

## THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 17 October 2023

Dear Member

### COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 25TH OCTOBER, 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 25th October, 2023** at **7.00 pm** in the Council Chamber to transact the following business, namely:-

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive any declarations of interest.
3. Minutes - Council -18 September 2023 5 – 14
4. Announcements/Communications  
To receive and consider any communications from the Chair, Mayor, Executive Members or Chief Executive (if any).
5. 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.
6. Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) - Update  
Verbal Update
7. Mayor's Statement and Report  
Verbal Update
8. Executive Member reports 15 – 54
9. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board 55 – 60

10. Urgent Items

To consider and Deal with any urgent business brought before the Council by the Proper Officer (if any).

11. Members' Question Time

12. Youth Justice Plan 61 – 120

13. Notice of Motions 121 – 122

14. Notice of Urgent Motions (if any)

15. Corporate Governance Improvement Plan Update 123 – 130

16. Review of the Terms of Reference and membership of the Local Plan working group. 131 – 136

17. Report on Urgent Decisions 137 – 140

18. Appointment of Independent People (Standards Committee) 141 – 144

19. Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies 145 - 148



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 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 Bernie Carr, Democratic Services on (Direct Line 01642 729714 or e-mail on: [bernie\\_carr@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:bernie_carr@middlesbrough.gov.uk)).

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**COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Council was held on Monday 18 September 2023.

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Rostron (Chair), Councillors J Banks, I Blades, D Branson, E Clynych, C Cooke - Elected Mayor, J Cooke, C Cooper, D Coupe, S Dean, J Ewan, T Furness, P Gavigan, TA Grainge, S Hill, L Hurst, N Hussain, D Jackson, D Jones, J Kabuye, L Lewis, L Mason, D McCabe, M McClintock, I Morrish, J Nicholson, M Nugent, J Platt, S Platt, A Romaine, J Ryles, M Saunders, M Smiles, M Storey, P Storey, J Thompson, S Tranter, Z Uddin, N Walker, G Wilson and J Young

**OFFICERS:** C Benjamin, S Bonner, B Carr, A Davis, C Heaphy, G Field, A Hoy, D Middleton, M Nath, J Weston, K Whitmore and A Wilson

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors J Walker (Vice-Chair), D Davison, B Hubbard, T Livingstone, J McConnell and J McTigue

21/27 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

21/28 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 5 JULY 2023**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 July 2023 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

21/29 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chair of the Council announced with sadness, the death of Chris McIntyre former Councillor for the Park Ward.

Chris was previously the Chair of the Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel and represented the Park Ward from 2019 until 2023.

The Chair requested members to join her in a minutes' silence as a mark of respect.

The Chair welcomed Jackie Young, newly elected Councillor for Ayresome Ward, to her first Council meeting.

21/30 **SECTION 24 REPORT - STATUTORY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL'S EXTERNAL AUDITORS, EY**

Council received a Section 24 report with regard to the statutory recommendations from the Council's External Auditors, Ernst and Young (EY). which set out the statutory recommendations that had been issued to the Council, by the External Auditors, exercising their powers under Section 24, Schedule 7(2) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

The Chief Executive presented the report.

The recommendations and the assessment upon which they were based was set out in the External Auditor's report which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Council's response and action plan in response to those recommendations was set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

The Chief Executive advised that the Council was required to comply with the statutory recommendations. He explained that if the Council did not comply with the statutory recommendations, the next stage in the process would be the issuance of a public interest report, which would be extremely serious.

The report had been issued because EY considered that there had not been sufficient

progress in complying with the recommendations. A copy of the report had been sent to the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Homes and Communities, as part of the process.

There were eleven statutory recommendations, grouped around four main areas. The first was the Corporate Governance and the Improvement Plan and delivery of Phase 3 of the plan. The other three areas that had been identified, were in relation to financial sustainability, contracting and procurement and Middlesbrough Development Company.

The Chief Executive emphasised that the Action Plan needed commitment from both officers and members. Progress with compliance with the Action Plan would be continuously monitored and updates would be provided to the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee and full Council.

The Chief Executive clarified that members would be asked to vote on approving the recommendations and the action plan as a single item.

Councillor Blades requested that a recorded vote be held.

The Monitoring Officer advised that for a recorded vote to be held, a vote would need to be conducted. If at least twelve councillors indicated that they wished to have a recorded vote, then a recorded vote would be held.

As more than twelve councillors indicated that they wished to have a recorded vote, the Monitoring Officer conducted a recorded vote on whether to approve the recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors, EY and the proposed response and action plan.

The outcome of the recorded vote was as follows:

**FOR:** C Cooke – Mayor, Councillors Banks, Blades, Branson, Clynnch, J Cooke, Cooper, Coupe, Dean, Ewan, Furness, Gavigan, Grainge, Hill, Hurst, Hussain, Jackson, Jones, Kabuye, Lewis, Mason, McCabe, McClintock, Morrish, Nicholson, Nugent, J Platt, S Platt, Romaine, Rostron, Ryles, Saunders, Smiles, M Storey, P Storey, J Thompson, Tranter, Uddin, N Walker, Wilson, Young

**AGAINST:** 0

**ABSTAINED:** 0

Following the outcome of the recorded vote, it was **ORDERED** as follows:

That the recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors, EY and the proposed response and action plan be approved.

21/31

## **RESERVES POLICY 2023/24**

Council received a report, the purpose of which was to obtain approval from Full Council for a Reserves Policy for 2023/24. A copy of the policy was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance presented the report.

The Executive Member advised that the Reserves Policy had been submitted to Executive on 23 August 2023. The adoption of a Reserves Policy was recommended good practice to enable the effective management and maintenance of reserves. It was important in addressing the risk in the current year of reserves being exhausted if expenditure was not contained within the approved 2023/24 budget.

The Council was required to set a legally balanced budget for 2024/25 and achieve a financially sustainable position through a balanced MTFP to 2026/27. Maintaining adequate financial reserves was a key part of this requirement.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** as follows:

That the Reserves Policy for 2023/24 be approved.

21/32

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

The Chair advised that a question from a member of the public had been received, details of which was included at Agenda Item 7.

The Chair invited Mrs Slater to ask her question.

The Mayor advised that the Council was facing a difficult financial situation and it provided many different services to many residents. What most residents were aware of was the fact that their bins were getting emptied, and the grass was cut, but these were just a small part of the range of services that the Council delivered. He advised that ideally, he would like to increase the area care budget, but the Council was struggling to meet all of its commitments on the current budget.

The Council was looking at ways of transforming services to make them more efficient and effective. As part of the transformation process, the Council was looking at the way it dealt with requests from residents and councillors in relation to area care to see if the service could be run more efficiently.

A considerable amount of the Council's budget was spent on Adult and Children's Services and in order to spend more on area care, these services and other services within the Council would need to be transformed. It was hoped that once the transformation work was completed, that more funding would be available for area care services.

21/33

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT**

The Mayor advised that governance and the EY report had taken up a considerable amount of time. He advised that it was important that the Council made progress against all the recommendations. Currently, all the recommendations were either completed or on track.

The Mayor advised that the process would not end this year. It would be an ongoing process to ensure that the Council was working within their means, and he stated that he was confident that improvements would be made.

With regard to the budget pressures, the Mayor advised that the Council was facing significant financial problems. To alleviate budget pressures, the Council was looking at transforming services. He advised that although there would be investment in services, there could be changes in the way the services operated. He advised that it was important that services operated efficiently to ensure that the Council was delivering value for money.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Young to her first meeting of the full Council.

He congratulated the Chief Officer Appointments Committee on the appointment of the new Director of Children's Services. The appointment committee had held two different sets of interviews to ensure that the right person was appointed to the post. Following the interview process, Mr Joe Tynan had been appointed as Director of Children's Services. The Mayor advised that once the Director had taken up the role, he would be introduced to all members.

Members commented on the Mayor's statement.

In response to a query from Councillor Smiles regarding the situation in relation to plans to have more children's homes in Middlesbrough, the Mayor advised that the plans had previously gone adrift and none of the planned homes had come to fruition. However, Ward Members had been consulted on plans to locate a children's home in a particular location in Middlesbrough. The Mayor advised that it was essential that the plans remained on track, however it was outside the Council's control if they were outbid on a property. The Mayor advised that although the details of specific properties could not be revealed, a copy of the plan would be made available to members.

Councillor M Storey commented on the EY report and members response to the report, the Council's financial situation over the past four years, and Middlesbrough Development Company.

A number of points of order were raised by members. The Chair clarified that members were allowed to make comments or ask questions on the Mayor's statement.

**ORDERED** that the Mayor's statement be noted.

21/34 **UPDATE TO THE EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution, the Mayor advised members of the following amendment to the Executive and Executive Scheme of Delegation:

Following the resignation of Councillor Branson as Executive Member for Environment, Councillor Gavigan had been appointed to the role of Executive Member and portfolio for Environment.

**ORDERED** that the amendment to the Executive and Executive Scheme of Delegation be noted.

21/35 **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS**

The Chair invited Members to raise items for general discussion arising from the Information Booklet of Executive Member reports which detailed activities conducted within the respective Executive Member portfolios (Section 1), Executive decisions taken (Section 2) or to be taken where known, prior to and following the meeting (Sections 3 and 4).

*Question in relation to the report of the Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health*

**Councillor Banks in relation to update – Health Panel.**

The Mayor advised that the informal panel had been established to address health inequalities in wards. The first phase was looking at Brambles and Thorntree, Central, Berwick Hills and Pallister and Newport wards. Members had been consulted with regard to the make-up of the panel. There were indications that there was an increase in inequalities in Brambles and Thorntree and Berwick Hills and Pallister. Following the completion of Phase 1, the remainder of the wards would be examined.

*Questions in relation to the report of the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture*

**Councillor Clynych in relation to Access to Education.**

The Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture advised that she shared the concerns of Councillor Clynych with regard to Eton college attracting existing staff and students from the town's current providers, which were already ranked as good and outstanding.

The Executive Member stated that in her view, Eton college was not needed. There were serious concerns regarding the fact that Outwood Riverside was still operating in temporary accommodation. The Executive member advised that she was due to attend a meeting with the minister in Westminster with Andy McDonald MP in October, regarding these issues.

*Question in relation to the report of the Executive Member for Children's Services*

**Councillor Blades in relation to including ward councillors in consultations regarding development of residential care within their wards.**

The Executive Member for Children's Services advised that members would continue to be consulted throughout the process in relation to the development of residential care within their wards.

**Councillor Kabuye in relation to paragraph 15**

The Executive Member for Children's Services advised that over the past few years the Council had relied heavily on agency social workers, but they were now looking to recruit



permanent social workers. Eight agency social workers had converted to permanent staff and through the Council's recruitment drive they were encouraging other agency social workers to apply for the permanent positions. The recruitment drive was going well, and it was pleasing that agency workers were applying for managers posts. By appointing permanent staff, the Council was not only saving money, but permanent social workers would also provide stability and meet the various needs of the authority's children and young people.

In terms of ethnicity of staff, the Executive Member advised that Children's services had 31 BAME staff, four had not indicated their ethnicity and seventeen had failed to complete anything on their own backgrounds.

#### **Councillor Kabuye in relation to paragraph 5**

The Executive Member for Children's Services advised that Middlesbrough Adoption team were finding it difficult to recruit BAME panel members with the appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding required. He advised that he was currently liaising with the Adoption service manager following their request for him to support them with their recruitment drive for BAME Panel members.

The Executive Member stated that he was pleased to hear that Councillor Kabuye was volunteering to becoming a panel member. He explained that it would not be a paid job, but it would be allowance based.

The Executive Member advised that if Councillor Kabuye had an understanding of fostering and adoption issues, he was aware of a child's developmental needs with diversity and cultural issues, and he was interested in joining the Panel, the Executive Member would provide him with the details on how to apply for the position.

#### **Councillor Wilson in relation to page 95.**

The Executive Member advised that he did not have the information required to hand, but that he would respond to Councillor Wilson after the meeting with regard to the working pattern of the new Director of Children's Services.

*Question in relation to the report of the Executive Member for Environment*

#### **Councillor McClintock in relation to outstanding issues.**

The Executive Member for Environment advised that he agreed with the Mayor regarding the Council's financial position and the demand on services. The Environment department had faced difficulties with employing qualified mechanics and fitters as other companies offered higher wages. The Executive Member advised that he would be happy to meet with Councillor McClintock to discuss any ideas that he may have to help resolve the situation.

*Question in relation to the report of the Executive Member for Finance and Governance*

#### **Councillor M Storey in relation to background to setting of budget and reserves position.**

The Executive Member for Finance and Governance advised that to help members to gain a better understanding of the Council's budget position, it might be useful to explain the difference between General reserves and Usable Earmarked reserves.

The General reserves were reserves of last resort. These reserves had not been used to fund fluctuations in spending and overspends. The level of General Reserves was recommended by the Council's Section 151 officer at budget setting time each year, taking into account, advice by CIPFA, with regard to the general levels' percentage of the Revenue Budget. The Council had £12m in General reserves and that figure had remained relatively stable. For the period 2019 – 2023 it had only changed by £137k which equated to approximately 1.5%.

Usable Earmarked reserves had been used to fund fluctuations in spending, but in a planned way, rather than a reactive way. When these reserves were used, they needed to be replenished. The key issue in the Council's financial situation was the level of Usable Earmarked reserves. In the period 2019 – 2023 the level had reduced from £16m to £4m, a

reduction of 75%, and part of the £4m was restricted, leaving a figure of £2.8m.

The Council was in a critical situation. The overspend on budgets was originally £12m, however through the work of members and staff to identify savings, the figure had been reduced to £9m.

In order to conduct transformation work, the Council needed to invest. If there was no money in the reserves to invest, the Council might need to move towards requesting the government for Exceptional Financial Support, although the Council was not currently in that situation.

21/36 **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 each of the individual Scrutiny Panels.

**ORDERED** that the report be noted.

21/37 **URGENT ITEMS**

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

21/38 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

The Chair announced that one question had been received from a member of the Council. The detail of the specific question was included at Agenda Item 13.

Question 1/2023 - Councillor Hurst to the Mayor regarding consideration of looking at joining back of house services with neighbouring authorities as a way to streamline services and avoid unnecessary duplication and costs across not only this council, but other authorities.

The Mayor advised that work was already ongoing to look at what was possible in terms of working with other local authorities. The Council had a shared audit service with Redcar and Cleveland and public health was also a shared service. The Council was looking at all options to improve services.

21/39 **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

Consideration was given to Motion No. 160 moved by Councillor M Storey, and seconded by Councillor P Storey of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

**Fairtrade Motion**

Middlesbrough achieved Fairtrade Town Status in 2007. The Council reaffirms its support for Fairtrade and recognises the role of the Middlesbrough Fairtrade Group in promoting Fairtrade in Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough Council remains fully committed to using Fairtrade products, including tea, coffee, and sugar, in meetings, at events and in public Council venues. Furthermore, the Council will continue to promote and participate in the town's programmes of Fairtrade events and activities.

Middlesbrough Council also recognises the role Fairtrade plays in assisting producers in developing countries to address the impacts of climate change, for example through tree planting and water conservation schemes.

Councillor M Storey spoke in support of the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was unanimously **CARRIED**.

Consideration was given to Motion No. 161 moved by Councillor Furness, and seconded by Councillor Gavigan of which notice had been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules No. 53-60 as follows:

### **Motion against the closure of Middlesbrough train station's ticket office**

Council notes with dismay the news that the Department for Transport (DfT) and the thirteen train companies have announced plans to close almost all staffed ticket offices in England, totalling nearly one thousand, following changes to the Government's guidance relating to ticket office opening hours and operation.

Council believes that ticket offices provide a vital service to residents in Middlesbrough and support passenger safety, security, and accessibility. Having a central place in the station for people requiring advice and assistance provides certainty and confidence for customers who may struggle to otherwise locate station staff and acts as a point of safety for passengers.

Not all are able to use ticket vending machines or online ticketing platforms. Many passengers require human assistance to successfully purchase the most appropriate and cheapest tickets, and do not incur penalties from mis-booked tickets which is common owing to the complex railway ticketing system. Ticket office staff have a wealth of knowledge which ensures that customers get appropriate advice and the cheapest fare for their whole journey.

Council is particularly concerned the closure of ticket offices will disproportionately affect older passengers and those with disabilities who use Middlesbrough train station, as well as those with poor IT skills and those whose first language is not English. Council also notes the possible implications for employment, believing that the closure of ticket offices could lead to a de-staffing of rail stations, thus raising unemployment in Middlesbrough.

Council believes the staffed ticket office at Middlesbrough station positively contributes to the appeal of travelling by train in and out of Middlesbrough. Therefore, the loss of the ticket office will make train travel in and out of Middlesbrough less appealing, which may push people towards travelling by high-pollution methods such as private road vehicle and negatively hurt our local economy if people chose not to travel at all as a result.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Requests the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Transport, expressing Middlesbrough Council's opposition to the closure of the staffed rail ticket office at Middlesbrough train station.
- Requests the Chief Executive writes to Transpennine Express, who manage Middlesbrough Station, expressing Middlesbrough Council's opposition to the closure of the staffed ticket office at Middlesbrough train station.

Councillors Furness and Branson spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Smiles advised that she recognised much of what Councillor Furness had stated with regard to the ticket office, however she queried whether it was possible to find out how well used the ticket office was, and whether the public would be best served by having staff on the concourse to deal with any customers queries.

The Monitoring Officer clarified that if Councillor Smiles was suggesting an amendment to the Motion, then members were required to give two clear days' notice of any amendments to ordinary motions.

Following a vote, the motion was unanimously **CARRIED**.

#### 21/40 **NOTICE OF URGENT MOTIONS (IF ANY)**

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

#### 21/41 **REVIEW OF COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

Council received a report from the Director of Legal and Governance Services with regard to a refresh of the Council's Constitution.

The purpose of the report was to approve the revised Constitution, which was attached to the report at Appendix 1 and the supporting documentation at appendices 2 to 5.

The report provided a summary of the key changes that had been made to the draft Constitution. The draft Constitution had been through a fundamental review to ensure that it would ensure good corporate governance was in place. The focus of the review had been to address concerns expressed by internal and external stakeholders and to reflect on feedback from Members and Officers that had been gathered as part of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan work and feedback from the Constitution and Member Development committee.

The changes were endorsed by the Constitution and Members' Development Committee on 16 August 2023 and following this meeting, the draft Constitution was shared with Members and officers through a series of briefings, prior to submission to Council. Any feedback gathered through the briefing process had been taken into account. A number of minor amendments to Financial Procedure Rules and the Executive Procedure Rules had been circulated to members, prior to the meeting.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** as follows:

That the revised Constitution and supporting documentation and the amendments in respect of Financial Procedure Rules and Executive Procedure Rules, circulated prior to the meeting, be approved.

21/42

## **MEMBERS' SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES**

Council received a report with regard to Members Scheme of Allowances submitted by the Director of Legal & Governance Services on behalf of the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration.

Following its 2023 review of Members' allowances, the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration had recommended an increase to the Basic Allowance from £7,608 to the Teesside average (£8,773). The Panel recommended this increase should be made in increments over four years. The Panel also recommended freezing Special Responsibility Allowances at their current levels.

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.

Councillor McClintock stated that he would support Middlesbrough councillors having similar allowances to other councillors in the Tees Valley area, and the phased introduction of the increase, however the Liberal Democrats were opposed to any changes at the current time, given the Council's financial situation.

Councillor Smiles indicated that the Conservative group would be voting against the proposal to increase members allowances. Councillor Smiles stated that she was aware that the Independent Remuneration Panel had prepared the report, however she queried with regard to their role and whether councillors would ever vote to give themselves an increase in allowances.

The Monitoring Officer advised that the setting of a members allowances scheme was a process set out in regulations. The Remuneration Panel were independent of the Council and the purpose of the Panel was to recommend a level of allowances for members to consider. Members had the opportunity to consider other alternatives such as retaining the existing level of allowances or proposing a new scheme of allowances.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** as follows:

That following consideration of the recommendations proposed by the Independent Panel on Members' Remuneration that Council unanimously reject the proposed Members Scheme of Allowances for 2023/24, and that the current Members Scheme of Allowances remain in place until 2024.

21/43

**LOCALISM ACT 2011 - GENERAL DISPENSATIONS**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report, the purpose of which was to enable a general dispensation to be granted to those members who had applied for a dispensation in respect of matters that may affect so many Councillors that the Council or Committee would be inquorate.

All members of the Council had requested a dispensation. The dispensation would allow Members to participate fully in a meeting whenever the following matters were discussed:

- a) Housing; where the member (or spouse or partner) holds a tenancy or lease with the Council as long as the matter does not relate to the member's particular tenancy or lease;
- b) Housing Benefit; where the member (or spouse or partner) receives Housing Benefit;
- c) Statutory sick pay; if a Councillor receives this or is entitled to receive it;
- d) An allowance, travelling expense, payment or indemnity for Councillors;
- e) Any ceremonial honour given to members.

Following a vote, it was **ORDERED** as follows:

That the Council:

Grant a general dispensation to all councillors in respect of matters that may affect so many Councillors that the Council or Committee would be inquorate.

That the general dispensation be applied for the maximum permitted period of 4 years from the date of this decision.

21/44

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Council received a report from the Mayor and the Chief Executive with regard to the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Delivery Arrangements (Phase 3).

The Mayor presented the report.

Councillor Saunders queried whether members could attend the Improvement Advisory Board as observers and whether the agendas, reports and minutes would be circulated to all members.

The Mayor advised that to begin with members would not be allowed to attend the Board. However, there would be more engagement with members once the Board became more established, councillors would receive reports at every Council meeting, quarterly summary reports and six-monthly reports. The minutes would be published, and there would be an opportunity for members to feed into the process.

**ORDERED** as follows:

That Council notes the progress made to date and endorses the refined focus of Phase Three plan.

21/45

**VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

Council received a report which sought nominations for appointment, following resignations from Committees and Outside Bodies and vacancies that remained outstanding following the Annual meeting.

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 vacancies allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups, be approved by Council:

**Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel**

1 vacancy (Labour)

**No nominations.**

**Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel**

Vice - Chair appointment (open to all members of the Panel)

**Councillor Jackson appointed.**

**Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group**

1 vacancy (open to all councillors)

**No nominations.**

**Corporate Parenting Board**

1 vacancy – open to all Councillors

**No nominations.**

**Environment Scrutiny Panel**

Vice - Chair appointment (open to all members of the Panel)

**Councillor D Branson appointed.**

**Health Scrutiny Panel**

1 vacancy (Labour)

**No nominations.**

**Licensing Committee**

1 vacancy (Labour)

**No nominations.**

**Licensing Committee**

Vice Chair appointment (open to all members of the Committee)

**Councillor Hill appointed.**

**Live Well Board**

1 vacancy (open to all councillors)

**No nominations.**

**South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

1 vacancy (Labour)

**Councillor M Storey appointed.**

**Standards Committee**

1 vacancy (Independent)

**Councillor D Davison appointed.**

**Works Council**

2 vacancies (open to all councillors)

**Councillor D Branson and Councillor S Dean appointed.**

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**Outside Bodies Vacancies**

**Durham, Darlington, Teesside, Hambledon, Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Committee**

2 vacancies (Labour)

**Councillor M Storey appointed – still 1 vacancy.**

**Hartlepool Power Station Local Liaison Committee**

1 vacancy (open to all councillors)

**No nominations**

**River Tees Port Health Authority**

1 vacancy (open to MICA councillors initially)

**Councillor Hurst appointed.**



**Elected Mayor and  
Executive Member Reports  
and additional Executive  
decision information**

**Council Meeting: 25 October 2023**

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## INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Elected Mayor and Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **25 October 2023**.

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 Elected Mayor and 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**  
(01642) 729024

### Contact details

Bernie Carr – Democratic and Registration Manager - (01642) 729714



## THE MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 25 OCTOBER 2023

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#### SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health <i>Chris Cooke</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture <i>Councillor Philippa Storey</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Children's Services <i>Councillor Zafar Uddin</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Community Safety <i>Councillor Janet Thompson</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Environment <i>Councillor Peter Gavigan</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Finance and Governance <i>Councillor Nicky Walker</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Member for Regeneration <i>Councillor Theo Furness</i></li></ul>

**SECTION 2** – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 8 September 2023.

**SECTION 3** – Table of Executive decisions planned to be taken from dispatch of this booklet up until the date of the Council meeting.

**SECTION 4** – Table of Executive decisions planned to be taken following the Council meeting.

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MEMBER: THE MAYOR CHRIS COOKE

**DATE OF MEETING: 25 October 2023**

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

#### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**Strategic Priority: *We will work to address the causes of vulnerability and inequalities in Middlesbrough and safeguard and support those made vulnerable.***

##### **Update: Homelessness Review**

As the review progresses there are a number of areas which can be reformed, one of which is a streamlining of the incoming eviction notices including no fault evictions which have been on the rise. As we move into the new year, we are aiming to clear any historic cases that have already been addressed but also institute additional monitoring of the timescales for the cases to ensure that we have a greater understanding of deadlines on the notices. Through this approach we hope we can provide more support at an earlier stage and reduce the amount of people with no accommodation.

##### **Update: ACT Complex Homelessness Panel**

A key issue that has been raised is difficulty in escalating some of the more complex housing cases. Working with partners there will be a new panel to address the people we have previously had difficulty finding accommodation for. The aim of this panel will be to look at people more holistically and make sure that we put safeguards and mitigations in place instead of barriers.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

##### **The Crescent**

The Crescent provides supported accommodation for individuals with learning difficulties. During my visit I met with a resident who raised accessibility challenges particularly for those in wheelchairs in the surrounding area. This is an issue which I have now raised with officers to explore the issue further.

## **MHA Communities Bingo**

MHA Communities provide a variety of events to promote wellness in over 55s within the local area. The Bingo Group has evolved into a favourite for members. The Bingo provides a welcomed social outlet to meet likeminded individuals and plays a powerful tool in combating isolation for many in the local area.



## **THE TIME AHEAD**

### Upcoming initiatives:

3-year Public Health Strategy to be submitted to Executive in December following consultation with the Overview and Scrutiny Board and other bodies prior to that.

NAME: Mayor Chris Cooke  
DATE: 25 October 2023

## **Culture**

1. The Taste of Africa carnival and Orange Pip and Middlesbrough Pride went extremely well with a huge turnout of circa 5,000 people. A big thank you to our Events Team, Taste of Africa, and Curious Arts for pulling together an absolutely amazing day for people of all ages.



2. We launched our Vision for Culture at The Auxiliary which had a superb attendance, which included a tour of the Middlesbrough Art Week. The vision is a 10-year prospectus for arts for the town, in partnership with the Arts Council and Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership. A special thank you to Gaye Kirby for collating together the many strands and partnerships to enable this to happen.
3. This coincided with the start of Middlesbrough Art Week, with live performances across the town centre, incredible visual art displays and a chance to meet and talk to the artists and performers. Over 120 artists took part and made the event even more spectacular than previous years (not least because it now lasts a whole week and not just a weekend). Thank you to The Auxiliary and all of the festival contributors including Navigator North, Pineapple Black and Teesside University.



4. Middlesbrough Town Hall will be hosting the Prestigious Ukrainian Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> October. Middlesbrough is one of only a handful of venues approached to host the orchestra. Please buy a ticket and show your support.
5. We have successfully recruited a new music inclusion manager for the Town Hall – which is part of our NPO (National Portfolio Organisation).
6. The first of the Most Creative Train Station artist commissions have gone out (deadline for submission is 16 October), (funded by the Cultural Development Fund grant). This will help transform the train station into an arts space – there is a small Gallery run by Platform Arts located at the end of Platform 1, please go, and have a look.
7. The Theatre recently hosted a site visit from the RSC who are bringing a performance of Romeo & Juliet to the Theatre in March 2024 as part of their First Encounters Programme.
8. Final figures for the Titanic exhibition are attached on a separate sheet:

### **In the community**

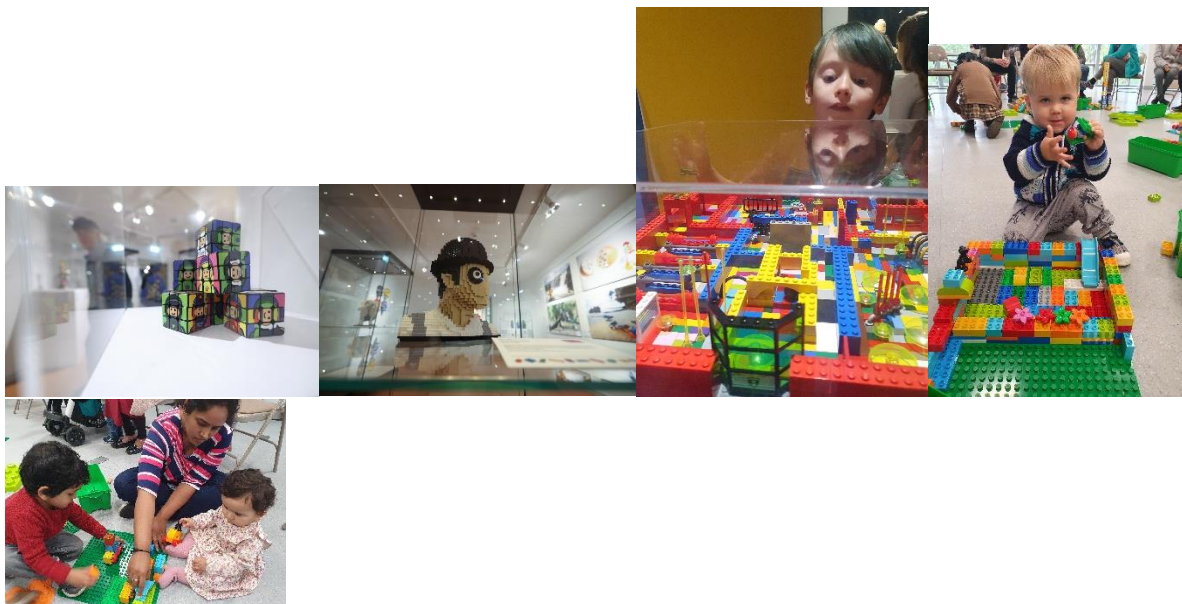
9. The Dorman museum has launched its new Lego Exhibition which includes a build area for enthusiasts. A Duplo club Meet and Make was also created, giving tots and toddlers the chance to construct their own builds (thank you NCT Teesside and the Dorman Museum for this). Since opening on 15 September, the exhibition has so far welcomed over 1600 visitors, bringing in an additional ticket income of £5,202.
10. The exhibition will continue until 10 December with a range of activities and events planned over October half term and December to encourage footfall and visitor economic value.

Activities include;

- Dorman after Dark – Beer & Bricks, an 18+ evening themed around Lego and adult fans of Lego (AFOL)



- Brick or Treat, A weekend of Halloween themed Lego activity including, take away building workshops, crafts, and trails.
- Spiro-Bots, STEAM based workshops where visitors build will learn how to build a Lego spirograph drawing robot.



11. The organising of the community Coat Event – Give a Coat a Home is underway (at the time of writing). I am sure that all our donated coats will find new homes with people who need them, and I would like to thank all our Drop off points including the Dorman Museum, Town Hall, Grove Hill Community Hub, Newport Hub, and Windermere Care Home.

12. Discover Middlesbrough – is running and supporting a series of events this year with the Discover Middlesbrough Festival, including a “For King and Country” talk and walk in Linthorpe Cemetery. Discover Middlesbrough is an amazing group of dedicated individuals, and the events are a must for those wanting to know more about the history of our town.

## Education

13. Literacy is a foundation block for future learning, as a result we are promoting a range of initiatives to support this, including the National Literacy Trust in Middlesbrough/Boro Reads. Allison Potter and her team organised an amazing Big Boro Book Bash with almost 1000 primary school students from across Middlesbrough being involved. The annual festival is an author celebration and helps to encourage a lifelong love of books and reading. Thank you to Allison and the authors and illustrators who provided our children with an amazing experience that they will be talking about for years to come.

14. Take 10 to Read which has encouraged 10 minutes of reading as a way of boosting mood, wellbeing, and literacy. Many schools took part in the event, and this will hopefully encourage further reading at home.
15. There is currently a SEND inspection taking place and we will work with any recommendations put forward to make sure our procedures are as robust as possible and that our children get the support that they are entitled to and need, in order to succeed educationally.
16. I will be meeting with Baroness Barran, Minister for school buildings on the 24<sup>th</sup> October referencing the ongoing build issues with Outwood Riverside School. I thank the Head Teacher of the school and the CEO of the Outwood Academy Trust for their support.
17. Welcome to our new DCS and Head of Childrens Service.

## **Going Forward:**

### **Culture**

18. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of October there is a short ballet at the Dorman Museum (and the day after at Newport Hub) at, 3.30pm. Created by London based Oxygen Arts, Island Movements is an epic tale of the lives of a family from the Windrush generation. Island Movements is a short ballet that tells the story of Windrush and explores the impact of this generation's experiences on their families, communities, and society. Beginning with a young Caribbean soldier in WW2 Britain, this moving tale follows him and his family through their life in the UK up to the current Windrush scandal. Darren Panton, who was the first black British dancer to graduate from the Royal Ballet School and Patrick Williams, who danced at Alvin Ailey and the Paris Opera, are choreographing. Featuring original music by the ground-breaking Kinetika Bloco, the story is driven by a pulsating mix of reggae, calypso, and contemporary black British music. The show will be followed by a Q&A with the dancers and creators at 4pm
19. There are also numerous Halloween events at Newham Grange Farm, the Dorman Museum, and the Town Hall. Please have a look at schedule of events!
20. We welcome back Nightfall to Stewart Park in November and tickets are already selling very quickly.
21. Creative craft bags have been created for primary schools to participate in the laying of the first poppy.

**Education:**

- 22. A conference for educators on attendance has been arranged in Middlesbrough, with a plethora of highly acclaimed speakers.
- 23. Any recommendations from the SEND inspection will be enacted.
- 24. Events are being planned for the Year Of Literacy in Middlesbrough, looking at writing, reading and the spoken word.

25 October 2023

**Councillor Philippa Storey**

**Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture**



**Titanic Exhibition**  
**Dorman Museum**  
**6 May – 3 September 2023 (104 days)**



## Impact

- The Titanic Exhibition at Middlesbrough Museums is its most successful exhibition to date.
- The exhibition is the highest grossing commercial exhibition to date across the Tees Valley.
- Income generated across 2023-24 has broken previous records for the Museum service.
- It is anticipated annual visitor numbers to the Dorman Museum this year will be the highest in the last 10 years.
- The museum had its busiest day during summer 2023 welcoming 1500+ visitors within 6 hours.
- The on-site tearoom has seen record sales and visitors in its 9 years with the museum.

## Visitors

Visitor total – 16011

67% of visitors from the Tees Valley - 10,780

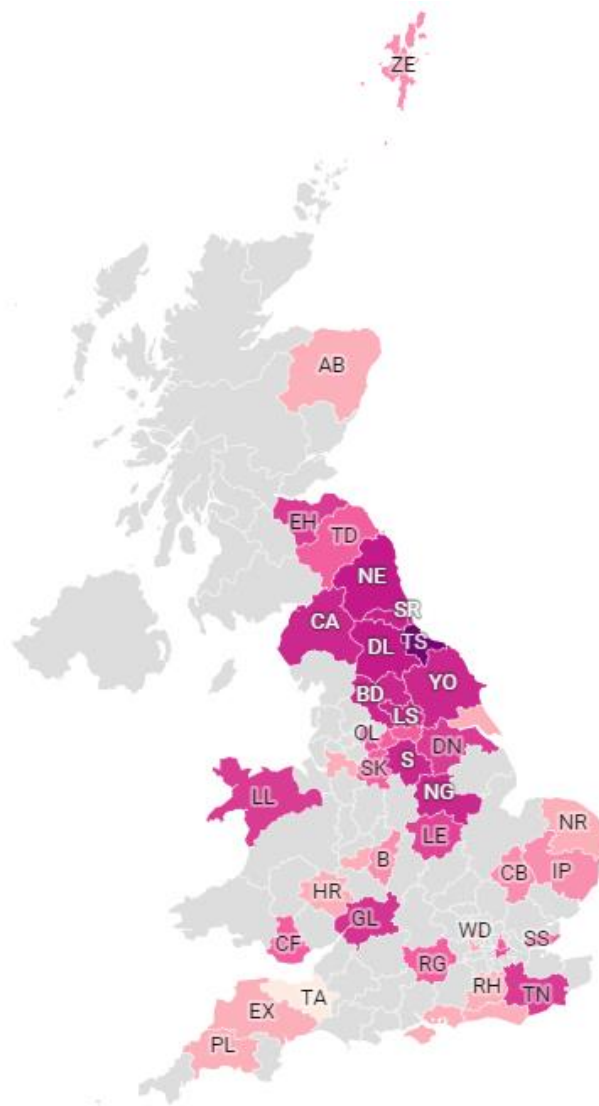
Area	Percentage
Middlesbrough	41%
Stockton-on-Tees	30%
Redcar & Cleveland	14%
Darlington	7%
Hartlepool	8%

33% of visitors came from outside Tees Valley – 5,231

NORTH-EAST		
County	Average Attendees	Percentage
County Durham	1622	11%
Northumberland	314	2%
Tees Valley	10780	72%
Tyne and Wear	2309	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15025</b>	<b>100%</b>

BEYOND NORTH-EAST		
County	Average Attendees	Percentage
East Midlands	75	7.61%
East of England	28	2.84%
London	28	2.84%
North-West	77	7.81%
Scotland	31	3.14%
South-East	52	5.27%
South-West	33	3.35%
Wales	28	2.84%
West Midlands	21	2.13%
Yorkshire & Humber	613	62.17%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### Visitors Mapped



- Furthest travelled – Shetland Islands & Plymouth
- 327 visitors travelled 2–6+ hours to visit.
- A further 326 school children from across the North-East attended the Titanic workshop / exhibition.

## Income

Ticket sales – £83,787

Gift shop sales - £16,011

- Average spend per head during museum visit (*ticketed activity & gift shop*) - £7.52
- Average secondary spend per head (*gift shop only*) - £2.07  
(2019 average spend per head – £0.19)

## Economic Impact

Benefit to local economy – **£200,137.50**

(*Average day spend per visitor £12.50*)

Likely overnight visitors 3%

Onsite tearoom sales increased by 80%.

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER: CHILDREN'S SERVICES – COUNCILLOR ZAFAR UDDIN**

**DATE OF MEETING: 25 OCTOBER 2023**

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

#### **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND UPDATES:**

**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.**

#### **➤ Early Help & MACH (Multi - Agency Children's Hub and Assessment):**

1. The Early Help service (Stronger Families) is stable in terms of staffing and all Early Help Family Practitioner posts are currently filled on the structure, except for some maternity leave and sickness. Following a steady period in August, the referrals into Stronger Families are now increasing with schools returning from the summer break and our main referral sources continue to be our schools, the police, and health.
2. We have three members of staff in the service who are studying for the Social Work Apprenticeship with Sunderland University, and they have all now commenced their 6-month placements in other areas of Children's Care. During this period, their work has been reallocated to other members of the team.
3. Within the Early Help Service our Education, Employment and Training Team fulfils a range of statutory duties for the Council, which are set out in the 'Department for Education Statutory Guidance, in delivery of education and training provision for young people' (16- and 17-year-olds). We are responsible for promoting participation of young people and tracking and supporting young people's activity. The Department for Education monitors the performance of all LAs in delivering these duties, using data which is submitted and published nationally.
4. The team are currently focussing on the September Guarantee which is to ensure that all young people who left school in Middlesbrough during 2023 and 2024 have a suitable offer of learning. The Middlesbrough September

Guarantee data will be submitted to the department by the end of October and work on this is progressing well.

5. In the MACH we have had a round of successful interviews which have seen us secure a new MACH Team Manager and Assistant Team Manager, who are due to move into post in October 23. This will allow us to secure a permanent structure and move on from the acting up positions which have been in place for a few months. We have only one agency position in the MACH Team which is a maternity cover post and the team continue to provide positive timely responses to our families in terms of referrals for safeguarding and support.
6. The Assessment Team also continue to be a stable team and drive performance and practice forward, we have successfully converted a high number of agency workers to permanent social workers and this trend continues, with more in progress. Aside to maternity cover, there are few agency positions, and we have a good percentage of permanent staff, indicating a settled and cohesive team.

➤ **Our work with Children with Disabilities**

7. Safeguarding & Care Planning/Children with disabilities - Recruitment update:

Safeguarding and Care Planning have secured some positive outcomes for children in the last month, with a high level of care proceedings concluding, and a number due to conclude in September. We continue to secure positive family network outcomes for a good proportion of our children, and we have welcomed new FGC workers into the wider service, knowing that they will assist us to find those family members much earlier and increase family support at an earlier stage, but also to increase the potential of finding family members at an earlier stage in proceedings where this is needed. Children with Disability Services continue to be a stable team and are working hard alongside the SEND teams to present the good work taking place around EHCP to OFSTED during the inspection underway.

➤ **Children Looked After – early permanence and permanence planning – one of the best performing in the region.**

8. Children Looked After (CLA). We have experienced some staffing issues recently but are excited to be interviewing four candidates next week for permanent posts. We are progressing cases to permanence and have three special guardianship applications ready to take to court. We have managed to bring a young man back to the Middlesbrough area who was in an unregistered placement, his social worker has done some fantastic work with him to build trust. One of our Social Workers received some excellent feedback from a child and their carers.

➤ **Residential, Supported Accommodation, Resource and Care Leavers:**

9. Occupancy of residential and supported accommodation remains high. The Ofsted inspection cycle has started again with a new inspector for Middlesbrough and teams are working hard to maintain the high standards within our internal homes and services.
10. We have had a young person from residential care go onto university and they are thriving this is our first young people from residential care to go to university and it needs to be celebrated.
11. There is consideration to review the statement of purposes for some of our children's homes. This would make those homes more flexible and dynamic which will drive outcomes for young people and challenge the home and care team with high aspirations against the young person long term plan, which would be positive for young people and support evidencing individual homes against SCCIF (Social Care Common Inspection Framework). Recruitment continues with interest for residential roles and our leaving care service has also taken on another permanent social worker.

➤ **Fostering Services:**

12. Approval of foster carers:

We have approved eight carers since relaunching our offer. We have eleven in process and ten are targeted to be approved by the end of the year. We have nine live enquiries with six expected to progress to panel by March next year. We have a worker who has trained in specialist therapy for carers and work with children, she will be offering support to carers and doing "flipping the lid" work with children to help them understand and regulate their triggers and emotions. This should support placement stability.

*Update: Any additional risk/progress/best practice/high profile change - None Identified other than the financial constraints*

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

13. Kinship Care: Middlesbrough Council's Kinship care website has been updated on 28th September 2023. I have recently attended a meeting with Kinship Care Project organised by Family Right Group. They have highlighted that, children who grow up in Kinship care are likely to have better outcomes than children who grow up in other types of non-parental care.

**Our values and principles:**

14. The key principle of the Children Act 1989 is that children should be enabled to live within their families unless this is not consistent with their welfare and, with this in mind, support for kinship arrangements in

Middlesbrough is based on the needs of the child rather than the child's legal status.

15. Middlesbrough Borough Council recognises that kinship care is a permanence option for children and young people, as it provides high levels of stability for large numbers of children. Therefore, wherever safe and appropriate to do so, the council actively encourages kinship care as a positive alternative to a child or young person becoming looked after. The Local Authority will take into account the child/young person's wishes and feelings in all relevant processes and will seek the views of family and friend's carers when identifying services to support Kinship Carers.

#### **THE TIME AHEAD:**

16. As I highlighted in my previous report, we are continuing to explore our internal residential provision by purchasing properties in the local area, which means we can consider bringing our young people closer to their home and their families and friends, as one of the Council's priorities. Currently continuing to explore several properties within the Borough as part of council's property project. However, the purchase of properties has not progressed as quickly as had been anticipated in the budget setting/savings plan.
17. I have continued to visit various teams and meeting up with front line staff members, team managers and senior managers, who are dedicated to our children and working tirelessly to make difference the lives of our children and young people in Middlesbrough.
18. I continue to liaise with Middlesbrough Adoption Team at the Adoption Tees Valley (ATV), supporting the team with regards to recruitment drive of the new panel members.
19. Both Mayor Chris Cooke and I have attended a meeting with the youth providers in the area. We found that, among many youth providers one of them was The Junction Foundation who are making a positive difference to the lives of our young people and their families across the Tees Valley.

NAME: Councillor Zafar Uddin

DATE: 25 October 2023

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COMMUNITY SAFETY - COUNCILLOR JANET THOMPSON**

**DATE OF MEETING: 25 October 2023**

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

#### **Community Hubs & Libraries**

##### **Acklam**

1. Acklam serves the communities of Acklam, Whinney Banks, Trimdon and the wider area. The hub provides help and support to local residents, signposting them to other Council services, assisting them on the public computers or using the Wi-Fi printing services.
2. As well as one off events, they have a full weekly program of activities. These include coffee mornings, in partnership with Age UK and Friends of Acklam Library two thriving knit & natter groups and a very well attended Dementia Café. The Teesside Ability Support Centre (TASC) visit weekly for a story and craft session. For families with young children, there is Tot's Tales, Rhyme Time, Stay & Play and Saturday morning Lego Club.
3. The library issued 3830 books in July and runs 3 reading groups for adults and supports external reading groups. Over 200 children took part in the very successful Summer Reading Challenge, Ready Set Read

##### **Newport**

4. Newport Community Hub hosts many community/voluntary groups. The Friends of Newport Settlement organised a Community Fun Day which attracted over 800 people, the centre also hosted International Women's Day. They arrange monthly litter picks.
5. In September the hub hosted 'the Newport World Cup Tournament' in which 6 community teams took part in.
6. This year's 'Give a Coat a Home event took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Last year over 200 coats were given to people in need.



7. The Ukraine group has ESOL classes. Youth Club sessions are held every Thursday hosted by LINX youth project. Approximately 60-80 young people attend the sessions.
8. The Locality team are also based in the Hub. The Probation Service takes over the whole building on a Friday and is able to offer appointments/drop in sessions to their clients. The Hub also hosts Middlesbrough Railway Club.

### **North Ormesby Hub**

9. On 13 September, the Hub celebrated the launch of their new kitchen, made possible by the Big Local. People enjoyed food from around the world, including Ukraine. It was a hugely successful event that brought communities together and there have been multiple requests for a repeat event.

### **Myplace**

10. Myplace opened in June 2012 as a state-of-the-art youth facility, developed for young people by young people, it is now part of the Community Hubs & Libraries service.
11. Partners within Myplace provide services to a wide range of vulnerable young people. All services based in Myplace have a common thread to improve the lives and outcomes for young people and their families.
12. Services within Myplace include;

#### **MBC Home Support**

Home support provides short breaks and respite for children with disabilities, this involves collection from home/school bringing them to Myplace to engage in activities and also personal care in the family home.

#### **The Junction**

The Junction is a charity delivering young carers services, Mental health & emotional wellbeing services, Youth employment, education and skills and youth sessions in Middlesbrough and the Tees valley.

#### **NHS-Project Choices college**

Promoting employment opportunities for students with learning difficulties/disabilities and or Autism through supported internship courses.

Interns spend one year learning Maths, English and employability skills and attend up to three, 12 week placements with a Project Choice Partner.

#### **Grass Roots Music and recording studio**

This project involves working with musicians, art groups and organisations that support young people and isolated members of our community. Grass roots

deliver music sessions at Myplace youth groups and deliver a Musical Dementia café.

Steve Waller's amazing model of St Hilda's is now housed in Myplace, Steve said "it is as if the model has come home" and we can now look at the Custom House within the Custom House!

Myplace hosts fortnightly Dementia cafes in partnership with Public Health and Grass Roots Music. Residents from care homes and people whose lives have been affected by dementia are invited for afternoon tea and singing and dancing. After discussions with care homes, we found that on their first visit, for some, it was the first time residents had been out for over two years

## Community Safety

13. We are continuing to see issues with parking in and around the Town Centre, particularly on the Linthorpe Road cycle lane.

14. School patrols returned in the month of September. We also have more focused enforcement on match days on the approach to Middlesbrough Football Club.

**Please see below table showing total service requests undertaken by the Neighbourhood Safety Team for the month of September 2023. The table shows category type of incident/ report and each ward area.**

Ward	ASB Issues	Stray Dogs	PSPO	Fly Tipping/ Environmental Reports	Vehicle Related Issues	Criminal Related issues	Proactive Patrols at hot spot locations	Total
<b>North</b>								
<b>Central</b>	158	7	12	71	31	8	101	<b>388</b>
<b>Newport</b>	45	13	0	67	10	1	32	<b>168</b>
<b>Park</b>	34	9	0	67	10	2	10	<b>132</b>
<b>South</b>								
<b>Coulby Newham</b>	3	3	0	15	5	0	0	<b>26</b>
<b>Stainton &amp; Thornton</b>	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Hemlington</b>	14	0	0	18	1	1	5	<b>39</b>
<b>Marton East</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Marton West</b>	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Nunthorpe</b>	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	<b>5</b>

<b>East</b>								
<b>North Ormesby</b>	10	4	0	40	4	1	6	<b>65</b>
<b>Berwick Hills and Pallister</b>	12	0	0	52	4	1	3	<b>72</b>
<b>Brambles and Thorntree</b>	9	7	0	34	3	1	0	<b>54</b>
<b>Park End &amp; Beckfield</b>	25	6	0	42	2	6	3	<b>84</b>
<b>West</b>								
<b>Acklam</b>	4	1	0	1	3	0	3	<b>12</b>
<b>Ayresome</b>	3	3	0	18	1	1	1	<b>27</b>
<b>Kader</b>	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	<b>6</b>
<b>Ladgate</b>	2	0	0	22	5	0	1	<b>30</b>
<b>Linthorpe</b>	0	2	0	16	7	0	0	<b>25</b>
<b>Longlands and Beechwood</b>	6	3	0	49	5	0	2	<b>65</b>
<b>Trimdon</b>	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	<b>6</b>

Please see below a snapshot of activity from the team for the month of September 2023

### **Town Centre & Central**

15. On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September three wardens and the Town Centre Enforcement Manager carried out parking Enforcement duties. Over 60 Penalty Charge Notices were issued for irresponsible parking on the approaches and other locations within the town centre. Our Enforcement Team also noticed two males who had broken into a vehicle on North Ormesby road, quickly utilising CCTV who liaised with Police we gave clear instructions and direction of travel. A short while later both males were arrested.

### **Newfield Crescent**

16. In September we had a group of travellers set up camp on Newfield Crescent. Acting quickly the Neighbourhood Safety Team engaged with the group and served a legal notice in line with the organisation's illegal encampment protocol. The group left the land within 24 hours.

### **Brambles Farm**

17. Following reports that a family in had been subject to several targeted attacks which they believed to be racially motivated, officers from the Neighbourhood

Safety team worked with local schools to identify the two youths responsible. Officers carried out home visits to speak to both youths and their parents and although Officers were satisfied the youths behaviour was not racially motivated, they were both issued with formal warnings regarding their nuisance behaviour.

### **Netherfields**

18. Having received a number of reports regarding a youth causing ASB in the Brambles Farm and Netherfields wards, officers from the Neighbourhood Safety team carried out two separate home visits to speak to the youth and their guardian regarding the escalation in their ASB. Two separate warnings were issued to the youth for breaching the terms of their Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC). Officers have also identified that this youth is being exploited by adult males to deal drugs in the Netherfields area and as such referrals to Childrens Services and VEMT have been made in an attempt to safeguard the youth from further exploitation.

### **Ayresome**

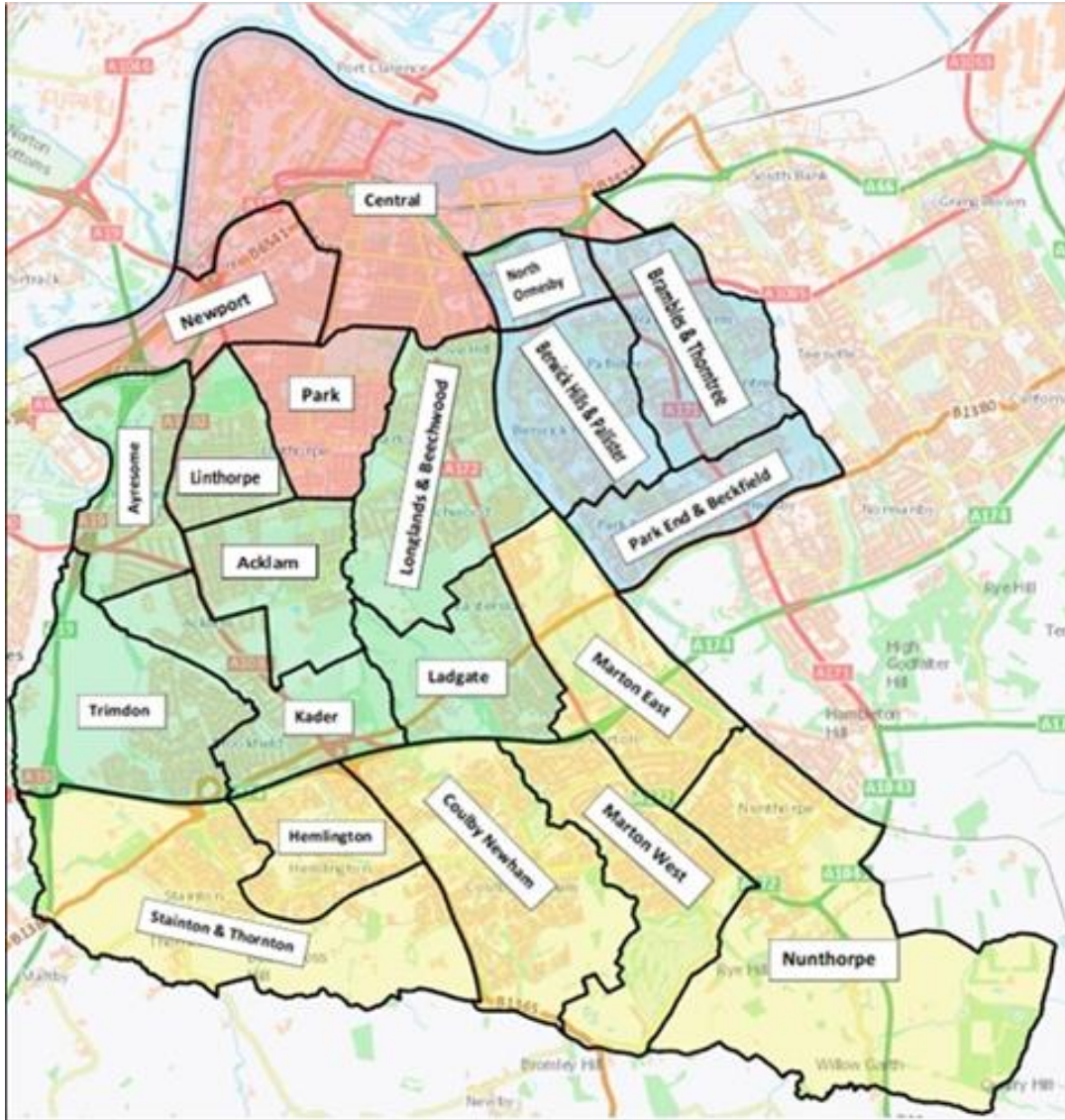
19. During a walkabout of the Ayresome ward with the Mayor, officers from the Neighbourhood Safety Team and Cleveland Police males were observed wearing balaclavas riding an off-road motorbike. Both males were quite vocal in letting officers know that they believed there was nothing that could be done to stop their criminal and nuisance behaviour. The bike was observed leaving a house and the following day Police attended the property, seized the off-road motorbike, 2 arrests were made and three malnourished adult dogs and several young puppies were found, which resulted in the RSPCA attending the property to remove the animals.

### **Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAPs)**

20. I have been working with officers to ensure that Elected Members are kept up to date with crime and disorder issues affecting our wards and I know that everyone is keen to get involved with partners to tackle these issues.
21. We are therefore in the process of developing Neighbourhood Action Partnerships within four zones across the town (map attached). These strategic meetings will bring together Ward Members and a range of partners, including the Council's Community Safety Team, Area Care, Cleveland Police, Fire Brigade, Housing Providers, Early Help and locality working.
22. Meetings will take place once a month (quarterly for each NAP area) and members will be given the opportunity to raise key/priority issues that are affecting your wards. Plans will then be formulated, and actions assigned to relevant agencies. This will further enhance our multi-agency work and will allow Councillors to gain a better understanding of what is happening within their wards in terms of crime, anti-social behaviour, fires and environmental crime. Councillors will then be able to feed this information back to local residents and businesses.
23. Detailed data will be shared with Elected Members during the meetings to identify hotspot locations within your wards and you will be able to compare with other

areas as information regarding overall crime and ASB for the whole of Middlesbrough will also be shared.

24. Meetings will be held at Newport, Hemlington, Thorntree and Acklam Library. The first meeting is due to take place in October and invites will be sent in due course once all the details have been finalised.



Councillor Janet Thompson  
Executive Member for Community Safety

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR PETER GAVIGAN

**DATE OF MEETING: 25 October 2023**

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

#### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

I am currently working 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, streets and open spaces are well-designed, clean and safe.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to my weekly meeting with the Director of Environment and Community Services, I met the Area Care managers at Resolution House in September to gain a greater understanding of the work they do and the issues they face. I have also attended a meeting of the Green Strategy Action Group. I have also attended the Environment Scrutiny panel twice. Externally, I held a meeting with Brian Simpson, the Director of Middlesbrough Environment City and attended a meeting of the Cleveland Emergency Planning Joint Committee. I also visited the Active Travel Hub in Cleveland Centre.

I continue to meet residents to assist with Environmental issues across the borough.

#### THE TIME AHEAD

##### 1: Highways Infrastructure - Traffic Signals/UTMC

Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2023/24:

Marton Road / Aldi (programmed in for completion in February 2024)

Borough Abingdon Rd (Programmed Oct half term)

Marton Road / Corporation Rd (Programmed in for completion in February 2024)

Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2023/24:

Ormesby Road / Balmoral Road (Programmed for completion November 2023)

CFL / Alexander Terrace (Programmed for completion in December 2023)

Wilson St / Sainsburys (Programmed for completion November 2023)

Low Lane Shetland Close (Programmed for completion in December 2023)

Borough Road / Emerald Street (Programmed for completion in March 2024)

## **2: Highways**

Verge replacement and footway improvement works programmes have been developed and we are underway with implementation of the programme for 2023/24. We have completed 9 of the planned 13 schemes this year. We have completed 12 of the planned 23 Footway Works.

## **3: Transporter Bridge**

The Transporter Bridge structural assessment is ongoing. The Stage 1 analysis is already beginning to indicate several areas of overstress that are likely to need additional investigation. We are awaiting a revised scope of works from consultants Atkins.

## **4: A66**

A66 Newport Interchange Bridges: This involves repairing the bridge deck waterproofing and resurfacing of the whole bridge deck to tie in with other planned resurfacing on A66. Eastbound has been completed.

Concrete testing will be carried out on Hartington Interchange Bridges with a design phase to follow and repairs to be carried out in 2024.

A66 Station Viaduct - Column 20B - Contractor Volker Laser have started to construct their site compound and works are imminent to replace the column head and bearing and repair the beams around the future Stack development.

**Name: Peter Gavigan**

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Nicky Walker**

**DATE OF MEETING: 25 October 2023**

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

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**Strategic Priority:** *We will ensure that we place communities at the heart of what we do, continue to deliver value for money and enhance the reputation of Middlesbrough.*

#### **Update:**

1. I continue to have weekly briefings with each of the two directors relevant to my portfolio as well as frequent additional meetings and contact with them and other officers as appropriate.

#### **Update on Members' Enquiry System**

2. Following the recent session which was open to all members and which sought views on improving the system for dealing with members' enquiries, I wanted to provide an update on progress that has been made on the current system. It is still planned to replace that with a new improved system in July 2024.
3. The following is a summary of the short-term improvements that have been already implemented in relation to the member enquiries process:
  - The automated acknowledgement email of submitted service requests / enquires has been refined to manage sender expectation of how enquiry will be progressed i.e., issued out to appropriate service to pick up and action.
  - Reinforced messaging has gone out to service staff to confirm the expectation that a response / resolution to enquiry will be provided (and where this is not possible, an explanation will be given), 5 working days from the service receipt of enquiry.
  - Supporting guidance has been issued to services to outline expectations in format and tone of responses to enquiries i.e., no use of technical



language / references, polite, professional, etc. and responses will be monitored monthly.

- Crib sheets have been developed for each service area to support the Customer Centre team to ensure requests / enquiries reach the right team, the first time or to answer the enquiry directly at first point of contact.

4. Further planned improvements are as follows:

- The member enquiry workflow / process (customer end-to-end journey) is to be mapped out to manage the service enquiry / requests (target date end October 2023).
- Schedule briefings on service areas for members (dates to be arranged)
- A step-by-step process / toolbox talk for all service staff dealing with service requests / enquiries to be developed and implemented (target date end of November 2023).
- Development of a forward work plan for Area Care service, to support the Customer Centre team in first point of contact responses (target date end of November 2023).
- All members to be provided with access and training on how to use GIS mapping system.
- New service request / enquiry system to be implemented in July 2024.

## **Council Papers and Business Cards**

5. There was an unusually large volume of papers associated with the last council meeting, leading some to suggest that these should be provided on an opt in basis rather than automatically to all members. The section 151 officer issued spending controls in July this year, including ensuring that all expenditure made is absolutely necessary. It is important that members play their part as much as we can in driving down costs, as well as considering the environmental impact of printed papers. I recently had discussions with the Monitoring Officer on this subject, following which an email was sent to all members on 27 July.
6. Members have been asked if they still require hard copies of papers for full council meetings and if they do, if they still feel they need them to be delivered by courier. The current practice is that papers for full council meetings only are automatically delivered to all councillors.
7. For the remainder of meetings agendas and reports will continue to be provided electronically only.
8. Where there are specific reports, or parts of reports that members do feel they need to have in hard copy they do have the option of printing themselves either using their home printer or printers at council buildings, saving on officer time as well as other printing costs.

9. Where the provision of hard copies has been requested, members have been asked to consider picking them up at Fountain Court, rather than having them delivered by courier.
10. The option of reducing printing costs further by limiting the printing of longer reports is also being considered.
11. Members had all previously been offered business cards, in line with what had previously been standard practice. All who had requested cards have now been asked to consider if they consider it essential to their role to have them provided by the Council, and to inform Democratic Services accordingly if they do.
12. Thank you to members who have responded so far on the above issues and to those who have made other suggestions around saving on these costs which are in the process of being considered.
13. Where members have not responded it has been assumed they do not require hard copies of council papers to be printed and delivered.

<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>
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### **Household Support Fund**

14. I recently was invited to do a BBC Tees interview to promote the Household Support Fund to residents in Middlesbrough who may be eligible for assistance. This fund is an externally government funded initiative, but individual local authorities design their schemes to meet the needs of their residents.
15. The latest phase of the schemes in Middlesbrough offer support to residents in receipt of benefits who may not have received help from this fund previously but have also been designed to include residents who may be may be working and/or not receiving benefits but struggling with day to day living expenses due to spiralling costs. Members may wish to communicate these schemes to their residents.
16. The two schemes which I referred to on the BBC Tees interview, and for which applications are still invited are:
  - Households not in receipt of benefits whose gross income is less than £30,000 (for a single adult) or £50,000 (for couples) – with or without children and have savings of less than £6,000.
  - Families in receipt of benefits, with children who haven't yet received payments linked to income-related free school meals.

17. Two further schemes were launched on Monday 07 October 2023 and are currently being promoted by the Council. All councillors were sent an email providing details of these, which are for:

- Residents without children who are receiving benefits. They can apply for a voucher to help with essential costs, amounting to £100 for a couple or £75 for a single person.
- People who have recently started work, after a period of unemployment, who may be eligible for £250 to help with the transition into work.

18. Since the fourth phase of the Household Support Fund was launched in April, the Council has made direct payments to residents totalling more than £900,000.

19. More than 22,000 supermarket or energy vouchers have been issued and people in crisis have been supported with furniture and electrical appliances.

20. I would like to thank officers for their excellent and comprehensive work in designing these schemes. Some authorities have adopted an approach of keeping their schemes very simple and condensed. I'm sure members would like to join me in support for our officers who have been keen to go that extra mile to offer as much support to as possible to far wider groups including those struggling with the cost of living but who usually would not qualify for assistance due to not being in receipt of state benefits.

21. Members may also wish to share with their residents this link from the council website which details a range of support offered to assist those struggling with the cost of living.

[Cost of living | Middlesbrough Council](#)

### **Council Tax Leaflet**

22. At a recent all member briefing on another subject, the issue of how we communicate to residents where the money the council spends comes from and how it is spent was raised. I therefore thought it may be helpful if I share the leaflet (below) relating to the 2023/24 budget and council tax. A hard copy of such a leaflet used to accompany the Council Tax bills, but to save costs this is now provided online.

23. I should point out that this is based on gross expenditure of the council, excluding schools funding and if the net revenue budget were used it would result in different percentages.

24. When an executive member previously I introduced this leaflet with the aim of communicating to the public, in a simple format on a single sheet where the money comes from to fund council spending and how it is spent on services. I

have found it useful myself as a ward councillor when residents ask what their council tax is spent on. However, I would welcome any suggestions from members as to how this could be improved.

25. I have asked for such information to be placed on a more prominent and accessible place on the website after the budget is set next year.



## THE TIME AHEAD

### **2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Budget Challenge sessions**

26. I have referred in my earlier reports to quarterly budget challenge sessions attended by both key officers and executive members from the different directorates, which I chair. These will be held in relation to the 2nd quarter over a series of meetings during w/c 23rd October 2023. These are in addition to the directorate challenge sessions chaired by the Interim Director of Finance and feeding into the Leadership and Management Team (LMT) overview sessions chaired by the Interim Chief Executive. Together this forms a more robust approach to budget monitoring and challenge with executive members and officers working together.

27. The outcomes of these sessions will be incorporated in a report on the Quarter Two 2023/24 position due to go to the Executive on 21 November 2023

### **Finance Training**

28. A reminder for members who have not yet attended a Finance Training session, delivered by Cllr Graham Chapman, LGA Regional Member Peer. there will be a 'mop up' session on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 4.30pm at the Collaboration Zone, Fountain Court. An email reminder was issued regarding this on 17<sup>th</sup> October.

29. As I stated in my last report, I would encourage anyone councillor who has not already attended this training to do so. This is particularly important bearing in mind the financial position we face and the challenging decisions that will have to be taken by all councillors as part of the budget setting process.

Councillor Nicky Walker  
Executive Member for Finance and Governance

25 October 2023

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER: REGENERATION – COUNCILLOR THEO FURNESS**

**DATE OF MEETING: 25 OCTOBER 2023**

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

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

##### **TVCA Transport Committee meeting**

1. *Discussions included the Bus Improvement Plan.*

City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) which includes £100s of Millions of investments over the next 5 years to improve all transport infrastructure throughout the Tees Valley.

##### **Teesside Airport Board meeting**

2. Future plans for the airport and how to make it sustainable so it can be an economic driver for the whole of the Tees Valley going forward.

##### **Wilkinson Closure at Captain Cook Square**

3. Confirmation was received from DWP local team on 12 September to advise that the official notification of administration from Wilko's had been received. Their forward plan is to contact all the Northeast stores (in order of closure) to offer staff their statutory redundancy support. This includes information around benefit support, retraining, writing cv's etc. DWP have advised there are 33 staff employed by the Middlesbrough store. <sup>i</sup> The store officially closed on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and work is underway to seek an alternative tenant for the site.
4. Alongside the DWP support, the Council, through its employment hub, can offer staff at risk employment and free training and will be approaching the Middlesbrough store manager to discuss directly.
5. Revenues and Benefits service are aware and will offer any residents affected the usual support and advice around claims and benefits available to them.
6. There are numerous retail, hospitality and leisure employment opportunities available in the town and wider region which will be highlighted to Wilko's staff via the employment hub.

## **Tollesby Shops Opening**

- 7. One stop has opened its doors in the largest unit at the newly built Tollesby shops. There is further space for three commercial units and this is actively being marketed for appropriate use of commercial units and there are 24 high-quality flats above*
- 8. The new development of an historically dilapidated site creates an excellent amenity for local residents as well as new accommodation opportunities for the local community.*

## **Levelling Up Partnership**

- 9. Middlesbrough council area has been selected as levelling up Partnership area which will see over £20 million in grant money.*
10. Having been identified as an area of need by Government, Middlesbrough Council has been working alongside the Department for Levelling Up Homes and Community (DLUHC) to develop a series of projects to be delivered by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, to address Middlesbrough's greatest areas of need in terms of socio-economic, health and educational outcomes; the bulk of the funds must be expended by March 2024, making the timescales particularly urgent.
11. The provisional programme includes interventions which:
  - a) bring public services closer to residents;
  - b) improve services and conditions for vulnerable people;
  - c) support youth services in Middlesbrough;
  - d) tackle ingrained health inequalities; and,
  - e) invest in a large expansion in skills infrastructure.
12. A final programme proposal will be presented by DLUHC in October 2023 with Executive considering the detailed programme in a report on 21 November 2023.

## **THE TIME AHEAD**

### *Executive decisions*

#### **Asset Review November 21<sup>st</sup>**

13. The council are looking at all the property and land that is within its ownership and looking to be more strategic and focused in what we do.
- 14. The process will identify surplus and underused Council land and property assets and the exercise will focus on how an evolving Council structure can deliver effective services from fewer or more accessible sites.*

15. *As a consequence of this exercise, it is highly likely that surplus land and assets will be identified for disposal. Income from asset disposals will support the Council's transformation programme and will provide critical finances to support the authority's challenging financial position.*

### **Local Plan December 20<sup>th</sup>**

16. The Local Plan Executive report has been deferred for one month to ensure that the aims and strategic objectives are aligned precisely between the conclusions and recommendations of the Asset Review report (21 November 23) and any potential implications this may have for the Local Plan report and subsequent that goes out for public consultation exercise.

### **Stack**

17. Due to unforeseen issues with the remedial works under the A66 this has caused the opening of the stack to be delayed into the new year.

18. Despite specialist surveys prior to the works, the true scale and complexity of the column repairs to the A66 were only made fully apparent when access to the site was granted and additional issues were exposed, beneath the surface layers.

19. The recent industrial pipe spillage demonstrates the disruption which a blockage to the A66 can cause. It is important to stress that the A66 remains safe and accessible throughout these particular maintenance works, and short delay to STACK caused by this maintenance is essential to ensure that this critical transport artery remains flowing and unhindered for the long term.

NAME: Councillor Theo Furness

DATE: 25 October 2023

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<sup>i</sup> MCLS team have visited the store and the managers and provided their support and guidance, offering retraining opportunities and links to new jobs within the town. DWP will be offering their national package of support in the usual way across the NE in order of store closure. MCLS will be undertaking a pop up presence 'jobs on tour' roadshow in October in all of the main shopping malls (including the Parkway) to promote jobs and support on offer. It is understood that several staff have already gained employment at B&M Middlehaven.



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### SECTION 2 – DECISIONS TAKEN

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DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
4 Oct 2023	Executive	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	The purpose of this report is to request permission to undertake a consultation (a requirement of schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992) with both the public and the major precepting authorities in respect of proposed changes to the Council's Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme with effect from 1st April 2024. Executive approval is required to commence consultation on changes to the 2024/25 scheme ahead of the final decision being made by Council at the budget setting meeting on 28 February 2024.	Yes
4 Oct 2023	Executive	Town Centre Funding and Community Safety	For decision around a reviewed approach to town centre funding and community safety.	Yes

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

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
18 Oct 2023	Executive Member for Regeneration	Lock Down Protocol	Policies, plans and strategies, which are not part of the financial and policy framework.	Yes

## **SECTION 4 – DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING**

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
21 Nov 2023	Executive	Fees and Charges Review	To present a review of Middlesbrough Council's Fees and Charges	Yes
21 Nov 2023	Executive	Asset Review	A decision is required to determine the future options for a number of Council assets, that may include disposal.	Yes
21 Nov 2023	Executive	Digiwise Project - Foster Care and Supported Lodgings Wifi and Internet Use Policy	Adoption of council wide policy and approval of recommendations to be agreed for all residential and foster care settings.	No
21 Nov 2023	Executive	EXEMPT - Captain Cook Square - Business Case	Requirement for update on current position, along with options for maximising the commercial options for the strategic viability of a key Council asset.	Yes
21 Nov 2023	Executive	Approval for Consultation on the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028 and Cumulative Impact Assessment	Approval for Consultation on the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028 and Cumulative Impact Assessment	Yes
21 Nov 2023	Executive	EXEMPT - Newham Hall - Disposal Option update - Part B	To seek Executive approval to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to develop the Newham Hall housing site.	Yes

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DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
20 Dec 2023	Executive	Newham Hall - Disposal Option Update	To seek Executive approval to enter into a Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to develop the Newham Hall housing site.	Yes
20 Dec 2023	Executive	Houses in Multiple Occupation Article 4 Direction	To agree that an Article 4 Direction be put in place to require smaller HMOs, that are currently part of the permitted development regime, to be subject to a planning application.	Yes
20 Dec 2023	Executive	Draft Local Plan	To seek approval of the Draft Local Plan for the purpose of public consultation.	Yes
20 Dec 2023	Executive	On Street Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Points	To approve the acceptance of funding granted from On-street Residential Charge point Scheme (ORCS) for the value of £211,082 to provide up to 160 electric vehicle charging points, utilising existing lamp columns, in partnership with supplier Ubitricity.	Yes
20 Dec 2023	Executive	Green Strategy	To seek approval of Middlesbrough Council's Green Strategy Year Three action plan.	Yes
17 Jan 2024	Executive	Corporate Procurement Strategy 23-25	Presentation of the refreshed and updated Middlesbrough Council Corporate Procurement Strategy 23-26.	Yes
17 Jan 2024	Executive	Tees Advanced Manufacturing Park – Phase 2 Funding Agreement	Executive to approval an additional 1.5 million pounds of capital which will be repaired through retention through business rates of the enterprize zones site.	Yes
13 Feb 2024	Executive	Tees Valley Waste Report	To seek approval for MBC to enter with seven other councils a Special Purpose Vehicle company in order to manage the Tees Valley energy recovery facility that will be responsible for the disposal of Middlesbrough municipal waste.	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
(Date TBA)	Executive	Adult Social Care Reform Update	To update Executive of local progress against central government's Adult Social Care reform agenda and the planned commencement of inspections of Adult Social Care by the Care Quality Commission in 2023	Yes

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<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
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<b>Date:</b>	25 October 2023
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<b>Title:</b>	Scrutiny Progress Report
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<b>Report for:</b>	Information
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<b>Status:</b>	Public
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<b>Strategic priority:</b>	All
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<b>Key decision:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Urgent:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Executive summary</b>
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.

## Purpose

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

## Background and relevant information

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

2. The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 20 September 2023.

At that meeting the Board considered / received information in respect of the following:

- Executive Member Update – The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

- Members were updated with the Mayor's priorities and work within his portfolio area. These included the Mayor's work on the Council's Section 24 Notice and the development of the Council Plan.
- Executive Forward Work Programme
  - Members noted the Executive Forward Work Programme.
- Middlesbrough Local Boundary Review 2023
  - Members received a draft submission of the Council's Ward Boundary proposal. OSB suggested some amendments to the submission and were advised a revised draft would be brought to OSB's meeting on the 18 October 2023. OSB were also advised all Members had been invited to submit their own proposals to the Local Government Boundary Commission and needed to do so before 31 October 2023.
- Scrutiny Chairs Updates.
  - Members were updated about the activity within each Scrutiny Panel.

## **SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATES**

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

### **Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel**

4. The Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel had its second meeting of the municipal year on 12 September 2023 and members received an introduction to the CQC Inspection from the Director of Place.
5. The Panel received a short presentation on what makes effective scrutiny and from there considered and discussed which topics to scrutinise this year. Suggestions had been submitted from Councillors, Officers and Members of the Public. The Panel selected three topics:
  - Care Homes and DDA compliance
  - Staying put agency
  - Hospital discharge
6. The date of the next meeting will be on Tuesday 17 October 2023 and it is the Panel's intention to start its new topic of Care homes at that meeting.

### **Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel**

7. The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel met on 18 September 2023. At that meeting, the Panel considered the 2023/2024 Work Programme.
8. Suggestions for review topics had been submitted by Councillors, Officers, and Members of the Public. The Interim Director of Children's Care, the Head of SEN and Vulnerable Learners, the Head of Partnerships, and the Head of Access to Education and Alternative Provision were in attendance and provided additional information requested by Members at the meeting. The Panel agreed the following topics:
  - School Attendance; and
  - Allocation of School Places.
9. The Panel intends to commence the School Attendance review at the next meeting, which has been scheduled for 30 October 2023.

### **Environment Scrutiny Panel**



10. The Panel met on 12 September 2023 and considered suitable topics for its 2023/24 Work Programme. Topic suggestions had been received from Councillors, Officers and members of the public. The Panel agreed to add the following topics to its work programme:-

- Waste Management
- Community Councils and Wider Community Engagement

The Panel also agreed that the following updates should be received during the course of the year:-

- Flood Risk Management.
- Toxic Chemicals in the River Tees/Crustacean Deaths Working Group.
- RIPA (Regulatory Investigatory Powers).
- Prevent and Channel.
- Community Safety Partnership.
- Off-road Bikes – update on previous scrutiny topic.

The Panel met again on 9 October 2023 and received an introduction to its new scrutiny topic of Waste Management. Members also discussed possible terms of reference for the review which would be submitted to the Panel's next meeting, on 13 November 2023, for final consideration.

### **Health Scrutiny Panel**

11. The Health Scrutiny Panel met on 11 September 2023. At that meeting, the Panel received an overview of the You've Got This programme.

12. The Programme Director and the Programme Officer were both in attendance to present:

- information on the vision and key messages of the You've Got This programme;
- an overview of the community-focused work undertaken in Middlesbrough; and
- details of how the programme aims to contribute to the broader ambitions of South Tees.

13. The Panel received information on the areas of work, projects and initiatives that You've Got This has supported, such as the delivery of Prepwell (prehabilitation before surgery), the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) and Creating Active Schools (CAS).

14. On 11 September, the Panel also agreed the following topics for inclusion in its work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year:

#### Topic carried over from 2022/23:

- Dental Health and the Impact of Covid-19

#### In-depth reviews:

- Avoidable Deaths and Preventable Mortality
- Obesity

#### Update:

- Women's Health Services (including the development of women's health hubs)

15. At its next two meetings, scheduled to be held on 23 October and 20 November 2023, the Panel will be looking to conclude its evidence gathering in respect of its topic of Dental Health and the Impact of Covid-19.

## **Regeneration Scrutiny Panel**

16. The Regeneration Scrutiny Panel met on 6 September 2023 and received a presentation from the Head of Planning on Middlesbrough's Local Plan, how it was prepared, the content and the timescale for development and approval.
17. The Panel considered and discussed which topics to scrutinise this year. Suggestions had been submitted from Councillors, Officers and Members of the Public. The Panel selected three topics:
  - Planning Capacity
  - How Middlesbrough Council can fund Culture in the future
  - Housing Association Properties
18. The date of the next meeting has been moved to Wednesday 11 October 2023 and it is the Panel's intention to start its new topic of Planning Capacity at that meeting.

## **South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

19. The South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee (STHSJC) met on 27 September 2023. At that meeting, the Committee considered the following items:
  - Protocol for the South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee
  - An Overview of NHS Health
  - An Update on the Live Well South Tees Health and Wellbeing Board
  - Setting the Work Programme for 2023/24

## **Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee**

20. The Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee (TVHSJC) met on 6 October 2023. At that meeting, the Committee considered the following items:
  - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Strategy / Joint Forward Plan
  - Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust - CAMHS Update
  - Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust - Adult Learning Disability Respite Services Update
  - Work Programme 2023-2024

## **Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

23. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 2 March 2023.
24. At its meeting on the 2 March 2023 the Committee considered the following:-
  - Martin Waters, Business Growth Manager of TVCA delivered a presentation to the committee on supporting local businesses.
  - Councillor Bob Cook from Stockton Council together with Shona Duncan Head of Education & Skills at TVCA presented a report with an update on the activity and forward plan to date. The Committee sought clarity on the number of apprentices in Tees Valley and were informed that there were around 500 live vacancies at this time.
  - The TVCA Monitoring Officer discussed the requirements for the Committee to either deal with presentations or reports.

- It was explained that the time of the next meeting could not be confirmed until after the May elections, when new members would have been ratified by TVCA cabinet.
- Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-2023
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Business Update
- EES Update

## **SCRUTINY REPORTS SUBMITTED TO EXECUTIVE**

25. Since the last update to Council, the following Final Scrutiny report has been submitted to Executive:-

Executive – 24 January 2023 - Final Report of Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel in respect of a review of the role of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in supporting Adult Social Care (with a focus on COVID-19 and Recovery).

## **What decision(s) are being recommended?**

26. That Council note the report.

## **Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

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

## **Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended**

28. 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.

## **Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

### ***Legal***

29. The Constitution requires regular updates on the scrutiny function, to be submitted to full Council.

### ***Strategic priorities and risks***

30. The relevant risks this decision would influence are cited below, with an explanation as to why they are relevant and how it would affect each risk.

<b>Risk No</b>	<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Impact</b>
O8-054	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, it would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

### ***Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection***

31. 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.

### ***Financial***

32. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report

### **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](mailto:charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Education and Partnerships Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	25 October 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Youth Justice Plan 2023/24
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Strategic priority:</b>	Crime and anti-social behaviour
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Urgent:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	

<b>Executive summary</b>	
<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 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"> <li>• First Time Entrants</li> <li>• Use of Custody</li> <li>• Re-offending</li> </ul>	

The plan also outlines the priorities for South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) in 2023/24, and how those priorities will be achieved.

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'.

## **Purpose**

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 2023/24 (attached) requires approval by full council.

## **Background and relevant information**

2. 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.
3. 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. The priorities identified by STYJS to support the development of the service during 2023-2024 were designed to reflect issues affecting the service at a local, regional and national level. Consideration was also given to factors impacting on the young people, families and the communities they serve. Exploitation and Serious Violence are key issues and a significant challenge not only for STYJS but across the partnership. Within the last year STYJS has built links with the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV), ensured staff have undertaken Trauma Informed Practice training to effectively support the needs of young people who commit serious violence offences and secured funding to introduce Custody Navigators to engage with young people in Police custody. The challenge for STYJS during 2023-2024 is to ensure that services do not work in isolation to address such issues but engage with co-ordinated strategies to engage and support those young people at risk.

5. The priorities to support ongoing service development are:
- Priority 1: Prevention- to further embed the Turnaround Programme and develop alternative Prevention opportunities to support partners who cannot benefit from Turnaround.
  - Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- to ensure a co-ordinated approach with partners to support the needs of young people at risk of or subject to serious violence and/or exploitation and identify appropriate interventions to support work with young people at risk of serious violence and exploitation.
  - Priority 3: Preparation for Inspection- to ensure that the YJS are fully prepared for the challenge of a potential HMIP Inspection during 2023-24.
  - Priority 4: Education- to continue to engage with partners and ETE service providers to ensure the best outcomes for young people engaged with the YJS.
  - Priority 5: Restorative Practice- to establish a restorative culture and ethos across all areas of YJS practice.
  - Priority 6: Performance- to ensure that the YJS is fully prepared for the challenge presented by the new YJB performance framework.
6. 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 4. The Service Development Plan is monitored on a monthly basis 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. The YJB Regional Advisor is a member of the STYJS Management Board and therefore has oversight of the plan.

### **What decision(s) are being recommended?**

That the Council:

- Approve the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24.

### **Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

7. 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.
8. 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.

### **Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended**

9. Service priorities for 2023/24 were carefully considered by key stake holders, staff and partners and have been included in the current document. There were no other

priorities put forward for consideration. 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.

### **Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

#### ***Legal***

10. 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.

#### ***Strategic priorities and risks***

11. 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, Equality and Data Protection***

12. Not applicable

#### ***Financial***

13. South Tees Youth Justice Service grant allocation for 2023/24 is £1,024,566. 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 2023-24 (Appendix1).
14. 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.
15. South Tees YJS grant from YJB for 2023-24 increased by £44,120 (4.5%) from 2022-23, up to £1,024,566 for 2023-24 and covers the plans for STYJS along with partner contributions.
16. Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Hartlepool put in income contributions and Police contribute to resources to the STYJS. Currently there are also additional grants that are being utilised to enhance the service. The YJB grant covers part of the structure. The financial risk, in particular, is around remand placements, is managed within the service finances. 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, please see table for STYJS



Expenditure	£ 1,656,166
Income YJB Grant	£ 1,024,566
Income Police & Crime Commissioner	£ 80,000
Income Hartlepool Borough Council	£ 5,000
Income Redcar Borough Council	£ 273,300
MBC General Fund	£273,300

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
<a href="#">Approval of the plan</a>	Kay Dargue	25.10.23

### **Appendices**

1	<b>South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2023 - 2024</b>
2	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services#youth-justice-plan-structure">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services/youth-justice-plans-guidance-for-youth-justice-services#youth-justice-plan-structure</a>
3	

### **Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

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# Youth Justice Plan 2023-2024



*Building bridges and changing the course for young people*

<b>Service</b>	<b>South Tees Youth Justice Service</b>
<b>Service Manager/Lead</b>	<b>Kay Dargue</b>
<b>Chair of the YJS Board</b>	<b>Rob Brown Director of Education and Partnerships-Middlesbrough</b>

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## FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE YJS BOARD

I am delighted to present the South Tees Youth Justice Plan for 2023-2024 and would like to say a big thank you to all of the staff and partners for their continued support. This year's plan reports on progress made over the last 12 months and sets out the vision for the service over the next year. We are confident that our priorities for the forthcoming year are aligned to those of the YJB and our partners. Following consultation with our key stakeholders and staff, and having received feedback from our young people, there is a commitment to strengthening the quality of practice whilst embedding the changes in operational delivery brought about by new initiatives such as Turnaround.

The last three years have seen South Tees Youth Justice Service adapt to the ever-changing landscape brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, and I am pleased that the Service is once again operating 'business as usual'. The service continues to be responsive to the complexities presented by young people, and this year plans to build upon the trauma informed practice approach to establish a restorative culture and ethos across all areas of practice. There is a clear intent to support staff with their development via a range of training and learning opportunities.

There have been many achievements in the last year as outlined in this plan along with some innovative practice such as our work in educational settings and the development of the Inclusion Pathway. We were also pleased to welcome a Speech and Language Therapist into the service to deliver direct therapy interventions with our young people and offer assessments of need along with personalised plans where appropriate. However, there is further change on the horizon and this year will see even more initiatives being introduced including developments around the Custody Navigator project, the ISS pilot commencing in July and developments around Immediate Justice. The new YJB key performance indicators introduced by the YJB will also need to be embedded.

There are some significant challenges on the horizon, not least serious youth violence and exploitation. Despite these challenges I am confident the service will continue to be aspirational for young people and aim to make the community safer by working collaboratively with partners.



Rob Brown

Director of Education and Partnerships, Middlesbrough Council

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 partner agencies, to formulate and implement a Youth Justice Plan detailing:

- 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
- Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group

**The strategic purpose of STYJS is:**

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

**This Youth Justice Plan 2023-2024 will provide:**

- An overview of STYJS performance and achievements during 2022-2023
- Details of STYJS structure and governance arrangements
- An overview of service developments during 2022-2023
- 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 2023-2024
- Identification of any potential risks and challenges to the future delivery of Youth Justice Services
- STYJS strategies to mitigate against these risks

In addition, the Youth Justice Plan will also demonstrate how we intend to align our service priorities with those of the YJB Business Plan. This plan will seek to show how through our strategic priorities, we intend to respond to the YJB areas of focus. These areas of focus are:

- Courts
- Policing
- Education
- Partnerships to reduce serious violence and exploitation

## The Principles and Values that underpin our work

STYJS embraces the YJB child first, offender second 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. 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

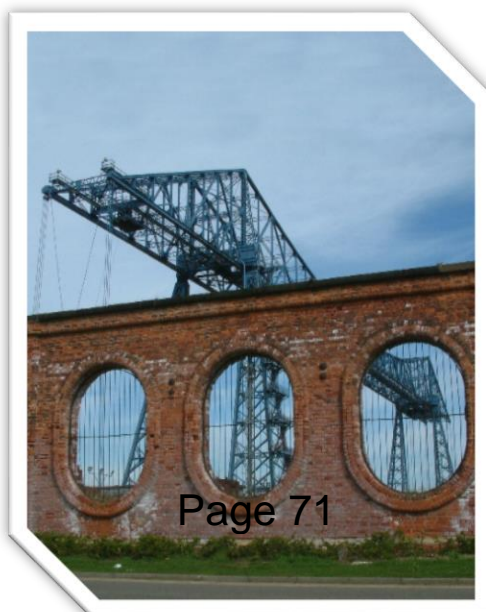
In line with the principles detailed above STYS has established the following vision for the service and this is shared by all staff, partners and stakeholders.

*“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.





## South Tees Youth Justice Service Practice Standards

The corporate governance for STYJS rests with Middlesbrough Council and the YJS sits within the Education and Partnerships section of Middlesbrough Children's Services. In partnership with Children's Services STYJS has designed a set of practice standards to inform how we deliver our work ensuring that we place young people at the centre of everything we do. These standards are intended to inform the work of frontline staff and managers.

### Staff responsibilities:

- I will make sure the young person and their care giver fully understands and is included at all stages of the Criminal Justice Process.
- I will always use language the young person and their care giver understands to explain what I and other services are doing in relation to the police, the courts and their Orders.
- I will always see the young person first and the offender second, conversations will be open and honest around both risk management and safety.
- I will ensure a young person's voice is part of the assessment and build on their strengths by involving them in the decisions around interventions and setting achievable targets.
- I will ensure I consider the victims of offences in our work and plans with a young person, enabling them to understand the impact of the offence on those harmed and offer the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions and repair harm.
- The YJS role is one of support and guidance, we are here to help young people make sense of their journey, whilst trying to repair harm and change behaviours, using a restorative and educational approach.
- I will work with outside agencies that are best suited to the young person's needs and assist young people in accessing and building supportive/positive relationships which can last past their time with our service.
- I will offer support to parents/carers, ensuring they have been referred to appropriate services whilst keeping them involved and updated on their child's progress.
- I will review plans regularly with young people and reflect on what is and what is not working well. We will celebrate young people's progress and success, whilst ensuring robust exit strategies are in place so to encourage desistance and progression in their lives.
- All work will be completed/delivered in a timely manner and in line with the standards set out by the STYJS Board, YJB and HMIP.
- Support will continue for the young person throughout their time with the service and interventions will continue to be delivered in a non-judgmental and safe environment.
- I will make informed decisions around risk, safeguarding and enforcement to ensure the victims and general public are protected as well as safeguarding the young people we supervise.

### Managers Responsibilities:

- I will provide monthly supervision with a focus on staff wellbeing as well as case supervision
- I will Quality Assure work in line with STYJS policies and procedures and provide constructive feedback highlighting both areas for development and areas of good practice
- I will ensure staff are given opportunities to engage with continuous professional development
- I will encourage staff to become involved in the ongoing development and progression of STYJS to ensure we continue to deliver the best possible outcomes for the children and young people we work with.



## Consultation with Staff and Partners in the Preparation of the 2023-2024 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.

Consultation sessions were held with staff in a full team meeting in March 2023 where the priority areas for STYJS Service Development Plan were discussed. Staff felt that the priorities for this plan, outlined below, offered a clear focus for the STYJS allowing the service to build on previous success and respond appropriately and effectively to new challenges.

YJS staff felt that the priorities of the service should reflect local issues and factors which impact on their work with young people as well as ensuring that service resources are used to support a framework of intervention, challenge and support regarding how we work with young people and their families. YJS staff proposed the following areas for further development in 2023-2024:

- Developing a strength-based practice model which will respond to the desistance factors affecting young people
- Broadening the scope of the volunteer role, including to provide mentors and peer mentors to support work with young people
- Restorative Practice, examining opportunities to establish this as the underlying ethos of the service to inform how we work as a team, with young people and their families and with partners
- Further developing the range of intervention programmes to support work with young people, with an emphasis on violence and knife crime
- Ensuring young people are supported through transition processes include the pathways into adult service
- Identifying opportunities to promote the work of the YJS, including promoting positive messages about the young people we work with

STYJS partners were consulted during the STYJS Executive Board Meeting in April 2023, 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.

### 2023-2024 STYJS Service Priorities:

The priorities identified by STYJS to support the development of the service during 2023-2024 have been designed to reflect issues which are affecting the service at a local, regional and national level. Consideration has also been given to factors impacting on the young people, families and the communities we serve to ensure that we can affect positive change in these areas

The priorities to support ongoing service development will include:

Priority 1: Prevention- to further embed the Turnaround Programme and develop alternative Prevention opportunities to support partners who cannot benefit from Turnaround.

Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- to ensure a co-ordinated approach with partners to support the needs of young people at risk of or subject to serious violence and/or exploitation.

Priority 3: Preparation for Inspection- to ensure that the YJS are fully prepared for the challenge of a potential HMIP Inspection during 2023-24.

Priority 4: Education- to continue to engage with partners and ETE service providers to ensure the best outcomes for young people engaged with the YJS.

Priority 5: Restorative Practice- to establish a restorative culture and ethos across all areas of YJS practice.

Priority 6: Performance- to ensure that the YJS is fully prepared for the challenge presented by the new YJB performance framework.

## THE LOCAL CONTEXT

South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) covers the two local authority areas of Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. Both 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. Both communities are impacted upon by high levels of unemployment, the impact of changes to benefits including Universal Credit, poor health outcomes, crime and anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, as well as challenges around educational access, inclusion and attainment and these factors have been further impacted upon by the current high cost of living crisis affecting our communities. Both local authorities also experience higher than average numbers of children in the care of the Local Authority with significant pressure and demand placed on Children's Services.

The geography and cultural make-up of the area presents further challenges. Redcar and Cleveland have 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.



Currently the behaviours of young people are marked by increasing violent offending, use of weapons and hot spot areas with high levels of anti-social behaviour by large groups of young people across both local authority areas, some of which has received national media attention. In response the Cleveland Police area has been designated as a Violence Reduction Unit area and the three Youth Justice Services in the Cleveland area have begun a process of consultation 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). Such work will be further supported by the introduction of Custody Navigators into the Middlesbrough Police Custody Suite to promote engagement and support with young people during the 'reachable and teachable' moment offered by their presence in custody. In addition, the Cleveland Police area has also been designated a pilot area for the Immediate Justice initiative and this will offer scope to offer further early intervention and prevention activity and deliver swift responses to those young people engaged in crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities.

STYJS has evolved in recent years to respond to changing local circumstances 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, 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. 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. This service model is supported by a Trauma Informed Practice model which has ensured that YJS staff have received appropriate training and support to understand and respond to the needs of the young people we work with.

### The profile of young people who engaged with STYJS in 2022-2023

During 2022-2023 STYJS delivered a total of 533 interventions with young people. This included:

- 459 males
- 74 females

By local authority area the figures show that there were 305 young people from Middlesbrough and 219 from Redcar and Cleveland, with 9 young people subject to caretaking by STYJS on behalf of other YJS.

These show an increase of 26 interventions compared to the figures for 2021-2022.

These figures show that the YJS worked with proportionally less females during 2022-2023 with this figure decreasing to 13.9% of the cohort, from 14.2% the previous year. During 2022-2023 STYJS has sought to develop interventions to support the needs of girls and young women, and this has included the Rubies programme an intervention activity designed to offer girls and young women their own safe space to engage with staff.

The age profile was:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| • 4 (0.7%)    | aged 10 years |
| • 29 (5.4%)   | aged 11 years |
| • 47 (8.8%)   | aged 12 years |
| • 62 (11.6%)  | aged 13 years |
| • 83 (15.6%)  | aged 14 years |
| • 95 (17.8%)  | aged 15 years |
| • 98 (18.4%)  | aged 16 years |
| • 111 (20.8%) | aged 17 years |
| • 4 (0.7%)    | aged 18 years |

These figures show that the proportion of the cohort aged 10-14 years during 2022-2023 remained the same as the figure for previous year, at 42.2%. The figures also show that the peak age of offending continues to be the 15-17 age group. For females the peak age of offending continues to be 16 years.

The ethnic minority profile was:

- |               |                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| • 468 (87.8%) | White European                      |
| • 3 (0.5%)    | Black or Black British              |
| • 13 (2.4%)   | Asian or Asian British              |
| • 27 (5.1%)   | Mixed Race                          |
| • 11 (2.1%)   | Chinese or other Asian ethnic group |
| • 11 (2.1%)   | Not Known                           |

These figures are consistent with the figures shown by the ethnic minority breakdown in 2021-2022, with 87.8% of the cohort being White British. The figure for Asian young people has risen slightly during 2022-2023 increasing from 7 to 13 young people, however the figures show that there is no over representation from this group. The figure for young people who identify as mixed race has risen slightly compared to the previous year's figure and at 5.1% of the cohort this figure remains higher than the secondary school population found in the January 2020 school census which was 3.4%,

indicating a level of over representation of this group in the offending population. This will be further monitored to identify if there is an increasing trend developing in this group.

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 although data presented to the YJS Executive Board meeting suggest that girls aged between 14-16 years are becoming a more prominent group. This was recognised by the YJS, and the Rubies programme was introduced, the intention during 2023-2024 is to develop this into a permanent group for girls and young women to focus on issues identified by the group.

## Profile of Interventions

Data shows that during 2022-2023 the breakdown of interventions included:

122 (22.9%)	Prevention Cases
49 (9.2%)	Turnaround Programme
259 (48.6%)	OOCD (Community Resolution, Restorative Disposals, Outcome 22, YC/YCC)
110 (20.6%)	Court Ordered Programmes (Referrals Orders, YRO and DTO and Remands)
15 (2.8%)	Civil Programmes (CBO and ASBI)

These figures show that OOCs continue to represent the highest proportion of interventions delivered with young people and their families. The proportion of prevention-based activity and if we consider the Prevention, Turnaround and Civil cases as the primary prevention activity this now equates to over a third, 34.9%, of the interventions delivered. Court based programmes now represent a fifth of the total interventions delivered.

## Profile of the desistance factors influencing the behaviours of young people:

An examination of 214 YJS assessments, undertaken with young people using AssetPlus during 2022-2023 provides an illustration of the principal desistance factors identified as potential risk and protective factors for young people has shown the following:

(Please note a separate assessment tool is used for assessments for OOC and Prevention cases).

The key factors that support the young person to desist from further offending include:

- Engagement and Participation
- Learning, Education, Training and Employment
- Living arrangements, housing and financial considerations
- Parenting, care and supervision
- Resilience and goals
- Family and wider networks
- Attitudes to Offending/Behaviours
- Substance Misuse

The information drawn from desistance factors in assessments shows that during 2022-2023 Engagement and Participation, Learning, Education, Training and Employment are the most prevalent protective factors identified with young people. Also Parenting, Living Arrangements and Family 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 engage in ETE or with other services they have a more positive outlook, and this promotes positive outcomes as well as preventing further offending. Such desistance factors are broadly in line with the previous years and highlight the increasingly complex nature of the cohort of young people.

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

- Thinking and behaviour
- Features of lifestyle
- 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

The risk factors detailed above reflect the challenging nature of the cohort of young people who are referred to the STYJS. 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 of young people is also a significant factor and reflects the influence of ACES and Trauma on the young people we work with.

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 2022-2023 the following thematic inspection was undertaken which identified development actions for YJS:

*A joint inspection of education, training and employment services in youth offending teams in England and Wales*

And this was published in June 2022 detailing a range of recommendations for Youth Justice Service Management Boards. The inspection recommended:

YJS Management Boards should:

- ensure that all children have a comprehensive ETE assessment
- monitor, alongside the local authority, key aspects of ETE work for children working with
- the YOT, including:
  - the extent of school exclusion in the YOT cohort.
  - the actual level of attendance at school, college, work or training placement.
  - the extent of additional support provided to children with SEN/ ALN.
  - that every child with an EHCP or IDP has this reviewed on an annual basis to meet the statutory requirement.
- develop ambitious aims for ETE work in the YOT, including the achievement of Level 2 English and Maths by every child
- establish a greater range of occupational training opportunities for those children beyond compulsory school age
- monitor and evaluate the levels of educational engagement and attainment in disproportionately represented groups within the YOT caseload in order to develop improvement, including for:
  - children with an EHCP/ ILP.
  - children with SEN/ ALN.
  - children permanently excluded from school.
  - out of court disposal cases.
  - children released under investigation

This report was presented to the YJS Management and was also the subject of a local authority scrutiny panel in Middlesbrough Council, to look at the education, training and employment needs of young people in the youth justice system

As part of the response to scrutiny and the ETE thematic STYJS agreed the following actions:

- put in place monitoring systems to ensure that young people and those at risk of exclusion are tracked and supported to access services they need
- monitor assessment processes for young people identified as at risk of exclusion to ensure that those include effective plans to engage them in ETE



- conduct audit activity of ETE processes.

The Head of STYJS will work with the management board and heads of service within the education directorate to take forward the recommendations included in the HM Inspectorate of Probation thematic report. This work will include:

- introducing new data sharing agreements to enable pupil-level data to be captured and reported upon
- implementing tracking and monitoring systems to analyse and evaluate data in the future, with the overarching aim of reducing exclusions and improving the education experience and outcomes for young people.



## CHILD FIRST

STYJS embraces the child first ethos and has sought to ensure that all our interventions with young people are informed by this approach. Young people are encouraged to engage and participate, and we seek to listen to them and ensure their voice can be heard.

STYJS takes a trauma informed approach to our work with young people, and we believe it is important to base our work on the positives and strengths in a young person's life. The Trauma Informed model used by the YJS in partnership with TEWV CAMHS uses a range of strategies to ensure YJS staff understand the impact of the issues affecting young people and can tailor their approach to support young people. During 2022-2023 this approach has been enhanced by the commissioning of a Speech and Language Therapist to improve our understanding of language and communication and how this can affect young people with neurodivergent needs in the youth justice system.

During 2022-2023 we have sought to develop programmes which offer young people a safe space to engage with the service and our partners and this approach has been embodied by our gender focussed work through Tuff Tees and Rubies.

### Headstart Tuff Tees

Tuff Tees is a programme of intervention designed to meet the needs of young men and boys who are engaging with the YJS. Developed in partnership with the Headstart programme in Public Health, Tuff Tees aims to offer young men and boys a safe space to engage in activities and learning without the pressures brought by their peer group. Activities include access to a gym, sports and leisure activities, the provision of food and access to substance misuse and mental health services.

## Rubies

In partnership with the Rubies Service, based in the South Bank area of Redcar and Cleveland, the Rubies programme is an intervention aimed at providing a safe space for girls and young women to explore issues important to them. Work with this group focussed on such issues as relationships, self-esteem and self-worth, grooming and safe sex. The aim of the group is to empower girls and young women to make informed choices and decisions as well as to promote positive opportunities and outcomes. During 2023-2024 STYJS will seek to establish a permanent group for girls and young women.

One of the challenges facing STYJS when promoting a child first model is potential conflict with partners who have enforcement responsibilities and communities affected by the behaviours of young people, including anti-social behaviour. The YJS approach places an emphasis on the child and seeks to engage and challenge behaviours and this may not always have the immediate and visible response required by partners and communities.

## VOICE OF THE CHILD

The voice of the child is an important factor which underpins all of our work with young people. During 2022-2023 STYJS has continued to promote the voice of the young person across all areas of our work, using self-assessments and learning style tools to ensure all work we undertake with young people reflects their experience and is delivered in ways which allow them to maximise their involvement. This has also included young people attending and presenting at the annual YJS open days.

In order to improve our practice in regard to understanding the language and communication needs of young people STYJS has commissioned access to a Speech and Language Therapist in partnership with South Tees Foundation Trust Children & Young People's Speech & Language Therapy Service. This role will offer STYJS staff SALT input into cases, engagement and support provided to young people to access the SALT Service, training for staff and further development of our engagement tools for working with young people, including leaflets and our learning styles tool.

### 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 2022-2023, 136 young people responded and provided feedback through the survey:

- 95.92% said my YJS workers did enough to help me take part in the YJS work.
- 82.86% said the YJS helped me to feel safer.
- 92.94% said someone at the YJS asked me what I thought would help me stop offending.
- 84.49% said I had enough to say in what went into my YJS Contract/Intervention Plan.
- 93.88% said my work with the YJS has helped me realise I can change.
- 97.55% said the YJS took my views seriously.
- 99.59% said I have been treated fairly by the people who worked with me.
- 88.98% said I think the service given to me by the YJS was good.

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 of young people. The survey provides further evidence of the work undertaken by YJS staff to engage young people, listen to what they have to say and support them to have their say in the work undertaken with them. The outcomes from the survey have been used to target improvements in service delivery and how we engage with young people.

During 2023-24 this survey will be further enhanced with input from the Speech and Language Therapist to ensure that the language we use and the communication methods we use can fully engage young people and allow us to better understand their needs.

# GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP & PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

## Partnership arrangements

STYJS provides youth justice services for the local authorities of Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. Corporate governance arrangements 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 Middlesbrough Council Director of Education and Partnerships (Chair of the Management Board), who 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.

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 continues to support 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
- Working with the Safeguarding Children's Services in both local authorities to support service development, inspection readiness and service improvement. In addition, the Head of Service represents the YJS at the No Wrong Door Partnership meetings
- 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, to monitor performance, support quality improvement and staff training and development activity
- 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
- Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) arrangements for young people identified as at risk of this, in both local authorities, supporting both strategic and operational forums
- 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 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
- CSE/VEMT 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 with both Children's Services Teams with clear systems in place for communication with in the two Local Authorities. The joint working agreements with both local authorities are subject to ongoing review and updated to reflect current practices. Arrangements are also now 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. 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.

Joint supervision arrangements are now well established between the YJS and both Children's Services and this offers the opportunity to share decision making and agree strategies to meet the needs of young people known to both services.

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. During 2023-2024 STYJS will be seeking to identify how these links can be enhanced to support the development of Exploitation Hubs in each local authority.

The culture of working together among the youth justice services in the Tees Valley is well established and during 2023-2024 as we work together to respond to challenges placed before us and we will 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, with a new 3-year formula being agreed during 2022, replacing the previous year on year arrangement. During 2022-2023 The YJS have worked in partnership with the OPCC and CURV to develop the Custody Navigator project which will place Navigators into the Middlesbrough Police Juvenile Custody Suite to engage and support young people as they enter the custody area and through outreach into the community. In addition, we are also working with the OPCC to identify opportunities to provide appropriate responses to the Immediate Justice Initiative, designed to address anti-social behaviour and low-level crime.

Cleveland Police are developing a bespoke juvenile custody area within the Middlesbrough Police HQ. This will create a safer space for young people in custody with their own access routes, and access to a breakout room for young people away from the adult area. The custody area will reflect a trauma informed approach and additional support to young people will be provided by the Custody Navigators,

Mitie Nurses, Liaison and Diversion and the Custody Substance Misuse Team. STYJS have been leading a project with Cleveland Police to create an opportunity for young people who are engaged with the service to paint the cell in the Young Person's Custody area. This is a response to a challenge placed on Cleveland Police by the Inspectorate of Constabulary following an inspection of Cleveland Police, to make the custody area a younger person friendly environment. STYJS has consulted with young people to ensure that the young person's voice is shaping this project, in addition consultation has been undertaken with key stake holders to secure their input into the project. The aim of this project is to transform the environment in the Juvenile Custody Area and improve the young person's experience at this stressful time. It is intended that this project will be realised during 2023-2024.

The Trauma Informed Model of working with young people developed in partnership between the STYJS Cleveland area Youth Justice Services and TEWV NHS Trust continues to show a high level of success and has transformed how we work with young people. In addition to providing a pathway into CAHMS services the service also offers YJS staff opportunities for reflective group supervision, training opportunities for staff and has established clinical supervision to assist staff in their work with young people.

The accommodation arrangements of STYJS will continue to offer co-location and co-working arrangements with the Middlesbrough Case Management and Resource Teams sharing an office space with Children's Services, 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. We continue to look for opportunities to raise our profile in local communities and this is being achieved in part by our engagement in locality working models in various locations across both local authorities and our involvement in family hubs.

There have been significant political changes in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland following local elections in May 2023. In Middlesbrough the Labour Party became the largest political group and the elected mayor was also a Labour candidate. In Redcar and Cleveland no group has overall control, but Labour has now become the largest group. Although these developments may have no significant impact on the day-to-day workings of STYJS, there will be changes in the lead councillors who represent the local authorities on the YJS Management Board, and it is likely there will be changes in policies and priorities for each council.



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

STYJS continues to work closely with the OPCC to develop services to young people, communities and victims of crime. The OPCC provides funding to STYJS to support the delivery of Out of Court Disposals, with specific reference to the delivery of Community Resolution as the principal option to prevent young people entering the youth justice system, this has contributed significantly to reducing FTEs.

During 2023-2024 this partnership working with the OPCC will be further enhanced with the development of the Custody Navigators project, funded by CURV, which will provide additional support and engagement to young people in the custody area. Also, we will be developing programmes to respond to those young people who engage in anti-social behaviour and low-level crime through the governments Immediate Justice initiative.

The close working relationship with the OPCC has been enhanced through the approaches now taken to OOC opportunities for young people. The development of an enhanced OOC option during 2020 has provided scope for STYJS to ensure that young people are matched to the best option to address and challenge their behaviours, and also ensuring that we can maximise the engagement of victims in our work with young people. Discussions with the new PCC elected in 2021 has also shown that there is a lot of common ground with the YJS with specific reference to the importance of prevention, diversion and intervening early.

STYJS now offers young people the following options at OOC:

- Restorative Interventions
- Outcome 22 (Diversionary, Educational or Intervention Activity)
- Community Resolution
- Youth Cautions with interventions
- Youth Conditional Cautions

During 2022 we have extended the use of Outcome 22 as a preventative/early intervention method of engaging young people and this development has been further enhanced by the introduction of Turnaround from January 2023.

In addition to the above STYJS will also be engaging with the OPCC Strategic Reducing Offending Group. This forum offers the opportunity to work with partners, ensure that issues impacting on young people can be prioritised and promote early intervention and prevention as the primary approach to divert young people away from offending and anti-social behaviour.

During 2023-2024 STYJS will be introducing an Immediate Justice offer, as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, in partnership with Cleveland Police, OPCC and the local authority anti-social services. This will aim to work with those young people who are engaging in anti-social behaviour in our communities and challenge them to engage with services and positive activities to divert them away from anti-social behaviour and low-level crime.

## Links to the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV)

Cleveland Police area is now designated as a Violence Reduction Unit area and the OPCC has developed the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV) to lead the delivery of the Violence Reduction Strategy locally. The Custody Navigators project is a central theme of the CURV model enabling services to engage at a 'reachable and teachable' moment with young people in police custody. The Navigators will provide a key point of contact to engage young people in the custody suite and offer intervention and support to divert them from further involvement in criminal behaviours.

STYJS is now integrated into the CURV governance structures and as part of the oversight of the CURV model STYJS has secured representation at the strategic meeting processes which provide oversight for CURV. STYJS has also aligned itself with the CURV vision that allows...

*individuals, families and communities to live, learn and work in Cleveland free from the fear, effects and consequences of violence.*

This is reflected in the priorities outlined in this plan and our commitment to support the work of CURV, initially through the development of the Custody Navigators project.

### **STYJS Management Board**

STYJS is accountable to a multi-agency Management Board, chaired by the Middlesbrough Director for Education and Partnerships. 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 Services
- 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
- Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group
- HM Courts and Tribunals Service
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

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 YJS Management Board has embarked upon an ongoing process of development to ensure that board members maintain an up-to-date knowledge of the work of their services and fully understand the responsibilities of their role as a board member.

This process has included a number of initiatives to support Board members to understand the work of STYJS and how they can support operational delivery, including:

- Annual reviews and updating of the Board's constitution
- Delivering open days for Board members and other partners to provide an insight into the work of STYJS. The 2022 open day was once again a virtual event which was also attended by representatives of other partnerships including the corporate parenting boards in both local authorities and elected members and a total of 49 people attended this event. Young people were also in attendance and presented work they had undertaken with YJS staff. STYJS received positive feedback from this event and a further open day will be delivered in September 2023
- Offering opportunities for Board members to 'shadow' YJS staff in their daily duties
- Monitoring attendance at Board meetings and events and challenging Board members around their commitment

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 and assurance for the work of STYJS. One of the challenges for the Management Board during 2023-2024 will be to provide the YJS response to the new Youth Justice Key Performance Indicators, in particular the key performance indicator which monitors partner's attendance at the board.

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.

## Staffing

STYJS is staffed in line with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998), including, Social Workers, a Seconded Probation Officer (post currently unfilled) and Seconded Police Officers.

The service will have 45 individual members of staff in 2023-2024 with no vacancies currently. This is an increase of 6 members of staff compared to the previous year and this has been made possible by the development of the Custody Navigator and Turnaround Programmes. The service structure, detailed at appendix 3, shows how these staff are deployed. The service has 32 female members of staff and 14 males. In terms of ethnicity, 3 members of staff are 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. The YJS does not currently have a seconded probation officer, and this reflects the recruitment challenges faced by the National Probation Service. A pathway to access young people into adult services has been established and discussions are ongoing to secure the seconded officer.

STYJS has 3 core teams, these include 2 case management teams who service 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
- Specialist Court Officer
- Probation Officer
- Support Workers

The Resource Team is comprised of:

- Partnerships Manager
- 2 Assistant Operations Managers
- Education Training and Employment Specialist
- Restorative Justice Specialist
- Prevention/Turnaround Case Managers
- Police Officers
- Restorative Justice Worker
- Custody Navigators
- Support Workers
- Service and Case Support Officer
- Service and Case Support Workers

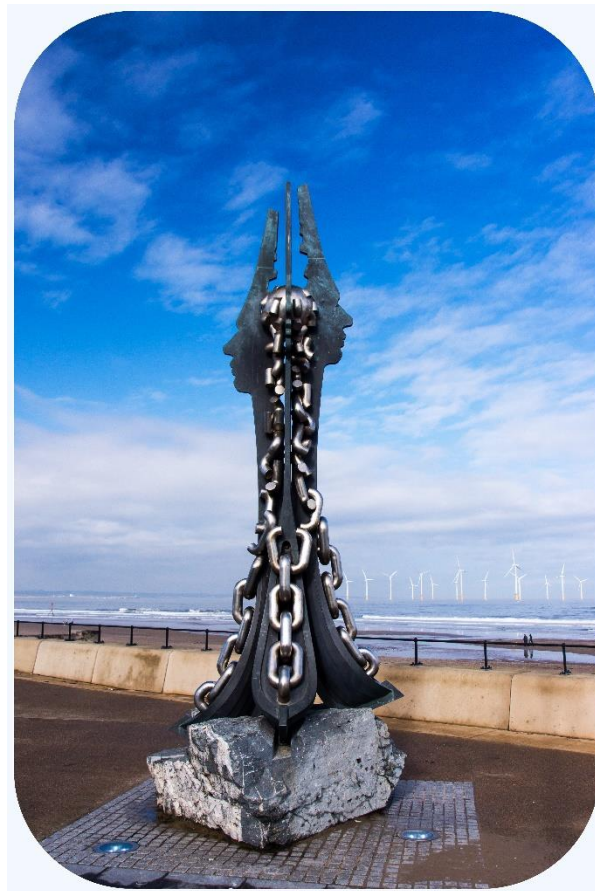


The YJS has access to a Business Analytics Partner who is based with the Information and Governance Team in Middlesbrough Council and Finance support is provided by a Finance Business Partner from Middlesbrough Council's Finance Section.

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 continues to ensure that service structures are 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 risks posed to young people by serious violent crime, enables STYJS to intervene earlier and facilitate a learning and development culture in the service, which will support practice improvement and provide opportunity for staff development. The additional staff brought by the additional Turnaround resource and Custody Navigators resources will also support our efforts to achieve the priorities outlined in this plan.

One of the challenges to be faced by STYJS during 2023 will be brought by the planned retirement of one of our Operations Managers, Phil Hampton, who plans to retire from STYJS in September 2023 after 40 years' service with children and young people. This will create a significant gap in the expertise and knowledge in STYJS and the challenge will be to identify a suitable replacement who can build on the achievements made by Phil during his time with STYJS.



## 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. The main focus of this volunteer offer is with the Young People's Panels we deliver as part of the Referral Order and all volunteers receive a full training programme to equip them with the knowledge and skills to make a success of this role. Volunteers are trained to a Restorative Practice level 2 qualification and this training is enhanced by other opportunities reflecting emerging areas of practice with volunteers receiving training in the Trauma Informed Model, Speech, Language and Communication and Child First approaches.

During 2023-2024 we hope to broaden the recruitment base for our volunteers and extend the opportunities available to support the work of the YJS.

## Staff Development and Training

An important factor 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 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 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 the YJB SEND Bubble
  - Accessing LSCB Training
  - Attending conferences and development sessions relevant to role

In addition to the above, STYJS staff will be offered opportunities to engage with the training programmes associated with the change processes being undertaken by both local authority Children's Services. Such training programmes include training delivered by the South Tees Safeguarding Children's Partnership to ensure that all staff have the necessary safeguarding knowledge to inform their practice.

During 2023-2024 STYJS staff will be offered a range of new training opportunities to enhance the skill base and to equip staff with the necessary knowledge to respond to the complex and changing needs of the young people and families we work with. Training and development opportunities will include:

- SAVRY Training- to equip staff with an understanding of violence risk and prepare risk management plans with young people
- Exploitation Training- to assist YJS staff to understand the risk factors around exploitation and how these impact on young people and develop strategies with young people to minimise this risk
- Restorative Practice Training- to assist staff to develop skills in restorative working to support our work with young people and their families
- Support Worker Training- to develop our Support Worker roles to assist them to deliver intervention sessions with young people and build positive relationships

In addition, as part of the Trauma Informed Practice Model delivered in partnership with TEWV NHS Trust training and development activities will be developed to respond to themes identified through practice and work with young people. This will be supported by a programme of reflective practice

sessions to assist staff to develop the decision-making skills they need to support their work with young people.

As part of the Trauma Informed Practice Model the Highly Specialised Clinical Psychologist also offers wellbeing support to staff. This offers separate sessions for staff and managers and includes quarterly wellbeing check-in and looking after ourselves sessions supported by themed activities on areas chosen by YJS staff.

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 and updates on service developments. The team meetings also offer an invaluable social function during the current hybrid working arrangements experienced by all staff, providing opportunities for the full team to come together and catch up with colleagues and friends.

## **RESOURCES AND SERVICES**

### **Budget 2022-2023**

STYJS welcomed the additional investment we received from the Youth Justice Board for 2022-2023 as part of the Youth Justice Grant. This funding has been used to further enhance the services we provide, including through the commissioning of the Speech and Language Therapist, and investing in additional support work staff. The introduction of Turnaround provided additional new funding from the Ministry of Justice which was used to invest in staff to support service delivery, extend the time we have with the Speech and Language Therapist and develop new forms of intervention to support our work with young people. Further funding was also received from the OPCC to deliver the Custody Navigator project and this funding has largely been used to support staff recruitment for what will be a labour-intensive area of work.

The final grant figure from the YJB has yet to be set and therefore it is not currently possible to give a figure for the pooled income for 2023-2024. The final figure will 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 £5000.00 payment from Hartlepool YJS for the provision of Court services.

Staffing costs represent the largest expenditure item for STYJS and as detailed above during 2022-2023 STYJS has continued to invest in our staffing resources, securing new posts which will improve service delivery and promote positive outcomes for young people.

One of the challenges we need to consider when allocating resources will be the current high cost of living with continuing increases in the prices of the goods and services we use. Consideration will also need to be given to how this will impact on the young people and families we work with and how we respond to the challenges that families face.

### **YJB Grant Funding 2023-2024:**

The YJB grant allowance for 2023-2024 has not been agreed at the time of producing this plan and STYJS welcomes the news that there will be no reductions in the grant. As a result, it is not possible to offer any indication currently as to how financial resources can be specifically allocated. 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. We look forward to the grant announcement and will make informed decisions on how this can be used based on data available to us and to invest in the priority areas detailed in this plan.

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 additional funding from the Youth Justice Grant has allowed STYJS to invest in access to a Speech and Language Therapist to support staff and engage with young people with language and communication needs.



During 2022-2023 we have continued to extend OOCd opportunities for young people to divert them away from the criminal justice system. The introduction of Turnaround has enabled us to further develop the Outcome 22 offer to provide education and support interventions rather than look to the criminal justice route. The proposed Immediate Justice model will further enhance our prevention approaches and through funding through the OPCC we will be able to offer additional responses to young people who engage in anti-social behaviour.

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

This additional provision we have in the area of prevention, with the extension of our OOCd offer detailed below demonstrates that STYJS offers good value for money for our stakeholders. The quality of this provision and this has been enhanced by these new services with ongoing improvements in services demonstrated by the internal audit and quality assurance of work undertaken by managers. The reduction in FTEs highlights the success of our prevention offer and OOCd provision with FTEs now 82% lower than the figure of 10 years ago. The additional investment made into our prevention services will offer the opportunity for STYJS to engage young people earlier and sustain our low levels of FTEs.

### **Turnaround Funding 2023-2024:**

STYJS is to receive a grant of £247,215 from the Ministry of Justice to support the delivery of the Turnaround Programme during 2023-2024. This funding is to be used to assist STYJS to meet the target of 84 young people engaging in the Turnaround programme based on a 'base unit' of approximately £2,900 per child.

This funding will be used to support the staffing required to deliver Turnaround, enhance our access to the Speech and Language Therapist and invest in interventions to support bespoke work with young people and their families.

In addition to the above STYJS has also been identified as one of ten hot spot police service areas who will benefit from additional Turnaround funding as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Action plan, with additional annual funding of £30,158.12 over the next 2 financial years. The challenge for the YJS is to engage a further 10 young people annually into Turnaround and this is not limited to those young people who are identified from an anti-social behaviour pathway.

### **Remand Framework for Children:**

The YJB Grant for Remands for 2023-2024 is not available at the time this plan was produced. Remand costs continue to present a significant risk to the YJS given the complex nature of the young people we work with, and the increasing risks to young people presented by forms of exploitation which can introduce young people into more serious types of offending. During 2022-2023 there has been an increase in the incidences of young people engaging in violent offending and the use of weapons.

This risk is enhanced by the increase costs per night for remand beds across the secure estate.

STYJS will continue to mitigate against remands to youth detention through the effective use of our court services and the offer to case manage young people in the community. The changes in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill to the remand thresholds should offer greater flexibility to managing and mitigating against remands except in the most serious offences. In addition, the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Pilot to be introduced to the North East Region during 2023-2024 will offer scope to reduce remands to custody with an enhanced ISS Bail offer to reflect the needs of young people, supported by additional surveillance methods, including extended curfew periods and GPS tracking of young people.

The remand grant is complimented by additional funding from the 2 local authorities, £29,603 from Middlesbrough and £35,120 from Redcar and Cleveland.



### **Funding from the PCC:**

STYJS receives funding from the PCC to support our early intervention and prevention work through the enhanced OOC model. Funding from the PCC has reduced in recent years however the services offered by STYJS has significantly increased. 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. This has been recognised by the PCC who, although not able to increase this resource currently has ensured that the funding is secure for the next 3 years.

During 2023-2024 STYJS will receive additional funding, of £177,668 to support the delivery of a Cleveland wide Custody Navigator project. This funding will be largely used to support the staffing costs relating to the project with a small additional fund to support interventions and activities with young people.

Funding for the Immediate Justice project will also come through the OPCC, the level of this funding is currently under discussions.

## **PROGRESS AGAINST THE 2022-2023 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN**

The overriding priority for STYJS in 2022-2023 has been to view all young people that we work with as a child first and seek to ensure that they have been engaged and supported to achieve positive outcomes. All our work has been informed by the voice of the child and we have sought to work proactively with those young people who have experienced significant vulnerabilities including children in care and those young people at risk of forms of exploitation.

During 2022-2023 the priorities to support ongoing service development included:

Priority 1: Prevention- to strengthen the YJS offer for prevention services, embedding good practice into our service delivery.

Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence-developing a model of practice which safeguards those young people impacted upon by serious violence and forms of exploitation.

Priority 3: Child First- developing approaches which place the needs of young people at the forefront of YJS practice, ensuring the voice of the child informs how we deliver services.

Priority 4: Out of Court Disposals-to ensure that the portfolio of OOC options available to young people are responsive to their needs and behaviours.

Priority 5: Education- to ensure that the YJS contributes to supporting those young people at risk of exclusion.

Priority 6: Restorative Practice- embedding a restorative culture across all areas of the work of the YJS.

Priority 7: To ensure full accountability for YJS partners in their commitment to supporting the work of the YJS.

The priorities were underpinned by a service development plan which detailed the actions to successfully achieve against each of the service priorities. The service development plan for 2022-2023 outlined a total of 38 individual actions across the 7 priority areas. The service development plan allows the STYJS 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 has been managed by the Partnerships Manager with monthly monitoring through the YJS Management Team. Reports are also made to the YJS Executive Board and into the departmental management teams to which the Head of Service reports into in each local authority.

A monthly 'Herd Indicator Report' is produced to report the progress of the service development plan and a RAG rating has been used to outline progress. Of the 38 individual actions 31 were identified as having been completed at the end of the monitoring period for the service development plan at the end of April 2022 and the remaining 5 were identified as being on track with some of these actions rolling over into the priorities for 2022-2023. Only 2 actions were not on track to be achieved and these will be included as actions where they are linked to the priorities for 2023-2024.

Achievements made against each priority include:

Priority 1: Prevention- to strengthen the YJS offer for preventions services, embedding good practice into our service delivery.

- Turnaround was introduced as a new prevention and diversion programme for young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system
- STYJS successfully achieved the year 1 target for Turnaround with 27 young people referred into the programme
- A new assessment tool was developed to support Turnaround, this has assisted STYJS to better understand the issues facing the young people and families we work with
- Audits and performance monitoring have assisted the YJS to understand the impact of prevention activity
- Turnaround is supported and monitored by a steering group which is made up of all key partners and stakeholders

Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence-developing a model of practice which safeguards those young people impacted upon by serious violence and forms of exploitation.

- STYJS has secured representation on the CURV strategic board and its subgroups where these apply for young people
- Information has been provided by STYJS to inform the CURV Strategic Needs Analysis, including supporting young people to engage in this process. This has provided the evidence base to inform CURV priorities
- Funding has been secured to introduce a Custody Navigator programme to engage young people in custody
- The Trauma Informed Practice model has continued to STYJS staff with training and support to understand the needs of the young people we work with
- A Youth Violence Strategy was developed to inform practice and service delivery in this area

Priority 3: Child First- developing approaches which place the needs of young people at the forefront of YJS practice, ensuring the voice of the child informs how we deliver services.

- STYJS has secured access to a Speech and Language Therapist who will offer the service better insight in the speech, language and communication needs of young people
- A new learning styles tool has been developed to assist the YJS to understand how best to work with a young person

- Opportunities have been sought to promote positive outcomes achieved by young people, including with a young person attending the Board Open Day in September 2022

Priority 4: Out of Court Disposals-to ensure that the portfolio of OOC options available to young people are responsive to their needs and behaviours.

- The use of Outcome 22 as an additional OOC has been extended as an additional option to divert young people away from the criminal justice system
- Audits and performance management reviews have been undertaken and these have shown high levels of success shown by the use of OOCs

Priority 5: Education- to ensure that the YJS contributes to supporting those young people at risk of exclusion.

- Intervention activities have been delivered in schools and alternative education providers to challenge behaviours and raise young people's awareness of specific issues, such as knife crime, ASB, etc.
- An inclusion pathway has been developed with schools and other partners as means of meeting the needs of young people at risk of exclusion
- Systems have been established within STYJS to ensure that all young people designated as NEET or at risk of being NEET are identified and plans put in place to meet their needs

Priority 6: Restorative Practice- embedding a restorative culture across all areas of the work of the YJS.

- STYJS secured accredited status from the Restorative Justice Council as a Registered Service Provider
- Examples of good practice in Restorative Interventions with young people have been highlighted and shared with partners
- Reparation activities have been extended including developing more community focused programmes and working with charitable organisations

Priority 7: To ensure full accountability for YJS partners in their commitment to supporting the work of the YJS.

- The Management Board Constitution has been further reviewed to ensure that it meets Child First principles
- Attendance at the Management Board has been monitored and absent partners challenged around their attendance
- A Board Open Day was held in September 2022 to promote the work of the service
- Thematic presentations have been made to the Management Board to promote and highlight good practice in the YJS and with partners

## PERFORMANCE AND PRIORITIES

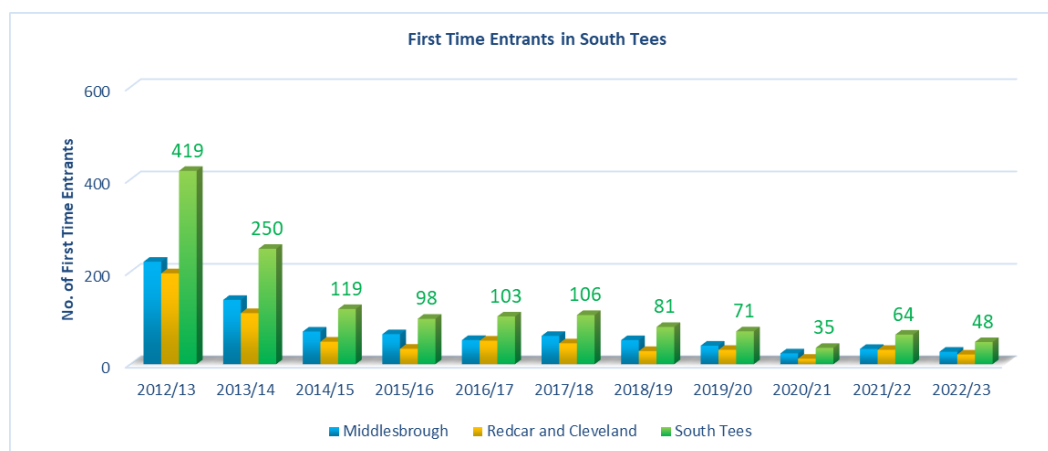
### National Outcome Measures

#### First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System:

During 2022-2023 there were only 48 First Time Entrants (FTEs) into the Youth Justice system. This represents a reduction of 16 FTES from 64 the previous year, this included 27 from Middlesbrough and 21 from Redcar and Cleveland.

This figure represents a relatively low number of FTEs and the YJS continues to benefit from the enhanced OOC model currently being delivered in partnership with Cleveland Police and the introduction of Turnaround. Turnaround has offered STYJS to opportunity to extend the use of Outcome 22 as an additional OOC option for young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system. The opportunity to engage an additional 84 young people into the Turnaround programme

will offer further options to divert young people from the criminal justice system, offer additional support to prevent further offending and play a role in maintaining the numbers of FTEs at a relatively low level.

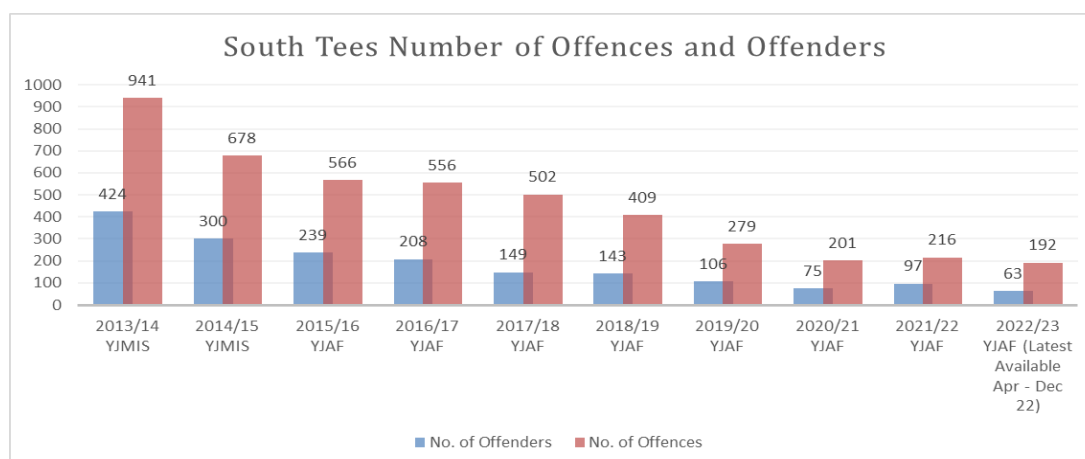


## Re-offending:

Re-offending information based on the January to March 2021 cohort shows that the re-offending cohort for 2022-2023 consists of 34 and this is an increase of 7 young people based on the cohort for 2021-2022. Broken down further to local authority area this cohort consists of 21 young people from Middlesbrough and 13 from Redcar and Cleveland. The increase in the cohort represents the second year in a row that this group has increased and after a number of years falling numbers in this cohort represents the start of a concerning trend.

Based on the available data on this cohort (to 31/12/22) a total of 9 young people re-offended or 26.5% of the cohort. This figure compares to a level of re-offending of 27.9% during the same period in 2020-21, where there were 27 young people in the cohort and 8 re-offended. This figure breaks down further to 6 young people from Middlesbrough and 3 from Redcar and Cleveland. The total number of offences committed by this group was 74, with 20 committed by the Middlesbrough group and 54 by the Redcar group.

In addition to tracking the Jan-Mar cohort, 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.

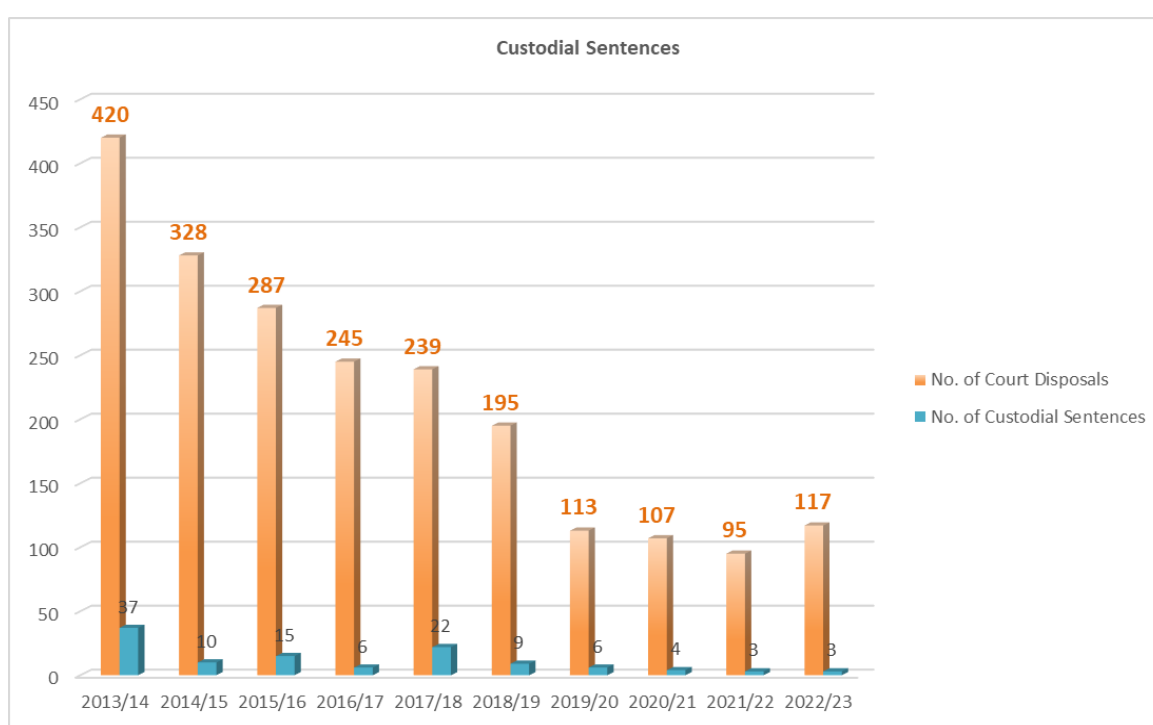


## Use of custody - Custodial Sentences

There were only 3 custodial outcomes out of a total of 117 court outcomes in 2022-2023. This represents a static figure to the previous year's total of 3 custodial outcomes but maintains the relatively low numbers of young people entering custody as a result of their offending behaviour. All 3 young people were from the Middlesbrough area. The figures for 2021-2022 are over 85% lower than the figure for 2017-2018 when there were 22 young people who received custodial outcomes.

The overall custody rate for STYJS in 2022-2023 was 2.56% (3 out of 117 court outcomes) and well below the indicative target of 5%.

All custodial outcomes continue to be subject to scrutiny by STYJS Management Team to ensure that these are appropriate and in line with the offending by the young person. All custodial outcomes are reviewed by STYJS management team on a monthly basis and information from our reviews of custodial outcomes indicates 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 7 remand episodes for 7 young people in 2022-2023 accounting for 392 remand bed nights. This is an increase from the total young number people remanded in 2021-2022, but a slight reduction in the number of remand bed nights. During 2022-2023, 1 young person was responsible for 231 remand bed nights during a remand episode for the charge of murder. Overall, the number of remand episodes reflect the serious nature of the offences committed by young people with 1 young person subject to a charge of murder, 3 young people charged with Section 18 wounding, 1 young person charged with robbery and section 18 wounding and 1 young person charged with robbery.

Young people were made subject to a custodial remand because bail was refused in 4 cases due to the nature of the risks to the public and the seriousness of the offences, in 2 cases no bail was offered due to the seriousness of the offences and the difficulties managing the young person in the community and in 1 other case the young person breached an ISS Bail package.



Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation continue to be a significant financial challenge for STYJS with total remands costs of £120,651 for 2022-2023, which is significantly higher than the remand budget provided by the YJB and our partners. Analysis of the total number of bed nights shows that all young people subject to remand to youth detention accommodation were aged either 16 or 17 years.

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.

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.

### **Detention in Police Custody**

With partners from the other Cleveland YJS, local authority children's services, partners working in Police custody and the Police, STYJS takes the lead for a Cleveland area wide PACE steering group which monitors the experience of young people in Police custody under PACE. The group meets quarterly with a strong involvement from most key partners.

The purpose of this PACE steering group is to scrutinise Police data alongside data provided by the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) in order to formally review and challenge outcomes of PACE transfers. This group offers the opportunity for professional challenge and multi-agency learning when PACE transfers have been unsuccessful. This scrutiny activity should offer all stakeholders the assurance that all children and young people have been held in Police custody appropriately, and the PACE protocol has been adhered to. The PACE protocol is designed to ensure the processes for considering such requests from the Police are clear. It is primarily targeted at Duty Social Workers for both during the day and out of hours, and for Police Custody Staff. Youth Justice Service staff acting in the Appropriate Adult role are also aware of the protocol.

This group reports on a quarterly basis to the YJS Management Board which provides scrutiny and a performance reporting framework for reporting into other strategic forums.

One of the challenges for this group is the availability of PACE beds for young people who are to be held in custody overnight. Currently there are only 2 PACE beds available to meet the needs of young people across the Tees Valley area.

STYJS provides an Appropriate Adult service to support young people in custody with the Police Juvenile Custody area in Middlesbrough. 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 provided out of office hours by the Emergency Duty Team.

In addition to the above in partnership with the OPCC and other Cleveland YJS a Custody Navigator project is being introduced during the summer of 2023 to provide support to young people during 'reachable and teachable' moments in Police custody.

### **New Key Performance Indicators**

In addition to reporting on the above performance indicators STYJS will from April 2023 be required to report on an additional key performance indicators. These new key performance indicators were designed by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in consultation with the YJB, front line services, inspectorates and other government departments. The indicators are:

KPI 1 – Accommodation: The percentage of children in the community and being released from custody with suitable accommodation arrangements

KPI 2 - Education, training and employment (ETE): The percentage of children in the community and being released from custody attending a suitable ETE arrangement

KPI 3 - Special educational needs or disability (SEND)/Additional Learning Needs (ALN): The percentage of children who have an identified SEND need (or ALN in Wales), are in suitable ETE and have a formal learning plan in place for the current academic year

KPI 4 - Mental healthcare and emotional wellbeing: The percentage of children in the community and being released from custody with a screened, or, identified need for an intervention to improve mental health or emotional wellbeing; and of that the percentage of planned/offered interventions; of that percentage of children attending interventions

KPI 5 - Substance misuse: The percentage of children with a screened or identified need for specialist treatment intervention to address substance misuse; and of that the percentage of children with planned or offered intervention/treatment; and of that the percentage number of children attending intervention/treatment

KPI 6 – Out-of-court disposals: The percentage of out-of-court disposal interventions that are completed/not completed

KPI 7 - Management Board attendance: Monitoring senior partner representation at management boards, and monitoring if partners contribute data from their individual services that identify areas of racial and ethnic disproportionality.

KPI 8 - Wider services: The percentage children who are currently on either an Early Help (EH) plan; on a child protection (CP) plan or classified as Child in need (CiN) or have looked-after status. For Wales only, children who are classified as Children in Need of Care and Support

KPI 9 - Serious violence: The rates of children convicted for a serious violent offence on the YJS caseload.

KPI 10 - Victims The percentage of victims who consent to be contacted by the YJS, and of those, the percentage of victims who are engaged with about restorative justice opportunities, asked their view prior to out-of-court disposal decision-making and planning for statutory court orders, provided information about the progress of the child's case (when requested) and provided with information on appropriate services that support victims (when requested).

To respond to these new performance indicators STYJS has engaged with the software supplier, CACI-Childview, to ensure that the case management support will effectively support the data entry and reporting requirements to allow the YJS to report performance. Also, YJS staff are to be trained on the new recording requirements to ensure data entry is correct and kept up to date. This represents a significant challenge to STYJS, but one that we believe we are well prepared for. These performance indicators will provide a greater depth and span of oversight information and intelligence about the performance of the system and local partnerships.

Underpinning these new performance indicators will be the new YJB performance management framework. In this new framework YJS's will be placed in quadrants depending on performance levels and these will determine the levels of performance and scrutiny provided to the YJS by the YJB regional teams.

## **Constructive Resettlement**

The resettlement of young people back into society following a custodial experience is a crucial factor in redirecting young people away from a criminal lifestyle and protecting the communities in which they reside. STYJS seeks to ensure that all sentence planning is robust when custodial outcomes are to be considered, with discussion taking place at the point of sentence on the most appropriate license conditions to help support the young person back into the community.

STYJS seeks to ensure that planning for resettlement starts at the earliest stages with consideration for this given during the period a young people is due to attend court when a custodial outcome is under consideration. Following assessment, a multi-agency approach is adopted to build on the current strengths identified with the young person and address any challenges which would benefit



from support during the custodial period. Consideration is given to the most appropriate model of support to be applied when the young person is to be returned to the Community. Discussions are undertaken through the ETE Specialist who will act as a broker to ensure education, training or employment needs remain a focus in the resettlement plan. Also, the ETE Specialist has developed a protocol with Wetherby YOI to support the transition of young people into education through custody and upon release. Ongoing liaison will take place with children 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.

Case managers adopt the STYJS Trauma Informed Model during their assessment process which ensures where additional needs are identified, provisions in this area can be prioritised during the custodial period of the young person's sentence and continued support arranged for the community element.

During 2022-2023 STYJS has worked with Safer Communities, a charity serving the Teesside area to develop a Transitions Programme, which includes supporting young people as they leave custody and return to the community.

One of the challenges facing STYJS regarding the resettlement of young people is the transition process for those young people who reach 18 years of age during the custody and upon release. Pressures in the adult estate has meant the STYJS is continuing to hold case responsibility for young people in custody after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday as part of Operation Safeguard. For young people in the community the absence of a seconded Probation Officer has meant that STYJS has had to develop a bridging plan with the Probation Service locally to support transition into adult services.

## **Education Training and Employment**

Following the YJS inspection in 2019, which issued a challenge to the YJS to improve the education, training and employment provision for young people, STYJS has ensured that this area has been a priority for the service. Investment has been made in an Education, Training and Employment Specialist role and additional support staff to co-ordinate support for young people.

The ETE Specialist role has re-established links with all education, training 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. 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. This allows for robust and stronger partnership working and provides one consistent message to the family.

A key part of this approach has been the Inclusion Pathway in the Middlesbrough area which is designed to improve access to education, attendance, and behaviours in schools. In Redcar and Cleveland, the ETE Specialist is also engaging in a research programme to understand the reasons young people are absent from education as a means to improve services in the area.

As part of STYJS prevention offer, the service provides group-based interventions with schools and alternative education providers. The purpose of these activities is to improve young people's understanding of the impact of such issues as Anti-Social Behaviour and Knife Crime and the consequences of such activities on communities, victims and the young people.



Following a successful community reparation scheme, delivered in partnership with a local social housing provider, STYJS are currently exploring an opportunity to develop a pathway for young people to access apprenticeship opportunities with this housing provider. This will be explored further during 2023-2024.

## **STANDARDS FOR CHILDREN IN THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM**

The most recent full audit of STYJS performance against the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System was undertaken in April 2020 and this found that the YJS was compliant against all the requirements of each standard, achieving ratings of outstanding or good against the standards. Actions arising from the last Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System audit conducted in 2020 have been included in service development plans and as detailed in this document and previous Youth Justice Plans, STYJS has been highly effective in meeting the priorities and challenges set down in such plans. The actions arising from the last audit have all been achieved and compliance against the Standards is monitored in the monthly performance clinics.

STYJS undertakes a programme of audits every year to focus on specific themes and areas of practice. During 2022-2023 these thematic audits have included assessments against practice in such areas as Restorative Practice, Education, Training and Employment and OOCs. These audits have shown that the YJS continues to perform effectively in relation to the standards and this is confirmed by the monthly performance data which shows effective performance in relation to engagement and compliance.

During 2023-2024 to judge compliance against the Standards an audit will be undertaken during the course of the year to ensure continued good performance against the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System.

## PRIORITIES FOR STYJS IN 2023-2024

Following consultation with all stakeholders the following priorities have been identified by STYJS during 2023-2024. These priorities were ratified by the YJS Management Board in January 2023.

### **1. Prevention- further embed the Turnaround Programme and develop alternative Prevention opportunities to support partners who cannot benefit from Turnaround.**

One of the challenges presented to the YJS during 2022-23 was to introduce the Turnaround Programme funded by the MOJ as the primary service for working with young people at an early intervention stage to divert them from the criminal justice system.

The YJS have successfully begun the process of introducing Turnaround and started taking referrals from January 2023 and successfully met the target set by the MOJ for 2022-23. The challenge now is to embed practice, understand what the needs of this cohort are likely to be and develop services to meet these needs.

During the initial stages of Turnaround, the majority of referrals were received through the existing OOD pathway, and the option of Outcome 22 provided an opportunity to include some of these young people into Turnaround. Processes have now been put in place to enable STYJS to secure information on all young people who come into contact with Cleveland Police including voluntary attenders. It is intended to use this information to target young people released on bail for further investigation and those young people who receive no further action and offer Turnaround support. The introduction of the Custody Navigators will also provide another means to identify young people in custody and support them to access Turnaround. In addition, we are working with the Anti-Social Behaviour Teams in each area to promote the use of Turnaround as a positive intervention for young people who come to the attention of these services.

One of the unintended consequences of the introduction of Turnaround has been the unfortunate ending of the wider prevention offer by the YJS, this was due to staffing capacity issues when Turnaround was launched. The removal of the YJS prevention offer has meant that schools, other education providers and early help services have now lost an avenue for intervention for young people who exhibit challenging behaviours or are at risk of exclusion and do not meet Turnaround Criteria. The challenge for the YJS is to re-introduce a limited prevention offer to work with those young people who require YJS intervention but don't meet the Turnaround criteria.

The introduction of the Immediate Justice Pilot in the Cleveland Police area offers STYJS further opportunities to engage with young people at an early stage and offer challenge and support through the delivery of swift and visible interventions.

### **2. Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- ensuring a co-ordinated approach with partners to support the needs of young people at risk of or subject to serious violence and/or exploitation**

Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation continues to represent the most significant challenge to the YJS in our work with young people. During 2022-23 we have experienced a significant increase in the willingness of young people to use weapons and to engage in serious types of offending. The challenge for the YJS is to ensure that services do not work in isolation to address such issues but engage with co-ordinated strategies to engage and support those young people at risk. STYJS will be seeking to engage with the Exploitation Hubs in each local authority to ensure that we can achieve joined up and co-ordinated responses to meeting the needs of young people at risk of exploitation.

The introduction of the Custody Navigator scheme funded by the CURV programme will offer opportunities to engage with young people involved in serious violence offences at a 'reachable and teachable' moment at the point they are arrested and in police custody and provide ongoing intervention and support to divert them away from offending behaviours.

During 2023-2024 we will seek to build on the successes we have achieved in this area, maintaining our attendance at case meetings and joint supervision with Children's Services. In addition, representation has been secured at a range of strategic meeting processes including VEMT, MAPPA, MARSOC and representation has also been secured on CURV, all of which provide STYJS with the opportunity to highlight issues affecting young people.

Staff training will be a key feature of our work in 2023-2024 and STYJS will be seeking to roll out a programme of SAVRY training to improve skills and knowledge relating to violence risk assessments.

**3. Preparation for Inspection- ensure that the YJS are fully prepared for the challenge of a potential HMIP Inspection during 2023-24.**

It is now 4 years since the YJS was inspected by the HMIP, receiving a very positive Good Rating across the whole service area and Excellent Ratings across all but one area of our case management practice. The challenge is now to ensure that the YJS has further developed following the 2019 inspection, taking into consideration the challenges faced by the service brought by new working arrangements introduced during the COVID pandemic issues of exploitation and how these impact on young people and the significant issues faced by our young people, families and communities brought by high levels of deprivation and the cost-of-living crisis.

Audits and quality assurance processes undertaken by the YJS show that there continues to be a high level of quality in our practice. During 2023-24 we will continue our programme of audits and will also seek to benchmark ourselves against the most recent Inspection Criteria and against the outcomes from other YJS services who have been inspected. Work will also be undertaken with STYJS staff to ensure that they are aware of the Inspection requirements and are fully prepared to respond should an inspection be called.

**4. Education- continue to engage with partners and ETE service providers to ensure the best outcomes for young people engaged with the YJS.**

Over the past 3 years STYJS has successfully introduced a new role of ETE Specialist, this role has proven to be effective in re-establishing our relationships with schools and other ETE providers, developing the inclusion pathways for young people. This is shown by the development of the inclusion pathways with schools and other support services and by attendance at the Inclusion Panels in each area, both strategies designed to address exclusion and promote young people's engagement with schools.

Further development needs to be undertaken in our work in schools and our intervention offer will be used to engage with schools, discuss such issues as behaviour and attendance to ensure that young people can be supported to fully engage in their education.

During 2023-24 we intend to embed our practice and build on our relationships with ETE providers to ensure that the YJS is in a strong position to respond to the new ETE KPI set by the YJB.

**5. Restorative Practice- to establish a restorative culture and ethos across all areas of YJS practice.**

During 2022-23 the YJS successfully secured the Registered Restorative Organisation Approval from the Restorative Justice Council to recognise the progress we have made delivering restorative practice with young people and to support victims of crime. In addition, we now have Accredited Practitioner Status for both of our Restorative Justice Practitioners.

The process for developing our submission for the Registered Restorative Organisation Approval showed that although positive steps had been made in our practice there were still challenges to be faced in establishing a truly restorative culture across all areas of the YJS.

Therefore during 2023-24 we will be continuing with our programme of training for staff in restorative practice and ensure that all policies and procedures and information we share with



young people and victims reflects our restorative culture in terms of language and presentation.

Also, we will be establishing a set of Restorative Practice standards which will be used to guide and underpin our work in this area.

#### **6. Performance- ensure that the YJS is fully prepared for the challenge presented by the new YJB performance framework**

From April 2023 the YJS has been set new challenges by the YJB in terms of a new performance framework, including new KPIs and a new performance management regime.

In order to ensure that we continue to be high performing YJS we need to understand how we can meet the requirements of the new KPIs and develop our working practices to meet these requirements.

Work will be undertaken with our software supplier CACI to ensure that the Childview system is set up correctly to support STYJS to input the required information and can extract this with the required reporting tools.

Further work will also be undertaken with YJS staff to ensure that they understand their responsibilities and are able to record appropriately to support the YJS to meet the KPIs. This work will include training and awareness sessions, robust QA of cases and checklists to support recording.



## **CHALLENGES AND RISKS**

The environment in which we work continues to be very difficult and challenging. After the COVID 19 pandemic we have been faced with a new working environment both in terms of a blended working model and the changes presented by a new base in Middlesbrough. The financial situation will continue to present a risk with the potential pressures of higher case numbers, increases in remands and the challenging nature of our young people. Risks and challenges include:

### **1. Funding for the YJS**

The funding profile for STYJS has become increasingly complex and challenging. Local Authorities nationally are facing difficulties in managing budgets and maintaining services and this has been reflected locally with Redcar and Cleveland Council proposing a reduction in the level of funding to the YJS of £69,000 in 2023-2024. This proposal is still under discussion at management board level. The risk posed by such a reduction would mean that although the YJS will continue to deliver its statutory functions other services provided by STYJS may be affected.

During 2022-2023 STYJS secured two additional funding streams through Turnaround and the Custody Navigators. STYJS welcomes this additional funding and the opportunities this

has presented to develop services; however, the funding is only guaranteed to 2025 and this will impact on long term service planning.

The current cost of living crisis presents a further financial challenge for the YJS and the people we work with. Increasing costs of goods and services and staffing costs are not fully reflected in increases in the financial support we receive, and this may impact on the range of services we can offer. In addition, the impact on the young people and families will further exacerbate the high levels of deprivation faced by our communities.

## **2. The new Key Performance Indicators**

The 10 new KPIs for YJS Partnerships are welcomed by the STYJS Partnership. This will provide a performance framework which will assist the YJS to identify direction of travel and support the identification of new priorities each year. STYJS has identified challenges which need to be overcome in order to achieve success against these new performance indicators. Access to some service provision, in particular access to mental health services, as detailed below, remains a challenge and this may impact on performance in this area. STYJS is working with our software partners CACI/Childview, to roll out the new software to assist YJS's to record and report as this planning is being developed and this may lead to delays in the capacity of the service to fully report on performance.

## **3. Access to Specialist Services: Mental Health**

During 2022 STYJS has secured a Speech and Language Therapist, this has addressed one of the risks we identified last year. However, funding for this has only been secured up to December 2024 and additional resource may be needed to continue with this arrangement.

The Trauma Informed Model continues to offer an example of good practice and can facilitate some access to wider CAMHS services locally. However, access to mental health services is becoming increasingly more challenging for the YJS. Staff experience challenges in making referrals into services where there are long waiting lists and a lack of alternative provision available to secure support for young people.

## **4. Re-offending**

Re-offending by young people will continue to present a challenge for the YJS. After many years of reductions in the January to March cohort, the young people tracked for the re-offending KPI, we are now seeing young people in this cohort increasing and this suggests the start of a trend.

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. The new tools available through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which will offer an extension to the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance requirement and extension of electronic monitoring and GPS tracking may assist in this area.

## **5. Use of Custody**

The increasing complex and challenging nature of the young people we work with will potentially lead to increases in those young people receiving custodial outcomes, including sentences and remands and this is evidenced by the increases in the number of young people subject to custodial remand in 2022-2023. As the issue of serious youth violence develops and more young people become involved in criminal exploitation, violent behaviours, use of weapons and higher volumes of offending the challenge for the YJS is to work with the Police and the Courts to provide meaningful community outcomes for the young people. The upcoming ISS pilot and the developments of electronic monitoring and GPS tracking will assist the YJS in this area.

## **6. Preventions**

The introduction of Turnaround has been a positive development for STYJS, and we successfully achieved our initial targets in 2023. Turnaround offers the opportunity to engage young people and families for a period longer than would be the case for an OOC and this offers scope to achieve positive outcomes. However, STYJS had to move the resource which previously supported our wider Preventions work to achieve the start date for Turnaround. This has meant that there is currently no provision available for those services which do not meet the Turnaround referral criteria, this has been the case with referrals from schools and other education providers. STYJS has now further invested in the staffing levels in our prevention area and Turnaround and offer additional resource to allow us to accept some limited referrals for prevention interventions from our partners.

## **7. Access to services to support young people who sexually offend**

Previously support and intervention for young people who have engaged in sexual offending or abuse was provided by the Adolescent Forensic Service offered by CAMHS. However, this service is no longer available in the Tees Valley area, this has created a gap in provision which can only be partially filled by the investment made by the YJS in training staff in the AIM3 process. The AIM3 offer is short term and can only be delivered during the period of YJS intervention. There are also potential financial barriers to accessing intervention for young people who engage in sexually harmful behaviour who are under 12 years of age.

## **8. Provision of a Seconded Probation Officer**

STYJS has been advised by the Probation Service that due to staffing capacity issues within the Probation Service they will be unable to provide a seconded Probation Officer to the YJS as is their responsibility under Section 38 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This will mean that the YJS will have to operate outside of National Standards for Youth Justice and the Youth to Adult Transition Protocol and the timely and safe transition of young people into adult provision may be affected by this. A pathway has been established through a link worker in the Probation Service for transitions cases to be received, however we are encountering delays in the process and new guidance has meant that some young people continue to be supported by STYJS beyond their 18th birthday.

## **9. Changes to STYJS Business Support Services**

During 2023-2024 we are likely to see significant changes in the YJS Business Support Service with the potential retirement or semi-retirement of two long standing members of staff and potential career change for another. The Business Support Team has been a stalwart for STYJS for a number of years with a stable team group who are highly professional and knowledgeable in their approach and highly valued by the rest of the service. Such change presents a significant challenge with the need to recruit and train new staff into very complex procedures.

## **10. Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan and Immediate Justice**

The government action plan to crack down on anti-social behaviour in our communities presents new challenges to STYJS in relation to how we address the issue of anti-social behaviour. As detailed previously in the South Tees Area there are a number of identified hot-spot areas for anti-social behaviour, some of this perpetrated by young people. The Cleveland Police area has been identified as a pilot area to design and develop Immediate Justice responses in these areas. In partnership with the OPCC and the other Cleveland YJS a model of service delivery is to be developed to support the YJS and its partners to respond quickly to the challenges posed by the behaviours of young people and to respond to the needs of victims. It is likely that this model will focus on early intervention, targeting those young people involved in anti-social behaviour at the earliest opportunity.

## EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE AND INNOVATION

STYJS has sought to continually develop and improve our practice to ensure the best possible services to the young people we work with and the communities we serve. To this end we have sought to build on the good practice we have built over many years and to look for opportunities to build and extend the services we offer. STYJS believe that we are innovative and seek to invest in activity which is proven in practice and promotes the best possible outcomes for young people. In recent years this has included:

### Prevention Intervention and Turnaround

The YJS further developed the preventions offer during 2022-2023 extending this work to include focussed group work with local youth service providers. The development of the preventions offer has allowed us to seamlessly develop the Turnaround Programme and we successfully delivered the targets set by the MOJ.

The group work offer to schools and our work with local youth groups has enabled us to reach out and engage with young people not involved in the criminal justice system. This work has offered STYJS the opportunity to deliver messages to young people highlighting the risks of knife crime and exploitation, issues around the impact of anti-social behaviour and the impact this can have on the young person, communities and victims. These messages have been well received and our work has been acknowledged by local communities who have recognised the impact this has had on the behaviours of young people in their areas.

### Interventions in Education Settings

As part of the Preventions offer STYJS has developed a programme of work in education settings, schools PRU's and other alternative education providers to engage young people who are exhibiting concerning and challenging behaviours which put them at risk of exclusions. This activity delivered by our Support Workers alongside education staff has focussed on issues impacting on the school community and the young person and has included such themes as knife/weapon-based crime, exploitation, violent crime and anti-social behaviour.

The impact of such work has been acknowledged by our colleagues in education and the young person and has had a positive impact on the behaviours of the young people involved. Young people have commented on how the sessions have made them think about their behaviours and the impact these can have on themselves and others.

### Headstart Tuff Tees and Rubies

The Headstart Tuff Tees and Rubies programmes were developed to meet an identified need to deliver gender focussed work with young people. Designed as groups to work specifically with boys and young men (Tuff Tees) and girls and young women (Rubies) these programmes aimed to provide young people a safe space to engage socially, access services and discuss issues which were important to them.

Both projects have proven to be immensely successful and well received by young people and the other agencies we have worked with. Part of this success has also included extending these interventions to siblings of young people open to STYJS and this helps to divert young people away from anti-social and offending behaviours. The intention is to build on such activity and further develop these groups further, with the intention to promote the young person's voice and offer young people greater input into the future direction of such work.

### Registered Restorative Organisation and Restorative Practice

During 2022 STYJS secured the Restorative Justice Council secured the Restorative Justice Council Registered Restorative Organisation status and this recognised the progress we have made in developing the service as a truly restorative organisation. STYJS met all of the required criteria and the Restorative Justice Council highlighted the following areas of strength in our practice:



- Managers and staff are committed to building a restorative community within the organisation
- The organisation can clearly identify appropriate opportunities for restorative processes to be used safely and inclusively
- Staff have a great understanding of how to prepare and empower participants for the process
- Staff consistently evidenced their skill and experience when delivering direct, indirect and informal processes
- Organisation is committed to facilitating and monitoring outcomes and gathering feedback and using it to develop the service delivery
- Organisation is committed to evaluating restorative processes to enable service to reflect and grow



STYJS has been successful in delivering a number of positive restorative based interventions with young people, victims and communities and these have contributed to providing those affected with a greater understanding of why young people have engaged in such behaviour and challenged the young person to understand and acknowledge the impact of their behaviours.

One such restorative intervention involved a high-profile local case which had received national media attention due to the seriousness of the behaviour by young children. This incident included challenging behaviours towards a local supermarket and its staff by a group of young people aged 8-12 years of age:

*We had a lovely restorative meeting at Morrisons last week with one of the young people in the scooter incident. It was the 11-year-old who had ridden his scooter into the glass doors. He met with the Duty Manager, who was the lady on duty on the evening of the well-publicised incident, in fact she was shown on the video/stills holding the door to prevent the young people from entering the store. One of the points she made in the meeting was that she was identified by family members etc. who have questioned why she continues to work there.*

*The young person's dad brought him to the meeting, and both were respectful and listened patiently to what the Manager had to say before apologising. She addressed him in an age-appropriate way but made it clear his behaviour was unacceptable, but she appreciated him facing up to what he had done and being brave enough to attend. The young person has also expressed a wish to apologise in person to the security guard which I will arrange asap.*

*The young person (891625) also attended the JAC/pre-court and Tuff Tees in the same week as the RJ meeting as it was half term so possible to strike while the iron was hot, especially as he was also grounded! He is Cath's case and has been referred to MFC and working with Early Help.*

### **Trauma Informed Pathway**

The Trauma informed pathway, delivered in partnership with the other Cleveland YJS and TEWV is continues to prove itself to be an excellent model of collaborative working which has had a visible impact on staff confidence in their work with young people who have experienced trauma. The project continues to have a positive impact for staff and young people.

During 2022-2023 we have enhanced the project further with a programme of Continued Professional Development which has included reflective practice sessions, themed based training sessions, group supervisions and clinical supervision. This programme has allowed staff opportunities to reflect back

on their work and decision making and have further enhanced the responses we can make with young people.

### **Custody Navigators**

As detailed previously in this plan STYJS has been provided with a unique opportunity to develop a project to introduce Custody Navigators into the Police Custody Area. This project is funded by the CURV and is initially to be delivered as a pilot scheme for 2 years. The Custody Navigator role will offer the opportunity for 'reachable and teachable' moments to engage with young people involved in serious violent offending and identify those who are ready to make changes in their lives. The role of the Navigator will be to engage and support people at the point of arrest to build relationships to make positive changes. Navigators will provide ongoing contact and support and provide gateways into services to meet needs and assist individuals to realise and work towards achieving their goals and aspirations.

Custody Navigators will look to understand how children and young people have become involved in the criminal justice system and provide help and support. The support will continue once they leave custody to help them avoid further offending. Navigators will not offer an alternative to criminal justice proceedings but will offer individuals opportunities to make positive changes in their lives.

The overall aim of the Custody Navigator will be to intervene at a time when an individual may be contemplating change and divert them away from violent crime. Following an initial discussion in custody the Navigator will meet with the individual in the community. The Navigators will work in partnership with other Cleveland PCC/CURV programmes and initiatives with the overall aim to reduce offending rates and levels of violence.

### **Youth Justice Inclusion Pathway**

During 2022 as part of the YJS strategic priority to respond to the needs of young people at risk of school exclusion, STYJS in partnership with schools and education support services introduced the inclusion pathway.

The STYJS Inclusion Pathway creates a mechanism which enables Case Managers to access support for young people who are at risk of disengagement from education. The pathway has been designed to promote engagement in the education system, improve attendance, prevent exclusions (fixed-term and permanent), improve attainment and deliver well-targeted educational support. Training has been delivered for Case Managers, which included information on the importance of the STYJS Inclusion Pathway and the reason for its development. Young people at risk of exclusion as discussed on a monthly basis and a plan is put in place to promote and support their re-integration into schools. The introduction of the STYJS Inclusion Pathway demonstrates effective practice in respect of partnership arrangements with schools, colleges and training providers to actively support the delivery of education.

The STYJS Inclusion Pathway was endorsed by the Middlesbrough Council scrutiny panel as a means of raising the needs of young people at risk of exclusion and this was implemented in mid-December 2022. Since its introduction, 50 referrals have been received. This cohort is made up of 41 males and 9 females aged 12-16 years. One of the successes of this programme has been to improve the average attendance of young people going through the Inclusion Pathway from 44% to 54% and 81% of young people have improved their attendance in school.

### **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 the YJS service including Turnaround. The role of the SALT has been and will continue to be:

- Direct speech and language therapy intervention with young people
- The development of an extended screen of speech, language and communication skills and needs which is to be used in conjunction with the AssetPlus screen already in use by case managers.

- Further assessment of children's speech, language and communication needs including the development of personalised plans and recommendations which will influence their experiences within the justice system (Court or Police) and with youth justice interventions.
- Indirect speech and language therapy intervention
- The review of written information and correspondence used with children and families. This promotes access to information and is achieved through the modification and simplification of letters and interventions. This includes the changing of wording, vocabulary and the addition of visual supports.
- Consultations with those around the child on ways to communicate effectively with them, how to modify any verbally delivered interventions, support positive behaviours and promote engagement.
- Staff training within the YJS team raising awareness of SLCN and strategies to support children who have SLCN.

#### Plans for 2023 -2024

In addition to the above the Speech and Language Therapist plans to:

- Work closely with our inclusion and education specialists in the YJS team considering preventions for children at risk of school exclusions. Thereby potential reducing risks of future involvement with the justice system.
- Extend training offer to include:
  - Volunteers within the Restorative Justice panels
  - Magistrates
  - Custody Navigators
- Work alongside Assistant Operations Managers and wider YJS staff to update and develop interventions which meet the changing needs of the YJS.

Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) are often described as an 'invisible' or 'hidden' disability. Assumptions are often made that children and young people can understand what has been said, interpreted the intention of the speaker and that they can verbally communicate competently. As a result, the significance of considering the impact of communication needs is often overlooked.

#### Notification of Serious Incidents

STYJS reports all serious incidents involving young people to the YJB to ensure that these cases can be reviewed and support practice improvements. Serious incidents are reported to the YJS Management Board who also monitor any practice learning and development which arises from such cases.

## LOOKING FORWARD

There are a number of factors we need to consider as we move forward into 2023-2024. The introduction and embedding of new projects such as Turnaround and the Custody Navigators, the introduction of the Immediate Justice Pilot and the ISS Pilot are all factors we have to look forward to in 2023-2024 as we strive to maintain high levels of effective and innovative practice.

- The introduction of the Custody Navigators offers STYJS and our partners in the other Cleveland YJS the opportunity to develop a new way of working, supporting young people through the youth custody process. This project is a key theme in the CURV programme and will be subject to regular monitoring and scrutiny.
- Turnaround is now established as the primary model of prevention and diversion in STYJS. The model will be subject to further development during 2023-2024 as we work to understand the changes in the anti-social behaviour pathway and establish links with the Navigators and immediate justice pilot.
- The Cleveland Police Area has been identified as a pilot area for the Immediate Justice element of the Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan. In partnership with the OPCC the Cleveland YJS's have been identified to deliver the young people element of this. A model of working is currently being developed and this will be rolled out in autumn 2023

- The north east area has been identified as a pilot area for the introduction of new models of delivery for the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance element of the YRO and licences. The changes to ISS offer STYJS the opportunity to deliver individual programmes of intervention designed to challenge and safeguard young people. It is hoped that this pilot will increase the use of ISS as an alternative to custodial remands
- The new key performance indicators for youth justice introduced in April 2023 provide an opportunity for STYJS to further develop our performance management framework and identify future areas for service development. STYJS is currently working with our software supplier, Childview, to ensure that the case management system is up to specification to meet the recording and reporting criteria.
- Youth custody suite redecoration and arts project. This is in development, but the aim is to improve the environment for young people who find themselves in custody. There will also be a dedicated separate space for young people to engage with the custody navigators
- The Exploitation Hub development in Middlesbrough. Aimed at vulnerable adolescents the purpose of the hub is to have a collective multi-agency robust response to children at risk of and/or being exploited. It will provide intensive working, and a swift response in a timely way to safeguard and support young people and their families. We will be linked to this hub and will provide a SPOC as the link. However, exploitation is also high on the agenda in Redcar who are also looking to develop a model of working with young people at risk or involved in exploitation. Both LA's have put in a bid to the YEF 'supportive home' fund.
- Further investment will be made to support staff development and progression opportunities with opportunities for staff to undertake a Management Trainee/Apprenticeship and we will continue to invest in our Support Workers to support their progression.
- Following the review of AssetPlus a programme of work has begun to embed new working practices for assessment, including how we support how practitioners think, the language they use and their approaches to young people and their families.

## **SIGN OFF AND APPROVAL OF THE YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rob Brown', written on a light-colored background.

Rob Brown  
Director of Education and Partnerships- Middlesbrough  
Chare of the South Tees Youth Justice Service Management Board

## APPENDIX 1: STYJS Executive Management Board Membership

Name	Organisation
Director of Education & Partnerships	Middlesbrough Council (Chair of the Board)
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
Commissioning Officer	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
Head of Area (South Tees)	Probation Service
Head of Education and Alternative Provision	Middlesbrough Council

Meeting attendance	06.04.22	06.07.22	05.10.22	10.01.23
Prevention & Partnerships MBC	✓	✓	✓	✓
STYJS (Head of Service)	✓	✓	✓	✓
YJB	Apols	✓	✓	✓
R & C Children's Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
NPS	Apols		✓	✓
Police	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commissioning - CCG	✓	✓	✓	Apols
Legal - Courts	Apols			
Health Improvement M'bro/R&C	✓	✓	✓	✓
Councillor MBC	Apols	✓		Apols
Councillor RC	✓	✓	✓	✓
PCC	Apols	✓	✓	✓
Education MBC	✓	Apols	✓	✓
Partnership Manager	✓	Apols	✓	

## APPENDIX 2– STYJS Statutory Functions

### Statutory functions include:

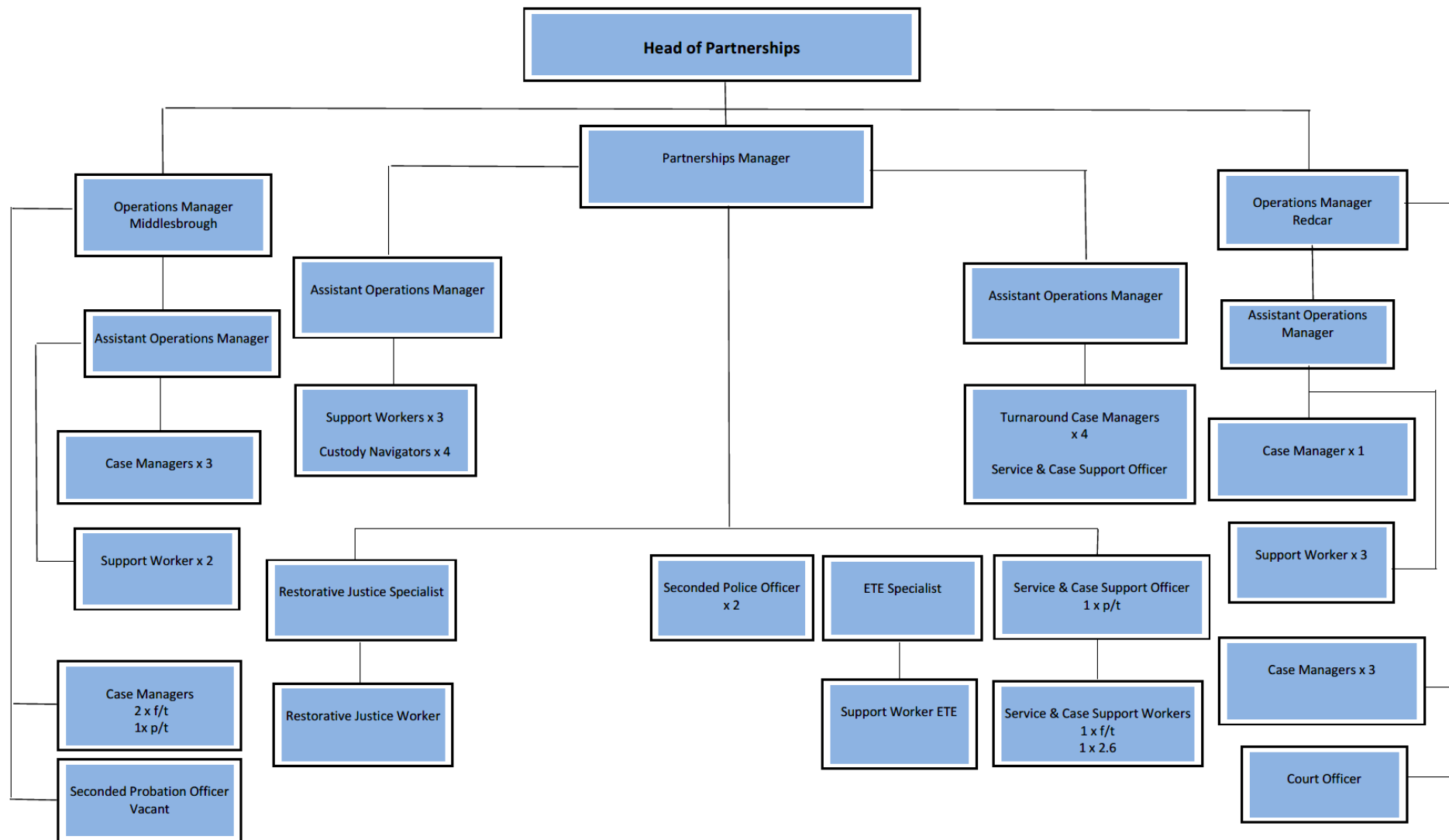
- Statutory Responsibility for Court Orders (Community and Custody) as they relate to young people, including all Requirements and Licences
- Compliance with National Standards for Youth Justice 2013 (accountable to Ministers)
- Enforcement of Court Orders and Licences
- Provision of Out of Court Disposals (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 3 – STRUCTURE CHART

## STYJS STRUCTURE May 2023





## APPENDIX 4 South Tees Youth Offending Service: Service Development Plan

### South Tees Youth Justice Service: Service Development Plan 2023-2024

Priority 1: Prevention- to further embed the Turnaround Programme and develop alternative Prevention opportunities to support partners who cannot benefit from Turnaround.			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
Develop a programme of themed based interventions to deliver in education settings to support those young people at risk of exclusion	Assistant Operations Manager	September 2023	
Establish a programme of interventions to support the needs and interests of girls and young women in the Youth Justice Service	Assistant Operations Manager	September 2023	
Further develop the pathways with housing providers and Anti-Social Behaviour Teams to support access to Turnaround for young people involved in anti-social behaviour	Partnerships Manager/ Assistant Operations Manager	December 2023	
Develop a pathway with the Custody Navigators project to identify those young people entering the Police Custody area who would benefit from Turnaround	Partnerships Manager/ Assistant Operations Manager	September 2023	
Develop a working model to support the delivery of the Immediate Justice scheme in the Middlesbrough and Redcar areas	Head of Service/Partnerships Manager	September 2023	
Work with Cleveland Police/PCC to ensure that the information they provide supports referrals to Turnaround and Immediate Justice	Partnerships Manager	September 2023	
Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- to ensure a co-ordinated approach with partners to support the needs of young people at risk of or subject to serious violence and/or exploitation			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
Ensure STYJS representation and participation in strategic and operational multi-agency risk forums where young people at risk or involved in exploitation are being discussed or managed.	Head of Service	Ongoing Action	
Include Exploitation Training and awareness is included in all future induction programmes for new staff joining the YJS	Head of Service	December 2023	
Deliver a programme of SAVRY training with all YJS staff involved in preparing assessments and writing reports	Head of Service	December 2023	
Introduce the Custody Navigator project as a support for young people in Police Custody	Partnerships Manager	September 2023	

Ensure STYJS representation and involvement in the CURV governance framework to ensure the issues affecting young people are identified as a priority for CURV	Head of Service	Ongoing Action	
Ensure STYJS involvement and support to the Middlesbrough exploitation hub	Head of Service	Ongoing Action	
Identify proven in practice/evidence-based interventions to support work with young people at risk of serious violence and exploitation	All Managers	Ongoing Action	
<b>Priority 3: Preparation for Inspection – to ensure that the YJS are fully prepared for the challenge of a potential HMIP Inspection during 2023-24</b>			
<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Who will do it</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating</b>
Undertake a benchmarking exercise against the current Inspection Standards to identify the base line for STYJS	Partnerships Manager	October 2023	
Undertake a full case file audit of STYJS cases using the Inspection CARAG tool	All Managers	September 2023	
Develop a programme of case file audits which also reflects thematic inspections to establish the position of STYJS in relation to themes in criminal justice	All Managers	August 2023	
Work in partnership with the software supplier CACI to ensure that the YJS case management system supports all key performance reporting and inspection requirements	Operations Manager- Middlesbrough/ Service and Case Support Officer	August 2023	
Benchmark STYJS against Youth Justice Inspection Reports and Thematic Inspection Reports to ensure STYJS preparedness for Inspection	Partnerships Manager	Ongoing Action	
<b>Priority 4: Education- continue to engage with partners and ETE service providers to ensure the best outcomes for young people engaged with the YJS.</b>			
<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Who will do it</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating</b>
YJS ETE Specialist and support staff to undertake checks on digital systems to identify those young people who require additional support	ETE Specialist	Ongoing Activity	
YJS ETE Specialist to maintain and enhance links to Education Support Services across both local authority areas	ETE Specialist	Ongoing Activity	
YJS education staff to ensure that all young people with an identified ETE need have an Education Plan to support access to school and other education providers	ETE Specialist	Ongoing Activity	

Identify opportunities to work in partnership with education providers to develop restorative responses to challenging behaviours by young people	Restorative Justice Specialist/ETE Specialist	Ongoing	
YJS ETE Specialist to arrange meetings with PCSO and Police Neighbourhood teams working in Schools to support collaboration of working with a contextual safeguarding/risk outside the home approach.	ETE Specialist	Ongoing Activity	
YJS ETE Specialist to build a directory of year leaders and senior leadership teams in schools for STYJS to have direct contact to share and gather information.	ETE Specialist	Ongoing Activity	
<b>Priority 5: Priority 5: Restorative Practice- to establish a restorative culture and ethos across all areas of YJS practice.</b>			
<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Who will do it</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating</b>
Deliver Restorative Practice Training to all STYJS staff	Restorative Justice Specialist	December 2023	
Identify opportunities to develop restorative responses to support families and reduce conflict in the home, repairing relationships	Restorative Justice Specialist	Ongoing	
Identify opportunities to work in partnership with education providers to develop restorative responses to challenging behaviours by young people	Restorative Justice Specialist/ETE Specialist	Ongoing	
Undertake a review of the management culture in STYJS to ensure that this embraces Restorative principles across all managerial activity, including supervision, quality management and challenge to staff	Restorative Justice Specialist/Partnership Manager	December 2023	
Ensure that STYJS follows the requirements of the victim's code of practice	Restorative Justice Specialist	Ongoing Action	
Develop a set of Restorative Practice Standards to inform service delivery in STYJS	Restorative Justice Specialist	December 2023	
<b>Priority 6: Performance- to ensure that the YJS is fully prepared for the challenge presented by the new YJB performance framework.</b>			
<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Who will do it</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating</b>
In partnership with the software supplier ensure the successful upgrade of the STYJS case management system to equip the service with the framework to record and report performance	Assistant/Operations Manager/Service and Case Support Officer	July 2023	
Deliver a programme of training to staff to ensure that they are equipped with the knowledge to record appropriately in the case management system	Operations Manager/Assistant Operations Manager	July 2023	

Create a checklist of performance recording to support staff to understand their responsibilities in this area	Operations Manager/Assistant Operations Manager	July 2023	
Further develop the YJS Quality Assurance framework to ensure that all required information is recorded in the Case Management System	Operations Manager/Assistant Operations Manager	July 2023	
Undertake Monthly health checks on the case management system to ensure information is recorded appropriately in the system	Operations Manager/Assistant Operations Manager	Ongoing action	

## APPENDIX 5: Common Youth Justice Terms

<b>ACE</b>	Adverse Childhood Experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long-lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
<b>AIM 2 and 3</b>	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
<b>ASB</b>	Anti-social behaviour
<b>AssetPlus</b>	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and adolescent mental health services
<b>CCE</b>	Child Criminal Exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
<b>Children</b>	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.
<b>Child First</b>	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
<b>Child looked-after</b>	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
<b>CME</b>	Child Missing Education
<b>Constructive resettlement</b>	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
<b>Contextual safeguarding</b>	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
<b>Community resolution</b>	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
<b>CURV</b>	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.
<b>Custody Navigator</b>	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
<b>EHCP</b>	Education and Health Care Plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
<b>ETE</b>	Education, Training or Employment
<b>EHE</b>	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
<b>EOTAS</b>	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
<b>FTE</b>	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal
<b>HMIP</b>	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
<b>HSB</b>	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
<b>Immediate Justice</b>	Part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, to engage young people involved in anti-social behaviour and crime with swift and visible interventions to challenge behaviours and reduce harm
<b>ISS</b>	Intensive Supervision and Surveillance-a high intensity programme used as part of the Youth Rehabilitation Order as an alternative to custody
<b>JAC</b>	Junior Attendance Centre
<b>MAPPA</b>	Multi agency public protection arrangements
<b>MFH</b>	Missing from Home
<b>NRM</b>	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

<b>OOCD</b>	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
<b>Outcome 22/21</b>	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
<b>Over-represented children</b>	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
<b>RHI</b>	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
<b>SLCN</b>	Speech, Language and Communication needs
<b>STC</b>	Secure Training Centre
<b>SCH</b>	Secure Children's Home
<b>Turnaround</b>	This is an early intervention, diversion and prevention programme designed to divert young people away from involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour
<b>VEMT</b>	Relates to young people who may be Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing or Trafficked
<b>Young adult</b>	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.
<b>YJS</b>	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
<b>Youth Justice KPIS</b>	This refers to the key performance indicators for Youth Justice with an additional 10 introduced from April 2023
<b>YOI</b>	Young Offender Institution

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**COUNCIL MEETING – 25 OCTOBER 2023  
NOTICE OF MOTION**

**COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 4.28 – 4.34**

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
162	Councillor Hurst	Councillor Smiles	<p><b>CREDIT THEIR SERVICE MOTION</b></p> <p>This motion seeks to amend locally administered means tested benefits regarding veterans by Middlesbrough Council where applications are made in respect of Discretionary Housing Payments and/or the Disabled Facilities Grant.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that Middlesbrough Council does disregard Military Compensation and Supplementary Payments for some benefits.</p> <p>This motion seeks to ensure that no member of the Armed Forces Community within Middlesbrough should have their military compensation taken into account to access the same welfare support as their civilian counterparts.</p> <p>To ask the relevant executive member to amend relevant local policies to reflect this position and ensure that all payments made under military compensation schemes are disregarded.</p> <p>Following discussions with the Head of Resident and Business Support, the financial implications of the proposal set out in this motion have very little financial impact to the Council.</p> <p>This motion seeks to bring MBC in line with the “Credit Their Service” campaign by the RBL</p>

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<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal and Governance Services
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
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<b>Date:</b>	25 October 2023
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<b>Title:</b>	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report
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<b>Report for:</b>	Information
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<b>Status:</b>	Public
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<b>Strategic priority:</b>	All
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<b>Key decision:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Urgent:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Executive summary</b>
<p>This report sets out the key activities and progress since Phase Three of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan was presented to Council on 18 September 2023, alongside presentation of 5 change controls to be noted by full Council.</p> <p>The report also provides an update on activity in response to the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors which were accepted at a meeting of full Council on 18 September 2023.</p>

**Purpose**

- 1. This report sets out the key activities and progress since Phase Three of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan was presented to Council on 18 September 2023, alongside presentation of 5 minor change controls to be noted by full Council.
- 2. The report also provides an update on activity in response to the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council’s External Auditors which were accepted at a meeting of full Council on 18 September 2023.

**Background and relevant information**

- 3. On 18 September 2023, Council received a report that set out the activities of Phase Three of the Council’s Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, alongside the governance arrangements to oversee delivery of this plan.
- 4. The activities in the improvement plan comprise ten workstreams, each with a milestone delivery plan which is monitored and reported monthly to the Leadership Team, the Independent Improvement Advisory Board and at each full Council.

**Corporate Governance Improvement Plan: progress status**

- 5. For the current reporting period, all workstreams are on target in terms of activity, as per timescales set out in the corporate Governance Improvement Plan, however this is a measure of activity only.

**Measures of success**

- 6. The Council, in identifying the data sources to measure success, has set a baseline against which it will judge future performance. Future reporting will set out movement against those measures and the full list of success measures and current performance is appended to this report.

**Key activities**

- 7. The following activities within the improvement plan have been delivered since the full Council 18 September 2023 report, in-line with planned timescales:

Theme	Workstream	Completed activities in this reporting period
Cultural Transformation	Development / implementation of a Member Development Strategy and Programme	A draft Member Development Strategy has been produced which members will be consulted on during October 2023.
Financial Recovery and Resilience	Improvements to financial governance, spending controls and monitoring through more effective financial management, across the organisation	Approval of revised Financial Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules which were agreed by Council on 18 September 2023 as part of the report on a new Constitution for the Council.
		Review of all existing purchasing cards completed. Process in place for reducing the number of cards across the business and mandatory training developed for cardholders identified moving forward. Training for the initial cohort will be complete by November 2023 and then there will be a rolling programme of training aligned with the assignment of cards going forward.

Changes to delivery dates

8. Detailed delivery milestone plans have been developed to underpin the workstream activities within the improvement plan.
9. For this reporting period, 5 minor change controls are presented below to workstream activities for full Council to note. They reflect adjustments in prioritisation and chronology of activities and do not affect the overarching delivery timescales.

Theme	Key tasks / milestones	Original target date	Revised target date
Cultural Transformation	Develop a protocol which articulates an approach, to ensure improved continuity when recruiting to and retaining key statutory posts whilst adhering to key governance processes	31/11/2023	31/03/2024
Financial Recovery and Resilience	Balance sheet review	30/09/2024	31/12/2023
	Establish Directorate management overview arrangements to ensure future compliance rules on Purchase Cards	31/10/2023	31/11/2023
	Adopt and implement sensitivity analysis and scenario planning to inform required contingency and reserves, as part of budget development process	30/09/2024	28/02/2024
	Development of set of budget management tools for use by Chief Officers, Heads of Service and Budget Managers	31/03/2024	30/11/2023

Independent Improvement Advisory Board

10. The Board met formally for the first time on 2 October 2023. The key focus of that meeting was to review the history of the Council’s Corporate Governance Improvement journey. Key action points from that meeting have been recorded and key messages from that meeting were shared by the Chief Executive in his video to all Staff and Members.

Section24: progress status

11. Progress against the Section24 action plan agreed by full Council on 18 September 2023 will be reported to every meeting of Audit Committee. The first report was

submitted to that committee on 5 October 2023 and set out the oversight arrangements and reported on two completed actions in-line with their target dates:

Rec #	Milestone action	Supporting information
4	S4.04: Review and relaunch of use of Purchasing Cards, for essential users only and subject to mandatory training	Review of all existing purchasing cards completed. Process in place for reducing the number of cards across the business and mandatory training developed for cardholders identified moving forward. Training for the initial cohort will be complete by November 2023 and then there will be a rolling programme of training aligned with the assignment of cards going forward.
9	S9.02: Identify any remaining pre-2021 'open' exemptions	Completed. Some exemptions were identified as a result of this exercise, a full analysis of this will be reported to this Committee in December within the annual assurance report on Procurement activity.

**What decision(s) are being recommended?**

12. That Council notes the progress made and the adjustments to the delivery plan dates set out at paragraph 7.

**Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

13. The Council must respond effectively and at pace to the deliver the improvements set out in both the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and the Section 24 report if it is to effectively address the concerns around its culture, governance and financial challenges.
14. Member oversight will be a key step in both delivery of these actions and provision of assurance that they are having the intended impacts they were designed to do to address the governance weaknesses identified by the Council’s External Auditors.

**Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended**

15. Not applicable.

**Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

**Legal**

16. There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report, however delivery of this plan provides evidence of compliance with a number of recommendations that have been made by the Council’s External Auditors under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

**Strategic priorities and risks**

17. If the Council fails to respond effectively to the improvement plan, this will have a negative impact on the following strategic risks:
- Failure to meet a balanced budget.
  - Risk of an unlawful decision by the Council.
  - Corporate governance is not fit for purpose.

## ***Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection***

18. Not applicable.

## ***Financial***

19. Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

## **Appendices**

Appendix no.	Appendix title
1	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan: measures of success

## **Background papers**

Reporting body	Report title	Date
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Lessons Learnt: Best Value Inspection of Liverpool City Council	5 Aug 2021
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Boho X: Draft findings from internal audit and proposed management response	6 Apr 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Audit Results Report 2020/21	22 Jul 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Statement of Accounts 2020/21	22 Jul 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Lessons learned: Best Value and external assurance within other councils.	22 Jul 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Commencing a corporate governance improvement journey	22 Jul 2022
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Journey: CIPFA findings and next steps	19 Oct 2022
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and progress update	30 Nov 2022
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	External Audit: Value for Money Governance Update	5 Dec 2022
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and progress update	18 Jan 2023
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Statement of Accounts 2020/2021	28 Apr 2023
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Auditor's Annual Report – Year Ended 31 March 2021	29 Jun 2023
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Next Steps	5 Jul 2023
Council	Section 24 Statutory EY recommendations	18 Sep 2023
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan	18 Sep 2023
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Lessons Learnt: Best Value Inspection of Liverpool City Council	5 Aug 2021
Audit Committee	Section 24 Report – Delivery and oversight arrangements	5 Oct 2023

**Contact:**

Ann-Marie Johnstone, Head of Governance, Policy and Information  
Gemma Cooper, Head of Strategy, Business and Customer



Appendix 1: Corporate Governance Improvement Plan: measures of success

Cultural Transformation Page 129	Outcome	Measure of Success	Frequency of data refresh	Source	Current performance data	Current performance period	Previous performance data	Previous performance period
	Improved understanding of corporate governance policies and process and improved adherence to them	Reduce the number of audits that have limited or no assurance	Every 2 months	Internal audit progress reports to Audit	1 out of 8 complete audits	October 2023 report	n/a	
		Improve the percentage of priority One and Priority Two actions from Internal Audits that are delivered within original timescales	Quarterly	internal audit	20% of P1 actions and 10% of P2 actions were			
		Reduce / Upheld whistleblowing reports on non-compliance with corporate governance processes.	Annual	Internal Audit	0 in 2022/23			
	Improved relationships between officers and members	Staff and Member surveys to assess health of relationships and direction of travel	Ad hoc	Staff surveys	26.6% of staff think relationships are	August 2023 Survey	n/a	
	Improved retention of staff	Staff turnover rates – number of leavers	Quarterly	HR	6.60%	Quarter 1 2023/24		
	Improved staff satisfaction	1-10 Score of how valued staff feel as an employee of the Council	Ad hoc	Staff surveys	5.9	August 2023 Survey	6.22	November 2022
	Reduced need to use agency staff	Number of agency staff working for Middlesbrough Council – total	Monthly	Procurement	126	October 2023		
	Improved ability to recruit to key roles.	Number of roles at Head of Service and above that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	Monthly	Procurement	8	October 2023		
	Improved outcomes for our community by ensuring that staff have the skills needed to deliver excellent services and that the behaviours increase trust in the Council	Number of complaints – total	Monthly	Monthly compliance report to LMT	211	September 2023		
		Percentage of complaints upheld by the Central Team	Monthly	Monthly compliance report to LMT	50%	September 2023		
	Members have a Member development programme that meets their needs and is well used	Percentage of members completing all mandatory training	Annual	Member training data	100%	October 2023	100%	October 2022
		Percentage of Members attending wider skills	Annual	Member training data	98%	October 2023	Data not available	October 2022
		Member satisfaction with the Member development programme	Annual	Member training data	87.5% (based on 21 responses out of 24)	October 2023	71% (based on 5 responses out of 7)	October 2022
	Performance is effectively managed within the organisation	Completion of appraisal process	Annual	HR Organisational Development	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Improved Member behaviour	Number of member on member complaints received	Quarterly	Legal Services	3 complaints received (member on member)	Q2 2023/24	1 complaint received (member on member)	Q2 2022/23
	Residents are increasingly satisfied with the way the Council is ran and with the Council overall	Questions within the 2023 Resident survey currently underway	TBD	Data and Analytics				
	Residents increasingly agree that the Council acts on their concerns	Questions within the 2023 Resident survey currently underway	TBD	Data and Analytics				

Financial Recovery and Resilience Page 130	Outcome	Measure of Success	Frequency of data refresh	Source	Current performance data:	Current performance period:	Previous performance data:	Previous performance period:
	Expenditure for 2023/24 is completed within the approved 2023/24 budget	Actual expenditure and Forecast revenue outturn within the approved budget	Quarterly report to Executive	Finance quarterly report to Executivcec	£11.563m (9.2%) forecast overspend	Q1 2023/24	£2.755m (2.3%) overspend	Q4 2022/23
	Set a balanced budget for 2024/25 and adhered to during 2024/25	2024/25 revenue budget is balanced and maintained during 2024/25	Annual (one time)	Finance quarterly report to Executivecec	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Set a sustainable Medium Term Financial Plan in place for the period 2024/5 to 2026/27	Balanced MTFP to 2026/27	Annually	Finance quarterly report to Executivcec	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Maintain General Fund balance and usable revenue reserves at 31/3/23 levels	Maintain GF balance at £12m at 31/3/24	Annually	Finance quarterly report to Executivcec	£12.04m	31/03/2023	n/a	N/A
		Maintain usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £4m at 31/3/24.	Annually	Finance quarterly report to Executivcec	£3.959m	01/04/2023	n/a	N/A
	Establish Medium Term Plan to rebuild GF Balance and revenue reserves	Section 151 Officer assessment of adequacy of reserves	February 2024	Section 25 Report to Council	n/a sufficient resources in place - judgemnet of	Feb 2023 report to Council	n/a	n/a
	Financial Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules training delivered	LMT, WLMT, all Budget Holders and all staff involved in Purchase to Pay trained by 31 December 2023	Monthly (from December 2023)	E-Learning training data reporting dashboard	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	corporate finance training programme established	Quarterly programme of finance training established	Quarterly	E-Learning training data reporting dashboard	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Budget management and purchase to pay dashboards developed to improve management information and	Budget management dashboard available to all budget holders from Business World through Power BI reporting tools by 30 November 2023. P2P Dashboards	n/a one off measure	Finance dashboard	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Budget management training rolled out to budget holders	All Chief Officers, Heads of Service and Budget Holders Training delivered December 23 to March 24	n/a one off measure	HR Organisational Development	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Establish Business World as one version of the financial truth for internal and external reporting	Reduce / eliminate need for manual intervention and re-work to produce internal budget management and external statutory reporting.	Subjective measure	Head of Finance and Investment / Financial	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Develop value added finance business partnering approach	Realignment of accountancy resource from preparation of reports and more towards business partnering analysis, advice, challenge.	Service review completed	Head of Financial Planning	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Member for Regeneration
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
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<b>Date:</b>	25 October 2023
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<b>Title:</b>	Review of the Terms of Reference and membership of the Local Plan working group.
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<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
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<b>Status:</b>	Public
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<b>Strategic priority:</b>	Physical environment
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<b>Key decision:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Urgent:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not urgent
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<b>Executive summary</b>	
<p>This report recommends that the Council formally agrees the terms of reference and changes to membership of the local plan working group.</p> <p>The key reasons for this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in the council's political arrangements.</li> <li>• Development of the new Local Plan means that the existing terms of reference do not align with the priorities set.</li> </ul>	

## **Purpose**

1. To request members to approve the change of membership and terms of reference to the Local Plan working group.

## **Background and relevant information**

2. Under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council is required to prepare a statutory development plan for the borough that sets out the policies and land allocations to guide development in the area.
3. As part of this process, the Council has a Local Plan Member Working Group that is made up of senior local politicians to provide leadership and direction on matters associated with the Local Plan. It is widely recognised that a political steering group is best practice for Local Plans, and the Planning Advisory Served recommended that we have such a group when they provided us with advice earlier in the year.
4. Following discussions with officers and the Mayor, the terms of reference of the working group were asked to be developed, as the current ones are outdated. The terms of reference, also includes changes to the membership of the group.
5. The proposed terms of reference and membership is attached at Appendix 1.

## **What decision(s) are being recommended?**

6. That Council approve the new terms of reference and membership of the local plan working group.

## **Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

7. With the emerging Local Plan, the new terms of reference will align to the scope and strategic direction of the Local Plan.

## **Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended.**

8. **Continue with the existing terms of reference.** As detailed above, there have been significant changes to the policy and legislative context within which the Local Plan and the existing terms of reference do not align with the Plan.

## **Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

### ***Legal***

9. Under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Council is required to prepare a statutory development plan for the borough that sets out the policies and land allocations to guide development in the area.

## **Strategic priorities and risks**

10. The following risks are affected by this report:

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.	There is a legal requirement for the Council to prepare a Local Plan. The report will help ensure the Local Plan is prepared in an effective way.
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.	Having an up to date Local Plan helps to ensure that the Council is able to support economic growth in the area. The report will help ensure the Local Plan is prepared in an effective way.
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.	Having an up to date Local Plan helps to ensure that the Council is able to support housing development in the area. The report will help ensure the Local Plan is prepared in an effective way.

## **Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection**

11. No protected groups are affected by the decision.

## **Financial**

12. There are no financial implications arising from the content of this report.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Amend the Terms of Reference on Modern Gov	Susie Blood	31 October 2023

## **Appendices**

1	Proposed Terms of reference: Local Plan working group.
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**Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

## **Terms of reference – Local Plan Working Group (September 2023)**

### **LOCAL PLAN WORKING GROUP**

Mayor (Chris Cooke)

Executive Member for Regeneration (Councillor Theo Furness)

Executive Member for Environment (Councillor Peter Gavigan))

Executive Member for Finance and Governance (Councillor Nicky Walker)

Membership/Restrictions: Working Group  
Need not be politically balanced.

The Mayor C Cooke

Chair: Councillor Furness

Members: Councillors Gavigan, Furness and N Walker

Any other Ward Members, at the invitation of the Mayor or Chair of the Local Plan working group.

#### **Purpose of the group:**

- Guide preparation of the Local Plan and other planning documents as appropriate.
- Help speed up Local Plan preparation.
- Advise on Local Plan timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS).
- Facilitate an information exchange between members and officers.
- Advisory only as decisions on Local Plan are a function of the Council.
- Possible role in championing the Local Plan review and providing updates to other members.

#### **Local Plan matters to consider:**

- Strategy of Local Plan e.g., growth strategy/ housing numbers.
- Ensure integration with other Corporate Strategies e.g., Strategic Plan.
- Consider key issues for local plan and options to address those issues - drawing on members local knowledge.
- To provide informal feedback on policy direction.
- Role in consultation/engagement as per the Statement of Community Involvement.
- Engage positively in establishing evidence base and the response to it.

#### **Other Planning Documents:**

- LPMWG maybe used to guide the preparation of other planning documents e.g., Statement of Community Involvement, Supplementary Planning Documents/development briefs/ masterplans/Other documents.

**Format of meetings:**

- Format should be informal business as usual discussions with information to be assumed to be confidential until the formal approval process has commenced.
- It may be appropriate to invite other Councillors or relevant stakeholders to the meetings on an ad hoc basis.

**Frequency of meetings:**

- A programme of regular meetings will be diarised and agreed to deliver the Local Plan timetable set in the LDS.
- There may be a need for more frequent meetings informed by key stages of the Local Plan review.

**Training:**

- A training programme will be established for Members of the Working Group, and it will be expected that Members will engage positively with this.



**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

<b>Report of:</b>	The Mayor and Director of Legal and Governance Services
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	25 October 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Update on Urgent Decisions
<b>Report for:</b>	Information
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Strategic priority:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Urgent:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable

**Executive summary**

The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with a quarterly update with regard to any urgent decisions that have been taken.

**Purpose**

1. The report provides details of decisions that have been taken under the urgency rules.

**Background and relevant information****SPECIAL URGENT DECISIONS**

2. A special urgent decision is where the required statutory notice of the proposed decision cannot be given (i.e., it is not possible to give the five days public notice). A decision is defined as urgent where any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the interests of the Council or the public. In terms of the Scrutiny call-in procedure, agreement that the decision cannot be reasonably deferred is always sought from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board or the relevant Scrutiny Panel. Once this agreement is obtained, a copy of the notice is placed on the Council website.

The decision taker must sign a form recording the decision and a record of that decision is then published. The information is available on the Modern Gov system or via the Council website.

<b>Date:</b>	03/08/2022
<b>Decision Maker</b>	Executive
<b>Decision</b>	Mayoral Development Corporation – Consultation Response
<b>Reason for Urgency</b>	Delay in submission to this consultation would mean that Middlesbrough's views would not be adequately considered as the consultation closes on 4 August.
<b>Date:</b>	19 July 2023
<b>Decision Maker</b>	Executive
<b>Decision</b>	Governance Improvement: Next steps – Resourcing the Financial Recovery and Resilience and Cultural Transformation programmes
<b>Reason for Urgency</b>	Due to the significant financial pressures, it was impracticable to defer the decision until it has been included in the forward work programme

## URGENT DECISIONS

- An urgent decision is where the required statutory notice of the proposed decision can be given but due to urgent deadlines for implementing those decisions, the Scrutiny call-in procedure do not apply. Agreement is always sought from the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board or relevant Scrutiny Panel to exempt the proposed decision from the call-in process. The decision then becomes a public record. The information is also available on the Modern Gov system or via the Council website.

<b>Date:</b>	06/12/2022
<b>Decision Maker</b>	Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration
<b>Decision</b>	Community Champions Fund – national funding investment in Middlesbrough
<b>Reason for Urgency</b>	New Memorandum of Understanding had to be signed and returned by 28 December 2022 to enable funding to be released.
<b>Date:</b>	06/12/2022
<b>Decision Maker</b>	Executive
<b>Decision</b>	Capital Strategy 2022/23 – Mid Year Update
<b>Reason for Urgency</b>	Date of Executive had been changed and in order for the report to be submitted to January Council meeting, it needed to be considered at the December Executive meeting.

**What decision(s) are being recommended?**

4. That Council note the decisions that have been taken under the urgency rules.

**Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

5. The Constitution requires the Council to be provided with an update with regard to any urgent decisions that have been taken.

**Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended.**

6. That an update on urgent decisions is not provided to full Council. This would not comply with the requirements for details of any urgent decisions that have been taken and the reasons for urgency, to be reported to full Council.

**Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)*****Legal***

7. The Constitution requires regular updates on urgent decisions that have been taken, to be submitted to full Council.

***Strategic priorities and risks***

8. If updates on urgent decisions were not provided to Council, it would not be in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

***Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection***

9. 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.

***Financial***

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report as it is for information only.

**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](mailto:charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Standards Committee
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	25 October 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Appointment of Independent People (Standards Committee)
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Strategic priority:</b>	Quality of service
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Urgent:</b>	No
<b>Why:</b>	

#### Executive summary

Following a recruitment exercise to recruit Independent People, the Standards Committee recommends to Council the appointment a further two Independent People namely David Wilson and Shada Mellor to the Standards Committee for a period of 4 years.

## **Purpose**

1. To seek approval of the recommendation of the Standards Committee to appoint two Independent People for an initial term of 4 years.

## **Background and relevant information**

2. Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 and our arrangements for dealing with Member Code of Conduct complaints require an Independent Persons views to be sought by the Monitoring Officer before making a decision on a Member Code of Conduct allegation.
3. The best practice recommendations report published in January 2019 by the Committee on Standards in Public Life recommends that local authorities should have access to at least two Independent Persons.
4. An Independent Person should be appointed for a term of no more than four years.
5. The Council has been operating with two Independent Persons, however one has decided to move on from the role and in terms of good practice and local requirements further Independent Persons are required to provide resilience and continuity.
6. Following a recruitment exercise which was panelled by the Chair of Standards Committee, Head of Legal Services (Places) and Head of Legal Services (People), the candidates were asked a series of questions to test their suitability for the role against the criteria set out in the person specification and each had a general discussion about local government ethical standards.
7. The Panel decided to recommend David Wilson and Shada Mellor for appointment as Independent Persons to the Standards Committee. Both candidates demonstrated that they met the criteria for the role, had a good understanding of the role and an enthusiasm to support the Standards Committee in upholding high ethical standards.
8. Mr John Race will remain in post until the end of his tenure and Geoff Fell has recently left his position as Independent Person having served a considerable time at the Council.

## **What decision(s) are being recommended?**

### **That the Council:**

- Approves the appointment of Shada Mellor and David Wilson to serve as the Council's Independent Persons for a term of 4 years.

**Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

9. The Localism Act 2011 requires Local Authorities to have in place an Independent Person and the best practice recommendations report published in January 2019 by the Committee on Standards in Public Life recommends that local authorities should have access to at least two Independent Persons

**Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended**

10. N/A as it is a legislative requirement.

**Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)*****Legal***

11. Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 and our arrangements for dealing with Member Code of Conduct complaints require an Independent Persons views to be sought by the Monitoring Officer before making a decision on a Member Code of Conduct allegation.

***Strategic priorities and risks***

12. N/A

***Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection***

13. N/A

***Financial***

14. Although the role of the Independent Person is voluntary, an allowance of £950.00 per annum will be paid (per role) to cover any expenses incurred whilst carrying out the role. The allowance for the role is paid from Members Budget and there are sufficient budget provisions to accommodate the proposed roles.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Training	Head of Legal Services	November 2023

### **Appendices**

1	N/A
2	
3	

### **Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date
N/A		

**Contact:**

**Email:**



<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Member for Finance and Governance and Director of Legal and Governance Services
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Council
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<b>Date:</b>	25 October 2023
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<b>Title:</b>	Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies
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<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
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<b>Status:</b>	Public
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<b>Strategic priority:</b>	All
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<b>Key decision:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Urgent:</b>	No
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<b>Why:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Executive summary</b>
<p>To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees and scrutiny panels because of vacancies that were not filled at the Annual Council meeting and resignations from Committees.</p>

## Purpose

1. To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees/scrutiny panels/outside bodies, following resignations and vacancies that remained, following the Annual Council meeting.

## Background and relevant information

2. Following resignations from Committees and places on Committees and Outside Bodies that were not taken up at the Annual Council meeting, several vacancies exist. Council is required to consider and approve nominations for appointment to the vacancies.

## What decision(s) are being recommended?

### 3. That the Council:

Subject to receipt of nominations to the following vacancies, approves the places allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and other councillors and fills the following vacancies:

#### **Committee Vacancies**

##### **Overview and Scrutiny Board**

1 vacancy – (open to Independent councillor)

##### **Adult Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel**

2 vacancies (Labour)

##### **Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group**

1 vacancy (open to all councillors)

**1 nomination: Councillor P Storey**

##### **Corporate Parenting Board**

1 vacancy – open to all Councillors

##### **Licensing Committee**

1 vacancy (Labour)

**1 nomination: Councillor P Storey**

##### **Live Well Board**

1 vacancy (open to all councillors)

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#### **Outside Bodies Vacancies**

##### **Durham, Darlington, Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Committee**

1 vacancy (Labour)

##### **Hartlepool Power Station Local Liaison Committee**

1 vacancy (open to all councillors)

**1 nomination: Councillor P Storey**

##### **Nunthorpe and Marton Playing Fields Association**

1 vacancy (usually open to Ward Councillors in Marton or Nunthorpe)

**1 nomination: Councillor Smiles**

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## Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

4. Council is required to appoint to any vacant places on Committees or Outside Bodies to ensure that all meetings will be quorate.

## **Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended**

5. Do Nothing: This option could result in meetings becoming inquorate and could result in the decision-making process being delayed.

## **Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

### ***Legal***

6. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires that the Council periodically reviews the political composition of the Council, and how this is applied to appointments to committees and sub-committees of the Council.
7. The rules for securing political balance on committees and sub-committees appointed by local authorities are contained in sections 15 and 16 of the Act and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.
8. The Council is under a duty to:
  - (a) Ensure that the membership of those committees and sub-committees covered by the rules reflect the political composition of the Council, as far as practicable.
  - (b) Review the allocation of seats to political groups at or as soon as practical after the Annual Council meeting and at certain other specified times for example, as a result of changes in political balance or an increase in the number of committees established.

### ***Strategic priorities and risks***

9. Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement. By ensuring that meetings are quorate then the Council is ensuring that good governance is in place and in line with the requirements of the Council's constitution so this would have a positive impact on this risk.

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. The Council has a duty to ensure that the membership of the committees and sub committees are covered and is required to appoint to any vacant places to ensure that all meetings remain quorate. This will have a positive impact on this risk as the Council is fulfilling its duties.

### ***Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection***

10. No protected groups are affected by the decision.

### ***Financial***

11. There are no financial implications arising from the content of this report.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
<a href="#">Add Members to Committees/Outside Bodies</a>	Democratic Services Officers	30 October 2023

### **Appendices**

1	
2	
3	

### **Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

**Contact: Charlotte Benjamin**

**Email: [charlotte\\_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk)**