activities' and finding out 'I was good at that'
'trying different foods'
'not being bored' in the holidays

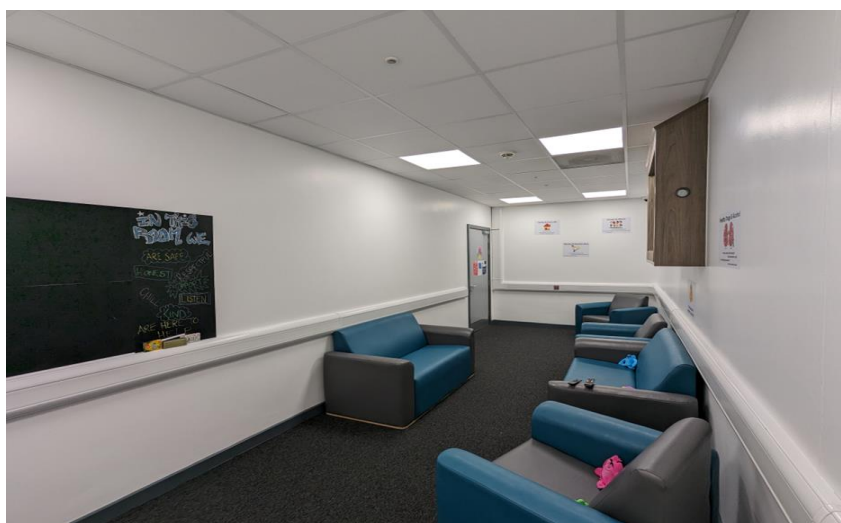
For staff, these sessions allow us to see the children we work with in a different way outside of the supervision approach taken. They offer an opportunity to engage differently and see more of the character and personality of the young people.

Custody Navigators

The Custody Navigator Project was introduced into the Police Custody Suite in Middlesbrough in July 2023 and since that time the Navigators have engaged with 750+ young people from the Cleveland Police area offered support to over 400 in the community. The Custody Navigators Project is funded by CURV and is viewed as a flagship project by the Violence Reduction Unit. The Project was the first to be establish as a bespoke project for young people in England and has received national recognition, with other violence reduction unit area looking to learn from this project and model similar arrangements in their areas.

The aim of the Custody Navigators is to engage and provide immediate support with young people at that 'reachable and teachable moment' as the young person enters police custody and may be more receptive to the support offered. The project aims to work with those young people arrested for serious and violent offences, offering support in custody and in the community where the young person agrees to engage.

One of the successes of the Custody Navigator project has been the value placed on the Navigators by other services in police custody, including detention officers, Police, the Mitie Nurses and Liaison and Diversion. The Custody Navigators have successfully developed effective working relationships and developed pathways with partners to maximise the support for young people. The project is particularly valued by the Police who recognise the value the Navigators can bring in their approach to young people. The Navigators provide additional support to crisis situations and are skilled in de-escalating such situations and this gives the Police and Custody staff to be able to focus on other tasks.



Breakout room in the youth custody suite

During 2024-2025 we have developed a relationship with the National Literacy Trust and Middlesbrough Libraries, and this allows us to access books and other materials, puzzles etc, which young people can also take with them when they leave custody. A recent HMICFRS report for

Cleveland Police highlighted the need to provide distraction materials for young people in police custody, the Custody Navigators have responded to this with the provision of books and other distraction toys. Young people also have access to a breakout room to reduce time spent in cells and are offered diversionary toys and activities to assist them during their period in custody.

More importantly the Custody Navigators are highly valued by young people who recognise the support now available in police custody. The Navigators have received a range of comments and compliments from young people, their families and other professionals.

'I was more worried about him kicking off because of struggling in the cell than the actual offence, thank you so much for looking after him' Grandma of YP

'It's definitely way better having you in here, I keep asking for things, but it feels like you're the only one listening to me and getting things done. I wish you could just sit outside my cell and talk to me, it helps knowing someone is trying to sort things out for me' Male, 17

"Appreciate what you guys are doing" Sgt.

"Don't know how I would have dealt with this without you in here now, it's a really bizarre one but one I think we can really work well on this together and make sure the young person gets the best wrap around support" Clinical Lead

In terms of impact, a research study undertaken by Crest Consulting on behalf of CURV found that young people who received Custody Navigator support beyond their initial attendance at custody have a significantly reduced likelihood of being arrested again (0.49 times as likely) or having a proven re-offence (0.37 times as likely) compared to young people who did not receive any Navigator intervention. In terms of cost benefit the research found that the work of the Custody Navigators, generated a return on investment of £2.61 for every £1 spent.

One of the challenges this project faces is the insecurity of the long-term funding for the project. The Navigators are currently funded by CURV to March 2026, and this creates insecurity and uncertainty for the project. STYJS in partnership with the OPCC are currently submitting a funding bid to the Youth Endowment Fund, which we hope will offer a level of security for the future of the project.

Youth Custody Suite

The Trauma Informed Youth Custody Suite in Middlesbrough Police HQ is a unique facility designed to ease the young person's experience of their time in Police Custody. Designed with young people there 4 cells in the Middlesbrough Custody area designated to young people which have also been painted with a design depicting the young persons' journey through custody, to show them taking a new direction. The Youth Custody area also has its own access and reception desk, and this means that young people do not come into contact with adult offenders during their time in custody.

Supported by the Custody Navigators the Custody area also has a breakout room where the young person can be taken to minimise the time they spend in isolation in a police cell. There are also distraction activities and books to distract the young person from their time in custody.

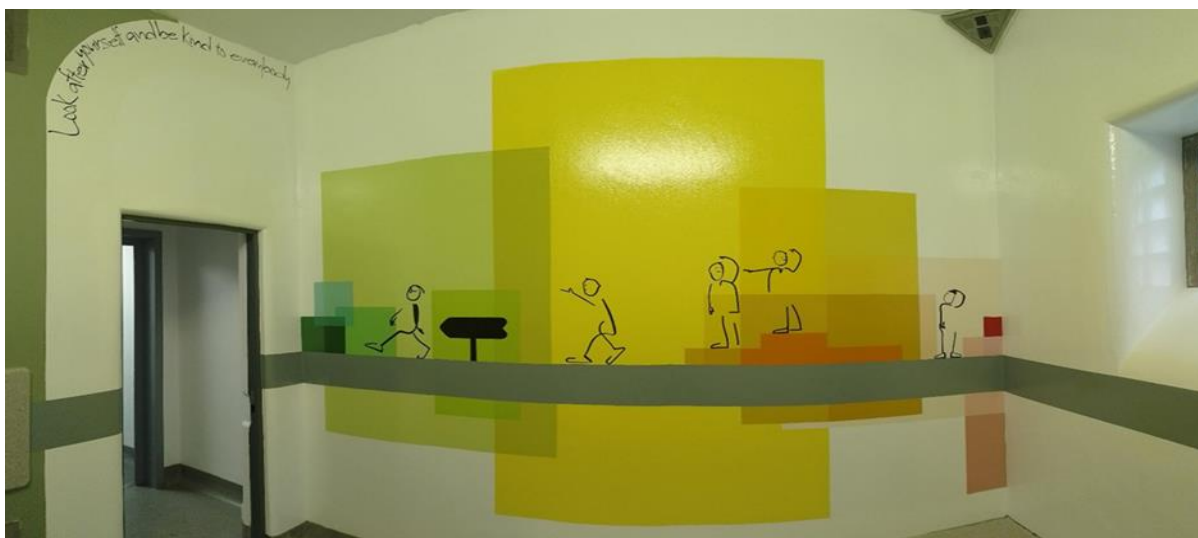


Image from the Youth Custody Suite at Middlesbrough Police HQ

Speech, Language and Communication

Since January 2023 South Tees Youth Justice Service has commissioned a highly specialist speech and language therapist (SALT) for 0.6WTE to meet the needs of young people engaged with the YJS. This provision will be commissioned for a further 2 years, meaning that we retain access to this key service until December 2027.

During 2024-2025, 74 young people were referred for intervention and support from the SALT worker. Of this cohort over a quarter 27.4% had received previous SALT intervention at some time during their childhood. In addition, 30% of the young people referred to SALT were also NEET and therefore in need of additional support. The ETE Specialist is monitoring such individual cases and where necessary co-working these with the SALT worker and the YJS has also recently introduced a NEET support group to support the engagement of young people into provision.

With regards to needs identified, over 50% of the young people presented developmental speech difficulties and 30% were identified as having a potential neurodevelopmental need requiring multi-disciplinary assessment and support.

The work of the SALT worker is highly valued by staff, young people and their parents, with parents recognising that this service has been able to overcome previous barriers they had encountered to access the services their child needs.

Future plans for further developing this service include developing a SALT screening tool for the Custody Navigators to use in Custody. This will ensure that services have a better understanding of a young person's needs and assist such processes as Police interviews, work in court and providing essential information to inform assessments.

Case Study J

J was referred to YJS SALT by his Turnaround Case Manager following their initial assessment of skills and needs at the age of 13 years.

J had experienced a number of adverse childhood experiences which included the breakdown of his parents' relationship, witnessing domestic abuse, bereavement and significant bullying when in primary school

At that time of SALT involvement J was attending a mainstream secondary school. However, he was experiencing significant struggles conforming to behavioural expectations. J had many internal exclusions from the main class and experience of temporary exclusions from school. J was at risk of imminent permanent exclusion.

J was seen over a series of contacts by SALT. During this time it was possible to meet with his Mother, liaise with school professionals and complete direct work with J to determine his profile of speech, language and communication skills and needs.

Assessment considered J's views around how adults support him to communicate. Dynamic assessment also captured J's

- *Understanding of time*
- *Working memory skills*
- *Understanding of language and his ability to make inferences*
- *His word knowledge*
- *His understanding of the language and context of emotion*
- *His understanding of consequence*
- *His oral narrative skills*
- *Overall profile of speech, language and communication including his attention and listening, his understanding of language in conversation, his spoken language skills, his speech clarity and his situational and social communication skills.*

J's performance on assessment revealed significant differences his profile of listening and attention. J was noted to exhibit inattention, increased physical activity and significant impulsivity. He was also noted to have differences in how he communicates socially with those around him, with evidence noted in how he modulates the style and content of his language dependent upon his audience. J was noted to share homophobic, racist, misogynistic and inflammatory comments in order to elicit responses from those around him.

Following SALT assessment, a thorough and detailed report was shared with J's family and professionals who work with J. This report described J's performance during assessment, explored the impacts of this on his day-to-day presentation and shared strategies to support J both at home, in education and modifications to the delivery of any interventions with J. A direct letter was also sent to J summarising SALT findings. A recommendation was also made to the educational setting that they may wish to contact the Neurodevelopmental Hotline and discuss their observations and share SALT findings.

Following my involvement, SALT was contacted by J's Mother who shared that J had been permanently excluded from his school and that she was grateful for the SALT advice and report as this had been used to secure him a place in a more specialist educational setting. J is reported to continue to present with behaviours that challenge within the home. However, his mother shared that she feels more able to understand his needs and can make communication adjustments to support him.

To date J has not been referred again into the STYJS team

LOOKING FORWARDS

1. Celebrating Our Success

STYJS has always sought to promote innovation and good practice, however one of our challenges has been how we celebrate our success with the young people and the communities we serve and raise awareness of good practice including, to our communities and the wider partnership. During 2024-2025 we have had the opportunity to celebrate the success of the Custody Navigators and the redesign of the Youth Custody Suite, and these have achieved national recognition as models of effective practice. During 2025-2026 we will seek to build on such success to raise awareness of the work that young people undertake in our communities and celebrate their achievements and highlight the change such achievements bring.

2. Young People's Prevention Partnerships

STYJS welcomes the future development of Young Peoples Prevention Partnerships. Young Peoples Prevention Partnerships are collaborative approaches focused on preventing young people from becoming involved in crime and violence. These partnerships bring together various agencies and organisations to identify and support young people at risk, offering them positive alternatives and addressing the root causes of involvement in harmful activity. STYJS will be working in partnership

with CURV to support the introduction of a pilot programme in the Cleveland Police area and to build on the success of this to roll such partnerships across the whole Cleveland area.

3. Service User Voice and Influence

The voice of the child is an important factor for STYJS to influence how we shape the future delivery of the service. We have recognised that this is a development area of the service and during 2025-2026 we will be seeking to engage more proactively with service users and provide them with the opportunity to have their say on the work we do. STYJS has invested the time of an Assistant Operations Manager to lead on this work and developments will include a new user survey for young people and their parents/carers and seeking feedback from victims on their experience of the service. Reports will be prepared to advise the management board and leadership team, and this feedback will be a key consideration as we plan for the future.

SIGN OFF AND APPROVAL OF THE YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Tynan', is written over a horizontal line.

Joe Tynan

Chair of the South Tees Youth Justice Service Management Board

APPENDIX 1: STYJS Executive Management Board Membership

Name	Organisation
Executive Director of Children's Services	Middlesbrough Council
Director of Education & Partnerships	Middlesbrough Council
Head of Partnerships	Head of STYJS
Cleveland Police	Head of Prevention, Intervention & Offender Management
Asst. Director of Partnerships, Quality & Performance	Redcar & Cleveland Council (Vice Chair)
Councillor	Redcar & Cleveland Council
Youth Justice Board for England & Wales	Head of Innovation & Engagement (Northeast)
Councillor	Middlesbrough Council
Acting Legal Team Manager	His Majesty's Courts & Tribunal Service (HMCTS)
Head of Commissioning & Strategy	Integrated Care Board (ICB)
Interim Public Health Principal	South Tees Public Health
Head of Policy, Partnerships and Delivery	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
Head of Area (South Tees)	Probation Service
Head of Education and Alternative Provision	Middlesbrough Council

APPENDIX 2: Attendance at the YJS Management Board

Meeting attendance	09.07.24	15.10.24	18.02.25	06.05.25
Education & Partnerships MBC	✓	✓	✓	✓
STYJS (Head of Service)	✓	✓	✓	✓
YJB	✓	✓	Apologies	✓
R & C Children's Services	✓	✓	Apologies	✓
NPS	✓	✓	Apologies	✓
Police	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commissioning - ICB	✓	✓	Apologies	✓
Legal - Courts	Apologies	✓	Apologies	Apologies
Public Health M'bro/R&C	✓	✓	✓	✓
Councillor MBC	✓	Apologies	✓	✓
Councillor RC	✓	✓	✓	✓
PCC	✓	Apologies	Apologies	✓
Education MBC	✓	✓	✓	✓
CURV	Apologies	✓	✓	✓

APPENDIX 3– STYJS Statutory Functions

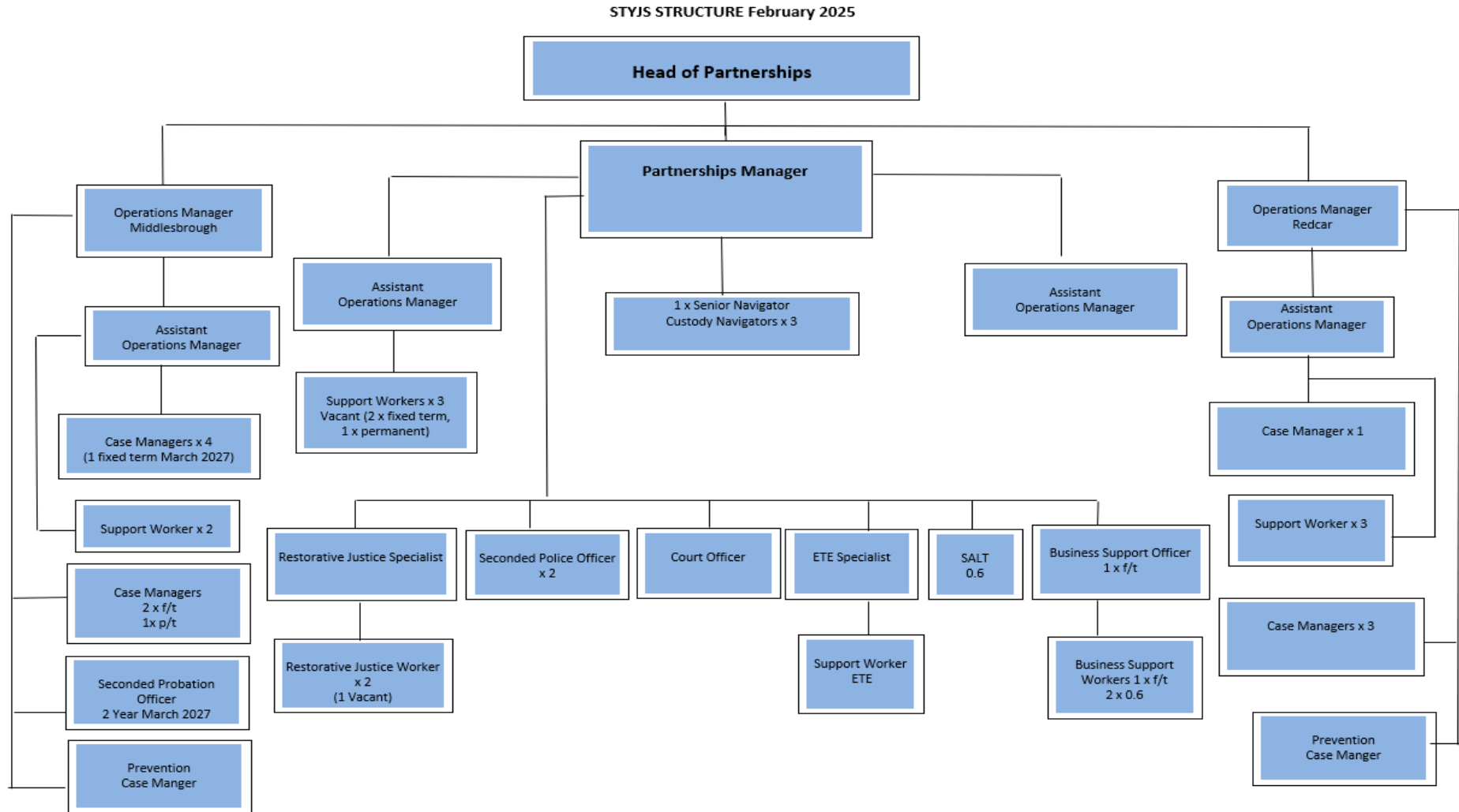
Statutory functions include:

- Statutory Responsibility for Court Orders (Community and Custody) as they relate to young people, including all Requirements and Licences
- Compliance with National Standards for Youth Justice 2013 (accountable to Ministers)
- Enforcement of Court Orders and Licences
- Provision of Out of Court Disposals (Youth Cautions and Youth Conditional Cautions)
- Prevention of offending and re-offending by young people
- Provision of Court staffing (Youth, Crown, Remand Courts, including Saturdays and Bank holidays)
- Provision of Bail supervision functions
- Provision of Appropriate Adults for Police interviews
- Provision of Pre-Sentence Reports
- Provision of community volunteers for Referral Order panels
- Recruit, train, manage, supervise and deploy volunteers to carry out statutory functions
- Provision of Referral Order Panel reports
- Provision of YJMIS data/management information to YJB/MoJ regarding youth justice cases
- Delivery of Court ordered reparation to community and victims
- Provision of a service to victims of youth crime
- Comply with arrangements for multi-agency public protection (MAPPA)
- Duty to cooperate with MAPPA, LSCB, VEMT, CSPs etc.
- Duty to cooperate regarding safeguarding and public protection incidents in the community (YJB)
- Statutory duty to provide and support a Management Board for the YJS
- Management and development of the Junior Attendance Centre
- Statutory duty to produce and deliver an annual Youth Justice Plan
- Management of children Remanded to Youth Detention Accommodation (RYDA)
- Statutory duty to cooperate with Children's Services to improve wellbeing of children
- Management of sex offenders (AIM) – young people under 18 years of age
- Provision of Parenting Orders imposed in the Youth Court (criminal matters)
- Provision of ASB escalation supervision (Criminal Behaviour Orders and Injunctions to prevent nuisance and annoyance)

Additional functions include:

- Provision of integrated Out of Court delivery including Restorative Interventions, Community Resolution and Outcome 22
- Manage safeguarding and risk management inherent in all the above tasks
- Provision of prevention and diversion activities with young people and families, including Turnaround

APPENDIX 4 – STRUCTURE CHART



APPENDIX 55 South Tees Youth Offending Service: Service Development Plan

South Tees Youth Justice Service: Service Development Plan 2024-2025

Priority 1: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
Secure additional funding to support the long term deliver of the Custody Navigators	Partnerships Manager/OPCC	March 2026	A bid has been submitted to the Youth Endowment Fund and this is progressing through the application filtering process
Ensure YJS involvement in the development and delivery of Young People's Prevention Partnerships	Head of Service	March 2026	A pilot is proposed for the Hartlepool area, and this will inform the rollout across the Cleveland area
Ensure that the YJS is aligned with HOtH developments including representation in HOtH Strategic and Operational processes	Head of Service/Operations Managers	September 2025	
Ensure YJS representation in the HOtH Triage mechanisms at a local level	Operations Managers	September 2025	
Support the delivery of the OPCC led Knife Crime Action Plan, including the co-ordination of education activity in schools and colleges	Partnerships Manager	September 2025	
Undertake an audit/review of Serious Incidents Reports from 2024/2025 to identify any learning needs for the service	Partnerships Manager	October 2025	
Priority 2: Work with Victims			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
Further develop the role of the Restorative Justice Specialist as the strategic and operational lead for STYJS.	Partnerships Manager	September 2025	The new RJ worker has joined the service from start June 2025, once this role is established the RJ Specialist role will be further developed.
Undertake a review of the Restorative Justice and work with victims' guidance.	RJ Specialist	July 2025	
Establish a protocol to support joint working with Probation and VCAS to support work with victims.	RJ Specialist	October 2025	
Establish a user satisfaction framework, including using technology to support user feedback.	RJ Specialist	September 2025	
Develop a new victim assessment form.	RJ Specialist	July 2025	
Achieve individual staff accreditation with the RJC and consider making an application for wider service accreditation	RJ Worker RJ Specialist	March 2026	

Priority 3: Child First			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
Provide training across the YJS partnership regarding Child first practice to support partners to understand the Child First Approach	Michael O'Connor	June 2025	Initial session delivered to the YJS Executive Board in May 2025
Deliver Child First Training to YJS staff to assist them with a child first approach to assessment and planning.	Operations Manager	September 2025	
Revise QA processes to ensure that all assessments and plans are underpinned by child first principles	Operations Manager	September 2025	
Promote the involvement of children and young people across all areas of YJS practice	All Staff	Ongoing	
Priority 4: Engagement and Participation			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
Establish a new service user feedback survey, for young people and their parents/carers	Asst Operations Manager	July 2025	
Introduce opportunities for parents/carers to feedback on their experience a Referral Order Panels	Asst Operations Manager	June 2025	
Further develop the YJS group work offer, including the development of a girl's group and NEET support group	Asst Operations Manager	September 2025	
Further develop themed work with schools with a priority offer to primary schools	Asst Operations Manager	Ongoing	
Work with partner agencies, including Police and MFC to ensure a co-ordinated approach to working in schools	Asst Operations Manager	October 2025	
Establish a framework for the reporting of engagement activity to the YJS leadership team and management board	Asst Operations Manager	October 2025	

APPENDIX 6: Common Youth Justice Terms

ACE	Adverse Childhood Experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long-lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
CURV	Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence- a joined-up, preventative approach to tackling serious violence, with the Commissioner's office taking a leading role in bringing together local

	organisations such as the police, YJS, local authorities, public health teams and local hospital trusts.
Custody Navigator	A new role in the YJS designed to act as a key support to young people in the Police Custody area, to engage young people to divert them away from offending
EHCP	Education and Health Care Plan, a plan outlining the education, health, and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, Training or Employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
EOTAS	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
HMIP	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HOtH	Relates to Harm Outside the Home, young people who are at risk from forms of exploitation
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
Immediate Justice-Making Good	Part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, to engage young people involved in anti-social behaviour and crime into swift and visible interventions to challenge behaviours and reduce harm
ISS	Intensive Supervision and Surveillance-a high intensity programme used as part of the Youth Rehabilitation Order as an alternative to custody
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them

OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Number of children and young people appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
ROTL	Release on Temporary Licence
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication needs
STC	Secure Training Centre
SCH	Secure Children's Home
Turnaround	This is an early intervention, diversion and prevention programme designed to divert young people away from involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
Youth Justice KPIS	This refers to the key performance indicators for Youth Justice with an additional 10 introduced from April 2023
YOI	Young Offender Institution

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer)
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Relevant Executive Member:	n/a
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Submitted to:	Council
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Date:	15 October 2025
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Title:	Revised Political Balance Allocation of Committee Places 2025-2026
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Report for:	Decision
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Status:	Public
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Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
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Key decision:	No
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Why:	Decision does not reach the threshold to be a key decision
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Subject to call in?	No
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Why:	Not applicable – Council Decision
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Proposed decision(s)													
That Full Council approves:													
1.	<p>the revised allocation of seats on Committees that are subject to the rules relating to political balance as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Labour</td><td>69 places</td></tr> <tr> <td>Conservative</td><td>11 places</td></tr> <tr> <td>Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)</td><td>26 places</td></tr> <tr> <td>Liberal Democrat</td><td>6 places</td></tr> <tr> <td>Marton East Independent Group (MEIG)</td><td>6 places</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unallocated</td><td>14 places</td></tr> </table>	Labour	69 places	Conservative	11 places	Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)	26 places	Liberal Democrat	6 places	Marton East Independent Group (MEIG)	6 places	Unallocated	14 places
Labour	69 places												
Conservative	11 places												
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)	26 places												
Liberal Democrat	6 places												
Marton East Independent Group (MEIG)	6 places												
Unallocated	14 places												
2.	that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to fill the unallocated seats as indicated in paragraph 4.4 of the report and make any necessary further adjustments to remove or replace Members where directed by the relevant Group or Member.												

3. that nominations for the vacant places be sought and, where necessary voted upon.
4. that any committee established prior to the next review be appointed on the basis of the places shown in Appendix 1, Table 3, attached to the report.

Executive summary

A report was presented to Full Council at the meeting held on 9 July 2025 detailing the revised political balance of the authority. Since that time, there has been a change in group membership and the political balance of the Council therefore needs to be revised. The rules, duties, and principles outlined in the report to the Annual Council meeting remain applicable.

The report seeks Full Council approval for the revised allocation of places on committees and sub committees for the Municipal Year 2025-2026 in accordance with the current political balance of the Council. The decision is recommended to ensure that places on committees are allocated in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

- 1.1 To seek approval for the revised allocation of places on committees and sub committees for the Municipal Year 2025-2026 in accordance with the current political balance of the Council.

1.2

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
A successful and ambitious town	Having all the Committees politically balanced will ensure that the broad range of views are considered when making decisions around the delivery of this ambition.
A healthy Place	
Safe and resilient communities	
Delivering best value	This report will contribute towards the Council Plan ambition to deliver best value by ensuring robust and effective corporate governance.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Full Council:

Approves:

1. the revised allocation of seats on Committees that are subject to the rules relating to political balance as follows:

Labour	69 places
Conservative	11 places
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)	26 places
Liberal Democrat	6 places
Marton East Independent Group (MEIG)	6 places
Unallocated	14 places

2. that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to fill the unallocated seats as indicated in paragraph 4.4 of the report and make any necessary further adjustments to remove or replace Members where directed by the relevant Group or Member.
3. that nominations for the vacant places be sought and, where necessary voted upon.
4. that any committee established prior to the next review be appointed on the basis of the places shown in Appendix 1, Table 3, attached to the report.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 The decision is recommended to ensure that places on committees are allocated in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

4. Background and relevant information

- 4.1 A report was presented to the Council meeting held on 9 July 2025 detailing the political balance of the authority. Since that time, there has been a change in group membership and the political balance of the Council therefore needs to be revised. The rules, duties, and principles outlined in the previous report remain applicable.
- 4.2 As a result of changes in groups, the total number of places on committees and sub-committees to be allocated in accordance with the political balance of the Council remains at **132**, but the individual allocations to groups are now as follows:

Labour	69 places
Conservative	11 places
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA)	26 places
Liberal Democrat	6 places
Marton East Independent Group (MEIG)	6 places
Unallocated	14 places

- 4.3 Previously, the MICA Group had an allocation of 29 places and there was an allocation of 11 unallocated places for those Members not in a political group. Members have been asked to identify their preference for seats on available Committees.

- 4.4 As a result of the above, there are now unallocated seats on the following Committees:

Audit Committee – 1 vacancy
 Chief Officer Committee – 1 vacancy
 Corporate Affairs Committee – 1 vacancy

and nominations for those unallocated places are now sought.

- 4.5 In line with usual practice, it is recommended that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend memberships of committees following resignations received from members and to appoint to vacancies in accordance with group preferences or, where not in a group, in accordance with individual Member's wishes. However, where more than one person (non-group members) applies for the same place, they should decide amongst themselves how those places should be allocated. If agreement cannot be reached between the individual Members, the Council will make that determination.

5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

- 6.1 Do Nothing – This has not been recommended as the Council must ensure that places on committees are allocated in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There are no financial implications or impact on any budgets or the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) arising from the content of this report.
Legal	The Council must adhere to the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
Risk	If the Council does not respond effectively and efficiently to legislation it could be in breach of statutory duties in relation to service delivery and fail to make the most of opportunities. The Council is obliged to comply with any legislation or statutory guidance to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its statutory duties.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	The subject of this report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. It is considered that an equality impact assessment is not required.
Reducing Poverty	Not applicable as this is a technical report about committee places and does not change any policy.

Climate Change / Environmental	Not applicable as this is a technical report about committee places and does not change any policy.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Not applicable as this is a technical report about committee places and does not change any policy.
Data Protection	Not applicable as this is a technical report about committee places and does not change any policy.

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Allocate places on committees according to the Political Balance.	Democratic Services Manager	15 October 2025

Appendices

1	Political balance calculation – steps 1 to 4
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin

Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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APPENDIX 1

Step 1 - Total places on those committees subject to rules of proportionality

Table 1

Name of Committee	Places
Audit Committee	7
Chief Officer Committee	7
Constitution and Members' Development Committee	9
Corporate Affairs Committee	7
Corporate Parenting Board	9
Licensing Committee	14
Planning and Development Committee	10
Staff Appeals Committee	9
Standards Committee	9
Teesside Pension Fund Committee	9
Overview and Scrutiny Board	15
Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel	9
Children's Scrutiny Panel	9
Place Scrutiny Panel	9
Total	132

Step 2 - Calculate overall proportionality for all eligible committees (i.e. politically balanced)

Total Places: 132

Formula: (Number in Group x Number of Committee Places) ÷ Total number of members: 46

Table 2

Group	Number in group	Allocation of places	Number of places (rounded)
Labour	24	68.87	69
Conservative	4	11.48	11
Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association	9	25.83	26
Marton East Independent Group	2	5.74	6
Liberal Democrats	2	5.74	6
Unallocated* Independent and vacant	5	14.35	14
Total	46	132.00	132

* Do not count as a group

mayor not counted

Step 3 - Political balance according to size of committee

Formula: (Number in group x number on committee) ÷ number of members:

46

Table 3

Size of committee	Labour Group		Conservative Group		Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association		Marton East Independent Group		Liberal Democrats Group		Unallocated
	24		4		9		2		2		5
1	1	0.52	0	0.09	0	0.20	0	0.04	0	0.04	0
3	2	1.57	0	0.26	1	0.59	0	0.13	0	0.13	0
4	2	2.09	0	0.35	1	0.78	0	0.17	0	0.17	1
5	3	2.61	0	0.43	1	0.98	0	0.22	0	0.22	1
6	3	3.13	1	0.52	1	1.17	0	0.26	0	0.26	1
7	4	3.65	1	0.61	1	1.37	0	0.30	0	0.30	1
8	4	4.17	1	0.70	2	1.57	0	0.35	0	0.35	1
9	5	4.70	1	0.78	2	1.76	0	0.39	0	0.39	1
10	5	5.22	1	0.87	2	1.96	0	0.43	0	0.43	2
11	6	5.74	1	0.96	2	2.15	0	0.48	0	0.48	2
12	6	6.26	1	1.04	2	2.35	1	0.52	1	0.52	1
13	7	6.78	1	1.13	3	2.54	1	0.57	1	0.57	0
14	7	7.30	1	1.22	3	2.74	1	0.61	1	0.61	1
15	8	7.83	1	1.30	3	2.93	1	0.65	1	0.65	1
16	8	8.35	1	1.39	3	3.13	1	0.70	1	0.70	2

Step 4 - Apply figures in Table 3 to each committee**Table 4**

	Total	Lab	Cons	MICA	MEIG	Lib Dems	Unallocated
Audit Committee	7	4	1	1	0	0	1
Chief Officer Committee	7	4	1	1	0	0	1
Constitution and Members' Development Committee	9	5	1	2	0	0	1
Corporate Affairs Committee	7	4	1	1	0	0	1
Corporate Parenting Board	9	5	1	2	0	0	1
Licensing Committee	14	7	1	3	1	1	1
Planning and Development Committee	10	5	1	2	0	0	2
Staff Appeals Committee	9	5	1	2	0	0	1
Standards Committee	9	5	1	2	0	0	1
Teesside Pension Fund Committee	9	5	1	2	0	0	1
Overview and Scrutiny Board	15	8	1	3	1	1	1
Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Panel	9	5	1	2	0	0	1
Children's Services Scrutiny Panel	9	5	1	2	0	0	1
Place Scrutiny Panel	9	5	1	2	0	0	1
Totals		72	14	27	2	2	15
Total Allocation Allowed (as per Step 2)	132	69	11	26	6	6	14
ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED		-3	-3	-1	4	4	-1

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	The Audit Committee
Submitted to:	Full Council
Date:	15 October 2025
Title:	First Annual Report of the Audit Committee
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value

Proposed decision(s)
<p>That Full Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTES the content of the first Annual Report of the Audit Committee that is set out at Appendix 1 • NOTES the issues that have been considered by the Committee and the outcome of the review of its effectiveness and the proposed actions to further strengthen audit arrangements.

Executive summary
<p>This report sets out the first Annual Report of the Audit Committee. This covers the range of work undertaken over the period under review, the key issues identified and discussed, and a summary of the recommendations from the effectiveness review undertaken by the Local Government Association.</p>

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- present the first Annual Report of the Audit Committee for consideration; and
- present the Committee's response to the Review of Effectiveness recommendations which were accepted in principle at the Audit Committee meeting on 31 July 2025.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Full Council:

- **NOTES** the content of the first Annual Report of the Audit Committee that is set out at Appendix 1
- **NOTES** the issues that have been considered by the Committee and the outcome of the review of its effectiveness and the proposed actions to further strengthen audit arrangements.

3. Background and relevant information

- 3.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is a professional body and membership organisation that focusses on public finance, primarily in the UK, and it sets out recommended good practice for the public sector in relation to financial management.
- 3.2 In 2022 CIPFA produced a position statement and supporting guidance, setting out its view on the purpose, model, core functions and expected membership of Audit Committees.
- 3.3 Production of an Annual Report and consideration of it by Full Council is one of the recommended actions of an Audit Committee, as set out in that 2022 statement. It recommends that Audit Committees should 'report annually on how the Committee has complied with the position statement, discharged its responsibilities, and include an assessment of its performance. The report should also be available to the public'.
- 3.4 The Annual Report of this Committee, set out at Appendix 1 sets out:
- The current level of compliance with the CIPFA position statement on Audit Committees (2022)
 - The results of the first annual review of effectiveness of the Audit Committee which has been completed recently
 - Work undertaken to improve compliance and a planned improvement programme for the Audit Committee
 - Delivery of activity against the Committee's Terms of Reference
 - Key issues escalated and /or progressed in the last 12 months.
- 3.5 Members of the Committee considered the report at a meeting of Audit Committee on 25 September 2025 and agreed that the report reflects their work between October 2024 and September 2025.

4. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

- 4.1 Not applicable, this report is for information.

5. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	There were no costs directly associated with the delivery of the responses to the recommendations within the Annual Report. Some of the activity is reliant on delivery of increased capacity within the Finance team but this has been previously agreed by Full Council as part of the 2025/26 budget setting process.
Legal	Completion of the Annual Report gives the Committee the opportunity to provide Full Council with an overview of its role and its delivery against its legal and good practice obligations. The response plan within the Annual Report identifies areas to be strengthened that will improve assurance in relation to compliance with legal duties.
Risk	The Annual Report sets out action to strengthen the Committee's role in relation to risk management, therefore it will positively impact on the Council's approach to risk management.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	There are no specific impacts or implications directly arising from this report; however, an effective Audit Committee function will support the Council to ensure its practice, policies and decision making are legally compliant, thus ensuring positive impacts on these areas.
Reducing poverty	
Climate Change / Environmental	
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	
Data Protection	

Appendices

1	Audit Committee Annual Report
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Audit Committee	Audit Committee Review of Effectiveness	13 March 2025
Audit Committee	Review of the Effectiveness of Audit Committee – Final Report, Recommendations and Next Steps	31 July 2025
Audit Committee	First Annual Report of the Audit Committee	25 September 2025

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APPENDIX 1

Audit Committee Annual Report April 2024 – August 2025

Introduction

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) provides resources for audit committees of local authorities to help support good governance, strong financial management, and effective internal and external audit.

CIPFA issues position statements which set out the principles that CIPFA recommend audit committees should follow as best practice, supported by additional practical guidance (last updated in October 2022).

Over the summer of 2025, the Council's Audit Committee engaged external expertise through the Local Government Association (LGA) to complete an assessment of its effectiveness. The findings of that work are set out in this report, along with a planned programme of activity to strengthen arrangements.

The CIPFA guidance recommends that the Audit Committee should be regularly held to account by those charged with governance, which in Middlesbrough Council is Full Council ultimately. This Annual Report provides the information necessary for Full Council to undertake this action within the following structure:

- An overview of the Committee and its work
- Delivery of activity against the Committee's Terms of Reference
- The current level of compliance with the CIPFA position statement on Audit Committees (2022)
- The results of the annual review of effectiveness of the Audit Committee which has been completed recently
- Work undertaken to improve compliance and a planned improvement programme for the Committee
- Areas of concern identified by the Audit Committee during the period of the report and action taken.

Committee Membership

At the time of reporting, the Committee had seven places with the following membership:

- Councillor Ewan (Chair)
- Councillor Coupe (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Branson
- Councillor Hubbard
- Councillor Nugent
- Councillor Wilson
- Councillor Young.

Executive Members and the Mayor are restricted from being members of this Committee under statutory regulation and the Council's Constitution.

The Committee does not currently include active co-opted Independent persons, however provision for this is made within the terms of reference (without voting rights) agreed by Full Council in May 2025. An attempt to recruit an independent member was conducted in late 2022 but was not successful.

It is recommended within the CIPFA 2022 position statement that it should consider appointing at least two co-opted independent persons. Action will be undertaken during 2025/26 to review the current approach and undertake a further recruitment campaign as necessary.

Attendance

During the period of reporting, Members of the Committee attended as follows (grey marking identify where a Councillor was not a member of the Committee on that date):

Member	3/10/24	5/12/24	12/12/24	6/2/25	20/2/25	13/3/25	17/4/25	10/7/25	24/7/25	31/7/25
Cllr J Ewan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cllr B Hubbard	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Cllr I Blades	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Cllr D Branson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cllr D Coupe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cllr G Wilson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Cllr L Young	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Cllr L Lewis								Y		

Key	Meaning
Y	Attended
N	Did not attend
	Not a member of the Committee for this meeting

Councillor Morrish attended the Committee as substitute for Councillor Hubbard on 13/3/25 and 17/4/25. Councillor Kabuye attended as a substitute for Councillor Young on 24/7/25.

Summary of Committee key business conducted

The Committee met eleven times during the reporting period from October 2024 to the beginning of September 2025, this included additional meetings to those identified at the Council's Annual General Meeting to ensure the Committee was able to consider all the necessary business required.

The sections below highlight some of the key activities the Committee completed.

Corporate Governance

In April 2025 the Committee considered an update on the Council's Constitution and a proposed draft term of reference following a request from the Committee that the previous terms of reference were amended to match the CIPFA model terms of reference for Local Authority Audit Committees.

During the period the Committee considered a series of reports that provided a deeper dive on the internal control arrangements in place for a range of corporate governance disciplines. Reports considered included:

- Health and Safety
- The report of the Senior Information Risk Owner setting out Information Governance arrangements
- Risk Management annual assurance report
- Decision-making
- Business Continuity
- HR and organisational development
- Procurement
- Complaints and compliments
- Programme and Project Management Framework
- Partnership Governance.

Risk management

In addition to the annual assurance report on risk, the Committee considered a 6-monthly update on the content of the Council's Strategic Risk Register. As a result of those reports, Members sought additional assurance in relation to the following:

Ref	Risk	Assurance Sought
Strategic Risk 15	If Communities feel disconnected and that they do not live in a safe and resilient environment that promotes the best outcomes for citizens of the town. This could lead to local flashpoints which would be damaging to community relations, the reputation and image of a multicultural Middlesbrough.	<p>Additional assurance was sought on the deliverability of the planned mitigating actions.</p> <p>Additional assurance was sought from service leads that well publicised issues in relation to the PREVENT programme had been addressed nationally.</p> <p>More information was requested and provided to the Committee on the practical steps that would be taken in relation to the practical actions needed to deliver the planned action to repair relationships and engagement between local communities.</p>
Strategic Risk 10	If the Council's ambitions for town centre regeneration or the wider financial sustainability of the organisation are negatively impacted by the establishment of a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC), this could potentially result in a lack of investment in the town, reduction in the Council's business rates income, loss of commercial income and reduction in asset holdings affecting the Council's financial	The Committee asked if the Council's risks in relation to the Tees Valley Combined Authority were reflected within its Risk Registers, they were advised that a review of the risks was underway by the Leadership Team risk owners and would be reflected in future reporting.

Ref	Risk	Assurance Sought
	viability. Reputational damage is also possible through the incorrect discharge of responsibilities such as town planning or business rate relief.	
Strategic risk 2	The risk that demand and cost of and children's social care continues to escalate on the scale experienced, is the single biggest risk to the Councils financial viability. More financially sustainable solutions for meeting social care needs of children need to be secured with urgency to ensure delivery within the approved budget.	Members asked for information on the rigour around the management of cases and volumes and were provided with information on the oversight arrangements that are in place, along with the detailed data analytics models that are currently being developed.
Strategic risk 9	If the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements are not fit for purpose and appropriate action is not taken to rectify this at pace, this could result in censure from the Council's auditors within a public interest report that would damage the Council's reputation and/or in government formal intervention including removal of powers from officers and members and direction of council spend.	Members asked for assurance that they would have sight of the final report that would be produced by one of the future mitigations once completed. Members were advised that the final report, which was the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge would be published and shared with all members, before being formally considered by Full Council.

The Committee asked, and received, additional information on the Council's approach to emergency planning, which is a risk documented and managed within the Environment Services Directorate Risk Register.

The Committee's September 2025 meeting is scheduled to consider a presentation on the recently escalated risk in relation to the Dedicated Schools Grant which is a risk facing nearly all councils.

The Committee's September 2025 meeting is also to consider a presentation on the level of reserves held by the Council and how these compare to others. The low level of reserves was one of the reasons why the Council faced recent government intervention and these need to increase over the medium term for the Council to ensure it is financially sustainable.

Over the next 12 months the Committee plans to have strategic risks and their management presented to them by the Leadership Team Officer responsible for their management to increase the assurance the Committee receives in relation to the effectiveness of the Council's Risk Management arrangements.

Finance

As a result of the Audit backlog, the Committee's workload was increased as it had to manage reporting from two sets of External Auditors as the incoming Auditors could not commence work until the previous External Auditors had finished their audits on the 2021/22 and 2022/23 accounts.

This increased the work of the Committee significantly. An additional complicating factor is that because Middlesbrough Council administers the Teesside Pension Fund, and the accounts of that body were also affected by the audit backlog, the Committee also

received all reports in relation to that. The Council now has disclaimed audit opinions for three financial years and the Teesside Pension Fund for one year. The Committee has been briefed on and discussed the implications of this and how assurance will be re-built on external financial reporting in the coming years.

In addition to the above, the Committee considered annual, mid-year and outturn reports on the strategic approach the Council takes in relation to borrowing, investments cash-flow and capital financing. Due to the levels of debt and risk involved in these transactions, the Audit Committee undertakes the scrutiny role on treasury management, rather than the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

These reports are complex by nature and the Committee is still at an early stage in its development of this. Most reports have been brought for information/training purposes at present, but the aim is to develop Members knowledge and experience in this area, so they can scrutinise and challenge the Executive's proposed approach, as part of setting the budget each financial year.

The reports have covered the following

- The level of capital expenditure being proposed and how it has been financed.
- The level of external borrowing in place and the cost of capital financing.
- The various prudential indicators which are used to self-regulate the Council's capital financing activities
- The annual treasury management strategy, including its approach to borrowing, investments and cashflow.
- How risk has been managed in these areas and whether any of the prudential indicators have been breached during the financial year.

Counter Fraud and corruption

In July 2025 the Committee considered the annual Counter Fraud report that is prepared by the Council's Internal Auditors, Veritau.

During the 2024/25 financial year, the counter-fraud team, operated by Veritau, generated approximately £150,000 in savings for the council through identifying and halting fraudulent activities. They handled 129 referrals—a substantial 26% increase over the previous year, and completed 25 investigations, with an 80% success rate where fraud or error was confirmed.

Results included two formal cautions, nine written warnings, debts pursued in seven cases, prevention of two frauds, one referral to immigration enforcement, and two internal investigations concluded.

External Audit

During the period for this report, the Council's previous External Auditors, Ernst & Young (EY), finished their work with the Council and were replaced by the current Auditors, Forvis Mazars.

Members may be aware that the Council, along with many other councils had been unable to close a number of Statements of Accounts following delays in the work of auditors. This was a national issue with several root causes including escalating complexity in Council finances, the complexity and novelty of accounting for infrastructure assets like roads, capacity of external audit teams and the ongoing impact of the pandemic. 1% of councils submitted audited accounts on time.

National intervention was undertaken in the form of statutory backstops to direct account closure deadlines by which External Auditors would either need to complete their work or issue a disclaimed opinion because they had been unable to. EY, the previous Auditors of the Council declared they were unable to meet the deadline and as such issued disclaimed opinions for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 accounts for the Council. They also disclaimed the 2023-24 Pension Fund accounts.

The Committee received a number of updates on these accounts and pushed for additional capacity from the Auditors to complete their work and asked the team to identify actions the Council could take to support their work and meet the deadline; however, this was unsuccessful.

As well as receiving updates on this, the Committee also received updates from the incoming External Auditors on the likely impact this will have on their ability to complete audits for future years. Auditors require assurance that the opening balances and assumptions in a set of accounts are correct, and it is usual practice to get this from the completed work of the previous year's audit. Because this is missing, it will take several years for the Council's current External Auditors to complete the additional assurance work needed to be able to get to a position where they can issue a full audit opinion.

The Committee considered a report from the current Auditors that the impact of the above meant the 2023/24 Statements of Accounts for both the Council and Teesside Pension Fund were disclaimed. The Committee have engaged with the current Auditors on this issue and been provided with assurances that they are committed to working with the Council to get to a position where they are able to issue an opinion on the Council's accounts, though this may take several years to achieve.

During the period covered the Committee received the following type of reports from auditors on both the Council's and Teesside Pension Fund accounts:

- Progress reports on audit work
- Value for money reports
- Annual Reports
- Verbal updates on progress of audit work on the accounts
- Audit Strategy Memorandums.

Internal Audit

Middlesbrough Council's Internal Audit Service is provided by Veritau. For the past five years this has been provided through Veritau Tees Valley which was a Teckal company owned by the Council, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and Veritau Limited which was owned jointly by North Yorkshire Council and the City of York Council. In July 2025, Middlesbrough Council's Executive approved a series of recommendations to change the

structure of the company to allow new member local authorities to join Veritau going forward.

The work of Internal Audit is governed by the Global Internal Audit Standards in the UK Public Sector and the Council's audit charter. These require the Head of Internal Audit to bring an Annual Report to the Audit Committee. That report was considered by the Committee in July 2025. It set out the audit work carried out in 2024/25, oversight of improvement actions and how internal audit complied with its professional standards.

The overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the framework of governance, risk management and control operating at the Council is that it provides **Reasonable Assurance**.

In addition to the Annual Report, the Committee received regular reports from the Internal Auditor, setting out:

- An Annual Report on delivery of the Counter Fraud Strategy
- Audit charter
- Progress reports against delivery of the internal audit work programme
- Progress reports in relation to Counter Fraud strategy work.

Progress reports to the Committee provide information on ongoing and completed audits, follow ups, and information on revised schedules for audits.

The July 2025 Annual Report set out that of the 25 audits that had been completed between August 2024 and July 2025, all except two functions were assessed as having either substantial or reasonable levels of assurance. These two audits could only give limited assurance opinions. They were in relation to Domestic Abuse and Direct Payments. Internal Audit assurance levels are, no assurance, limited assurance, reasonable assurance and substantial assurance. Where it makes findings, it similarly ranks them as critical, significant or moderate. It also has a category for findings relating to opportunities it identifies.

In relation to the Domestic Abuse audit, it made five significant findings and 14 actions were agreed. The Direct Payments audit had two critical findings, one significant finding and one moderate finding and ten actions were agreed in response.

During the reporting period the Committee has raised its concerns about the length of time some audits have taken to reach completion and the capacity of the current arrangements to meet the needs of the organisation. It has asked that these concerns are considered within the review of the current audit arrangements which has been committed to by the Council as part of the Continuous Improvement Plan.

Best Value Notice (BVN)

As well as the above, the Committee received regular progress reports on delivery of the Council's Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, providing Members with an additional oversight opportunity in addition to the progress reports considered by Full Council.

The Committee also received updates on the status of the Best Value Notice (BVN) that had been first issued by Government in January 2023 and renewed in January 2024. In October 2024, the Committee considered a report advising that as a result of positive progress made in addressing the culture, governance and financial challenges facing the Council, Government had decided not to renew the BVN.

Current Level of Compliance with the CIPFA position statement 2022 and the annual review of effectiveness

The table below sets out the recommendations that were made to the Audit Committee in July 2025 and accepted in principle that should be actioned to bring the Committee, its members and its practices into full alignment with the CIPFA 2022 position statement and supporting guidance.

No	Recommendation	Proposed Response and actions	Target date(s)	Owner(s)
1	Publish an Annual Report for Full Council that covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compliance with the CIPFA Position Statement 2022 results of the annual evaluation, development work undertaken and planned improvements how it has fulfilled its terms of reference, and the key issues escalated in the year 	This Annual Report, once agreed by the Committee and submitted to Council will address this recommendation. A Full Council agenda item has been scheduled for the October meeting.	15 October 2025	The Audit Committee
2	There should also be a response from Council to the Committee's report in relation to holding the Committee to account for its performance.	This Annual Report will be accompanied by a covering report which will formally ask Full Council for a response to this report.	15 October 2025	Head of Governance, Policy and Information
3	The effectiveness of the Audit Committee should be assessed annually.	The Committee will build an annual review into its work programme going forward and will conduct an annual review of effectiveness against the CIPFA Code of Practice as part of its future annual reports.	September 2026	The Audit Committee
4	Time should be set aside before the meeting to meet with external audit and the head of internal audit.	Members services will diarise virtual pre-meetings with the Chair and Vice-Chair, Internal and External Audit before each meeting between publication of committee meeting papers and the Committee meeting.	To be in place for the December 2025 meeting of the Committee onwards	Audit Committee Democratic Services Officer
5	The Council should consider stopping or limiting substitution of Committee members.	Given the limited use of substitutions by the Committee and the need for compulsory training to be complete in order for an individual to be a substitute, the Committee does not	Annual review due September 2026	Audit Committee

No	Recommendation	Proposed Response and actions	Target date(s)	Owner(s)
		propose to pursue this recommendation at this time but will commit to an annual review of the volume of substitutions along with formal consideration of statutory officer views.		
6	Two independent (non-Councillor) members should be appointed to the Committee on an appropriate level of remuneration.	A benchmarking exercise will be undertaken and reported to the February 2026 meeting of the Audit Committee, exploring the approach of other Councils volumes, skills and remuneration for Member consideration along with further information on the governance routes that would need to be followed.	February 2026 onward	Head of Corporate Finance and Deputy 151 Officer
7	A training needs analysis (TNA) should be carried out for the Chair and each Committee member.	Officers will propose the areas on which Members should have training competencies in order to be able to consider all reports that the Committee needs to be able to consider fulfilling its terms of reference. Draft proposals will be consulted on with the Committee, External and Internal Audit. This will be accompanied by proposed training solutions	31 October 2025	The Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer
		The proposed training needs framework will be brought to the Committee for consideration	11 December 2025	Head of Democratic Services and all Members of the Committee
		All members of the Committee will engage with Democratic Services to complete a self-assessment against the training needs framework.	30 April 2026	Audit Committee Members
		Review the mandatory training required for the Committee and its substitutes following this and propose a revised set of mandatory training sessions, covering the fundamental elements of the Committee's work.	30 April 2026	Audit Committee to approve
8	A training plan should be identified for each member of the Committee based on the TNA.	Training plan in place by June 2026 with reports on compliance to the	June 2026 onwards	Head of Democratic Services

No	Recommendation	Proposed Response and actions	Target date(s)	Owner(s)
		Committee by exception going forward		
9	Feedback from officers should be considered as a formal part of the next review.	This will be built into the next annual review due to be complete by September 2026	September 2026	The Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer
10	The Council needs to develop a comprehensive assurance framework which should be used to define an assurance map	Draft proposal around the assurance framework to be presented to the Committee	April 2026	The Deputy 151 Officer and the Head of Governance, Policy and Information
11	The assurance map should be used to guide the work of internal audit and the workplan of the Committee.	Put in place a work programme to deliver training on the assurance mapping, roles and responsibilities and programme to populate the map over an initial 12-month period. It is anticipated that the map and the framework will be refined over the medium term as the organisation matures in its understanding of the process.	April 2026 – April 2027	The Deputy 151 Officer and the Head of Governance, Policy and Information
12	Senior Officers (and members where appropriate) should attend the Committee to update on risk and mitigations.	The Committee work programme is being amended to build in an LMT member attending each session to share an overview of their Strategic Risks with the Committee, This will be in place from the December 2025 meeting onwards. LMT members will also attend as necessary where internal audit recommendations have not been implemented in line with agreed timescales.	September 2025 onwards	Head of Governance, Policy and Information
13	The Committee needs to feedback to Senior Officers on improvement required in managing key risks and actions.	This already occurs on an ad hoc basis as evidenced in this Annual Report, however the Committee action will be taken to ensure this is a consideration, systematically within the future presentations on risk management by responsible LMT members through the creation of a reporting template for this subject matter	December 2025 onwards	Head of Governance, Policy and Information

No	Recommendation	Proposed Response and actions	Target date(s)	Owner(s)
14	Management of the Internal Audit contract needs to be tightened	<p>The Continuous Improvement Plan already contains an action to review the current contract in order to strengthen this area.</p> <p>The outcome of this review will be presented to the Committee.</p>	April 2026	Section 151 Officer

Areas of concern identified by the Audit Committee during the period of the report and action taken

In addition to the content above which includes the Committee raising queries and concerns about elements of its terms of reference, during the reporting period, the Committee raised several concerns which are set out in this section.

The Committee formally raised concerns with the Council's previous External Auditors Ernst and Young, (EY) about EY's capacity to meet its commitments in relation to completion of the audits started.

It has been nationally reported that the average price for external audit services in local government has risen significantly in recent years. At the same time, the Council's External Auditors have not been able to complete a full audit of its accounts for three financial years. This has resulted in the Council being in the position of incurring increased costs, without being able to receive the assurance that would be given by Auditors from completion of their audit work. Accounts for the period 2021/22 to 2023/2024 have been disclaimed. Research from the Audit Reform Lab at Sheffield University reported that the average price for external audit work rose by 238% in one year based on analysis of data from 300 councils and their external audit figures from 2018 to 2024. The Council is still waiting for final costs for these audits to be approved by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) body, but these increases are expected to be greater than those quoted above.

The Committee sought information on the capacity of Internal Audit to deliver counter fraud work. The Committee were assured that this was subject to discussions between the Section 151 Officer and Internal Audit, and they welcomed the outcome of that engagement which was an expansion of the number of days purchased by the Council to support counter fraud work from 150 days in 2023/24 to 400 days by 2026/27. This would bring this activity on fraud at Middlesbrough in line with other comparable local authorities.

Conclusion

The Audit Committee has demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing governance, financial oversight, and risk management across Middlesbrough Council during the reporting period. Through a comprehensive programme of work, the Committee has addressed key strategic risks, scrutinised internal and external audit processes, and actively engaged with both officers and auditors to ensure transparency and accountability.

The Committee's proactive stance on issues such as audit delays, internal audit capacity, and counter fraud measures reflects its dedication to continuous improvement and safeguarding public value.

This first Annual Report marks a significant step in aligning the Committee's operations with the CIPFA 2022 position statement. The planned actions and responses to the effectiveness review recommendations set a clear roadmap for further strengthening the Committee's role.

As the Committee continues to evolve, its focus on embedding best practice, enhancing member training, and improving assurance frameworks will be critical in supporting the Council's ambition to deliver best value and maintain robust governance standards. The Committee looks forward to receiving feedback from Full Council and continuing its work with renewed clarity and purpose.

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