

THE CHAIR AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 3 September 2024

Dear Member

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Borough of Middlesbrough to be held on **Wednesday 11th September, 2024** at **7.00 pm** in the Council Chamber to transact the following business, namely:-

1. Building Evacuation Procedure

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

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest.

4. Minutes - Council - 17 July 2024

5 – 10

5. Announcements/Communications

To receive and consider any communications from the Chair, Mayor, Executive Members or Chief Executive (if any).

6. Questions from Members of the Public (if any).

7. Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) – Update

8. Mayor's Statement and Report

9. Executive Member Reports

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10. Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

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11. Urgent Items

To consider and Deal with any urgent business brought

before the Council by the Proper Officer (if any).

12.	Members' Question Time	
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14.	Notice of Urgent Motions (if any)	
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "CJ Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charlotte Benjamin, Director of Legal and Governance Services

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS RESTRICTED
DISABLED ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

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

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

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

Address: Democratic Services, Middlesbrough Council, Town Hall, Middlesbrough TS1 9FX

Website: www.middlesbrough.gov.uk

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COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 17 July 2024.

PRESENT: Councillors J Rostron, J Banks, I Blades, D Branson, E Clynych, C Cooke - Elected Mayor, J Cooke, C Cooper, J Ewan, T Furness, P Gavigan, TA Grainge, L Henman, D Jackson, L Lewis, T Livingstone, L Mason, D McCabe, J McTigue, I Morrish, J Nicholson, M Nugent, J Platt, S Platt, A Romaine, J Ryles, M Saunders, M Smiles, P Storey, J Thompson, S Tranter, Z Uddin, G Wilson and J Young and L Young

OFFICERS: C Benjamin, M Brown, G Field, C Heaphy, R Horniman, C Jones and S Lightwing

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Walker (Vice-Chair), D Coupe, D Davison, S Hill, B Hubbard, N Hussain, J Kabuye, M McClintock, J McConnell and N Walker

24/14 **WELCOME AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

24/15 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

24/16 **MINUTES - COUNCIL - 22 MAY 2024**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 May 2024 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

24/17 **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

On behalf of Middlesbrough Council, the Chair welcomed newly elected Councillors – Councillor Luke Henman (Acklam Ward) and Councillor Lewis Young (Central Ward) to their first meeting.

24/18 **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.

24/19 **TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY (TVCA) - UPDATE**

The Chair invited the Mayor to provide his update regarding the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA).

The next meeting of the TVCA Board was scheduled to take place on 19 July 2024.

The Mayor highlighted that a consultation on the Gresham Project was currently ongoing with the Middlesbrough Development Corporation (MDC) and it was very important to ensure that both residents' and businesses' voices were heard.

The Prime Minister had tasked Combined Authority Mayors to work with Local Authorities on the production of Economic Growth Plans. The focus of the plans needed to be on ensuring people were more economically active throughout their lives rather than concentrating solely on capital projects and building. The aim was to ensure revenue resource was forthcoming and not just streams of government capital.

The Chair requested that Members note the Mayor's update.

ORDERED that the Tees Valley Combined Authority update from the Mayor was noted.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT AND REPORT

The Mayor referred to the recent Parliamentary Election as a result of which Labour had taken overall control. On behalf of the Council, the Mayor welcomed both Andy McDonald back to his Middlesbrough Constituency seat and Luke Myer, the new MP for Middlesbrough and South East Cleveland. The Mayor also welcomed the two successful by election candidates – Cllrs Henman and L Young to the Council. Thanks were extended to everyone who had taken part in the electoral process and acknowledged the huge impact not only on people's time but also on them personally.

With regard to an incident involving one of the candidates being in possession of a blade at the Count on 4 July 2024, the Mayor stated that the Council needed to work closely with the Police to ensure there was no repeat of such incidents. Violence against politicians was an incredibly serious topic and the Mayor welcomed a motion submitted by Councillor Morrish in this regard that would be submitted to the next Council meeting. A complaint had been submitted to Cleveland Police and the Mayor would keep Members updated.

Due to the recent Election, unfortunately some key decisions had been delayed. The Council was waiting to hear from the Government regarding the level of intervention on Children's Services, the status of Best Value Notice, and the transfer of assets to the Middlesbrough Development Corporation. The Mayor was hopeful that updates would be received within the next few weeks. Once these issues were resolved it was vital to move forward with plans to reset the Council and ensure that a balanced budget was in place, with spending on social care reduced to enable more investment in other services. Another key issue was recruitment to the Chief Executive and Section 151 positions on a permanent basis. The key date for all processes to be complete was March 2025.

A Member asked the Mayor whether the Charity Commission had reached a conclusion on their investigation in the Streets Ahead Community Charity. The Mayor explained that he had not been approached in connection with this investigation and had not been at that place of employment for some time. The Mayor agreed that he would pass on any information he received in respect of the investigation.

The Chair requested that Members note the statement.

ORDERED that the Mayor's statement be noted.

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS

The Chair drew Members' attention to Section 3 of the Executive Member Reports - Decisions To Be Taken Up Until the Council Meeting - and highlighted that the Single Executive Meeting for the decision on Community Safety Enforcement Powers had not taken place on 16 July 2024 and would be re-scheduled.

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).

Questions in relation to the Report of The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health.

Councillor Clynych in relation to the Council's new policy on auto enrolment for free school meals.

The Mayor confirmed that the new policy would save families approximately £400 per child, per year. One in ten young people nationally were not in receipt of free school meals, in Middlesbrough that statistic was one in six, which highlighted the need for the new policy.

Councillor L Young in relation to the Council's new policy on auto enrolment for free school meals.

The Mayor advised it was estimated that as many as 700 children or more would benefit from this change. As well as ensuring access to free school meals it would also unlock over £1

million for schools through the pupil premium.

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

Councillor Saunders in relation to residential, support accommodation, resource and care leavers.

The Executive Member for Children's Services confirmed that there were 491 children and young people in placements in total, 73 of whom were currently placed out of area.

Questions in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Environment

Councillor Livingstone in relation to the Green Waste Service.

The Executive Member for Environment stated that there was no plan to provide proportional refunds to any residents in respect of the green waste service. The scheme was originally intended to run until the end of November but had now been extended until the end of December 2024.

Councillor Ewan in relation to Gullys.

The Executive Member for Environment explained that the Council was responsible for managing local flood risks and carried out a regular programme of work. A management system had been introduced to check on silt levels and provide regular maintenance town-wide. Gully cleaning was now carried out on an annual, biannual or three-yearly basis to minimise flood risk.

Councillor Saunders in relation to the Green Waste Service.

The Executive Member for Environment was not able to provide details of any additional costs incurred during the recent roll out of the Green Waste Service as he did not have that information to hand at the meeting. However, the Executive Member agreed to provide a response Councillor Saunders by the end of the week.

Questions in relation to the Report of the Executive Member for Regeneration.

Councillor L Young in relation to the Middlesbrough Development Corporation (MDC) Asset Transfer.

The Executive Member for Regeneration welcomed the investment that the MDC brought and commented that in fact the Council was well positioned to do that kind of investment itself. Examples of sites throughout the town that had been developed by Middlesbrough Council in partnership with the Tees Valley Combined Authority and others included TeesAmp, Boho X and the Digital Sector. The Executive Member was happy to work with the MDC on any proposals to enhance individual assets that had been transferred to them. With a new Government now in place, it was anticipated that further discussions would take place in relation to the MDC and asset transfer.

Councillor Henman in relation to the Local Plan.

The Executive Member for Regeneration agreed that the Local Plan was very important to direct housing and commercial, retail and industrial buildings to the appropriate areas of the town. It was a high priority for the current administration to have a new updated Local Plan in place and the planning team had worked hard on its development. Any additional Government funding that was available for planning would be much welcomed by the Council.

24/22

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

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

The Chair invited members to note the report.

ORDERED that the report was noted.

24/23 **URGENT ITEMS**

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

24/24 **MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

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

24/25 **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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

24/26 **NOTICE OF URGENT MOTIONS (IF ANY)**

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

24/27 **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND SECTION 24 ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

A joint report of the Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal and Governance Services was presented by the Mayor. The report set out the key activities, progress and impact of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and activity in response to the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors, since last reported to Council on 27 March 2024.

Members were asked to note the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan and agree proposed changes to milestones and activity in relation to the Section 24 Action Plan as follows:

- Detailed delivery milestone plans had been developed to underpin all workstream activities within the improvement plan.
- Where slippage occurred to individual milestones but the overarching end date for the workstream activity was not impacted, no escalation or change control would be required and it could be assumed that any required mitigation would be put in play at an operational level.
- Where there was impact on achieving the intended measure of success or overarching end date of workstream activity, a change control would be proposed for noting and transparency.
- The change controls since last reported to Council were summarised at paragraph 6.10 of the submitted report.

Responding to a question as to whether Middlesbrough Council could deliver for local people, the Mayor welcomed the fact that the Action Plan was 96% either on track or delivered. Whilst there had been good progress this focus needed to continue and there could be no complacency to ensure that the necessary improvements were made. From a governance standpoint, significant improvements had been made and the Mayor thanked the Senior Management Team for their contributions.

A Member highlighted that in addressing the financial problems, Council Tax had been increased and the Council had also accepted Exceptional Financial Support from the Government. The Mayor stated that the Council's problems were not solely financial. There had been issues around governance and ensuring that Members and Officers worked collectively together. It was important to address all the issues, keep focus, and concentrate on providing a better place for the residents of the town.

The Mayor was asked whether he believed that engaging CIPFA to assist with the financial and other difficulties had been a worthwhile process. The Mayor explained that CIPFA were engaged as part of the process when the Government imposed the Best Value Notice on the

Council. There were various statutory recommendations and conditions that had to be met. The Mayor added that he valued the support received from CIPFA in helping the Council get to a better position within a year.

A Member asked whether he had ever overruled or been overruled by the Senior Management Team on any decision. The Mayor commented that the question demonstrated what the problem was. Members and Officers needed to work together and try to achieve better solutions in partnership. Examples of recent partnership working were the production of the Local Plan and the new Free School Meals Policy.

At this point in the meeting a Member asked for clarification on supplementary questions. The Chair advised that she had taken a decision that no supplementary questions would be permitted at this meeting.

On a vote being taken, it was **ORDERED** as follows that:

1. progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan was noted.
2. the proposed changes to milestones and activity in relation to the Section 24 Action Plan as outlined at paragraphs 6.7 to 6.10 of the submitted report were agreed.
3. the departing Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board Financial Lead, Chris Buss, was thanked for his support, advice and guidance on the Council's improvement journey to date.

24/28

VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES 2024/2025

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:

Committee Vacancies:

People Scrutiny Panel

1 vacancy - Councillor Henman appointed.

Place Scrutiny Panel

1 vacancy – Councillor L Young appointed

Staff Appeals Committee

Chair – Councillor Henman appointed.

Standards Committee

Chair – Councillor Romaine appointed.

Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

3 vacancies – Councillor Lewis appointed.

2 vacancies unfilled.

You Matter to Us – Corporate Parenting Board

2 vacancies – Councillor Henman appointed.

1 vacancy unfilled.

Live Well South Tees Board

3 vacancies - Councillors Gavigan, Ryles and Uddin appointed.

Outside Bodies Vacancies:

Durham Darlington Teesside Hambleton Richmondshire and Whitby STP Joint Committee

1 vacancy (Labour) - Councillor P Storey appointed.

Hartlepool Power Station Local Liaison Committee

1 vacancy – Councillor Uddin appointed.

North East Regional Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

1 vacancy – Councillor Banks appointed.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

1 vacancy – Councillor L Young appointed.

Tees Heritage Trust Ltd (was Cleveland Building Preservation Trust)

1 vacancy – Councillor D Branson appointed.

24/29

COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE CHANGES

A report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services was presented to seek Council's approval to changes to the terms of reference for Works Council and Staff Appeals Committee.

Following advice from the Local Government Association (LGA) and in line with best practice, it was proposed to change the terms of reference for Works Council and Staff Appeals Committee to reflect that a Member could not sit on both Committees in order to ensure a clear separation of roles.

At a meeting of the Constitution and Member Development Committee held on 27 June 2024 it was agreed to recommend these changes to Council for approval.

On a vote being taken, it was **ORDERED** that Council approved amendments to the terms of reference for Works Council and Staff Appeals Committee as follows:

1. Works Council: Members of Works Council are prohibited from also being a member of the Staff Appeals Committee.
2. Staff Appeals Committee: Members of Staff Appeals Committee are prohibited from also being a member of Works Council.



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

Council Meeting: 11 September 2024

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Elected Mayor and Executive Member reports relevant to the Council meeting to be held on **11 September 2024**.

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:

Susan Lightwing Interim Democratic Services Manager - (01642) 729712

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THE MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

COUNCIL MEETING: 11 September 2024

CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - Executive Member Reports

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

SECTION 2 – Table of Executive decisions taken and that have been through the Call-In period, since the last booklet, published on 9 July 2024.

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.

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: MAYOR AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH - CHRIS COOKE

DATE OF MEETING: 11 September 2024

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

A Healthy Place – Helping our residents to live longer, healthier lives.

UPDATES

Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme Update

1. The Summer HAF Programme was successfully delivered across Middlesbrough from 22nd July to 30th August 2024. Over 60 HAF programmes were made available for children eligible for benefit-related free school meals, providing thousands of places.
2. Each programme offered a comprehensive experience for children and young people, including a school-standard daily meal, 60 minutes of physical activity, and a variety of enriching activities. The quality of the programme was consistently high, offering excellent experiences and opportunities to the participants.
3. Additionally, we extended some of the HAF provisions to children and young people who are not in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM), utilising Household Support Funding. This initiative was met with full uptake, ensuring broader access to these valuable resources.
4. Prior to the commencement of the HAF programme, all providers underwent specific training related to physical activity through the 'You've Got This Exchange' initiative. The impact of this training was substantial, contributing to the overall success of the programme.
5. Our Young Inspectors team also played a crucial role by conducting quality assurance visits to the HAF provisions. The insights gained from these visits will be vital for the ongoing development of the HAF programme, with reports on these visits available soon.
6. Unfortunately, the tragic incident in Southport and subsequent riots had a significant impact on the programme. Attendance rates dropped notably in the weeks following these events, particularly in the most affected areas where participant numbers decreased by over 50%. Despite these challenges, the HAF programme continued to offer a safe space for children and young people, providing much-needed support during this difficult time.

Community Water Fluoridation

7. The North East region is currently undergoing significant public health developments with a particular focus on the expansion of community water fluoridation. This initiative is a crucial component of the region's strategy to address severe oral health disparities and prevent dental decay, especially among children.
8. The expansion of water fluoridation aligns with national public health goals as outlined in the Health and Care Act 2022, which grants the Secretary of State powers to introduce and

manage water fluoridation schemes. The emphasis is on expanding these schemes in the most deprived areas of the country, where the benefits in reducing dental decay are most needed.

9. Numerous studies support the effectiveness of water fluoridation in reducing dental decay. All data referenced comes from NHS England's 2024 North East Water Fluoridation Summary of Evidence. In the North East, areas with existing fluoridation show significantly better oral health outcomes compared to non-fluoridated areas:
 - a) **Reduction in Dental Decay:** Fluoridated areas in the North East report a 6% to 10% lower prevalence of dental caries in young children compared to non-fluoridated areas like Middlesbrough. Specifically, the prevalence of dental decay is 14.9% in non-fluoridated Middlesbrough, compared to 8.5% in fluoridated Hartlepool for 3-year-olds, and 31% compared to 21% for 5-year-olds.
 - b) **Reduction in General Anaesthetic Rates:** The necessity for dental extractions under general anaesthetic, a significant and preventable health risk, is dramatically lower in fluoridated areas. For instance, the rate of general anaesthetics for dental procedures in Hartlepool is less than half that of Middlesbrough, suggesting that fluoridation could prevent a large number of such procedures.
 - c) **Economic Impact:** The economic benefits of water fluoridation are substantial. A return-on-investment study suggests that every £1 invested in water fluoridation yields between £12.71 and £21.98 in savings within 10 years. Additionally, extending fluoridation across the North East could save the NHS an estimated £731,200 annually by reducing the need for dental extractions under general anaesthetic.
10. There is unanimous support for the expansion of water fluoridation among public health professionals and local authorities in the North East. The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB), along with other local health bodies, have strongly endorsed the initiative, recognising it as a critical measure to reduce health inequalities and improve oral health outcomes across the region.

Counterfeit Goods Seizure and Enforcement Update

11. A significant enforcement action was undertaken by Middlesbrough Trading Standards officers on August 20th, 2024, resulting in the seizure of a large quantity of counterfeit goods from a retailer in the town. This operation forms part of our ongoing commitment to protect consumers, support legitimate businesses, and tackle organised crime in Middlesbrough.
12. **Seizure of Counterfeit Goods:** Over 600 counterfeit items, including shoes and trainers, were seized. These items were fraudulent copies of high-end brands such as Gucci, Chanel, Vivienne Westwood, Louis Vuitton, and New Balance. If these goods had been genuine, their estimated retail value would have exceeded £248,000. The counterfeit items, however, were being sold for prices significantly lower than the authentic products.
13. **Additional Enforcement Action:** During the operation, officers also seized counterfeit perfumes from an unconnected street seller operating outside the retail premises. This highlights the pervasive nature of counterfeit trade within the area.
14. **Follow-Up Seizure:** A subsequent visit to the same retailer on August 21, 2024, led to the discovery and seizure of an additional 100 counterfeit items. The total value of these items, if genuine, would have been £24,610.



15. This operation is part of our ongoing efforts to protect consumers, support legitimate businesses, and combat organised crime. The sale of counterfeit goods undermines local businesses and poses significant risks to consumers.

Woodside Dementia & Well-being Hub

16. The Woodside Dementia & Well-being Hub continues to be a cornerstone of support for service users and their families, offering a range of activities and a welcoming community environment.

17. In August, the Hub marked its 3rd anniversary with a visit from the Mayor, celebrating the centre's achievements and ongoing commitment to the community. The Mayor also participated in the Hub's popular gardening club during a separate visit, where participants, despite the rain, shared their appreciation for the social interaction and support provided by the attentive staff.



18. The Hub is highly regarded by families, who describe it as a welcoming and supportive community. The carers support group, in particular, is an essential part of their weekly routine, providing much-needed connection and respite.

19. In addition to its regular activities, the Hub hosts a variety of Age UK events, including knitting groups and singalongs, which are open to all. The timetable of events is updated monthly on the council website.

20. Overall, the Woodside Dementia & Well-being Hub continues to deliver excellent care and support, making a significant impact on the lives of those who attend and their families.

Livewell Centre Update

21. As highlighted in the Executive Member for Regeneration's report, there has been significant progress in the refurbishment of the Live Well Centre unit, with an expected completion of works in December 2024. This initiative aligns with our broader strategy to revitalise the town centre while addressing key public health challenges.

22. The new Live Well Centre occupies two previously vacant retail units in the Cleveland Centre, bringing much-needed health services directly to the heart of Middlesbrough. This central location will make it easier for residents to access a comprehensive range of health and wellbeing services.



23. The new centre will provide a modern, accessible environment that better meets the needs of our residents. Importantly, outreach workers from the ACT partnership will also move to the new location, strengthening our support for vulnerable young people and families.

24. In line with our commitment to continuous improvement, discussions are ongoing to introduce additional services at the Live Well Centre, including access to dentistry, which will further expand the range of support available to our community.

NAME: Chris Cooke

DATE: 11 September 2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: EDUCATION AND CULTURE – COUNCILLOR PHILIPPA STOREY

DATE OF MEETING: September 11, 2004

1. 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

- Improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Support Cultural assets and events.

SERVICE AIMS

Education:

- Supporting schools to improve the attendance of all children, particularly those who are most vulnerable.
- Improve early years parenting support and the home learning experience to support children's learning, development, and school readiness.
- Reduce the number of children and young people who are suspended or excluded.

Culture:

- Encouragement of grass roots participation
- Increase income generation events at the town hall
- Consolidate cultural offer
- Make events sustainable

HIGHLIGHTS

Education

Family Hubs

Family Hubs update August 2024

2. Since the transformation from Children's Centres to Family Hubs, the Family Hubs team and commissioned partners have undertaken direct work with 26,138 residents. This has been in the form of delivery of the following services between the council and commissioned partners.
 - Registrar contact with new families connecting them with their nearest Family Hubs
 - Best Start Pathway

- Chat, Play, Read and Sing sessions
- Early Years workshops
- Let's Talk sessions
- Amazing Babies sessions
- Early Years Literacy gifting pathway
- Support for parents to take up their funded 1, 2, 3 and 4 year old childcare places
- Support for all early years settings to provide good quality childcare in Middlesbrough Family Information Service (FIS Team)
- Support for early years settings to provide good quality education for children in Middlesbrough - 100% of both Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI's) and childminders are either an Ofsted Outstanding or Good judgement.

New Family Hub funded services, delivered by the Early Year and Family Hubs team:

- Triple P baby on-line
- Early Talk Boost
- Early Words Together
- Speech and Language advice

Services delivered by commissioned Family Hub partners:

- Midwifery: Indigo and Steps teams
- Family Action
- North East Young Dads & Lads

Other services delivered from Family Hubs include:

3. Family hub teams have made incredible strides forward in building bridges with within our communities and work continues to ensure our most in-need families receive timely support though the national Family Hub model is still a long way from the comprehensive Sure Start system that our deprived vulnerable communities need.

Youth Justice

South Tees Youth Justice Board (STYJB)

The STYJB Plan is being presented to this full council.

4. We are statutorily obligated to bring this to full council each year for noting only.
 - It sets out how Youth Justice is provided and funded
 - How it will operate and function
 - The Youth Justice priorities
5. It is a partnership and includes:
 - MBC
 - Redcar Council
 - Cleveland Police
 - Probation Service
 - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.
 - Consultation with young people (children's voice)

6. Approval is required by council both statutorily and for the grant terms and conditions.
7. Services can not work in isolation and in order to address issues a holistic approach is needed with co-ordinated strategies
8. Our STYJB priorities are:
 - i. Prevention and Diversion
 - ii. Youth violence and exploitation
 - iii. Preparation for inspection
 - iv. Education, training and employment
 - v. Re-settlement
 - vi. Restorative practice.

Youth Custody Suite

9. A first of its kind Youth Custody Suite has launched in Middlesbrough Police station to ensure no child will ever come into contact with an adult offender.
10. Every single young person who is arrested and brought into custody in Middlesbrough will be dealt with in the brand-new suite which is completely separate from the rest of custody.
11. The suite has its own entry point and reception area along with a small exercise area and is decorated with artwork which was based on designs created by young people.
12. It's hoped the trauma-informed custody suite will minimise a child's exposure to the custody environment while providing additional support to assist the young person.
13. The groundbreaking initiative was delivered and funded by Cleveland Police alongside the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and Middlesbrough Council's South Tees Youth Justice Service and forms part of the ongoing work to divert young people away from the criminal justice system.

Culture

Middlesbrough Town Hall: In August we've had:

2 wedding ceremonies & receptions within the building – ***huge congratulations to the two couples, we all wish you a long and happy marriage!***

- Tees Women Poets Summer Bootcamp sessions (weekly, with a showcase taking place on Saturday 31st August)
- Smoggy Queens filming for BBC Three series
- Foster Carer celebration event
- Outdoor Theatre show – Into The Breach
- Musinc Family Fun Day
- Cleveland Art Society Exhibition
- Musinc Summer School – Gig School
- ITV filming in the Council Chamber, fire station and courtroom.

Orange Pip:

14. The 4th Orange Pip of the year took place on 31st August and was the busiest yet thanks to the weather gods finally smiling on us! The market included the usual mixture of great food and drinks, makers' stalls and a brilliant music stage programme curated by Henry Carden in partnership with the Town Hall. We also welcomed special guests from our sponsor Perco Foods. We are looking forward to the September Pip, which takes place on the same day as Middlesbrough Pride and at the start of Middlesbrough Art Week.

Middlesbrough Museums:

15. Our two museums have been delivering a busy programme of summer exhibitions and events. The Boro Shirt Exhibition at the Dorman has been delighting Boro fans telling the history of the club through an amazing collection of football shirts and other memorabilia. Players from Middlesbrough Football Club and the Club Mascot, Rory visited the exhibition in August as part of 'Togetherfest', which sees museums from the Tees Valley Museums Group come together to deliver special, family-friendly events in the same week. The Dorman also hosted the ever-popular Dino Day on 31st August. Over at the Cook, visitors have been enjoyed the Marton Hall exhibition as well as a range of family events including the wonderful Colourscape at the beginning of August, which sold out!

Middlesbrough Theatre:

16. Our 2024 Pantomime Snow White, starring Melinda Messenger and Philip Green was launched earlier in the summer and will run from 6 December to 4 January, including some special HAF performances.

Teesside Archives:

17. Our Archives Service have been busy putting together their application for Re-Accreditation from The National Archives (TNA). As part of the assessment process, we will host a visit from TNA on 6 September and a decision is expected in November.
18. Most Creative Train Station: With support from the Cultural Development Fund, the first in a series of new artist commissions have been installed at Middlesbrough Train Station. Between now and March next year a total of 9 new artworks will be displayed in the station, plus sound artist Nell Catchpole will be artist in residence at the station capturing sounds and stories from people passing through. Our thanks go to the artists involved and to Navigator North for managing the programme.

Upcoming events in the Town Hall this September:

- Classical Café season returns on Sunday 1st
- ITV Filming from 5th September to 12th September in the Courtroom for upcoming series 'I Fought The Law' starring Sheridan Smith
- Gary Meikle
- Pete Firman
- Big Country
- Maisie Adam
- The Three Degrees

- Matt Reed
- Middlesbrough Pride – Full Building Takeover & Orange Pip on Centre Square
- The Beat
- NCNC Screenings
- International Older Peoples Day
- Big Mouth Comedy Club
- First Class Wrestling

Musinc:

19. **Musinc Summer Family Fun Day** – 19th August had 70 participants take part in Musinc's Summer Family Fun Day some of the Activities included: Fusion Drumming, iPad Music Composing, and Musical Crafting.

Gig School – 27th, 28th and 29th August

10am – 3pm

20. Gig School was an exciting opportunity for young people to play, rehearse and perform in a band setting. Young musicians took part. learning how to communicate with each other as a band, learn about live music rehearsal, set-up and soundcheck, and performance techniques.

21. For: Young People aged 12-17 years

22. Community Events – I would like to thank Janet Thompson Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and communities and her officers, on their tireless work helping pull together community events across Middlesbrough to rebuild community cohesion and show that we are One Middlesbrough and we will not be divided by thugs.

23. By the time of Full Council, the community event at Newport Hub will have taken place.

24. As will MELA and I would like to thank the MELA committee, council officers, police and community groups and dance troops for their work in making sure that the MELA goes ahead safely.

25. Sunday 15th September is the Unity Festival Event at the Dormans Club and I would like to thank the Dormans Club (Gordon, Tracey, Atif), community members, Kassim, Nadia, Eilis and Executive Member Cllr Janet Thompson and council officer Jolande Mace.

NAME: Cllr Philippa Storey

DATE: 11 September 2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: CHILDREN'S SERVICES - COUNCILLOR ZAFAR UDDIN

DATE OF MEETING: 11 September 2024

1. 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

2. 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.

UPDATES

➤ **Early Help:**

1. **Early Help Service (Stronger Families)**

The Stronger Families Service remains stable and is performing well, supporting 732 children (July 2024) through whole family working and early help interventions. In addition, there are a further 1289 children being supported by early help partners including our schools, health visiting service and partners from voluntary and community sector organisations including youth services. Our early help approach, and strategy is overseen by the multi-agency strategic Family Help Board which is a well-attended and established strategic partnership and provides the interface between government programmes and local partnerships including the integrated Family Hub and Start for Life offer, Supporting Families programme and Reducing Parental Conflict programme.

➤ **Young People Not in Education Employment and Training (NEET)**

2. The Early Help service performs all LA statutory duties linked to participation of young people, and we have a small team of specialist staff who work with young people who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) or whose current activity is not known. We are performing well against all key national measures and Middlesbrough has been identified by the Department for Education (DfE) as a 'top performer' regarding the participation of young people in education, training, and employment opportunities. The team are currently preparing for the September Guarantee which involves all 2024 school leavers and all young people who left school last academic year, to ensure that all have a suitable offer of learning by the end of September.

➤ **Multi-Agency Children's Hub (MACH) and Assessment Service**

3. The MACH Team continues to be fully staffed with permanent workers. We are continuing our work with partners to strengthen our Multi Agency Partnerships, and we continue to facilitate Multi Agency Audit on a monthly basis alongside weekly audit with specific audit areas to ensure we know ourselves well. We are also working with STSCP on some dip-sample audits to strengthen our work with partners. We have held our second practice week which commenced 3 June 2024 and we have continued to utilise findings from our practice week Audits and weekly audit activity, and this informs our development sessions with the Team, which are facilitated on a weekly basis. We continually scrutinise our practice to ensure that we know ourselves and look at ways to improve and develop so we can achieve the best outcomes for our children.
4. The Assessment Team have continued to be a relatively stable staff team with 5 Permanent Team Managers. There remain some agency workers in place within the assessment service, however, we have adverts for recruitment, and we are having an event with agency workers to have a conversation in respect of what support and benefits there are, if they were to consider becoming a permanent member of staff. We have completed a further practice week within the assessment service which commenced 17 June 2024, where our dip sample audit reviewed management oversight, quality of visits assessments and planning for us to strengthen and develop our service.
5. Practice week findings from the audit activity has facilitated focussed development sessions to enable us to strengthen and embed our focussed work around visits, assessment timeliness and achieving positive outcomes for children where they are signposted to the most appropriate service timely. Weekly performance is reviewed by the Team Managers and the Service Managers, to enable scrutiny and ensure timely responses for the children of Middlesbrough.

➤ **Learning, Review and Development**

6. As of the 01/08/2024 one of the Independent Reviewing Officer's (IRO) from the Review and Development Team (RAD) formally commenced in the Practice Lead Auditor role to support our Quality Assurance and Practice Development activities. As a result, Learning, Review and Development have gone out to advert to recruit to this IRO post to ensure the RAD team remains within capacity and inside of the recommended case load numbers for children in our care and those subject to child protection plans. Within this we have also made sure to meet the required savings as part of the establishment review.
7. The Quality Assurance Framework has now been finalised and as the second Practice Lead Auditor (PLA) comes into post at the end of this month. Quality Assurance will therefore be fully staff by October and with one PLA already in place we have begun to implement the QA Framework, increasing the QA offer of group audits, alongside increasing the thematic audit activities and direct support to practitioners.
8. Monthly Principal Social Worker drop-in sessions continue to be offered to staff and this month we have started to see practitioners begin to utilise this space to reflect on their casework with the PSW. The PSW has also reached out across Children's

Services to invite staff to share any support needs they may have as a result of the recent riots and community unrest. Our Partners in Practice (PIP) Islington have also offered to provide staff with supportive outlets such as reflective sessions for global majority staff where they can share experiences, offer mutual support, and build a sense of community and belonging.

9. The Senior Social worker for the Social Work Academy also commenced in post this month and work has begun to reshape and strengthen the focus of the SW Academy in supporting our students as they move into their Approved and Supported Year of Employment (ASYE) in September. The ASYE manager who had been off on long-term sick has now completed their phased return and their counter part is due to return from maternity leave at the end of September.

The next Cohort of Approach (formally known as Frontline) student Social Workers have now met with their line managers and begun shadowing and preparation for joining us in September.

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

10. The SCP, Aspire (exploitation) and Pre-birth team continue to be stable however there is a high number of agency staff within the teams. Ongoing work in being undertaken to appoint permanent workers within the service area to create stability and practice improvement. Caseloads are beginning to increase however these remain manageable.
11. The service area holds highly complex cases which are often within the court arena. The court progression officer is now in post who is reviewing children who are subject to Public Law Outline (PLO) and care proceedings alongside a review of the legal gateway panel. Performance with the SCP have improved and is being maintained month on month. Our permanent Service manager is on maternity leave until March 2025 however the individual covering this post has stepped up within the service area which provides stability to the teams and consistency of practice.
12. The permanent Head of Service has now left the local authority an interim HOS is covering the post who has significant experience, and the permanent post is currently being advertised.

➤ **Children Looked After (CLA)**

13. The service continues to be in a more stable position. Care plans are increasingly progressing in a timely manner. The numbers of children allocated to Social Workers remains at a good level, assisting the staff to engage with children and complete relevant tasks. Resolving the drift and delay has taken time to understand and progress the required tasks. The Service Manager continues to develop good practice, enabling stop the clock days, service development sessions and training. The performance data continues to improve, and work continues quality and consistency in the service. There have been worries about the data not accurately reflecting the work of the service and this should have been resolved in July 2024, however, remains outstanding, with work on this continuing. This has also been an issue for Pathways 1. Numbers of compliments are increasing in this area of the

service, regarding the work of our Social Workers with several very complex children and young people.

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

14. The service comprises of 6 children's homes and work is underway preparing for a full inspection in September 2024. There has been a period of instability in some of the homes over the summer period due to a variety of factors such as long-term sickness, seasonal leave.

15. Supported accommodation is in the process of being registered with the Local authority having submitted the required paperwork some time ago. There are no timescales on the completion of this as OFSTED report delays link to their capacity.

➤ **Pathways**

16. Pathways had a focused visit on care experienced young people at the end of July 2024. This was a positive visit from Ofsted, who were pleased with the progress. The letter from this visit is due to be published on the 2nd of September 2024. The additional Personal Advisors are in post. This has allowed all 17-year-olds to be allocated a Personal Advisor and 16-year-olds are being allocated currently. Over the past 2 months strategic and operational housing panels have been implemented, a review with housing colleagues has been completed, with a plan to increase housing options for care experienced young people, including a change in banding. This is in line with the requirements of care experienced being recognised as a protected characteristic by Middlesbrough. Work is progressing with Adult Social Care colleagues to develop an effective Transition Management Group, to enable a seamless transition at 18.

17. Training sessions have continued in the teams around quality of practice with a training programme being developed and implemented specifically for Personal Advisors. Performance data continues to improve, albeit with the issues noted above still occurring. Quality and consistency being further developed. The teams have responded well to the change in leadership and fast pace of work in readiness for the Ofsted visit. They are keen

18. to further develop the service for young people and are taking advantage of the work with Islington in relation to coaching, to support their practice.

HIGHLIGHTS

19. In the July 2024 report, I have highlighted that the difficulties we have experienced over the past few years regarding our service delivery, I have comfortably said that the situation seemed much more settled, and we were making improvement. I was also confident that having appropriate, permanent workforce with necessary skills, knowledge, and the dedications, I was hopeful that we were moving to a right direction.

20. Now I can certainly and proudly confirm that we have received notification that on 2nd September 2024 we will receive the letter to tell us we are out of children's services intervention. This is an excellent news for our children's services and for us all.

21. I would personally like to thank and show my appreciation to all our staff members for their tireless work and strong commitments to children's services, to the council and its town.

THE TIME AHEAD

22. We are continuing to work hard with our partner agencies i.e. Health, Education, Police Youth Justice, other statutory and voluntary establishments, in the best interest of our children and young people, and their families and carers.

NAME: Cllr Zafar Uddin

DATE: 11.09.2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY – COUNCILLOR JANET THOMPSON

DATE OF MEETING: 11 September 2024

1. 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

Archives Visit

2. I visited the Teesside Archives at the Dorman Museum on 17th July, where I met with some of the team including the Community Engagement Officer, Archive Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator, Archive Assistant. I was able to gain an insight into how the service is working from its temporary home in the museum. It was great to be able to see the community engagement work and school workshops that the service delivers.
3. Also, the way in which volunteers contribute to the service development, research and collection accessibility and the incredible work that the conservator does with cleaning and repairing collections, such as the large format glass plate negatives that have recently been deposited and which tell an amazing story about a local shipyard that they will be sharing in due course.
4. There is also an Archive Manager and, Archivist, who deals with depositors and researchers and catalogues and sorts the collections as they are accessioned into the archive. The service holds a national accreditation, serves the boroughs of Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Stockton and Redcar and Cleveland and is currently participating in a feasibility study commissioned and funded by the TVCA to look at options for the long-term future of the service within the context of the wider heritage offer in the Tees Valley, due to be published.

Family Hubs/Libraries

5. Many of our Hubs/Libraries provided a variety of activities for children during the school holidays. Several family fun days have also taken place, I attended North Ormesby and Easterside and was very impressed with the large number of people who attended these events. A range of organisations were also present to provide information and advice to residents.

Crime Statistics

	ASB			Crime			Enviro			Deliberate Fires		
	Jul-24	Jun-24	Difference	Jul-24	Jun-24	Difference	Jul-24	Jun-24	Difference	Jul-24	Jun-24	Difference
Acklam	10	6	4	41	51	-10	10	5	5	3	9	-6
Ayresome	15	17	-2	53	37	16	18	19	-1	6	7	-1
Berwick Hills and Pallister	72	55	17	167	167	0	66	57	9	6	6	0
Brambles and Thorntree	26	13	13	130	126	4	22	25	-3	6	7	-1
Central	107	117	-10	437	462	-25	136	71	65	12	14	-2
Coulby Newham	34	40	-6	80	90	-10	20	13	7	6	3	3
Hemlington	43	23	20	113	105	8	28	27	1	11	6	5
Kader	12	6	6	52	58	-6	2	5	-3	0	1	-1
Ladgate	9	7	2	60	51	9	31	18	13	0	1	-1
Linthorpe	13	10	3	37	63	-26	21	17	4	0	0	0
Longlands and Beechwood	38	28	10	192	238	-46	39	49	-10	13	16	-3
Marton East	<5	11	-6	26	29	-3	2	3	-1	1	0	1
Marton West	<5	<10	-2	15	16	-1	4	1	3	2	0	2
Newport	43	47	-4	165	159	6	117	105	12	3	7	-4
North Ormesby	22	22	0	57	75	-18	44	47	-3	1	4	-3
Nunthorpe	<5	<5	3	<5	<15	-10	0	1	-1	0	1	-1
Park	31	26	5	96	92	4	101	53	48	8	2	6
Park End and Beckfield	33	27	6	127	119	8	48	64	-16	2	13	-11
Stainton and Thornton	8	17	-9	23	30	-7	11	11	0	1	3	-2
Trimdon	<5	<5	-1	27	19	8	4	3	1	0	1	-1
Grand Total	532	483	49	1903	2002	-99	724	594	130	81	101	-20

Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAPs)

6. Members will recall I was instrumental in developing Neighbourhood Action Partnerships (NAPs) last year following several requests by Elected Members. NAPs were developed in November 2023 and aim to provide feedback to members regarding issues of crime, anti-social behaviour, environmental crime and deliberate fire setting across all wards of Middlesbrough. 20 meetings have taken place to date, which are held bi-monthly across the 4 Neighbourhood locality areas. Information is shared regarding analytical data, hot spot locations and the work that agencies are doing locally to tackle these issues.
7. I have attended a number of these meetings which have proved extremely informative for all ward members. In addition to obtaining lots of valuable information in terms of where local hotspots are, these forums provide an opportunity for members to meet with our partner agencies and raise concerns. The NAP meetings have also allowed other services to attend and provide presentations to Councillors such as Youth Justice Service, Victim Care & Advice, Public Health, Community Safety and SHIFT. Discussions also take place regarding funding opportunities.
8. Members will be aware that Middlesbrough was awarded a significant amount of funding to tackle crime and disorder earlier this year via the Department for Levelling Up, Housing Communities (DLUHC), which is now called Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
9. This funding has been discussed in all 4 Neighbourhood Action Partnership Meetings and I'm sure many of you will have already submitted proposals to your Neighbourhood Manager.
10. I just wanted to remind all Elected Members about this funding to ensure you've all had the opportunity to submit your ideas as the Neighbourhood Teams are currently prioritising these proposals and obtaining costings. Time is of the essence as all projects must be spent by the end of this financial year. Some of the wider projects include street

lighting upgrades, additional CCTV, kick rails to tackle motorbike nuisance and target hardening measures such as ring doorbells, timer switches and window/door locks.

11. Should you have any queries, please contact your respective Neighbourhood Manager.

Community Safety campaign helps to clean up Middlesbrough

12. A scheme aimed at cleaning up the streets of Middlesbrough has scored some impressive results.

13. The Safer Streets 5 project focusses resources on target areas of the town centre as well as the Beechwood and Longlands wards.

14. Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner Matt Storey said: “Safer Streets channels resources to those areas, which need it most.

15. “My office has been successful in securing Home Office investment as part of all five Safer Streets’ programmes since 2020.

16. “By targeting very specific areas and working with a range of partners, we can focus on particular types of crime common in those areas and have a really positive impact on community safety.”

17. A number of environmental improvements have also taken place, aimed at stopping ASB and making the areas more pleasant places to live, work and visit.

18. There have been monthly action days since last October, during which residents in Beechwood and Longlands can use a communal skip to get rid of bulky waste. At the same time, they can engage with organisations active in the area and raise any community concerns.

Concrete blocks and kick rails have also been installed in the ward to deter nuisance bikes.



Cleveland’s Police and Crime Commissioner.

19. Matt Storey is encouraging those who suffered loss or damage to their property, including cars, homes or businesses, to contact their insurance companies.

20. Those who were not insured, or did not have adequate cover in place, may be eligible to claim compensation under the Riot Compensation Scheme.
21. To qualify for compensation through this scheme, victims must be able to demonstrate that the damage or loss they have suffered was as a result of violent disorder in Middlesbrough on August 4th.
22. To make a claim, you must report the crime to the police, if you have not already. You should be given a crime reference number.
23. Those with insurance, must claim via their insurer first. You will need to show evidence of the losses for which you are claiming, such as receipts, bank statements, surveyor's report, and photographic evidence.
24. The Riot Compensation Scheme does not cover personal items, loss of trade or rent or personal injuries. Claims can be made for 43 days starting on August 29th. Claimants then have 91 days from the day they submit their form to provide evidence for their claim.
25. The details of the scheme and the form are available on the PCC's website: [Riot compensation scheme - Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner \(pcc.police.uk\)](https://www.pcc.police.uk/riot-compensation-scheme)

Public Disorder

26. I am sure all members will share my anger and frustration following the appalling scenes of violence, criminal damage and racially motivated thuggery we witnessed in our town on Sunday 3rd August. I would like to offer my thanks to all our staff who did their best to deal with an unprecedented situation, particularly those who were in the front line of dealing with the riotous behaviour. I would also like to place on record my appreciation of the excellent work of Cleveland Police both during and following the appalling events.
27. I was however heartened by the fantastic response of our community, coming together the following day to clean up our streets. They represented the majority of our town in their willingness to stand together in defiance of those who would seek to divide us.

Unity Festival

28. A Unity Festival was planned to take place on Sunday 15th September at the Dorman's Social Club on Oxford Road. I was pleased to be involved in helping to organise this important event. The amount of support from Local Businesses, organisations and members of the public has been overwhelming. Either by contributing through donations, having a stall, providing entertainment or volunteering to litter pick at the end of the event.
29. The purpose of the event and how it came about was that someone approached the Dorman's Social Club wanting to do something to raise money for all those who have suffered damage to their property or vehicles during the recent riots and don't have the insurance or funds to pay for the repairs.



NAME: Cllr Janet Thompson
DATE: 11 September 2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ENVIRONMENT – COUNCILLOR PETER GAVIGAN

DATE OF MEETING: 11 September 2024

1. 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

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

HIGHLIGHTS

3. I have held regular weekly meetings with the Environment Director throughout the summer period to discuss matters of significance to members and the public, including changes to waste collections and bins. I will continue to hold such meetings.
4. On 26th July, I was pleased to represent Middlesbrough Council at a meeting of the Crustacean Deaths Working Group hosted by Redcar and Cleveland Council.
5. On 4th August, Middlesbrough was shaken by violent disorder from a minority who do not represent the values of the majority of Middlesbrough in their behaviour. I would like to thank all the council staff and members of the public for their significant contribution to the clean-up operation on 5th August.
6. On 8th August, I visited Coulby Newham with Cllr David Branson to assess the potential for rewilding in the ward.
7. On 12th August, I attended a meeting with the Member of Parliament for Middlesbrough and Thornaby East, Andy McDonald MP, where we discussed Middlesbrough's alleys strategy and associated environmental issues in light of increased levels of fly tipping, notably in Central ward.

WORKS UPDATE

Transport Planning and Road Safety

- Work on road safety education has continued with a focus on visibility, considerate parking, and possible alternative transport options for the new term being among the messages to promote through schools and businesses.
- Support continues for promotion of Junior Road Safety with further recruitment in this area planned for the new term.

- Bikeability and Pedestrian training (Bikeability Contract currently under final stages of review) continues.
- Travel Plan (TP) for Fountain Court completed using Modeshift Platform (live updates to assist with continued development) and other LA owned buildings explored for future TP creation.
- Sites visits with local Councillors and residents to address concerns relating to inconsiderate parking/road use continue.
- Partnership working with Cleveland Road Safety Partnership group to highlight areas of work that can be concentrated on to improve road safety for all.
- New Zebra crossing installed on Eastbourne Road to enable safer travel for pedestrians.
- On-going Mobility corridor design to facilitate multi-modal transport improvements.
- Consultation on the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement through the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA).
- Facilitated Traffic Management for events including MFC Concerts.
- Developed the Integrated Transport Strategy update to create a refreshed strategy for transport in Middlesbrough reflecting changes in transport user behaviour.

Highways and Infrastructure

Traffic Signal Junction upgrades 2024/25:

- Junction upgrade at Hartington Rd / Brentnall Street
- Junction upgrade to Marton Rd JCUH
- Junction upgrade to Newport Rd / Marsh Street

Pedestrian crossing upgrades 2024/25:

- Puffin crossing upgrade at Acklam Rd / Coniston Rd
- Toucan crossing upgrade at Acklam Rd / The Avenue of Trees
- Toucan crossing upgrade at Acklam Rd / Urray Grove
- Toucan crossing upgrade CFL / Crestwood
- Puffin crossing upgrade at Grange Rd / Linthorpe Rd
- Puffin upgrade to Marton Rd / Wellesley Rd

Verge replacement and footway improvement work schemes

- 6 of the planned 15 verge works schemes for this financial year have been completed.
- 8 of the planned 27 footway works schemes for this financial year have been completed.

Bridges and Structures

Transporter Bridge

8. A contract for the digital monitoring equipment that allows constant collection of data regarding movement of the structure contract has been awarded and the instruments are due to be installed w/c 9th September. The monitoring data will feed into the design and repairs going forward. Preparations are underway for the main preliminary design and permanent design works.

A66 Column 20B – Station Viaduct

9. The column has been poured and early concrete testing results are positive It is likely de-jacking will occur w/c 2nd September and Volkors will complete works and de-mobilise the works and leave site shortly thereafter. The site will then be taken over by the Stack Development team for a 3 month build to enable Stack to open in time for Christmas.

A66

10. Concrete testing report at Hartington Interchange bridges has been completed. Scope of works being drawn up for concrete repairs to be carried out in 2024-25.

Borough Road Flyover

11. Resurfacing and re-waterproofing of the bridge deck have been completed on Borough Road Flyover. Further works to replace the bridge joints, bearings, and carry out localised hydro-demolition and concrete repairs will be commencing in 2025. Concrete testing works and report are due to start.

A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge

12. Works on the A174 Marton Interchange Overbridge including replacing the bridge deck waterproofing, resurfacing, concrete repairs to the abutments, and the installation of suicide prevention parapets were tendered via NEPO. However, with no take up by contractors, a further tender process via NEPO is underway with the design phase set to start in August 2024. Following the design and parapet manufacturing phase, physical works are due to take place in the 2025 summer holidays.

Linby & Belle Vue Footbridges

13. Linby and Belle Vue footbridges are due for re-painting, installation of suicide prevention parapets/cages, structural repairs to piers and decks including new bearings, concrete repairs and installation of lighting.
14. The design phase is ending and due for sign-off by Network Rail in the next few weeks. Initial estimated prices provided via Network Rail's main contractor for suicide prevention parapets to Linby and Belle Vue footbridges received with a further tender process to follow to ensure best value.

A66 Hartington East and West Overbridges

15. Works to repair the waterproofing/ resurfacing and install new bridge joints were completed in 2023-24. The final six-month inspections for any snagging issues of the works are taking place as part of the principal inspection due for completion within the next month.

Newport Bridge Approach Structures

16. Work has started on repairs to the West Approach Retaining Wall, Cannon Street / Ayresome Road Bridge, and Newport Approach Bridge mainly consisting of concrete repairs, anti-bird mesh, renewed lighting, deck-joint replacement, re-waterproofing, and resurfacing works. The works are being co-ordinated with works to Newport Bridge. Road closures from Newport Roundabout with local diversions will be in place.

Newport Bridge

17. Major work is due to be completed and the bridge reopened as scheduled with lane restrictions by Monday 2nd September. Remedial works are still required to the VRS on Middlesbrough side and bearing works on the Stockton side of the bridge, but the bridge will be open to traffic.

Bridges Small Schemes

18. A scope is being drawn up for a tender for several smaller schemes involving minor parapets works, masonry, and concrete repairs.

Principal and General Bridge Inspections

19. The principal and general bridge inspections contracts have been awarded via NEPO. There are 18 principal and 169 general inspections taking place with the inspection programme completing all due inspections. The inspections are ongoing.
20. Longlands Road overbridge will be the subject of a full structural and principal inspection. It is expected that extensive repairs, or even full replacement, will be required. A design phase will follow the assessments with major works planned for 2025/26. Structural inspection and assessment contracts are ongoing.

Carriageways

21. The programme for 2023-24 classified and unclassified roads resurfacing programme has been completed with all schemes completed baring one small scheme on Earls Court Road which has been delayed due to Northern Gas Works. A total of 99,360m² of resurfacing was achieved throughout the period.
22. The 2024-25 resurfacing programme has been finalised and two contracts have been awarded for resurfacing on the unclassified and classified roads, with works due to start in July. A further two contracts are due to be tendered for thin-surfacing and surface-dressing. There are a total of 53 resurfacing schemes to take place in 2024-25.

Flood Management

23. Work is continuing the clearance of those gullies identified as being 75% - 100% full of silt following the survey of the network. The risk-based approach being adopted to prioritise the cleansing of the gullies, which will see individual gullies being cleaned 6-monthly, annually, biennially, or three-yearly commenced in April.
24. Middlesbrough Council continues to work proactively on flood risk management through joint working with the Environmental Agency and other relevant stakeholders to increase our knowledge of the network and improving the long-term planning for reducing flood risk.

Street Lighting

25. We have started the 2024/25 column replacement programme. Work has started on Acklam Road, Borough Road and Ladgate Lane. We have received funding from the

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to upgrade the street lighting in TS1 and TS3.

REFUGE AND RECYLING

Green Waste Service

26. The Green Waste Service has continued to prove popular with 24,471 Subscribers (as of w/e 29/08/2024). This is more than double of the forecast take up. We have now reviewed the rounds and launched the fortnightly collection service. In addition to this, we have delivered approaching 15000 Black refuse 240L bins and nearly 1000 additional 140L bins.

Alternate Weekly Collections (Domestic Refuse)

27. The service has now gone fortnightly, and collections commenced on the 6th of August.

28. We have taken delivery of 150 new communal bins that are currently being rolled out into alleyways across the town. We are specifically targeting areas where bins are damaged and where capacity needs to be increased including for houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs).

29. We would like to thank residents and Members for their continued support as we implement changes to the Recycling & Waste Services.

AREA CARE

Grass Cutting

30. Amenity grass cutting (grass verges and estates) is still ongoing in all areas.

Weed Killing

31. Weed killing of obstacles and walls/fence lines has commenced in all areas. We weed kill these areas rather than strim them to alleviate the need of the labour-intensive workload of strimming, which may need doing three-four times per year, rather than one-two. Weed spraying instead of strimming also reduces the amount of fuel that is introduced into the environment. To encourage wildlife areas in the areas we no longer apply weedkiller or strim underneath hedges and some shrub bed areas unless they encroach onto the footpath and become a possible health and safety risk.

NAME: Cllr Peter Gavigan

DATE: 11 September 2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE – COUNCILLOR NICKY WALKER

DATE OF MEETING: 11 September 2024

1. 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

2. 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

3. 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

Revenue and Capital Budget – Forecast Year-end Outturn position at Quarter One 2024/25

4. At the end of July and early August I chaired the Budget Challenge sessions for each of the directorates within the Council. These sessions were attended by senior officers, the relevant executive members and the Mayor. Members may recall that executive member involvement in these sessions was reintroduced last year, along with more robust monthly monitoring by officers.
5. The report which I will present to the Executive on 04 September included a forecast at the end of Quarter One, based on these Budget Challenge Sessions of the financial position against the approved budget which would exist at the end of the financial year, if further measures are not taken to control expenditure within approved budgets.
6. This forecast at Quarter One is a year-end overspend of £3.742m, or 2.6% of approved budget of £143.190m. This is substantially less than the figure that emerged in the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year when there was a forecasted overspend of £11.563m, or 9.2% of that year' budget.

7. Directorates have identified £1.877m of Financial Recovery Plans which currently require further assurance, and work will continue to identify further mitigations with the aim of delivering within the approved budget by the financial year end and to avoid calling on our still critically low levels of reserves and/or further use of Exceptional Financial Support in relation to unachieved savings.
8. As can be seen from the table below the forecast overspend of £3.742m comprises potential overspends due to delayed or deliverability of savings of £2.498m and other variances of £1.244m.
9. The key figures are summarised in the table below:

	£m
Adult Social Care – unachieved savings	0.817
Adult Social Care – other - mainly by maximising a one-off grant	(0.387)
Children’s Social Care – increased numbers and complexity of external residential placements	2.424
Children’s Social Care –unachieved savings	1.330
Other variances (ECS, Education & Partnerships, Regeneration, Legal and Governance, Finance, and Central)	(0.442)
Total	3.742

10. A substantial amount of the forecast overspend relates to Children’s Social Care, with £2.4million relating to increased numbers and costs of external residential placements. A great deal of work is going in to address this, including identifying preventative measures through transformation, especially to reduce the numbers of children becoming looked after in the first place. A number of measures were agreed at the Budget Challenge session aimed at improving the financial position within Children’s Social Care and further detail is included in the report.
11. Following the Children’s Budget Challenge session it was agreed at my suggestion that there will be monthly updates provided for the Mayor and me following each of the monthly officer budget challenge sessions and the first of these has already been held.

Update of Medium-Term Financial Plan and Budget Gap

12. A significant improvement in our financial position from that which existed at the start of the 2023/24 financial year has been achieved and the improvement measures taken to date to have been acknowledged both by our Independent Improvement and Advisory Board and by Central Government. However, as has been stated in council reports and I have reflected in earlier reports to Council, due to the financial position inherited, financial recovery was always going to take more than one year, and our journey towards long-term financial resilience which includes reducing costs through modernising and transforming service delivery continues, as does the need to strengthen the grip on our finances throughout 2024/25.

13. The Council's updated financial position is set out in the report on the 2025/26 Medium Term Financial Plan which I will present to the Executive on 04 September. The key figures are set out below:

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Reserves at 01.04.24
<p>Revenue Budget Overspend £3.6m</p> <p>(2.8% of Net Revenue Budget)</p> <p>Improved from £11.5m at Q1</p>	<p>Exceptional Financial Support (£4.7m) one off solution to balance budget</p> <p>Q1 forecast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £3.8m overspend - £2.5m savings unachieved - £1.3m pressures • £1.9m recovery plans to be assured 	<p>£7.9m budget gap (revised from £7.5m as at 01.04.24)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working figure - Based on best information and assumptions - Will change as we move through the budget process - Assumes 24/25 no overspend and savings delivered - Actions req'd reduce/control pressures - Identify new savings/income proposals 	<p>General Fund £11.1m (minimum level) Usable unrestricted Reserves £9.3m</p> <p>Fragile and 8th lowest of all unitary Local Authorities 2022/23</p> <p>Need to rebuild reserves – resilience</p> <p>Reserves can only be used once</p>

14. The figures in red indicate where there are ongoing pressures which, if not addressed, have an impact on future years and those in blue indicate resources that can only be used once.

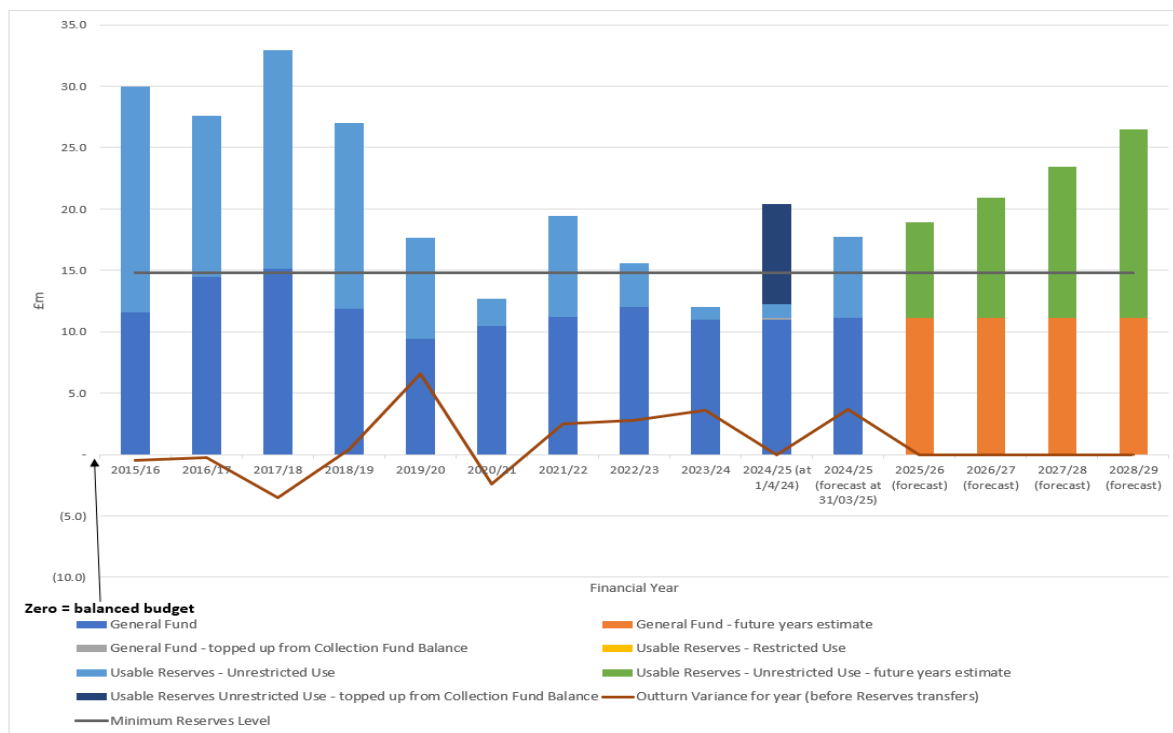
15. The revised forecasted gap on the revenue budget for the 2025/26 budget has increase slightly from £7.474m as at 01 April 2024 reported to members as part of the budget in March 2023 to £7.864m (rising to £8.749m by 2028/29). The gap represents the figure that will have to be addressed through transformation or other savings in order to deliver a balanced budget for 2025/26. All Council members have a legal obligation to agree a balanced robust budget and set the Council Tax by 11 March 2025 and will be consulted on proposals to bridge this gap.

Reserves

16. As previously reported, due to overspends in recent years the Council's Reserves fell to a critically low level, which was also below the recommended minimum level, and one of the lowest levels of reserves as a percentage of net revenue expenditure of all unitary authorities in the country. This was addressed as part of 2024/25 budget setting following a one-off fundamental review of the Collection Fund bad debt provision which has restored the unrestricted reserves balances to a total of £20.380m as at 1 April 2024. Further contributions to reserves are

planned within the 2025/26 Medium Term Financial Plan in order to rebuild financial resilience.

17. The graph below illustrates annual variances against budget, levels of General Fund and Unrestricted Usable Reserves, the one-off sum added from the Collection Fund in 2024/25 and from 2025/26 the planned rebuilding of reserves in order to return to a position of financial resilience.



THE TIME AHEAD

Cross-Party Financial Resilience Working Group

18. The Mayor and I have both been keen to establish a group that will work collaboratively on a cross-party/group basis on the Council's future financial resilience, including providing additional opportunity to suggest proposals for savings and discussions on the budget for 2025/26. To that end there have been two recent initial meetings with group leaders to formulate the group and its remit. This is in addition to and will not replace all member briefings or the involvement of scrutiny through OSB.

Councillor Gateway

19. The Councillor Gateway has now been live for two months, as with any new system there have been expected and anticipated snagging/teething issues being worked through and by and large resolved quickly.

Old system

20. As planned all remaining enquiries submitted through the onestop email were closed down by Monday 15th July. Approximately 1800 cases were responded to as part of the move to the new system. The dual running ended on 15th July and

one single route/system is now in place to log, manage and monitor Members Enquiries.

New system

21. The new system went live on 01 July 2024 and as of 05 August there had been 489 enquiries logged. Nearly all councillors have used the system.
22. Feedback in relation to the new system in the main has been positive, and officers have supported and worked closely with both councillors and other council officers guiding them through the change from the old to the new system.
23. There were as expected technical issues arising, especially within the first 2-4 weeks, which were resolved as quickly as possible. These issues are very normal when implementing a brand new system and the system is maturing week by week. Project Team Meetings were held every two days to keep issue management, resolutions and actions on point. Regular meetings and check-ins with councillors following go-live also took place, to identify both problems they might be experiencing and also where there was scope to make other improvements. As well as taking part in this with the other Councillor Champions, I have had additional contact and meetings with officers separately.

Training & Comms

24. Communications have been sent out consistently to both councillors and council officers, providing regular updates highlighting known issues, providing fixes to snagging issues, as well as useful system hints and tips. Comms have been kept simple and easy to read as possible and I have reviewed these prior of circulation. Post go-live drop-in sessions have also been provided for Councillors with more planned.

Dashboard

25. An impressive dashboard has been developed to enable directors, heads of service and relevant managers to monitor and manage Members Enquiries at a more granular level and be used in the planning of service delivery. It is intended to produce something similar which can be accessed by councillors.
26. I'd like to extend my thanks to all of the councillors who have taken their time to provide an input into this process as well as to the officers for all their hard work on this.

NAME: Cllr Peter Gavigan
DATE: 11 September 2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: REGENERATION – COUNCILLOR THEO FURNESS

DATE OF MEETING: 11 September 2024

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

UPDATES

Historic Quarter

2. The A66 repair works are nearing completion and as such, STACK can start to move into the Historic Quarter. The entertainment venue will create significant footfall and animation in the area and support existing town centre businesses.
3. The Railway Station works are well underway; the platform level and concourse works are completed, as are new stairs down to underpass. Fit out work of the undercroft units continues and work is ongoing with potential community functions to occupy the units. The works will be complete by the end of 2024.
4. These projects will complement the recently completed £2.2m High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) programme, funded by Middlesbrough Council and Historic England
5. The Historic Quarter has so much potential and will be a place for people from all over Teesside will want come and experience.

Captain Cook Square

6. The Square has enjoyed two recent openings – Bazaar and Funshack. Bazaar is a fine dining experience, offering a range of cuisine in elegant surroundings. This has been opened by Tarek Thoma, who has The Oven on Linthorpe Road. This is a welcome addition to the Square, and one which will help to build on the night time leisure and food offer. The unit has seen over £2m worth of investment.
7. Funshack is the first town centre site the company has invested in, which has brought many challenges, the company tend to only commit to out of town non-retail units. Over £2.5m has been invested in the old Wilkos unit, which is a significant achievement given Wilkos was only empty for a matter of months before the deal was agreed. Within the unit you have soft play, inflatable space and other leisure space to create a varied family leisure offer. This complements LevelX and brings a wider leisure offer for families.

8. A Dino event in the Square, over two days, saw many thousands of visitors attend and enjoy a host of activities and entertainment – social media and press coverage was very positive.
9. April saw the opening of Wendys, again a welcome food offer to the Square, with first week trade having exceeded any other Wendys in the UK, it continues to trade well.
10. Following a successful application to the Tees Valley Indigenous Growth Fund, £4.2m, the team can now progress the cinema delivery programme. The plan is to deliver a three screen cinema in the unit(s) next to Wendys. Final programme and procurement details are being looked at, with a likely opening for Summer 2025.
11. Further feasibility works will continue for the unit next to Bazaar, and the former TK Maxx and Shelter unit, and the wider Square.

Cleveland Centre

12. Retail lettings in the centre are progressing with the announced arrival of TJ Hughes to occupy the former H&M unit, and another retailer secured for the Top Shop unit; to be confirmed in the coming weeks. Together, this will be a huge boost to occupancy in the centre and will drive footfall rates in the Town.
13. Middlesbrough Community Learning and Employment Hub provides high quality learning opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. The service is currently operating from a peripheral town centre location in the Multimedia Exchange on Corporation Road, which suffers from a lack of footfall. The building is not fit-for-purpose and has a significant maintenance backlog. The configuration and condition of the building make adaptations and improvements challenging and costly.
14. The vacant former Poundland Unit in the Cleveland Centre presents an opportunity to relocate the service to the heart of the town centre, addressing the oversupply of retail and helping to rebalance the town centre economy. This move will complement the Live Well's relocation, whereby the services can share facilities.
15. The Live Well Centre refurbishment is progressing well with drainage and utilities into the unit now in place. The first floor partitioning and first fix mechanical and electrical works are underway and this will move down to the ground floor. A planning application has been submitted to MDC for the changes to the elevations on to Albert Road with a future application for the branding and signage on the Albert Road elevation to be submitted. The completion of the works is on target for December 2024.
16. The design work for the employment hub is ongoing. The planning application for the change of use will be submitted to MDC imminently. The works will be tendered for at the end of 2024, with work programmed to start in February and complete in October 2025.

Old Town Hall

17. Following development phase work the Stage 2 Bid for the Old Town Hall was submitted to the National Lottery on the 15th August as planned.
18. A vast array of engagement activities were developed and trailed during the development phase with upwards of 300 people engaged. Two 50 Futures Placements (one in Architecture and one in Media) and a work experience placement with MBC were also undertaken. The bid was supported by another raft of Letters of Support from the education sector, public health, local groups and TVCA.
19. The planning application for the project has been submitted to Lichfields (TVCA) and formal validation is pending. No concerns were raised by them during the pre- application meeting, with praise given for the concept and visuals.
20. Determination is anticipated from the Lottery in December 2024.
21. The restoration includes a contemporary extension to frame the iconic clock tower, along with a wholesale restoration of the original building fabric. If funding is secured, work will commence in early 2025 and progress throughout the year.
22. The building will provide novel new space for new small businesses in Middlesbrough and will become the focal point for the redevelopment of the wider St Hilda's area.

Business Support / UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

23. Several programmes of support underway. Majority are funded through UKSPF and managed by TVCA.
24. Economic Growth has connected with all the providers to ensure that information is distributed through our business networks with the latest anecdotal feedback highlighting that Middlesbrough businesses have a high level engagement with all the schemes.

Support available includes:

1. Tees Valley Entrepreneurs – 6 month incubation and 12 week scale up programme (including grant support)
 2. Tees Valley Expertise – Start up, self-employed support, mentoring, and funding for 1st time apprentices in key sectors
 3. Net Zero / Carbon Reduction Planning – support for businesses to achieve net zero and create carbon reduction plans
 4. Digital Transformation – support to help businesses develop ecommerce platforms, websites and social media presence
 5. Plus a range of support helping businesses with access to finance, securing investment, developing their supply chains and improving efficiencies in the manufacturing processes.
 6. Current finance available to support growth include Teesside Flexible Fund (can lend upto £3m), UKSE (can lend upto £1m) and British Business Bank (distributed locally through NEL to support business to start up and grow - £100K to £2m debt finance available and £500 to £25000 for start-up businesses).
25. In addition to help support residents who wish to start a new business the Council is working with Enterprise Made Simple (EMS) based in Middlesbrough, to offer residents

free in depth advice and guidance through their fully funded Smart Start start-up/growth support programme. This provides individuals with limited or no experience of running a business a higher level of support to develop a business plan, undertake relevant training/workshops and have in depth face to face discussions to help them get their business idea off the ground and on the right track.

Planning

26. The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government has launched a consultation on the principal elements of the Government's plan for building the homes that we need. If implemented, this would see challenging housing targets set for each Local Authority, with a proposed target of 589 new units per year being set for Middlesbrough. As this figure is significantly above previous Government targets, and those proposed in the emerging draft Local Plan, it remains to be seen what impact this would have upon the submission of the emerging plan and the portfolio of sites selected for future development. The service will be responding to the consultation accordingly.

Housing

27. Following its transfer from the Middlesbrough Development Company to the Council, The Valuation and Estates Team has worked with Michael Poole Lettings to secure full occupancy for the building. The 24 unit property sits within the Council's commercial portfolio, with 22 of the apartments fully let on a commercial basis, with two units being used by the Council to reduce demand on temporary accommodation. Two of the four accompanying retail units are also let, with the remaining two currently being marketed.

MDC

28. The Asset Transfer is officially on hold, pending further review of the situation by the Government.

Executive Decisions

Nunthorpe Grange

29. The Executive considered a report on the 23rd December 2023 that gained approval for the marketing and disposal of the Nunthorpe Grange housing site. The report also set out the next steps that would be undertaken to "de-risk" the site prior to marketing in order to maximise the potential capital receipt, which included undertaking due diligence and securing an outline planning consent. This would lead to the generation of a capital receipt, estimated to be paid between 2025 and 2029.
30. Since the approval of the Executive report in December 23, the Council has been approached by two parties who expressed an interest in acquiring land at Nunthorpe Grange for the development of housing and for the provision of an elderly persons care home.
31. The respective developers have subsequently submitted formal private treaty offers to acquire land in advance of the Council "de-risking" the site. This would lead to a significant capital receipt being wholly-paid during the current financial year.

32. This report will seek Executive approval for the private treaty sale of land at Nunthorpe Grange for the development of housing and an elderly persons care home.

NAME: Cllr Theo Furness

DATE: 24 September 2024

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EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SECTION 2 – DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THIS BOOKLET WAS LAST PUBLISHED

DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health				
17 Jul 2024	Executive Member - The Mayor	Productivity in Local Government – a response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	That the proposed productivity plan, attached to this report at Appendix One is agreed and submitted to government.	Yes
24 Jul 2024	Executive	South Tees Clean Air Strategy	Key decision for approval.	Yes
24 Jul 2024	Executive	Third progress report of the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board	to provide the Executive with a report that summarises the Board's views on the Council's progress in relation to addresses weaknesses within its corporate governance arrangements	No
Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture				
24 Jul 2024	Executive	South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2024-2025		No

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DATE	DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
Executive Member for Community Safety				
24 Jul 2024	Executive	Community Safety Partnership Plan	The Council have a statutory obligation to develop and publish a Community Safety Plan every 2 years.	Yes
28 Aug 2024	Executive Member for Community Safety	Proposals to withdraw Neighbourhood Warden Police Accreditation Powers	For the Executive Member to approve proposals to withdraw Neighbourhood Warden Police Accreditation Powers	No
Executive Member for Finance and Governance				
24 Jul 2024	Executive	CIPFA Review of Council's Financial Management Arrangements		Yes
7 Aug 2024	Executive Member for Finance and Governance	Cash Handling Policy	No current policy, Executive approval needed for new policy as per Constitution	No
Executive Member for Regeneration				
24 Jul 2024	Executive	Scrutiny Review - Planning Capacity	Service response to the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel Review of capacity within the planning service.	Yes
24 Jul 2024	Executive	The Disposal of Land at Hemlington Grange West	To seek Executive approval for the disposal of the Hemlington Grange West site in accordance with the Council's Asset Disposal Process, and to inform Executive of the next steps to take the site to market.	Yes



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

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health				
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Corporate Performance: Quarter One 2024/2025	This report advises the Executive of progress against corporate performance at Quarter One 2024-27, providing the necessary information to enable the Executive to discharge its performance management responsibilities against the following performance disciplines	No
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Review of Licensing fees for Houses in Multiple Occupation	Key decision for approval.	Yes
Executive Member for Environment				
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Integrated Transport Strategy	Executive to approve the update of the current Integrated Transport Strategy.	Yes
Executive Member for Finance and Governance				

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Initial MTFP 2025/26	To provide Executive with an update of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) position for 2025/26 to 2028/29	Yes
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Revenue and Capital Budget - Forecast Outturn position at Quarter One 2024/25	The report advises the Executive of the Council's financial position as at Quarter One 2024/25.	Yes
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Vulnerability Policy	Vulnerability Policy - 3 year review	Yes
Executive Member for Regeneration				
4 Sep 2024	Executive	Disposal of Land at Nunthorpe Grange	To seek Executive approval to dispose of the land at Nunthorpe Grange.	Yes

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SECTION 4 – DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health				
11 Nov 2024	Executive	EXEMPT: Options for Utilisation of Levick Court Residential Care Home	As part of the budget savings the re-provisioning of Levick Court Residential Care Home was identified and within that included the option to provide alternative residential care for the current service users and seek opportunities to maximise the utilisation of the property working with partner organisations. Approval is therefore required on the recommended option and the potential to consult with staff in terms of potential redundancies. Approval is being sought on the recommended option for the utilisation of Levick Court Residential Care Home	Yes
Executive Member for Finance and Governance				
2 Oct 2024	Executive	ASC Residential Charging Policy	ASC Residential Charging Policy - 3 year review	Yes
2 Oct 2024	Executive	Customer Transformation Programme	To set out and seek approval of the proposed Customer Transformation programme which forms part of the Council's Recover, Reset, Deliver Transformation Portfolio	Yes

DATE	PROPOSED DECISION MAKER	ISSUE	PURPOSE OF REPORT	KEY DECISION
Executive Member for Regeneration				
2 Oct 2024	Executive	Capex Municipal Buildings and Town Hall Roofs	Any matters relating to bids for funding, which are financially or strategically significant and have not been provided for within the financial and policy framework.	Yes
2 Oct 2024	Executive	Corporate Asset Management Plan	Decision is required by Executive	Yes
2 Oct 2024	Executive	Middlesbrough Museums Options Appraisal	Options appraisal requested by Executive to inform a decision about the future of the museum service related to required cost savings.	Yes
11 Nov 2024	Executive	Cemetery Provision	Setting out the future plan for cemetery provision.	Yes
11 Nov 2024	Executive	Management and Maintenance of Development Land / Nutrient Neutrality Mitigation	The report seeks Executive approval of the resources required to maintain land held prior to disposal / development and the management of land held fallow as part of the Nutrient Neutrality mitigation measures. Report seeks management resources to be capitalised as an abnormal cost to disposal receipts.	Yes
11 Nov 2024	Executive	Southlands Facility Contract Delivery	To seek Executive approval to commence the contractor procurement process and delivery of the Southlands Facility.	Yes

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Report of:	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Director of Legal and Governance Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	11 September 2024
Title:	Scrutiny Progress Report
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	Not Applicable

Proposed decision(s)

That Council note the report.

Executive summary

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council

note the report.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

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

4. Background and relevant information:

4.1 Overview and Scrutiny Board

4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Board met on 31 July 2024 and considered the following substantive items on its agenda:

- a) Executive Forward Work Programme
- b) Local Government Boundary Commission Review 2024 – Consultation Update
- c) Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25

4.3 The Mayor and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health was in attendance and provided an update on his portfolio.

4.4 Members approved the topics submitted by the Place Scrutiny Panel for the Work Programme 2024/2025 which included Empty Properties, Home to School Transport and Barriers to Regeneration.

4.5 The next meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Board will take place on 25 September 2024 when the Executive Member for Regeneration.

5. Scrutiny Panel Updates

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

5.2 People Scrutiny Panel

5.3 A meeting of the People Scrutiny Panel took place on 15 July 2024. The Joint Director of Public Health, Director of Adult Social Care and Health Integration and Executive Director of Children's Services were in attendance to provide the panel with an overview of the services provided across their Directorates, and to highlight the strategic and departmental priorities for the coming year.

The Deputy Director of Delivery for the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) was also in attendance and provided the panel with an overview of the

Tees Valley health landscape; key health issues, challenges and opportunities; and matters for Members to note over the next twelve months.

In relation to setting the Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme 2024/2025 - due to the level of information received and number of suggestions made, the panel agreed that a decision regarding the Work Programme would be taken at the next scheduled meeting.

The next meeting of the People Scrutiny Panel will take place on 16 September 2024.

5.4 Place Scrutiny Panel

- 5.5 The first meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel took place on Monday 29 July 2024. At that meeting the Director of Regeneration and the Head of Neighbourhoods, Environment and Community Services provided an overview of the services provided across their respective Directorates and highlighted priorities and challenges for the next year.

The Panel discussed and agreed its work programme for 2024-2025 and the chosen topics were submitted to, and approved by, the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 31 July 2024.

The next meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel is scheduled for 2 September 2024 when the Panel will commence its work programme, receiving presentations in respect of Home to School Transport and Empty Properties.

An additional meeting of the Place Scrutiny Panel has been arranged on 23 September 2024 at which the Panel will consider the former Environment Scrutiny Panel's Waste Management Final Report and determine conclusions and recommendations for inclusion in the report, prior to submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Board. Members of the former Environment Panel have been invited to join the meeting.

6. Scrutiny Reports Submitted to Executive

- 6.1 Since the last update to Council, no Final Scrutiny reports have been submitted to Executive.

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

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

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

8. *Financial (including procurement and Social Value)*

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

9. Legal

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

10. Risk

10.1 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.

Risk No	Risk Description	Impact
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.

11. Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

11.1 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.

12. Climate Change / Environmental

Not applicable.

13. Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

Not applicable.

14. Data Protection

Not applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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11 SEPTEMBER 2024

MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 4.27

QUESTION NO.	QUESTION FROM	QUESTION TO	QUESTION
01/2024	Councillor Henman	Councillor J Thompson Executive Member for Community Safety	<p>Last week, the second phase of the report into the Grenfell Tower disaster was published. The report covered the circumstances that lead to the fire which took the lives of 72 people in 2017. The report criticises the local authority's response in the aftermath as "muddled, slow, indecisive and piecemeal" and that the "Council's systems were wholly inadequate to the task of handling an incident...involving.... mass homelessness and mass fatalities." No arrangements were in place to deal with the displacement of large numbers of people and cultural and religious needs were not respected.</p> <p>Have our officers digested the findings of this report and reviewed our own procedures? How confident are we in our own preparedness if, heaven forbid, an incident of a similar seriousness were to happen locally?</p>

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**COUNCIL MEETING – 11 SEPTEMBER 2024
NOTICE OF MOTIONS 164 and 165**

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NOS. 4.28 – 4.34

MOTION NO.	PROPOSER	SECONDER	MOTION
164	Councillor I Morrish	Councillor B Hubbard	This council should condemn all types of violence including foul or abusive language towards politicians, following the recent assassination attempt on the Republican candidate for US president.
165 Page 71	Councillor P Storey	Councillor E Clynch	<p>Motion to condemn the violent disorder in Middlesbrough on 4th August 2024 and reaffirm the Council’s commitment to a safe, inclusive, and tolerant society.</p> <p>This Council unequivocally condemns the shameful violent disorder which took place in Middlesbrough on Sunday 4th August 2024.</p> <p>Completely unacceptable acts of violent disorder were committed. These included disgusting racist acts, indiscriminate and senseless criminal damage to residential properties and local businesses, and police officers being attacked.</p> <p>Our communities have been shaken by the events of Sunday 4th August and we stand in solidarity with all those feeling fearful as a result of violent thuggery and dangerous extremism which has no place in Middlesbrough.</p> <p>This Council is proud of Middlesbrough’s welcoming history and is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and tolerant society for all. Those intent on stoking disorder and division are not welcome in our communities and do not speak for our town.</p>

We pay tribute to the heroic actions of the police and other emergency service personnel who put themselves in harm's way to protect our people, homes, and businesses on Sunday 4th August. We also welcome the swift and effective response from the Government to tackle the violent thuggery we witnessed in Middlesbrough and across the country.

Those who engaged in violent disorder on our streets on Sunday 4th August are now facing the full force of the law. Over 60 people have already been arrested in connection with the disorder and many more are being investigated by the police. The community spirit we witnessed in the aftermath of the events on Sunday 4th August highlighted the very best of Middlesbrough. Volunteers from all backgrounds came together in a major clean-up effort on Monday 5th August. We are deeply grateful to each and every person who attended. The kindness and generosity which we have witnessed in our town since the violent disorder represents the real Middlesbrough. This Council expresses our gratitude to every single member of our community who has helped to clean up our town and support one another.

This Council resolves to learn from and respond to the impacts of these events, providing all available support to our communities to ensure our town comes back stronger from these events and to reaffirm our commitment to a safe, inclusive, and tolerant Middlesbrough.

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal and Governance Services
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Relevant Executive Member:	The Mayor, Chris Cooke
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Submitted to:	Council
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Date:	11 September 2024
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Title:	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report
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Report for:	Information
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Status:	Public
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Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
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Key decision:	Not applicable
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Why:	Not applicable
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Subject to call in?	Not applicable
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Why:	Not applicable
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Proposed decision(s)	
	That Council notes the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan.

Executive summary	
	This report sets out the key activities, progress and impact of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and activity in response to the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors, since last reported to Council on 17 July 2024.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the key activities and progress since an update was last provided to Council, in response to the Section 24 recommendations made by the Council's External Auditors and the Council's Corporate Governance Improvement Plan.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council notes the progress against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan.

3 Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Member oversight is crucial in delivery of these actions and also provision of assurance that intended impacts to address the governance weaknesses identified by the Council's External Auditors are being realised.

4 Background and relevant information

- 4.1 On 18 September 2023, Council received a report that set out the activities of Phase Three of the proposed Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, alongside the associated governance arrangements providing oversight of delivery. It also received a report from the Council's External Auditors which made statutory recommendations in relation to the Council's governance. This report provides an update on delivery against the action plan that was put in place in response to that report, as well as an update on delivery against the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan.
- 4.2 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.

5. Best Value Notice update

- 5.1 The Council has been under a Best Value Notice (BVN) from Government since January 2023. Both the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and the Section 24 Notice include actions to positively address the concerns of government as set out in that notice, and also in the renewed notice that was issued in January 2024
- 5.2 On 30 July 2024, the Chief Executive was advised that this current BVN is being formally reviewed by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Members will be updated as soon as the outcome of that review is known.

6. Performance management methodology

6.1 The Council’s and Programme and Project Management policy set out the methodology used to assess and report on progress against delivery, which is applied across the Corporate Governance Improvement and Section 24 delivery plans.

KEY:	
BLUE - COMPLETE	Activity delivered in full
GREEN – ON TRACK	Delivery plan activities are on track and / or a or above standard
AMBER – OFF TRACK	Delivery plan activities are < 5% below standard
RED – OFF TRACK	Delivery plan activities are > 5% below standard
IMPACT - NO CHANGE	The measures of success used to assess impact, refresh on differing time periods. Some are annual, others are more frequent. If it says no change, either the data has stayed the same or is not due to be refreshed
IMPACT MET – NO (AMBER)	Performance measures for this workstream are within 5% of the target
IMPACT MET – NO (RED)	Performance measures for this workstream are below target by more than 5%
IMPACT TREND – MIXED CHANGES	Of the range of performance measures that are against the workstream, some have improved, and others have worsened

6.2 Overall performance in relation to delivery of activity across the two improvement plans is as follows (excluding activity not yet planned to start and not due to be delivered yet):

Activity	STATUS AT 18/06/2024			
	% On-track	% Off-track	% Delivered	Overall % on track or delivered
Corporate Governance Improvement Plan	16% (15/95)	1% (1/95)	83% (79/95)	99%
Section 24 Action plan	9% (4/47)	2% (1/47)	89% (42/47)	98%

6.3 The above table shows that 99% of planned activity has either been delivered or is on-track for delivery in relation to the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, with one planned activity across the ten workstreams measuring as off-track.

6.4 98% of activity in relation to the Section 24 delivery plan is on-track or has been delivered, with one activity showing as off-track. This is the same activity that is off track in the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan.

6.5 The remainder of this report sets out the detail of the delivery plan activity and an update on Measures of Success that are in place to assess the impact of activity.

7. Corporate Governance Improvement Plan: progress status

7.1 For the current reporting period, nine of the workstreams are on target in terms of activity, as per timescales set out in the corporate Governance Improvement Plan, with one being off target currently in the Cultural Transformation plan, which is outlined below:

- *Improving financial governance, spending controls and monitoring, by ensuring effective financial management across the organisation* – a milestone in relation to the implementation of compliance and enforcement protocols to embed governance arrangements into operational practice is off-track. While this has been produced, it is now clear that the Council has sufficient tools in place without this protocol being required. As such this will be removed as an action in the next report to Council in September 2024.

Measures of success

7.2 The Council, in identifying the data sources to measure success, has set a baseline against which it will judge ongoing performance. Frequencies in updating these measures vary. Some measures are ad hoc, some annual, while others are refreshed on a quarterly or monthly basis.

7.3 The Council continues to review its delivery plans and measures of success to ensure it is taking the right actions and is focussed on assessing the impact of its activity.

Key activities

7.4 The following activities within the governance improvement plan have been delivered since progress was last reported to Council:

THEME	WORKSTREAM	COMPLETED ACTIVITIES WITHIN REPORTING PERIOD
Cultural Transformation	Develop and implement communications and engagement plan to support cultural transformation	Seek LMT approval for overall Council marketing and communications strategy that includes how to promote Changing our Culture and Recover, Reset, Deliver Share new Council marketing and communications strategy with MIIAB

Summary of progress against plan

7.5 The following tables set out a summary position against planned activity and progress against the measures of success that have been agreed to track the long-term impact of this plan. This table reflects the current status – as per the above change controls that have been considered by LMT and IAB.

CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION	ACTIVITY TRACKING		OUTCOME IMPACT		LMT LEAD	EXEC MEMBER
	CURRENT STATUS	PREV. STATUS	IMPACT TREND	IMPACT TARGET MET?		
Development / implementation of People and Cultural Transformation Strategy	Green	Green	Improved	No	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Development / implementation of Member Development Strategy and Programme	Green	Amber	No change	No	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker

Development / implementation of a corporate governance training programme	Complete	Complete	Improved	Yes	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Ensure stable and sustainable leadership for the organisation	Green	Green	Worsened	No	C Heaphy / C Benjamin	Mayor Cooke
Development / implementation of improved focus on employee performance and accountability	Green	Amber	Improved	Yes	C Heaphy	Cllr N Walker
Review Council's approach to Member enquiries and engagement	Complete	Green	No MoS set	No MoS set	C Benjamin	Cllr N Walker
Develop / implement communications and engagement plan to support cultural transformation	Green	Green	No change	No	C Heaphy	Mayor Cooke

FINANCIAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE	ACTIVITY TRACKING		OUTCOME IMPACT		LMT LEAD	EXEC MEMBER
	CURRENT STATUS	PREV. STATUS	IMPACT TREND	IMPACT TARGET MET?		
Controlling 2023/24 expenditure to within approved budgets	Complete	Complete	Data not updated	No	D Middleton	Cllr N Walker
Setting a balanced budget for 2024/25 to 2026/27	Complete	Complete	Data not updated	No	D Middleton	Cllr N Walker
Improvements to financial governance, spending controls and monitoring through more effective financial management	Red	Red	No change	Yes	D Middleton	Cllr N Walker

8. Independent Improvement Advisory Board

8.1 Since its work was last reported, the Board met on 10 July 2024 and 19 August 2024. These meetings considered the following:

- Updates from the Mayor and Chief Executive
- An update on cultural transformation which covered Member officer relationships, member relationships, an update on the Members Enquiries project.
- Updates on delivery of the Member Development and People Strategies
- An update on development of a Partnerships Working Strategy
- Discussions on the development of a Target Operating model
- Progress within the transformation programme. The Board is reviewing the programme on a theme-by-theme basis. These meetings reviewed the Property and Customer Programmes. Members of the Board have also observed a number of the

transformation programme meetings that take place as part of steps to seek assurance around the governance of the transformation programme.

- the 2024/25 budget
- an update on the recruitment process for the Chief Executive and Section 151 officers
- an update on the new Councillor gateway
- a standing update on progress against the improvement plan and Section 24 report.

8.2 The Board has also met with all group leaders to provide them with an overview of their third progress report, prior to it being considered by Executive in July 2024.

8.3 Action points arising from formal Improvement Board meetings, excluding admin related tasks, e.g., facilitation of meetings, are set out at Appendix 1, alongside a summary of information requested by the Board.

9. Section 24: progress update

9.1 The table below sets out the current status of activity in response to the Section 24 recommendations, along with a summary of the impact these activities are having on the longer-term measures of success that have been set in order to enable the Council to be able to assess whether the activities are having the intended impact.

9.2 Since the last report a further two actions have been completed and the measure of success for another has been achieved:

S24 ACTIONS	ACTIVITY TRACKING		OUTCOME IMPACT	
	CURRENT STATUS	PREV. STATUS	IMPACT TREND	IMPACT TARGET MET?
1. Progression of next phase of Corporate Governance Improvement Plan, prioritising actions to address cultural and governance issues.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
2. Development of contingency and succession governance protocols to mitigate potential impact of any future changes in senior leadership.	Green	Green	No change	No
3. Conclusion of Constitution review and provision of officer / member training ensuring changes are understood and implemented.	Complete	Complete	No change	No
4. Identification of deliverable short-term savings, protecting limited remaining reserves, considering statutory responsibilities and delivery of services.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
5. Review service delivery models to ensure that they are efficient, represent value for money and achieves the outcomes required.	Complete	Complete	N/A	N/A
6. Review of financial forecasting processes to understand emergence of significant financial pressures, in both 22/23 and 23/24.	Complete	Complete	Data not updated	24/25 baseline set
7. Conclusion of Financial and Contract Procedure rules review to ensure they are fit for purpose.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete

8. Provision of training on Financial and Contract Procedure rules to all officers involved in contracting, procurement or financial decisions.	Red	Red	Complete	Complete
9. Completion of contract review to ensure compliance with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
10. Review oversight arrangements for Middlesbrough Development Company to assure value for money.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete
11. Develop action plan for the demise of Middlesbrough Development Company setting out benefit realisation.	Complete	Complete	Complete	Complete

*No baseline set

9.3 Across all S24 workstreams, one is reporting activity which is off target:

- *Recommendation 8, Financial and Contract Procedure rules:*
 - *S8.07:* Establish compliance and enforcement protocols to embed the governance arrangements into operational practice is slightly delayed due to further strengthening of performance management and disciplinary processes regarding non-compliance. While this has been produced, it is now clear that the Council has sufficient tools in place without this protocol being required. As such this will be removed as an action in the next report to Council in September 2024.

Section 24: key activities

9.4 89% of all planned activities within the Section 24 Action plan have now been delivered. There is no new activity to highlight in this report since it was last considered in July.

Section 24: measures of success

9.5 Work to seek updates on measures is undertaken on a monthly basis. Measures of success that related to 23/24 budget activity which are still relevant have been replaced with new measures that relate to 24/25 budget activity and the refreshed MTFP. Of the 13 measures that remain, non have been updated since last reported.

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

10.1 Not applicable.

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

Financial (including procurement and Social Value)

11.1 Not applicable.

Legal

11.2 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.

Risk

11.3 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, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

11.4 Not applicable.

Climate Change / Environmental

11.5 Not applicable.

Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

11.6 Not applicable.

Data Protection / GDPR

11.7 Not applicable.

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

11.8 Not applicable.

Appendices

1	Key activities update from the Board
2	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan: measures of success
3	Section 24 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
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	25 Oct 2023
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	29 Nov 2023
Audit committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	14 December 2023
Audit Committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	1 February 2024
Audit Committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	14 March 2024
Council	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	27 March 2024
Council	Second Progress report of the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board	27 March 2024
Audit Committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	25 July 2024
Audit Committee	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan and Section 24 Action Plan progress report	22 August 2024
Audit Committee	Best Value Notice – Status Update	22 August 2024

Contact:

Ann-Marie Johnstone, Head of Governance, Policy and Information

Ann-marie_johnstone@middlesbrough.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Summary of information requested and major action points arising from the Middlesbrough Independent Improvement Advisory Board (MIIAB) July 2024 and August 2024 meetings

Information requests
External Audit Value for Money report 2021/22 to 2022/23 – presented to Audit Committee on 25 July 2024
Statistics on engagement undertaken in recruitment hub sessions
Data on engagement undertaken with Members as part of the Member Gateway project.
Information requested on the breakdown of agency numbers in August 2024.
Timeline requested for a plan to align performance, finance and risk reporting.

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Major comments / action points
Consider undertaking lessons learned approach to build on the good practice coming out of the Councillor Gateway development.
That the Council should increase pace around development of a Target Operating Model.
That the Council should progress plans to develop a more integrated approach to performance, finance and risk.
The Council should consider use of pre-scrutiny in relation to transformation.
Benefits realisation information should be embedded within the Council's Communications plan.

Session with the Board and Executive Members to be arranged in September 2024.

The Board thanked all staff involved in the Member Enquiries Gateway project.

Further staff engagement sessions to be held with staff in October who met with the Board in March to assess current views.

The Council should consider developing a timeline for the development of a number of activities that will have interdependencies including the Customer strategy, Target Operating Model and staffing reviews.

Appendix 2 Corporate Governance Improvement Plan: measures of success

Outcome	Measure of Success	Current performance	Previous performance	Target	Status against target	Current performance data	Current performance period	Previous performance data
Improved understanding of corporate governance policies and process and improved adherence to them	Reduce the number of audits that have limited or no assurance	No change	Improved	0	Below target	2 out of 16 complete audits	March 2024 report	2 out of 12 complete audits
	Improve the percentage of priority One and Priority Two actions from Internal Audits that are delivered within original timescales	No change	Improved	80% or higher	Below target	20% of P1 actions and 13% of P2 actions were complete within original timescales	Mar-24	20% of P1 actions and 13% of P2 actions were complete within original timescales
Improved relationships between officers and members	Staff and Member surveys to assess health of relationships and direction of travel	No change	Worse	50% of staff and 80% of councillors or higher	Below target	38.65%	May-24	77% of heads of service and directors now view relationships with Executive members as positive or very positive (22
Improved retention of staff	Staff turnover rates – Number of leavers	No change	Improved	5%	Above target	2.85%	Q1 2024-25	3.40%
Improved staff satisfaction	1-10 Score of how valued staff feel as an employee of the Council	No change	No change	6.2 or higher	Below target	5.98	May-24	5.9
Reduced need to use agency staff	Number of agency staff working for Middlesbrough Council – Total	Worse	Improved	75	Below target	194	Jul-24	164
	Number of agency staff working for Middlesbrough Council – Transformation	No change	No change	No target set	No target set	10	Jul-24	10
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	No change	No change	3	Below target	5	Jul-24	5
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	Improved	Improved	Less than 150	Above target	115	Jul-24	130
	% of complaints upheld or partially upheld by the central team	Improved	Improved	Less than 40%	Below target	71%	Jul-24	73%
Members have a Member development programme that meets their needs and is well used	Percentage of members completing all mandatory training	Complete	Complete	100%	At target	100%	Oct-23	100%
	Percentage of Members attending wider skills	n/a baseline	n/a baseline	95%	Above target	98%	Oct-23	Data not available
	Member satisfaction with the Member development programme	n/a baseline	n/a baseline	90%	Below target	87.5% this is based on 21 responses out of 24	Oct-23	71% this is based on 5 responses out of 7
Performance is effectively managed within the organisation	Completion of appraisal process	Improved	n/a baseline	95%	Below target	81%	Jul-24	75%
Improved Member behaviour	Number of member on member complaints received	No change	Worse	2 or fewer per quarter	Below target	4	Q1 2024-25	0
Residents are increasingly satisfied with the way the Council is ran and with the Council overall	Questions within the 2023 Resident survey currently underway	No change	n/a baseline	61% (NE average 21/22)	Below target	40%	Nov-23	64%
Residents increasingly agree that the Council acts on their concerns	Questions within the 2023 Resident survey currently underway	No change	Not previously asked	55% (NE average 21/22)	Below target	43%	Nov-23	n/a

	Outcome	Measure of Success	Current Performance	Previous Performance	Target	Status Against Target	Current performance data:	Current performance period:	Previous performance data:	Previous performance period:
Financial Recovery and Resilience	Financial Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules training delivered	LMT, WLMT, all Budget Holders trained by 31 December 2023	Complete	Improved	95% or higher	Complete	89.08%	Jul-24	87.66%	Jun-24
	Corporate finance training programme established	Quarterly programme of finance training established	100%	n/a baseline	One training session delivered per quarter	Complete	100%	Feb-24	n/a	n/a
	Budget management and purchase to pay dashboards developed to improve management information and compliance	Budget management dashboard available to all budget holders from Business World through Power BI reporting tools by 30 November 2023. P2P Dashboards available by 31 March 2024	Complete	n/a	Dashboard in place	Complete	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	Complete	n/a	95% or higher	n/a at this stage	n/a due from April 2024 onwards	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2024/25 net expenditure is delivered within the approved budget	Forecast outturn is within the agreed budget	n/a to be reported from September onwards	n/a	Compliant / within budget	n/a				
	The Council's financial position is sustainable	Maintain GF balance in line with approved reserves policy - 7.5% of the net revenue budget which would be £11.1m at 31/3/25	n/a to be reported from September onwards	n/a	£11.1m	n/a	£11.1m	Apr-24	n/a	n/a
	The Council's financial position is sustainable	Maintain unrestricted usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £8m at 31/3/25	n/a to be reported from September onwards	n/a	£8m	n/a	£8m	May-24	n/a	n/a
	2025/6 budget is set and balanced	Balanced Budget for 2025/6 set	Not yet measured	n/a	£0 variance	baseline set	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Set a sustainable Medium Term Financial Plan in place for the period 2025/6 to 2028/9	Balanced MTFP to 2028/9	Below target	n/a	Compliant / within budget	Below target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Robust financial governance is in place	Achievement of 3 star or higher rating for financial governance against the CIPFA criteria	n/a baseline	n/a	3 star or higher	n/a	2 star	Jun-24	n/a	n/a

Appendix 3 Measures of success – Section 24 Report

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Measure of Success	Current performance	Target	Status against target	Frequency of data refresh	Source:	Current performance data:	Current performance period:	Previous performance data:	Previous performance period:
Delivery of the Corporate Governance Improvement Plan activity	Complete	n/a	Complete	Monthly	Corporate Governance Improvement Plan	6 out of 10 workstreams activity on target	Nov-23	10 out of 10	Oct-23
Number of roles at Head of Service and above that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	No change	3	Below target	Monthly	Procurement - Claire Walker	5	Jul-24	5	Jun-24
Number of Transformation roles that are vacant / occupied by Agency or interim staff	No change	No target set	No target set - baseline	Monthly	Procurement - Claire Walker	10	Jul-24	10	Jun-24
Reduce the number of audits that have limited or no assurance	No change	0	Below target	Quarterly	Internal audit progress reports to Audit Committee	2 out of 16 complete audits	March 2024 report	2 out of 12 complete audits	December 2023 report
Improve the percentage of priority One and Priority Two actions from Internal Audits that are delivered within original timescales	No change	80% or higher	Below target	Annual	Internal Audit	No P1s or P2s so far in 24/25	Jun-24	20% of P1 actions and 13% of P2 actions were complete within original timescales	Mar-24
Percentage of members completing all mandatory training	Complete	100%	Complete	Annual	Member training data	100%	Oct-23	100%	Oct-22
Percentage of Members attending wider skills	No change	95%	Above target	Annual	Member training data	98%	Oct-23	Data not available	Oct-22
Member satisfaction with the Member development programme	No change	90%	Below target	Annual	Member training data	87.5% this is based on 21 responses out of 24	Oct-23	71% this is based on 5 responses out of 7	Oct-22
90% of projects within the programme, once launched are on track		n/a	n/a at this stage	Quarterly once live		90% once launched	n/a		
90% of benefits from projects realised in line with benefits realisation trackers		n/a	n/a at this stage	Quarterly once live		90% once launched	n/a		
Maintain expenditure in line with agreed budgets in 2024/5	n/a to be reported from September onwards	Compliant / within budget	n/a baseline						
Maintain GF balance at £11.1m at 31/3/25	n/a to be reported from September onwards	11.1m	n/a baseline	Quarterly		11.1m	Q1		
Maintain usable revenue reserves at a minimum of £8m at 31/3/25.	n/a to be reported from September onwards	Between 8m and 10m	n/a baseline	Quarterly		9.25m	Q1	6.2m	Q3 23/24

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL



Report of:	Director of Education and Partnerships
Relevant Executive Member:	Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Education and Culture
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	11 September 2024
Title:	Youth Justice Plan 2024/25
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Safe and resilient communities
Key decision:	No
Why:	Report is for information only
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	Decision made by council

Proposed decision(s)

To note that Council approves the South Tees Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25.

Executive summary

The Youth Justice Plan is a legally required strategic document as set down by Section 40 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and by National Standards for Youth Justice. Section 40 states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partners, to formulate a youth justice plan which outlines how youth justice services in the area are to be provided and funded.

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:

- First Time Entrants
- Use of Custody
- Re-offending

The plan also outlines the priorities for South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) in 2024/25, and how those priorities will be achieved.

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

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 2024/25 (attached) requires approval by full council.

Recommendations

2. That Council approves the South Tees Youth Justice Service Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3. 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.
4. 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.

Background and relevant information

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The priorities identified by STYJS to support the development of the service during 2024-2025 have been designed to reflect issues affecting the service at a local, regional and national level. 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 2024-2025 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.

8. The priorities to support ongoing service development are:
- Priority 1: Prevention and Diversion- To further develop opportunities for prevention and early intervention with young people and their families.
 - Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- To further develop practice to ensure that STYJS can respond appropriately and effectively to the needs of young people involved in or at risk of serious violence and/or exploitation.
 - Priority 3: Preparation for Inspection- To ensure that STYJS are fully prepared for the challenge of a potential HMIP Inspection during 2024-25.
 - Priority 4: Education, Training and Employment- To ensure that all young people supervised by STYJS have access to opportunities for Education, Training and Employment.
 - Priority 5: Resettlement- To ensure that young people are effectively supported upon resettlement to the community.
 - Priority 6: Restorative Practice- To establish a Restorative Culture in STYJS which supports effective work with the young people and communities we serve.
9. 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.

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

10. Do nothing – the Youth Justice Plan is a legally required strategic document as set down by Section 40 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and by National Standards for Youth Justice. Not having a plan would result in the Youth Justice Board withholding all of the grant and therefore this is not a viable option.
11. Service priorities for 2024/25 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)

Financial (including procurement and Social Value)

12. South Tees Youth Justice Service grant allocation for 2023/24 was £1,035,400. The grant allocation for 2024/25 has not been announced at the time of writing this report. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has notified STYJS there will be a delay in the announcement of a grant allocation for 2024/25 until after the general election. Advice received from the YJB is for services to set their budgets using last year's grant figure as an indicative figure.
13. 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 2024/25 (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. As stated above, the grant allocation will not be announced for 2024/25 until after the general election. However, a reduction is not anticipated. The Service at budget setting expects to spend a similar amount to the previous year with inflation expected to fall, all things remaining equal around other costs to the service.
16. Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, and Hartlepool Local Authority put in income contributions along with Police and Probation 'in-kind' contributions 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. If this remand budget became overspent the STYJS Management Board would need to report and request funds from MBC and Redcar and Cleveland LA for the statutory Looked After provision. However, there has been no overspend in this budget in over 5 years. There is a financial risk within the terms and conditions of the grant, that Middlesbrough as lead partner, requires to submit this annual plan and is signed off along with commitments from partner agencies. Budgetary controls include monthly and quarterly budget monitoring and partnership reporting which would identify any overspend and remedial action, and the STYJS Management Board would need to enter discussions with partners to seek a solution within its own resources.
17. The table below shows forecasted income and expenditure for STYJS in 2024/25;

2024/25 STYJS budget	£
Forecast expenditure for the period 1 st April 2024 to 31 st March 2025	1,547,600

Income - YJB Grant (assumed as per 2023/24 level – see para. 6.1)	(1,035,400)
Income - Police & Crime Commissioner	(80,000)
Income - Hartlepool Borough Council	(5,000)
Income - Redcar Borough Council	(200,000)
Income - MBC General Fund	(227,200)
Forecast net position 2024/25 at 31/3/25	0

Legal

18. 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.

Risk

19. The proposed plan will positively impact on the strategic risk that the “Council could fail to work effectively with partners”. It will do this by putting in place a plan which sets out how the Council and its partners will work effectively together to reduce youth crime and anti-social behaviour in the town.

Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

20. Not applicable

Climate Change / Environmental

21. Not applicable

Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

22. South Tees Youth Justice Service has strong partnership arrangements with children’s services at strategic and operational levels and engage at a managerial level at a number of multi-agency forums designed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of young people. Reducing the number of Children who are Looked After in the criminal justice system is a key priority for STYJS. The service work proactively with those young people who experience significant vulnerabilities including children in local authority care. Work with looked after children is in line with the national protocol on reducing unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers 2018.

Data Protection

23. STYJS works to all Middlesbrough Council policies and procedures including data protection. The service has a Privacy Notice in place explaining how data is collected and how it is used.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Approval of the Plan	Kay Dargue	10.6.24

Appendices

1	South Tees Youth Justice Plan 2024-25
2	Youth justice plans: guidance for youth justice services
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

Contact:

Email: Kay_Dargue@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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Youth Justice Plan 2024-2025

***Building bridges and changing the course for
young people***

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

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FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE YJS BOARD

I am delighted to present the South Tees Youth Justice Plan for 2024-25. The last 12 months have certainly been busy with an increase in interventions delivered and significant progress made against the priorities from last year. This plan outlines performance and achievements, areas for development, and risks and challenges going forwards along with describing some exciting new projects such as the opening of the new child custody suite, an innovative project the service have been heavily involved in developing with Cleveland Police and partners.

In addition to Turnaround, the Service has also rolled out other key projects in 2023-24 including Immediate Justice known locally as 'Making Good' in conjunction with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Custody Navigator Project in conjunction with the Cleveland Violence Reduction Unit (CURV) bringing support to young people in police custody at the earliest stage. Although in its infancy, the Navigators project has already supported many young people from across the Cleveland area and continues to receive positive feedback from partners. These projects have naturally brought about recruitment of staff and resulted in the need for increased management capacity and an internal restructure to cope with the new demands of all three projects. In addition, the service has increased the provision of speech and language therapy which has resulted in more children receiving timely support as it is required.

The service has embraced changes brought about by the Youth Justice Board's (YJB) new performance and oversight framework, which brought in a new set of national key performance indicators. Furthermore, the service has engaged in consultation events held by HMIP in respect of the new inspection framework due to be published later this year to ensure we can be in a strong position to align quickly to any new standards required.

Violence and exploitation continue to be a serious concern in our locality. Consequently, this remains a service priority this year along with resettlement, Education, Training and Employment, and establishing a restorative culture to support effective work with the communities we serve. As Turnaround draws to a close, the service is committed to continuing with a prevention offer to ensure there are opportunities for our young people to engage in early intervention to prevent future contact with the criminal justice system.

Looking to the future, there are a number of challenges ahead, as funding streams for key projects come to an end and we continue to adapt to the complexities and needs of our young people. The future will present further challenges and uncertainty over budgets and the direction to be taken by the new government. However, the service continues to forward plan looking for new opportunities, innovation, and transformation, and I have every confidence the service will continue to adapt to the changing landscape and have a positive impact on young people who come into contact with the service along with the communities it serves.



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 relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement a Youth Justice Plan setting out:

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

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

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

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

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

The strategic purpose of STYJS is:

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

This Youth Justice Plan 2024-2025 will provide:

- An overview of STYJS performance and achievements during 2023-2024
- An overview of service developments during 2023-2024
- Details of STYJS structure and governance arrangements
- An overview of the principal partnerships STYJS engages in to support the delivery of services
- Assurance to the YJB in relation to STYJS plans for the use of our YJB Grant Funding
- Details of the principal areas for service improvement and development during 2024-2025
- 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 Strategic Plan. The STYJS Plan will show how through our strategic priorities, we intend to respond to the YJB Strategic Objectives, with work to focus on how we engage with the communities we serve, how we promote the child first principle across all areas of our work and how we challenge all forms of disproportionality regarding young people in the Youth Justice system.

The Principles and Values that underpin our work

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

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

Our Vision

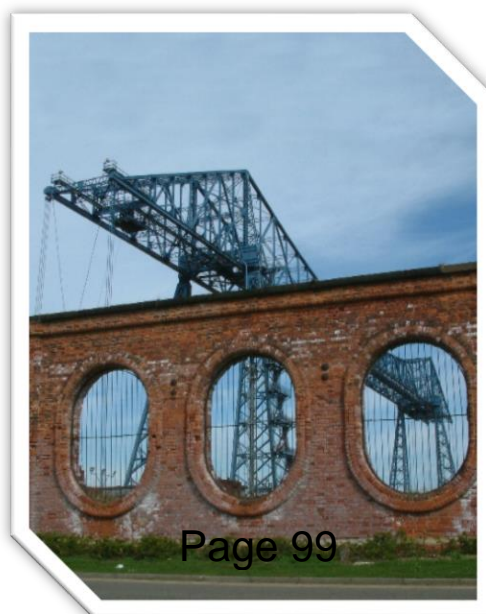
In line with the principles detailed above STYJS has established the following vision for the service, and this is shared by all staff, partners and stakeholders.

“Building bridges and changing the course for young people”

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

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

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



South Tees Youth Justice Service Practice Standards

The corporate governance for STYJS is provided by Middlesbrough Council. The STYJS 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 model our behaviours and how we seek to deliver our work with young people to ensure that we place young people at the centre of everything we do. These practice standards are intended to direct the work of frontline staff and managers and detail a range of responsibilities.

The Practice Standards were revised in January 2024 to take into account changes in practice and shared areas of responsibilities across Children's Services and the YJS.

The practice standards identify the shared staff responsibilities as follows:

- 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.

The practice standards identify the manager's Responsibilities as follows:

- 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.

In addition to the above in order to respond to shared responsibilities for young people in custody the following Practice Standards have been added to reflect the joined up approach to supporting young people through resettlement by the YJS and Children's Services:

Responsibilities of the Youth Justice Service worker:

- I will work collaboratively with YJS and social care and ensure I continue my role as corporate parent to the young person whilst they are in custody, I will arrange meetings and undertake joint visits where appropriate and ensure all parties each other's responsibilities, including who is visiting and when
- I will visit the young person in the court custody setting after they have been remanded/sentenced to ensure that they understand what will happen next and that all important information is passed onto the secure placement they will be transferred to (secure children's home or young offenders' institution).
- I will visit the young person in the custodial setting within 2 weeks of them being sentenced to complete their initial sentence plan or remand review. I will ensure that the young person's parent/carer is supported to attend this meeting.
- I will visit the young person once a month whilst they are in custody
- I will begin preparations for the young person's release from custody 3 months prior to the release date and ensure the young person's pathway plan is fully updated. I will explain the licence conditions and what this will mean for the young person.

Responsibilities of the Social Worker:

- I will provide you £10 per week to support getting essential items whilst in custody
- I will visit every 4 weeks and review your pathway plan; this will include an exit strategy from custody
- I will ensure you have appropriate accommodation upon release and support in place to set up home

Responsibilities of Managers in both services:

- I will ensure at least 3 monthly joint supervision between social care and the youth justice service.
- I will carry out monthly supervision in between.

Consultation with Staff and Partners in the Preparation of the 2024-2025 Youth Justice Plan

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

YJS staff supported the service priorities and agreed that these reflect the issues and factors which impact on their work with young people. Staff felt that there had been some significant successes achieved by the service during 2023-2024 including:

- The introduction of the Custody Navigators, Turnaround and Making Good programme which have contributed to increasing our knowledge and understanding of the young people referred to the YJS
- The blending of the work across all areas of the service which have come together to ensure that increasing workloads can be effectively managed in the face of reduced resources
- The development of new Reparation schemes to broaden the experience of young people
- The support offered by the 'specialist' areas of the service to the work of case managers, including the input of SALT, Transitions, Police and the ETE staff
- The extension of 'positive' activities for young people including the holiday programmes and group based activity

YJS staff identified further areas of development which would further enhance our work with young people:

- Further extending the resources available to case working staff to respond effectively to the increasingly complex needs of some of the young people we work with
- Re-establish links with CAMHS and the Trauma Informed approach
- Further develop the scope of whole family working in the prevention service
- Extend the scope of group activity to focus on key issues impacting on young people eg Education and Employment, Substance Use, serious violent offending and use of weapons etc.

STYJS partners were consulted during the STYJS Executive Board Meeting in January 2024, and the service priorities detailed below were presented to board members for their consideration. Board members supported the service priorities presented by the YJS Management Team. Board members stressed the importance of Education, Training and Employment as a key priority citing this as one of the most important factors to prevent young people offending and the need to ensure STYJS is aligned with other strategic priorities including those of the YJB.

2024-2025 STYJS Service Priorities:

The priorities identified by STYJS to support the development of the service during 2024-2025 have been designed to reflect issues which affect the service at a local, regional and national level. Consideration has also been given to factors impacting on the young people, families 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 and Diversion- To further develop opportunities for prevention and early intervention with young people and their families.
- Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- To further develop practice to ensure that STYJS can respond appropriately and effectively to the needs of young people involved in or at risk of serious violence and/or exploitation.
- Priority 3: Preparation for Inspection- To ensure that STYJS are fully prepared for the challenge of a potential HMIP Inspection during 2024-25.
- Priority 4: Education, Training and Employment- To ensure that all young people supervised by STYJS have access to opportunities for Education, Training and Employment.
- Priority 5: Resettlement- To ensure that young people are effectively supported upon resettlement to the community.
- Priority 6: Restorative Practice- To establish a Restorative Culture in STYJS which supports effective work with the young people and communities we serve.

THE LOCAL CONTEXT

South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) delivers Youth Justice Services within the local authority areas of Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. Communities in both local authorities are impacted upon by a range of social, economic and environmental factors. Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland have been identified as two of the most deprived local authorities, as detailed in the

English Indices of Deprivation 2019 with communities being affected by high levels of unemployment, poor health outcomes, crime and anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, as well as challenges around educational access, inclusion and attainment. Both local authorities also experience higher than average numbers of children in the care of the Local Authority and significant pressure and demands placed on Children's Services and Early Help provision to support families in need. These communities have also been identified as experiencing higher than average issues of violent offending and offending where weapons have been used.

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



The behaviours of young people continue to be highlighted by negative factors including increasingly violent offending and the use of weapons. In addition, there are hot spot areas with high levels of anti-social behaviour by large groups of young people across both local authority areas, some of which receives national media attention. As a challenge to such behaviours the Cleveland Police area is a designated pilot area for the Immediate Justice initiative, the locally named 'Making Good' programme, and this offers opportunities to offer early intervention and prevention activity, delivering swift and restorative responses to those young people engaged in crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities.

The Cleveland Police area is also a designated Violence Reduction Unit area and the three Youth Justice Services in the Cleveland area have played a significant role with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to ensure that young people and early intervention and prevention are priorities for the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV). Examples of such work include the development of a trauma informed, youth custody suite in Middlesbrough Police HQ supported by the introduction of Custody Navigators into the Middlesbrough Police Custody Suite, a high-profile project for CURV. The role of the Custody Navigators is to promote engagement and support young people during the 'reachable and teachable' moment offered by their presence in police custody.

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

the knowledge and skills to support a wide variety of service user needs and the risks posed by an increasingly complex and challenging cohort of young people.

The service structure has been enhanced further during 2023-2024 with the introduction of Turnaround, Making Good and the Custody Navigators and such projects have brought new staff and operational delivery structures which have also necessitated further investment in our management structure to support these teams.

The profile of young people who engaged with STYJS in 2023-2024

During 2023-2024 STYJS delivered a total of 646 interventions with young people. This included with:

- 559 males, 86.5% of the cohort
- 87 females, 13.5% of the cohort

By local authority area the figures show that there were 367 (56.8% of the cohort) young people from Middlesbrough and 268 (41.5% of the cohort) from Redcar and Cleveland, with 11 (1.7% of the cohort) young people subject to caretaking by STYJS on behalf of other YJS.

These show an increase of 139 (11.5%) interventions compared to the figures for 2022-2023.

These figures show that STYJS worked with a similar proportion of girls and young women during 2023-2024 with this figure decreasing slightly to 13.5% of the cohort, from 13.9% the previous year. During 2023-2024 STYJS has continued to develop interventions to support the needs of girls and young women, and this has included the introduction of the 'Ladybugs' programme an intervention activity designed to offer girls and young women their own safe space to engage with staff and other partner agencies.

The age profile was:

- 12 (1.8%) aged 10 years
- 20 (3.1%) aged 11 years
- 43 (6.7%) aged 12 years
- 54 (8.4%) aged 13 years
- 90 (13.9%) aged 14 years
- 123 (19.0%) aged 15 years
- 152 (23.5%) aged 16 years
- 145 (22.5%) aged 17 years
- 7 (1.1%) aged 18 years

These figures show that the proportion of the cohort aged 10-14 years during 2023-2024 drop significantly compared to 33.9% of the cohort compared to 42.2% for the previous year. The figures also show that the peak age of offending continues to be the 16-17 age group. For females the peak age of offending is now 15-17 years.

The ethnic minority profile was:

- 560 (86.7%) White European
- 3 (0.5%) Black or Black British
- 16 (2.5%) Asian or Asian British
- 29 (4.5%) Mixed Race
- 14 (2.1%) Chinese or other Asian ethnic group
- 24 (3.7%) Not Known

These figures are consistent with the figures shown by the ethnic minority breakdown in 2022-2023, with the cohort being overwhelmingly White British. The figures for other ethnic groups are consistent with previous years with only slight increases compared to 2022-2023 and these figures show that there is no over representation from any ethnic groups.

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 15-17 years are becoming a more prominent group. This was recognised by the YJS, and the Ladybugs programme is now a key area of our intervention with girls and young women.

Profile of Interventions

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

13 (2.0%)	Prevention Cases
242 (37.5%)	Turnaround Programme
247 (38.2%)	OOCD (Community Resolution, Restorative Disposals, Outcome 22, YC/YCC)
118 (18.3%)	Court Ordered Programmes (Referrals Orders, YRO and DTO etc)
8 (1.2%)	Civil Programmes (CBO and ASBI)
18 (2.8%)	Remand Programmes (Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (RYDA), LAA, Bail Support and ISS Bail)

These figures show that OOCDs continue to represent the highest proportion of interventions delivered with young people and their families. Turnaround now represents the primary prevention activity offered by the STYJS. Court based programmes continue to represent approximately a fifth of the total interventions delivered, however we have experienced an increase in the use of Referral Orders during the second half of the year.

Profile of the factors influencing the behaviours of young people:

An examination of 216 YJS assessments, undertaken with young people using the AssetPlus tool during 2023-2024 provides an illustration of the principal factors affecting young people and their behaviours.

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

- Engagement and Participation
- Learning, Education, Training and Employment
- Family and wider networks
- Living arrangements, housing and financial considerations
- Resilience and goals
- Attitudes to Offending/Behaviours
- Substance Misuse
- How the young person relates to others

The information drawn from desistance factors in assessments shows that during 2023-2024 engagement and participation, learning, education, training and employment continue to be the most prevalent protective factors identified with young people. The influence of family, wider networks and living arrangements continue to be key factors in preventing further offending. This information suggests that where young people have a level of security and support from families, carers and a pro-social peer group and engage in ETE or with other services they have a more positive outlook, and this promotes positive outcomes as well as preventing further offending. 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
- Care History

The risk factors detailed above are broadly in line with those identified in the previous year and 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 and Mental Health of young people is also a significant factor and reflects the influence of ACES and Trauma upon the young people we work with. The influence of a young person's legal status and care history have become areas of concern, and this reflects the increasing risks of exploitation for this vulnerable group.

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 2023-2024 the following thematic inspection was undertaken which identified development actions for YJS:

A joint thematic inspection of work with children subject to remand in youth detention.

The report for this inspection was published in November 2023 detailing a range of recommendations for Youth Justice Service Management Boards, YJS Managers, Childrens Services, Police Services and Central Government Departments and Services. With reference to YJS Management Boards and Service Managers the inspection recommended:

YJS Management Boards should:

- require detailed audit information on children who are subject to RYDA and on wider remand decision-making, including information on potential ethnic disparities at every stage of the youth justice system
- initiate a multi-agency review when a child is RYDA, which identifies reasons for the offending and missed opportunities to intervene
- address gaps in specialist provision for black and mixed heritage boys and their parents/ carers to reduce their likelihood of being subject to RYDA
- where they share a youth court area, in consultation with the court, conduct annual reviews of their joint working arrangements with those neighbouring YJSs.

YJS managers should:

- make sure that YJS practitioners and social workers have access to and use guidance and training that sets out how bail and remand processes work
- collaborate with their local police force to be able to contribute to police bail conditions to reduce the need for children to be brought before the court
- in collaboration with children's services, identify accommodation options for children at their first court appearance where there is a risk of RYDA, including bail and remand in local authority accommodation
- work with local defence solicitors to make sure that they are aware of data on outcomes for children in police custody, particularly the potential adverse impact of 'no comment' interviews.
- offer voluntary support to children who have been acquitted following a period of RYDA, including when they have reached the age of 18.

In response to these recommendation STYJS will be undertaking a review of all RYDA outcomes received during 2023-2024. The focus of this review will be to examine work undertaken with the young people subject to RYDA prior to them receiving these outcomes, what actions were undertaken by the STYJS to mitigate against a custodial remand and what were the final outcomes arising from each case. A report arising from this view will be presented to the STYJS Management Board and any actions or recommendations will be added to the service development plan.

In response to other recommendations raised by the inspection:

- STYJS management team undertake reviews of all custodial remand outcomes to ensure that these are both legal and appropriate.
- STYJS provide bail options to the court for the court where these can be safely managed in the community.
- The Children in Police Custody Group provides a forum to review all cases where young people have been held overnight or for over 12 hours and ensures that the PACE protocol is followed.
- With reference to voluntary support for children who have been acquitted following a RYDA, this has potential resource implications, but consideration can be given to including such responses as part of our prevention offer.
- With regards to the ongoing management of remand cases, joint working is in place with Children's Services and other partners to ensure opportunities can be identified to offer robust community intervention to offer to the court to reduce the risk of RYDA.
- There is a shared practice guidance with the Children's Services in each local authority which details how services will work together where a young person gets remanded.



CHILD FIRST

During 2023-2024 STYJS has continued to underpin work with young people with the Child First principle. The approach of the service is to see every young person as an individual and ensure that all responses with the young person reflect their needs and interests and to ensure that the YJS and partners respond in a supportive and co-ordinated way. Young people are encouraged to engage and participate, and we seek to listen to them and ensure their voice can be heard and this approach will be enhanced during 2024-2025 to ensure that young people have a clear voice in how services are delivered with them.

During 2023-2024 we have sought to develop and shape our practice to ensure that this is responsive to individual needs and this approach has been informed by the following:

- Staff training and development- work has been undertaken with staff to ensure that the child first principle underpins all assessment and planning, and young people have a clear voice in this. All staff have been encouraged to focus on the needs and interests of the child with the offending behaviour no longer viewed as the central focus of our work. Staff are encouraged to focus on the positive influences and strengths in a young person's life and ensure intervention packages and approaches embrace these to support positive outcome focussed work.
- STJYS continues to take 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 has been

paused during 2023-2024, however negotiations are ongoing to ensure a new model of delivery can be established to further enhance work in this area.

- During 2023-2024 we have further developed our partnership with the Speech and Language Service and extended the reach of this provision to include support to our prevention activity. The Specialist Speech and Language Therapist has provided an important point of reference to guide and support staff in how they deliver interventions and communicate with the young person. This approach is also supported by direct intervention with young people to assess and support the young person. Feedback from young people and families has been wholly positive with one young person stating:

Thank you so much for all of your support – you get me!

- During 2023-2024 we have continued to build on the success of our Tuff Tees and Ladybugs gender-based programmes to offer young people a safe space to engage with the service and our partners. During 2024-2025 we will be re-introducing the Pre Court intervention programmes to offer intervention with groups of young people supported by Turnaround, other prevention activity and OOCs.
- The Custody Navigator project has provided a mechanism to ensure that the needs and interests of young people are being identified and appropriately addressed in the Police Custody area. The Navigators are there to support and engage with young people, collaborate with other agencies in the custody area and provide ongoing support to young people to ensure they can access the services they need in the community.

STYJS has encountered differences of approach with partners who have enforcement responsibilities and communities affected by the behaviours of young people. This includes the responses to anti-social behaviour and the publicity of civil court outcomes which can conflict with the child first ethos. 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 our work with young people. During 2023-2024 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 allows the young person to maximise their participation and involvement with the service.

STYJS has extended the provision offered by the Speech and Language Service and this now includes our prevention work and Turnaround. This role continues to assist and support STYJS staff, promotes engagement and support with young people and supports the training and development of STYJS staff. In addition, the Speech and Language Therapist has acted as an advocate for young people ensure that their voice is heard in such forums as School disciplinary processes, where the Therapist has provided input on the challenges facing young people including those with communication or neuro diversity needs.

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 2023-2024, 273 young people responded and provided feedback through the survey:

- 95.97% said my YJS workers did enough to help me take part in the YJS work.
- 81.32% said the YJS helped me to feel safer.
- 91.21% said someone at the YJS asked me what I thought would help me stop offending.
- 85.35% said I had enough to say in what went into my YJS Contract/Intervention Plan.
- 93.77% said my work with the YJS has helped me realise I can change.
- 97.44% said the YJS took my views seriously.
- 99.63% said I have been treated fairly by the people who worked with me.

- 88.64% 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. This is reflected in the outcome to the question about the young person having a say in their contract/plan, with over 8 out of 10 young people saying they had an input into this. This reflects the ongoing developments we have made in the child first approach and ensuring that the voice of the young person and their parent/carer is heard and listened to. The outcomes from the survey have been used to target improvements in service delivery and how we engage with young people.

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

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

- Work with Community Safety Partnerships in both local authorities with a focus on anti-social behaviour and problem solving with representation at the Community Safety Partnership meetings and AIM in Middlesbrough
- Working with the Safeguarding Children's Services in both local authorities to support service development, inspection readiness and service improvement. In addition, the Head of Service represents STYJS 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 is the lead officer with oversight of SHiFT and attends the partnerships boards in each local authority.
- The Head of Service currently chairs the Children in Custody group which reviews young people held in police custody and PACE decisions.
- Engaging in multi-agency forums for education, training and employment which focus on attendance, inclusion and behaviours in schools and to address issues impacting on NEETs.
- Attendance at the Prevent Bronze group to fulfil statutory duties relating to extremism and community tensions.
- Representation at the OPCC led CURV meetings to ensure involvement in the oversight of the work of the Violence Reduction Unit
- Representation at the Cleveland Local Criminal Justice Board
- Representation at the Strategic MAPPA Board

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

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

- STSCP thematic groups
- 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 at an operational level 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. The STYJS safeguarding case managers provide another essential link to Children's Services teams in both Local Authorities as well as providing advice and guidance to colleagues on safeguarding issues and processes.

Arrangements are also 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. The MACH case admin has access to STYJS case management system 'Childview' this allows for checks to be made as a referral is received to the MACH to ascertain if the case is open to STYJS and ensure that joint working

commences at the earliest opportunity. These processes also assist with the identification of young people who could benefit from Turnaround support.

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 culture of working together among the youth justice services in the Tees Valley is well established and during 2023-2024 such collaboration supported the development of the Custody Navigators project and the introduction of the 'Making Good' Immediate Justice scheme.

One of our shared priorities during 2024-2025 will be to engage with the evaluation for the Custody Navigators project and use this to secure further funding for the project to ensure its continued delivery beyond March 2025. We will continue to work together to respond to challenges placed before us and continue to look for opportunities to develop services and improve practice. As a group we engage positively with the Cleveland Police and Police and Crime Commissioner, through a programme of monthly meetings. This has benefitted the youth justice services and we have achieved greater security in our funding from the OPCC.

The Trauma Informed Model of working with young people developed in partnership between the STYJS Cleveland area Youth Justice Services and TEWV NHS Trust has been paused due to issues over ongoing funding. During 2024-2025 STYJS in partnership with the ICB and the other Cleveland YJS will be negotiating a new model for this service, one which will offer wider capacity to support the YJS and ensure effective responses with young people. STYJS will also be re-establishing the pathways into the Forensic CAMHS to ensure that the needs of young people with emotional and mental health needs can be met, and they can be supported into services.

The accommodation arrangements of STYJS continue to offer co-location and co-working arrangements with the Middlesbrough Case Management and Resource Teams sharing an office space with Children's 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.

STYJS Management Board

STYJS is accountable to a multi-agency Management Board, currently 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
- Northeast and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- 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 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.



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

During 2024-2025 we will be delivering development sessions with board members. The aim of these sessions will be to support board members to understand their role and responsibilities to the partnership, how they support the Head of Service, Service staff and seconded officers. In addition, there will be a focus on the new inspection standards and the expectations placed on board members. To support this, we will be drawing on materials and tools available through the Association of YOT Managers.

Also, during 2024 the responsibility of the chairing of the management board will pass to the Executive Director for Children's Services in Middlesbrough. This will offer a higher level of strategic oversight across Childrens Services locally and across the region.

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

The May 2024 Police and Crime Commissioner elections resulted in the election of a new PCC who also represents a different political party. This presents new challenges and new opportunities for STYJS as we develop new relationships and understand the priorities for the new PCC and how these can potentially impact on the work of the service. We will seek to work closely with the OPCC to develop services to young people, communities and victims of crime.

The OPCC continues to provide funding to STYJS to support the delivery of Out of Court Disposals, with specific reference to the delivery of the Community Resolution as the principal option to prevent young people entering the youth justice system, this has contributed significantly to reducing FTEs. During 2023-2024 the options for OOCDS have increased with the wider use of Outcome 22 as an educational intervention with young people, with the added offer of support from Turnaround.

During 2023-2024 STYJS introduced an Immediate Justice offer, locally branded as 'Making Good'. This programme aims 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. Since the introduction of Making Good in September 2023 up to 31 March 2024 STYJS has engaged with 22 young people on this programme.

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

Cleveland Police area is designated as a Violence Reduction Unit area and the OPCC has developed the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV) to lead the delivery of the Violence Reduction Strategy locally. During 2023-2024 this partnership working with the OPCC and CURV has been further enhanced with the introduction of the Custody Navigators project, funded by the CURV. The Navigators provide additional support and engagement to young people in the custody area with the priority being those who have been arrested for serious violence offences. The project aims to build on the 'reachable and teachable' moments where a young person may be more receptive to intervention. Since the introduction of the Navigators 150 young people from the South Tees area have been supported in police custody. The Custody Navigators project is a central theme of the CURV model enabling services to engage with young people in police custody.

STYJS is a key partner in the CURV governance structures. As part of the oversight of CURV STYJS has secured representation at the strategic and operational meeting processes.

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 with a focus on prevention and diversion, challenging serious youth violence and exploitation seeking to ensure young people have access to support services with a specific focus on education, training and employment.

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 47 individual members of staff in 2024-2025 with no vacancies currently. This is an increase of 2 members of staff compared to the previous year. During 2023-2024 the staffing establishment was increased due to introduction of the new Making Good and Custody Navigator roles. One of the key risks and challenges for STYJS during 2024-2025 will be to secure the additional funding needed to secure the future of such roles. The service structure, detailed at appendix 3, shows how these staff are deployed. The service currently has 31 female members of staff and 11 males, with currently 5 vacancies which are currently being recruited to. In terms of ethnicity, 1 member of staff is of Pakistani origin, with the remaining staff being white British.

The majority of staff are employed by Middlesbrough Council on behalf of the partnership, with additional staff seconded from partners including Cleveland Police and the South Tees Speech and

Language Service. At present STYJS does not have seconded probation officer, despite this being part of the statutory requirements placed on our partners, there is currently an arrangement in place for the service to claim back the financial costs of this role. 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
- Probation Officer
- Support Workers

The Resource Team is comprised of:

- Partnerships Manager
- Prevention and Diversion Operations Manager
- 2 Assistant Operations Managers
- Education Training and Employment Specialist
- Restorative Justice Specialist
- Specialist Court Officer
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Prevention/Turnaround Case Managers
- Police Officers
- Restorative Justice Worker
- Custody Navigators
- Making Good Practitioner
- Support Workers
- Business Support Officer
- Business Support Workers

The YJS also has access to a Business Analytics Partner who is based within the Information and Governance Team in Middlesbrough Council 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 structure ensures that the service is adaptable and responsive to changing needs and priorities, whilst ensuring both local authority areas are effectively served. This service model has supported us well in 2023-2024 allowing the service to absorb the challenges placed by introducing 3 new projects, Custody Navigators, Turnaround and Making Good without impacting on our ability to deliver core statutory services. The service model supports effective responses to the challenges posed by the changing nature of the types of offending we encounter with increases in serious and violent crime and the impact of forms of exploitation. The structure has also allowed us to develop opportunities to intervene earlier, expanding the opportunities at OOC, the delivery of Turnaround and group-based activity in the community and with schools. STYJS will continue to promote a learning and development culture in the service, which supports practice improvement and provides opportunity for staff development.

Involvement of Community Volunteers

The work of STYJS is supported by a small group of volunteers recruited from our local community, who offer the service invaluable life skills, life experiences and local knowledge which can be used to great effect to engage and support young people. 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.

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 will be following the Middlesbrough Council People Strategy as we look to invest in our staff team to ensure that we have the right people with the right behaviours and skills to deliver the outcomes as detailed in this plan and the Council's Corporate Plan. STYJS continues to invest in our staff team using the following processes:

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

During 2023-2024 STYJS has embarked on a programme of staff development and team building sessions supported by Project Connect. These sessions have been designed to re-connect the service following the impact of COVID19, changes to the staff team with new members joining the service and the introduction of new hybrid working practices. The aim has been to support the staff team to re-establish meaningful connections and to re-build a team identity. This process will be further enhanced by the continued roll-out of restorative practice training across the whole service.

A key element of our training in 2024-2025 will be to deliver Restorative Practice training across all levels of the service to assist staff to develop skills in restorative approaches to support our work with young people and their families and support the development of a restorative culture and ethos across all levels of the service.

The service will align itself with the Middlesbrough Council People Strategy. This strategy forms part of the council Cultural Transformation Programme and the People Strategy has been designed to:

- employees and members have the knowledge and skills needed to maximise our ability to achieve improved outcomes for residents, within the future target operating model.

The People Strategy sets out to create an inclusive environment where everyone feels engaged and encouraged, with access to a diverse support and development offer, in order to be the best, they can be and deliver the best possible services they can.

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 2024-2025

The final grant figure from the YJB has yet to be set and information from the YJB indicates that there is the potential for a further delay in announcing the grant figure until after the upcoming General Election. Therefore, it is not currently possible to give a figure for the pooled income for 2024-2025. For the purposes of writing this plan, we will work on an assumption of a similar settlement to that of 2023-2024. The final budget 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.

During 2023-2024 STYJS has seen a reduction in contributions from local authority partners, reflecting the financial challenges faced by all services. This presents a renewed risk to the service and could impact on the level of service we are able to offer.

Staffing costs represent the largest expenditure item for STYJS and as detailed above during 2023-2024 STYJS has continued to invest in our staffing resources with the support of additional funding streams, 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 2024-2025:

The YJB grant allowance for 2024-2025 has not been agreed at the time of producing this plan. 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.

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

Turnaround Funding 2024-2025:

STYJS is to receive a grant of £242,159.95 from the Ministry of Justice to support the delivery of the Turnaround Programme during 2024-2025. This includes a grant of £15,244.85 to support young people accessing the programme from areas with high incidences of Anti-Social Behaviour. This funding will 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 programme and enhance activities with young people, a key element of this funding is the additional resource for Speech and Language Services we can offer through Turnaround.

Remand Framework for Children:

The YJB Grant for Remands for 2024-2025 has been set at £95,005. This is an increase in the grant figure for the previous year of £71,300. During 2023-2024 the total remand costs for young people remanded from the STYJS area was £89,216.

It is anticipated that the costs for Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation will 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. 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 remand grant is complimented by additional funding from the 2 local authorities, £30,400 from Middlesbrough and £35,120 from Redcar and Cleveland, and this additional funding will be used to mitigate against any additional costs over the allocated remand grant from the YJB.



Funding from the PCC:

STYJS will continue to receive funding from the OPCC to support our early intervention and prevention work through the enhanced OOC model. During 2023-2024 STYJS has extended the OOC offer for young people with the increasing use of Outcome 22 as an educational intervention with young people, in many cases also supported by Turnaround. The extension of the provision offered as part of our OOC programme has led to a marked increase in work in this area and we continue to have low levels of re-offending by young people subject to OOCs.

During 2024-2025 STYJS will receive additional funding through CURV, of £177,668 to support the delivery of a Cleveland wide Custody Navigator project. This funding will continue to be used to support the staffing costs relating to the project with a small additional fund to support interventions and activities with young people. One of the priorities for the service during 2024-2025 will be to engage with the evaluation of the Custody Navigator project with the view to identifying future funding opportunities to support the delivery of the project beyond March 2025.

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

PROGRESS AGAINST THE 2023-2024 YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

During 2023-2024 the priorities for STYJS were to focus on further developing the prevention and diversion offer to ensure that we continue to reduce the numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system. In addition, there was also focus on challenging serious youth violence the most significant challenge we currently face in our work with young people, especially those most vulnerable and difficult to engage. Underpinning all our work has been the child first principle, responding to the needs of the individual child and ensuring they have a voice and are listened to.

The 2023-2024 the priorities to support ongoing service development included:

- 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 priorities in the Youth Justice Plan are supported by the service development plan which details the actions to be achieved in relation to each of the service priorities. The service development plan for 2023-2024 outlined a total of 35 individual actions across the 6 priority areas. The service development plan provides the framework for the YJS management team to monitor progress against the key actions related to each priority area, to identify where progress is being made and to mitigate against those areas where further development is required or provide explanations where this will not be met. This development plan is monitored monthly by the YJS management team at the monthly management meetings.

Progress detailed in the service development plan shows that 23 of the actions were achieved with a further 6 making significant progress. The remaining 6 actions were not achieved over the course of the year and these included actions linked to the preparation for inspection where delays in finalising inspection criteria have meant that this priority will roll over into 2024-2025. In addition, one of the challenges we placed on ourselves was to engage with schools to look at restorative approaches to prevent exclusions and to support disciplinary matters. Unfortunately, little progress has been made in this area, although the ETE Specialist has been able to engage with schools to discuss support for young people at risk of exclusion.

Achievements made against each priority include:

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

- Turnaround was introduced in January 2023 and is now the main prevention offer available to STYJS and its partners.
- One of the challenges we have faced with regards to the Turnaround programme has been to identify and engage young people into the programme. High levels of young people supported by Children's Services under Child Protection and as children in care across both authorities has meant that many the young people, we identify for the programme are not able to benefit from such support.
- During 2023-2024 significant efforts were made to engage with partners in the Anti-Social Behaviour Teams to ensure that this pathway offered an effective route for young people to access Turnaround for additional support.
- A pathway for schools and other education providers was also identified through the Turnaround criteria.

- The priority to work towards meeting the Turnaround targets has meant that resource has had to be prioritised into this area.

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.

- STYJS has senior management representation on the CURV Strategic Board and the Tees Strategic Exploitation Group
- Representation is also in place with the operational Management groups
- The Custody Navigators are now embedded into the Youth Custody area and viewed as a valued resource by all key partners

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

- YJS managers attended the HMIP consultation seminars on the new Inspection criteria
- STYJS has provided feedback through the HMIP consultation process
- A programme of audits has been maintained to monitor YJS practice

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.

- The STYJS ETE Specialist has established monitoring systems to allow for the tracking of the ETE status of young people
- The ETE Specialist has established links with leads across a range of Education Support Services and Schools
- The Inclusion Pathway has now been embedded as the primary pathway to support young people at risk of exclusion or poor attendance

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

- Restorative Practice Training has been delivered to YJS Support staff and Managers
- STYJS follows the Victims Code of Practice to support our work with victims of crime
- STYJS has established a broad range of Reparation Activity to engage young people and provide opportunities for them to make positive contributions to their communities

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

- The upgrade to Childview, including for performance reporting was undertaken successfully
- All staff have been trained and supported to understand their responsibilities to assisting the YJS to achieve the performance targets
- The performance reporting remains a challenge, with issues with the Case Management System pulling through the appropriate data. We are assured that these issues will be resolved with subsequent updates

PERFORMANCE AND PRIORITIES

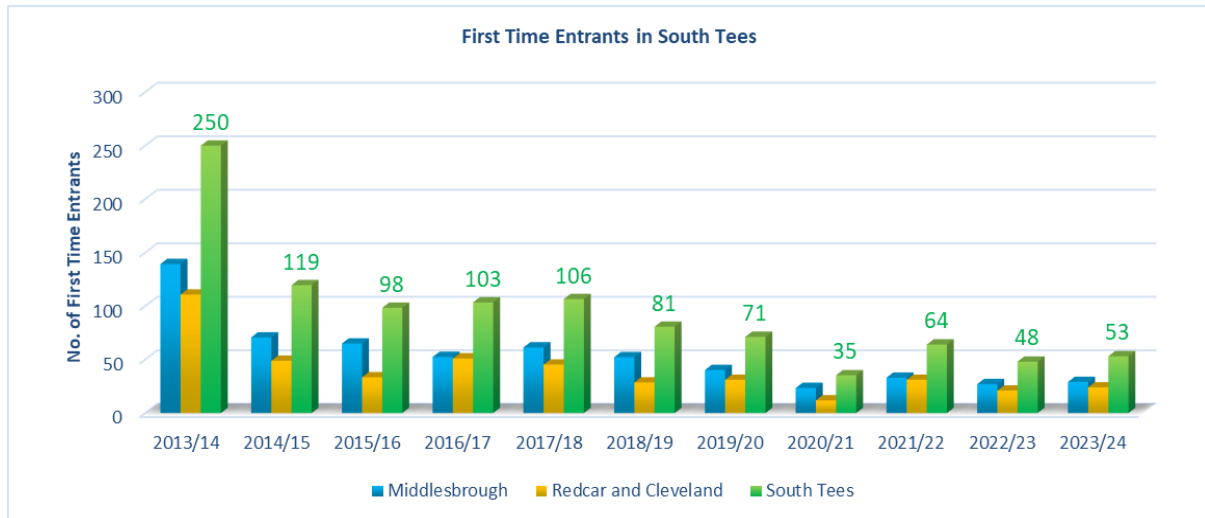
National Outcome Measures

First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System:

During 2023-2024 there were 53 First Time Entrants (FTEs) into the Youth Justice system. This represents an increase of 5 FTES, 10%, from 48 the previous year, this included 29 from Middlesbrough and 24 from Redcar and Cleveland.

Despite this increase the figures for FTEs continue to be relatively low and demonstrate a 79% reduction for the numbers of FTEs from 10 years ago, 2013-2014. The trend for South Tees

continues to be downward over this period. STYJS continues to benefit from the enhanced OOD model currently being delivered in partnership with Cleveland Police and during 2023-2024 there has been an increase in the numbers of young people receiving Outcome 22 as a programme with many of these supported by Turnaround. The ending of Turnaround funding from March 2025 presents a risk to the prevention offer of STYJS and during 2023-2024 prevention activity will be subject to review to identify how the prevention offer will look after April 2025.



Re-offending:

The re-offending cohort for 2023-2024 consists of 46 and this is an increase of 12 young people based on the cohort for 2022-2023. Broken down further to local authority area this cohort consists of 32 young people from Middlesbrough and 14 from Redcar and Cleveland. The increase in the cohort shows that there is now a trend for the re-offending cohort to be increasing in recent years.

Based on the available data on this cohort (to 31/12/22) a total of 12 young people re-offended or 26.1% of the cohort. This figure compares to a level of re-offending of 26.5% during the same period in 2022-23, where there were 34 young people in the cohort and 9 re-offended.

By area 6 young people from Middlesbrough re-offended, 18.8% of the cohort with these young people committing a total of 28 further offences during this period. For Redcar and Cleveland 5 young people re-offended or 35.7% of the cohort, with these young people committing 30 further offences.

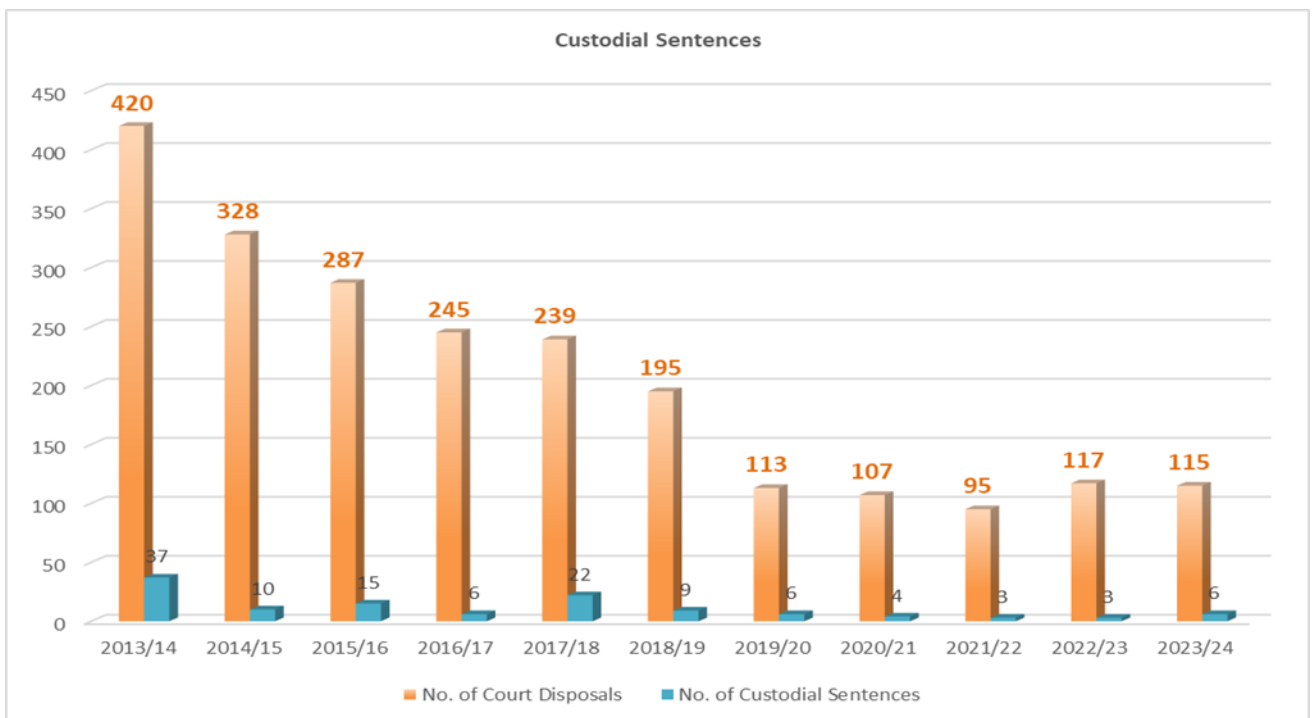
STYJS uses the re-offending tracking tool to monitor a number of cohorts to assess re-offending levels for live caseloads. These are monitored by the YJS management team on a monthly basis and enable us to identify and track those young people involved in offending and further amend our plans to challenge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



Use of custody - Custodial Sentences

During 2023-2024 there were a total of 6 custodial outcomes out of a total of 115 court outcomes. This represents an increase to the previous year's total of 6 custodial outcomes but maintains the relatively low numbers of young people entering custody as a result of their offending behaviour.

The overall custody rate for STYJS in 2023-2024 was 5.2% (6 out 115 court outcomes) and means that the custody rate was slightly above the indicative target of 5%. However, the figure does continue the trend of relatively low custodial outcomes compared to the figures for 2013-2014 and shows an 84% reduction in custodial sentences over this period.



All custodial outcomes are subject to scrutiny by STYJS Management Team to ensure that these are appropriate and 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 6 remand episodes for 6 young people in 2023-2024 accounting for 272 remand bed nights. This is a decrease from the total young number people remanded in 2022-2023, and a reduction in the number of remand bed nights. All young people were aged between 15-17 years at the time of their remands and were all accommodated in a YOI. During 2023-2024, 1 young person was responsible for almost half of the remand bed nights (130) during a remand episode for the charge of attempted 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, 1 young person subject to charge of attempted murder, 2 young people charged with Section 18 wounding, 2 young people charged with robbery and 2 young people charged with burglaries. The young person charged with murder was subsequently acquitted by court and as he was then aged 18 years, he declined further YJS support.

Young people were made subject to a custodial remand because bail was refused in all six cases due to the nature of the risks to the public and the seriousness of the offences. In 4 cases STYJS offered no bail package due to the seriousness of the offences and the difficulties managing the young person in the community.

Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation continue to be a significant financial challenge for STYJS with total remands costs of £89,216 for 2023-2024, which is significantly higher than the remand budget provided by the YJB and our partners.

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

New Key Performance Indicators

STYJS has supported the introduction of the ten new performance indicators introduced by the YJB from April 2023. The service has sought to provide complete and accurate returns as required by the YJB, however we have encountered some difficulties with the content and accuracy of our returns. Some areas of the return have proven difficult to extract data from the case management system and we are currently reviewing whether this is a data entry issue, software problem or misinterpretation of the YJB counting rules. As a service we hope to have resolved this by the time the April-June 2024 return needs to be submitted. We will continue to offer staff refresher training on case recording requirements to assist the service to deliver accurate returns.

NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS

Children from Groups Which are Overrepresented

There are no concerns regarding over representation of young people known to STYJS based on demographic criteria, personal needs, legal status or issues of vulnerability.

As detailed previously in this plan the population of young people who offend and come to the attention of STYJS are predominantly white British and male and this group made up 86.5% of the cohort. With regards to ethnicity the population figures for STYJS are in line with those of the school population indicating that there are no concerns regarding disproportionality based on ethnic groups. By age the cohort is dominated by the 15-17 year age group who represented over 60% of the caseload in 2023-2024.

STYJS now has 2 well established gender-based group activities with Tuff Tees for boys and young men and Ladybugs for girls and young women. These groups are needs based and respond to interests of the young people, including input from partner agencies, leisure activities and life skills.

In regard to other factors impacting on the cohort, 16 young people who were in local authority care were on the YJS caseload in 2023-2024 representing 2% of the cohort. This figure is less than the national average of 3% for England and below the average for our statistical neighbours. STYJS

ensures that we have representations at the child in care planning processes and arrangements are in place for joint supervision with children's services to ensure joined up plans and interventions. In regard to SEND there were 65 young people assessed with special educational needs on the caseload during 2023-2024, approximately 10% of the caseload. STYJS ensures that there are effective information sharing arrangements in place with the SEND teams to support joint working where this is required.

STYJS acknowledges the findings of the recent HMIP Bulletin, 'The supervision of care experienced children in the Youth Justice System'. This bulletin highlights a number of concerns regarding the experience of young people who come to the attention of the Youth Justice Service and other partners. In order to measure ourselves against such outcomes we will be undertaking a benchmarking exercise with the findings reported to the management board.

Data shows that at any one time there are 30+ young people on the caseload who have been assessed as vulnerable, exploited, missing or trafficked and STYJS ensures that we engage with the local arrangements for joint planning and intervention to support these young people and divert them away into more positive lifestyles.

Policing

STYJS has strong and positive links with Cleveland Police and the strength of this partnership is evidenced by the presence of 2 highly experienced and knowledgeable Police Officers in the service and the positive work which has been undertaken to establish the young person's custody area in Middlesbrough.

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

The Children in Police Custody Group, detailed below provides a forum for positive discussion and learning regarding young people's experience in custody. Also, the development of the young person's custody area and the work of the Custody Navigators, both detailed below, have helped to further develop relationships with the Police. The STYJS also contributes to the Police Custody Partnership forum for discussing issues arising from custody, sharing information and sharing good practice.

Detention in Police Custody

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

The purpose of this Children in Police Custody steering group is to scrutinise instances where young people have been held overnight or longer than 12 hours in Police Custody. This group offers the opportunity for professional challenge and multi-agency learning when PACE transfers have been unsuccessful. This scrutiny activity offers all stakeholders the assurance that children and young people have been held in Police custody appropriately, and the PACE protocol has been adhered to. All PACE bed information is also reported to the Director of Children's Services in Middlesbrough.

This group reports on a quarterly basis to the YJS Management Board which provides scrutiny and a performance framework for reporting into other strategic forums. Data from January and February 2024 shows that 39 young people from the South Tees area were discussed, with 6 PACE beds being requested. The outcomes from such requests showed that no children were transferred due to the lack of availability of beds, with 2 young people deemed unpracticable to transfer due to the time

of night and requirement to be at Court the next morning. The availability of PACE beds continues to be a challenge, and this is an area for ongoing discussion locally. The group are satisfied all children are safeguarded appropriately during their custodial episode, and most safeguarding referrals were made appropriately and in a timely manner.

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

During 2023-24 STYJS played a lead in development of the bespoke, trauma informed, juvenile custody area within the Middlesbrough Police HQ, in partnership with Cleveland Police and the OPCC. This has created a safe 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 provides trauma informed approach and additional support to young people is provided by the Custody Navigators, Mitie Nurses, Liaison and Diversion staff and the Custody Substance Misuse Team. STYJS played a lead partner role in this project with Cleveland Police, providing opportunities for young people to be engaged in the design and painting of the cells and other areas in the Young Person's Custody area. This project came about as 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. This project has transformed the environment in the Custody area and improved the young person's experience at this stressful time. One of the added benefits of this project is that it will mean that no child will ever need to come in to contact with an adult offender during their detention in Police Custody.

A key part of this project is the support offered by the Custody Navigators who are available to engage with young people at the 'reachable and teachable' moment when the young person enters the custody area. The Navigators have also been able to offer the young people intervention and diversion tools which can assist them to cope during the custody experience.

Prevention

As detailed previously, Turnaround provides the primary preventions programme available to the YJS. During 2023-2024 242 young people were referred to Turnaround with 77 young people agreeing to engage with the programme and 65 young people successfully completing. STYJS has faced some significant challenges in regard to the identification of young people for the Turnaround programme, with high levels of deprivation, exploitation and violent and serious offending meaning that many young people receive children's services intervention under child protection or children in care. As a result, this had limited the numbers of young people who can benefit from the programme. Nevertheless, a number of young people have engaged in the programme and received positive outcomes, with no young people returning for YJS intervention as a result of offending behaviours.

The anticipated ending of Turnaround funding presents a challenge for STYJS with regards to establishing an effective preventions offer from March 2025. Consultation will be undertaken with stakeholders and staff to identify an appropriate model of service provision for early intervention and prevention from April 2025.

STYJS continues to deliver school-based group programmes and the Tuff Tees and Ladybugs programmes, and these will be enhanced by the re-introduction of our 'pre-court' programme during 2024.

Diversion

The principle diversionary provision offered by STYJS is the enhanced OOC which we deliver in partnership with Cleveland Police. This scheme is based on referrals from Cleveland Police which are screened by the YJS Police Officers and duty manager to ensure they are suitable for an OOC as opposed to prosecution. This decision is based on any known previous history of the young

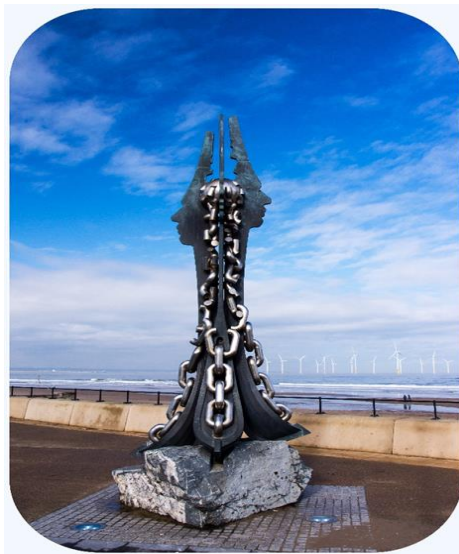
person, levels of engagement with previous programmes and the nature and seriousness of the offence. The referral is subsequently reviewed at the OOCB Panel, following assessment of the young person before a final decision can be made on the most appropriate option to be offered to meet the needs of the young person and respond to the needs of victims and communities.

The OOCB offer includes a range of interventions including Outcome 22, Restorative Intervention, Community Resolution, Youth Caution and Youth Conditional Caution, with Outcome 22 also supported by Turnaround where appropriate. There is no escalator for these outcomes with the young person able to receive any intervention which the Panel deems most appropriate to challenge their behaviours.

During 2023-2024 there were 247 OOCB outcomes with 10.9% going on to re-offend and be re-referred to the YJS. Offending for Community Resolution the principal OOCB programme was 6%.

There is a Cleveland OOCB Scrutiny Panel which provides oversight of the OOCB process which meets quarterly to review a sample of cases. Internally STYJS undertakes periodic audits of OOCB cases and reviews of the decision-making process, and all assessment and planning are subject to QA. The most recent audit was undertaken in July 2023 and this audit found:

- 92% of assessments were judged to be of the required standards
- Challenges were identified in regard to risk judgements in some cases
- 93% of cases showed good levels of engagement with consideration given to the learning and behavioural needs of young people
- 93% of cases showed that there was a strong partnership approach in cases
- 93% of the young people successfully completed the programme
- Only 1 young person (7%) went on to re-offend



Remands

STYJS takes a proactive approach to reducing the use of Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation and seeks to offer the most appropriate options to the court. The introduction of the Custody Navigators has provided an opportunity to engage early with the young person in the youth custody suite to allow staff to build relationships, get to know the young person and build trust.

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.

During 2023-24 there were 18 remand outcomes including 6 RYDA for young people, 2 Remands to Local Authority Accommodation, 5 ISS Bail and 5 Court Bail.

The 2023 Standards for Children in the Justice System audit identified that the STYJS Remand Strategy was out of date, and this will be updated and revised during 2024-2025.

Restorative Approaches and victims

When considering this section of the Youth Justice Plan it is important to differentiate between Restorative Justice and work with victims and the Restorative Practice which we seek to inform all our work.

With reference to restorative justice and victims of crime STYJS is compliant with the Victims Code of Practice and we seek to engage with all victims who wish to participate in restorative interventions. During 2024-2025 our focus will be on the timeliness of our engagement with victims to ensure the victims voice can be heard in decision making processes, including OOC Panels, Referral Order Panels and Pre-Sentence Reports. Focus will also be on what support can be provided to victims including referrals on to specialist support services and assistance with schemes such as Criminal Injuries and the Victims Right to Review. We will continue to assess victim satisfaction as this provides an indicator of the effectiveness of our work.

During 2023-2024 STYJS has sought to extend the range of reparation activity we can offer to victims and young people and there has been an increase in schemes working in shops, working with community gardens, a community mural and the In/Out of the Cold Homelessness project. The introduction of the community allotment has provided us with a scheme to contribute to the work of food banks by donating produce.

With reference to Restorative Practice, our aim is to have restorative principles and approaches as the underlying culture in our work. This offers the potential to build on our strengths and the strengths in the young person's lives through a high challenge and high support approach. To support this approach, we have embarked on a rolling programme of staff and volunteer training to raise awareness of this restorative approach and build the skills and knowledge base we need in the service to underpin this.

STYJS recognises the importance of effective support and guidance for our staff who are working with victims of crime. During 2024-2025 we will be seeking to identify a suitable local partner who can support our staff and provide reflective supervision for their work with victims.

Serious Violence, Exploitation and Contextual Safeguarding

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

STYJS reports all serious incidents which require notification to the YJB in a timely manner. YJB guidance requires all YJS's to report incidences of offending by young people relating to Murder/Manslaughter, Attempted Murder, Rape, Grievous Bodily/Wounding with intent Terrorism or where a child dies while they are on the YJS Caseload. Between April 2023 to March 2024 STYJS submitted 5 serious incident notifications to the YJB, this reflects the increasing seriousness of offending by young people.

STYJS plays a significant role in CURV, the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence with representation at both strategic and operational level enabling the YJS to have a voice in key decision making. The introduction of the Custody Navigators is an example of this joined up approach. Working in the police custody suite the Navigators provide an opportunity to engage with young people involved in serious and violent offending and offer them support and access to services. The Navigators work pro-actively with other services in custody to ensure a joined-up approach to meeting the needs of the young person and provide ongoing support in the community

where this is needed and the young person agrees to engage, including those young people released on bail or released under investigation.

STYJS is also represented by the Head of Service in the Tees Strategic Exploitation Group and representation is also in place at VEMT groups and vulnerable children/risk management groups in both local authorities. These also for a co-ordinated case level approach to supporting the young person with each agency accountable for their role in the young person's plan.

The introduction of SHiFT in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland offers a new intensive approach to working with young people at risk of exploitation. STYJS is co-located with the Middlesbrough SHiFT team, and we hope to develop strong working arrangements with both Teams as their practice becomes more embedded.

Working with Families

The focus of much of the work of the STYJS is with the individual child, however in all cases we seek to engage with parents and carers to ensure that they can be supported to assist our work with their child. STYJS engages with Early Help services to offer pathways for those families which need more support, and we work closely with the Supporting Families Service to ensure that families can be identified for additional support where required.

Turnaround offers a whole family approach, and we assess the needs of all family members to ensure that the young person who was the basis of the referral can be supported in a wholistic way through support to parents and siblings.

The prevention group programme Tuff Tees and Ladybugs also offer support to siblings of young people engaged with this service. In this way we hope to maximise engagement and meet the needs of all family members where appropriate.

One of the challenges facing the YJS in regard to working with families is the absence of a suitable and accessible parenting offer which could support our work and support the parents of the young people we work with.

Use of Custody and Constructive Resettlement

STYJS has experienced a rise in the use of custody during 2023-2024, with 6 young people receiving custodial outcomes at court, and this represents a doubling of the figure of 3 outcomes for 2022-2023. This increase is representative of the challenges the YJS faces with regards to increases in serious and violent offending and the impact of exploitation on an already vulnerable group.

The resettlement of young people has been identified as a priority in this plan. STYJS recognises the importance of a co-ordinated and positive resettlement approach, and we seek to ensure that all sentence planning is robust with discussion taking place from the point of sentence on the most appropriate license conditions to help support the young person back into the community.

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

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.

STYJS continues to work with the 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 18th 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 through a named officer to support transition into adult services upon release.

An area for development for the service, in partnership with custodial establishments is the use of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL). STYJS will be investigating opportunities for the use of ROTL to support young people into ETE placements, build relationships with family and secure suitable accommodation on release.

Education Training and Employment

2024-2025 will be a year of transition for STYJS as the Education Training and Employment Specialist who has been employed by the service since 2020 has moved on into a new post with SHiFT in Middlesbrough. The ETE Specialist has laid solid foundations for the service with effective information sharing arrangements with schools and other ETE providers, the Inclusion Pathway and joined up approaches to meet the ETE needs with education support services and the NEET teams.

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 the work of the ETE specialist has been to challenge issues of attendance and inclusion and work in this area has included the Inclusion Pathway in the Middlesbrough area which is designed to improve access to education, attendance, and behaviours in schools. Arrangements are also in place with colleagues in Redcar and Cleveland to share information and undertake joint work with young people at risk of exclusion.

STYJS will be recruiting to the post of ETE specialist as a matter of priority and one of the challenges for the new worker will be to consolidate the work of their predecessor and build on any identified gaps in provision.

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 2024-2025.

STANDARDS FOR CHILDREN IN THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM

In 2023-2024 STYJS undertook a self-assessment exercise to review practice against standard 2, Work in Courts of the Standards for Children in the Justice System, as required by the Youth Justice Board. The self-assessment allowed STYJS to rate itself against the 22 actions in this standard. STYJS rated itself to be Outstanding in 11 of the actions, Good in 7 actions and Requires Improvement in 4 of the actions, this outcome was validated and agreed by the YJB.

The self-assessment audit found a number of strengths in STYJS practice in Court, with a designated Court Specialist Officer, supported by other case management colleagues providing a high-quality service and also providing this service for Hartlepool YJS. In addition, the preparation and presentation of reports to Court was found to be a strength with reports being judged as of high

quality and child focussed, based on the feedback we receive from the Court and reports are always delivered in a timely fashion.

The self-assessment also placed some challenges on the service including for us to improve the recording of how parents/carers are informed of court outcomes, how we monitor and challenge any issues of disproportionality as well as identifying the need for an up-to-date remand strategy for the service. Such challenges have been acknowledged by the YJS and the management board and plans have been put in place to address these issues.

During 2024-2025 STYJS will engage in any further self-assessments of the Standards as required by the YJB. To judge compliance against the Standards as part of our ongoing programme of audits, checks will be undertaken to ensure continued good performance against the Standards for Children in the Justice System.

STYJS has a programme of audits every year to assist us to monitor practice, highlight areas of good practice and areas for further development, training and learning. During 2024-2024 the theme of such audits will focus on all areas of case management as we seek to prepare ourselves against a potential HMIP inspection.



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

PRIORITIES FOR STYJS IN 2024-2025

Following consultation with all stakeholders the following priorities have been identified by STYJS during 2024-2025. These priorities were presented to the YJS Management Board in January 2024 and received the Management Board's agreement.

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

The Turnaround Programme was introduced in January 2023 and is now the primary non-statutory prevention programme offered by STYJS. This programme is now established and provides a successful option for engaging young people and their families, securing positive outcomes for those who have engaged in the programme. Data for the programme to date shows that none of the young people who have completed a Turnaround intervention have returned to the service via a criminal justice pathway.

Turnaround funding is scheduled to come to an end on 31 March 2025 and information received from the Ministry of Justice indicates that the Turnaround programme will cease. Therefore, it is essential that the YJS starts making plans for how our prevention services will look beyond March 2025. This will include ongoing review and audit of Turnaround work to monitor the effectiveness of this provision.

Discussions will be undertaken with all stakeholders including YJS staff to identify how the YJS prevention offer will look post March 2025, including taking on board learning from Turnaround, the group work activities we deliver, including Tuff Tees and Ladybugs. One of the options available to the service will be to re-establish a prevention model similar to that which we delivered pre-Turnaround, although this is likely to be influenced by the funding and resources available to deliver this work. One of the benefits of this model was that it allowed a range of partners, including schools and other education providers to refer into the service without some of the barriers presented by the Turnaround Criteria.

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

Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation continue to represent the most significant challenges to the STYJS in our work with young people. During 2023-2024 we have continued to experience 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 continue 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 of exploitation or becoming involved in violent offending.

The Custody Navigator scheme funded by the CURV programme, was introduced from July 2023 based within the Young Person's Custody Suite in Middlesbrough Police HQ. The Custody Navigators provide a new service, taking a trauma informed and child first approach to engage with young people involved in serious violence offences, who are brought into the Police Custody area at that 'reachable and teachable' moment at the point they are arrested and open to additional support and provide ongoing intervention and support to divert them away from offending behaviours.

The Custody Navigators have proven to be a highly effective and valued service, providing essential support and engagement to young people in the custody area. This project is funded until March 2025 as part of CURV and therefore discussions will be ongoing during 2024 with regards to securing the future of this provision. STYJS will be actively engaging with the evaluation of the programme which we hope will provide the evidence to highlight the benefits brought by the Navigators and support future funding decisions.

The introduction of SHiFT in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland offers a further opportunity to develop a joined-up approach to work intensively with the most vulnerable young people and those at risk of becoming involved on forms of exploitation and serious offending.

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

It is 5 years since STYJS was inspected by the HMIP, receiving a very positive Good Rating across the whole service area and Outstanding 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 changing working arrangements and the significant issues faced by our young people brought by high levels of deprivation, issues of serious violence and exploitation.

Audits and quality assurance processes undertaken by the YJS show that there continues to be a high level of quality in our practice. During 2024-25 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.

During 2024 STYJS will also be delivering a development session with Management Board members to ensure that they are equipped with a full understanding of the Inspection Criteria and the role that they will play in this.

A new Inspection Framework has now been established and this is planned to be rolled out during 2024 with the first inspections likely to be in early 2025. There is a significant likelihood that STYJS could be subject to an early inspection, given that we were the first YJS to be inspected under the previous framework. Therefore, we need to prepare ourselves for the potential for inspection.

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

The introduction of the ETE Specialist following the previous YJS inspection has proven to be a considerable success with this role having proven to be effective in re-establishing our relationships with schools and other ETE providers, developing the inclusion pathways for young people. In 2024 the postholder moved on into a new opportunity with the SHiFT programme and therefore we face a renewed challenge to identify the right person to move this work forward.

Previous successes include the Inclusion Pathway, in Middlesbrough, which has allowed YJS staff to engage with partners in education and schools to ensure that those young people at risk of exclusion or with poor attendance levels receive the support they need to re-engage with school. The challenge for the new post holder will be to build on this success and engage with partners to ensure that we maximise opportunities for young people.

During 2024-25 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.

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

One of the challenges faced by the Youth Justice Service currently, is an increase in the numbers of young people being made subject to Remand to Youth Detention Accommodation and young people receiving custodial outcomes at court. Therefore, we must ensure that young people receive an effective and supportive experience in custody which contributes to and supports successful resettlement into the community.

Recent research has shown that the experience of young people in custody can best be described as mixed and this includes arrangements made to support their contact with their families and professionals as well the preparation time given to supporting effective resettlement and reducing re-offending.

During 2024-2025 we will be looking to review the custodial offer we make with young people, including the levels of support we offer the young person and the plans we make to support the young person's return to the community. This will also include looking at how other services continue to provide support the young person and ensure that we have a co-ordinated plan for the young person's resettlement.

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

South Tees Youth Justice Service achieved Registered Restorative Organisation approval by the Restorative Justice Council in 2023 and we hope to build on this success during 2024-2025.

The process for developing our submission for the Registered Restorative Organisation Approval showed that although positive steps had been made in our practice there was still challenges to be faced in establishing a truly restorative culture across all areas of the YJS. During 2023-2024 we have sought to further improve our restorative practice with training for Support Workers and Managers and we have also broadened the scope of the reparation work we are offering to support the re-assurance of victims and communities

Therefore during 2024-25 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, presentation and how we deliver services.



CHALLENGES AND RISKS

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

Risks and challenges include:

1. Funding for the YJS

During the past year and going forward into 2024-2025 STYJS has benefitted from additional short-term funding to support the delivery of Turnaround, Custody Navigators and Making Good. Current indications are that these funding streams will come to an end in March 2025. This leaves significant question marks over the future delivery of these projects all of which have provided considerable success. STYJS will be working with partners to identify new sources of funding to continue the delivery of these projects or to offer alternative arrangements for service delivery.

Pressures on local authority budgets has resulted in both local authorities taking the decision to reduce their contributions to the STYJS budget, with Redcar and Cleveland reducing its contribution by £69,000 and Middlesbrough making a £7,000 reduction. Such reductions create significant risks for the future of service delivery and could mean that although the YJS will continue to deliver its statutory functions, delivery of non-statutory functions may be limited, and such a reduction will impact on other services provided by STYJS.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to present additional financial challenges for the YJS and the people we work with. The increasing costs of goods and services and staffing costs are not taken into consideration with regards to partner contributions to the budget and this, with the impact of the reductions detailed above add to the pressures on the YJS budgets. In addition, the impact on the young people and families of the cost-of-living crisis will further exacerbate the high levels of deprivation faced by our communities.

2. The new Key Performance Indicators

STYJS has embraced the new 10 new KPIs for YJS Partnerships introduced during 2023-2024 and significant work was undertaken to prepare staff and support upgrades to the case management system. However there have been some challenges presented by the new KPIs particularly with reference to the accuracy of reporting and missing information from reports. STYJS continues to work with the YJB and our software partners CACI/Child view, to roll out

the new software to assist YJS staff to record and report accurately to support the reporting of our performance against the 10 KPIs.

3. Access to Specialist Services: Mental Health

During 2023-2024 STYJS was advised that the funding to support the delivery of the Trauma Informed Care Pathway for young people had come to an end and at that time there was no additional funding available to support the TIP pathway.

With the support from the Commissioner from the Integrated Care Board, funding to re-introduce a TIP model has now been secured and currently discussions are ongoing over the form any new service delivery model will take.

Access to Mental Health Services for young people continue to be a challenge, to mitigate against this, discussions are underway to re-establish a pathway into the FCAMHS services locally.

4. Access to Specialist Services: Health Practitioner

STYJS does not have a designated Health Practitioner who can support case managers with health concerns and access health information to inform assessment and planning. This is a significant area of concern and a gap in our statutory duty. Previously the YJS commissioned a practitioner from the School Nursing Service, and this helped develop a pathway into services. During COVID19 this pathway ceased to be effective, and the service has not been able to rebuild the access we need.

5. Re-offending

Re-offending by young people continues to present significant challenges for the YJS. We are now experiencing increases in the number of young people identified in the January to March cohort, the young people tracked for the re-offending KPI. This situation is also impacted upon by the challenges presented by the current YJS cohort many of whom are involved in serious and violent crime and are exploited or are at risk of becoming victims of exploitation.

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.

6. Use of Custody

The increasing complex and challenging nature of the young people we work with will increase the risk of young people receiving custodial outcomes, including sentences and remands. This is evidenced by the relatively high numbers of custodial remands for young people during 2023-2024. Increasing youth violence and violent offending creates a risk that more young people will become involved in criminal exploitation, violent behaviours, use of weapons with higher volumes of offending. The challenge for the YJS is to continue to work with the Police and the Courts to provide meaningful community outcomes for young people.

7. Preventions

The expected ending of Turnaround funding from March 2025 presents a challenge to STYJS with regards to how preventions services will look like after April 2025 and how these will be delivered and resourced. During 2024-2025 STYJS will be looking to learn from our Turnaround programme to identify areas of success and use this to continue to deliver a prevention service in the future. In addition, we will be working with staff and other stakeholders to examine potential future prevention services and how best these can be delivered.

8. Access to services to support young people who sexually offend

Currently STYJS has access to no service provision to provide support and intervention for young people who have engaged in sexual offending or abuse. Previously support could be accessed through Adolescent Forensic Service offered by CAMHS and discussions are ongoing to establish a pathway with the FCAMHS service to support work in this area. YJS staff have been trained to deliver AIM3, but this can only offer a short-term solution which can only be delivered during the period of YJS intervention.

9. Provision of a Seconded Probation Officer

STYJS continues to have no seconded Probation Officer and we have been advised by the Probation Service that 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 the Standards for Children in the Youth Justice System and the Youth to Adult Transition Protocol and means that we are no longer compliant with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as a Youth Justice Service Partnership. This will inevitably mean the timely and safe transition of young people into adult provision will be affected by this. To mitigate against 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. STYJS have claimed financial recompense from Probation to enable the service to invest in additional staffing which can fill the gap created by the lack of a Probation Officer.

STYJS is aware of the ongoing 'Probation Reset' programme and we will work with Probation locally to understand what this means for the transition of young people and other areas of joint working.

10. First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System

During 2023-2024 STYJS has experienced a steady increase in the numbers of First Time Entrants into the criminal justice system including a 200% increase during the third quarter of the year, October to December 2024. The YJS has experienced a number of years whereby the number FTEs has decreased there are now concerns that this may be the start of an upwards trend.

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

11. Serious and Violent Offending

During 2023-2024 STYJS has experienced a significant increase in young people becoming involved in forms of serious and violent offending, including attempted murders, woundings and robbery offences. The Custody Navigators were introduced to provide support and intervention to young people in Police custody and following the introduction of the project to March 2024 150 young people from the South Tees area have engaged with the provision, including 139 young people arrested for serious and violent offences. Many of these young people are involved in organised crime groups and subject to forms of exploitation.

This presents a significant challenge to the YJS and other services to develop responses that can respond to the needs of young people involved in serious and violent offending and offer them opportunities to move away from such offending lifestyles.

Such behaviours present other challenges to the service, including increasing the risks to staff safety. To mitigate against such risk, we are delivering training on staff safety and personal protection.

12. 2024 General Election

The upcoming General Election presents a level of uncertainty for Youth Justice Services. The YJB has advised that due to the election there will be further delays in the announcement of the youth justice grant, and this causes uncertainty over funding levels which also impact on YJS's capacity to plan effectively. In addition, a new government will bring new direction and potential changes to the criminal justice system which could have implications for future service delivery.

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 welcomed opportunities to build new and innovative areas of practice 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. During 2023-2024 this has included:

Prevention Intervention and Turnaround

The Turnaround Programme has developed to become the primary preventions offer during 2023-2024. There have been some challenges to the development of the programme in the STYJS area much of this driven by high levels of deprivation which has led to large numbers of children receiving input from Children's Services and therefore limiting their availability options for Turnaround. However, those young people engaged by Turnaround have benefitted from the additional support the programme offers including financial benefits and support, extended intervention and support from YJS staff and partners and the offer of Speech and Language Therapist intervention.

In addition to the case working of preventions cases, STYJS has also delivered the gender-based Tuff Tees and Ladybugs group-based programmes to support young people. These interventions delivered in partnership with the South Tees Public Health Service provide a safe space for young people, life skills interventions and access to other support services where these have been identified. During 2023-2024 we have invested in new equipment including Virtual Reality headsets to offer different ways to deliver intervention with young people.

Further group work opportunities will be provided by the re-introduction of our pre-court intervention programme during 2024-2025. This provision will focus on delivering a programme of interventions targeted towards those young people referred to the YJS for OOCs. The programme will provide a child first approach delivering life skills, inputs from other services and challenge around the impact and consequences of the young person's actions and behaviours.

Interventions in Education Settings

As part of the Preventions offer STYJS has continued to deliver our school-based programmes, delivering intervention in schools and alternative education providers. Such interventions have focussed on issues including exploitation, violent crime, vaping and knife/weapon-based crime. The interventions have been well received by education providers and during 2024-2025 we hope to extend the reach of such interventions to include year 6/7 young people transitioning from primary to secondary school. To maximise the impact of such work we will also be seeking to co-ordinate delivery with other services including the Police and voluntary sector.

Holiday Intervention Programmes

As part of our diversion activities with young people STYJS has introduced a programme of targeted holiday intervention. This was identified as a gap in provision for young people involved in crime and anti-social behaviour and STYJS sought to fill this gap. The activities have included such things as quad biking, arts activity, cooking and activities on the YJS allotment. There has been a good response to such activities, and these have included some of our hardest to reach young people who have actively participated and engaged well in the programmes offered. Feedback from young people

has been overwhelmingly positive and such work helps to build relationships between YJS staff and the young people we work with. Future schemes are also planned for the summer holidays in 2024 and we hope to enhance the offer by joining with other services and securing additional funding to support such activity.

Custody Navigators

Introduced into the custody area in Middlesbrough Police HQ from July 2023 the Custody Navigators, funded by CURV, is unique project to provide support and intervention to young people who enter the police custody area. The aim of the Custody Navigators is to engage and provide immediate support with young people at that 'reachable and teachable moment' as the young person enters police custody and may be more receptive to the support offered. The project aims to work with those young people arrested for serious and violent offences, offering support in custody and in the community where the young person agrees to engage. Between July 2023 to March 2024 150 young people from the South Tees area have been supported by the Custody Navigators, including 139 arrested for serious and violent offences.

One of the successes of the Custody Navigator project has been the valued placed on the Navigators by other services in police custody, including detention officers, Police, the Mitie Nurses and Liaison and Diversion. The Custody Navigators have successfully developed effective working relationships and developed pathways with partners to maximise the support for young people.



Breakout room in the youth custody suite

More importantly the Custody Navigators are highly valued by young people who recognise the support now available in police custody. Young people now have access to a breakout room to reduce time spent in cells and are offered diversionary toys and activities to assist them during their period in custody.

Feedback received from young people, parents and partner agencies describe the Custody Navigators as 'approachable', 'knowledgeable', 'providing re-assurance' and 'kind'. One parent commented:

Working extremely well with my son helping to support in making the right choices encouraging courses and help.

A young person stated:

"Never been arrested before and I didn't know what was happening, but I'm not as scared now I know what is happening and I've got to speak to you out of that horrible box"

Case study of young person who has been supported by the Custody Navigators:

First time arrest for female aged 17 who was brought in for affray, criminal damage and possession of a weapon (Machete).

Initially, this female was reluctant to engage in support from all services offered in custody. However, when stood at the booking in desk awaiting charge decision, she was encouraged to speak with K from the Custody Navigator team which was agreed too. K and female spent 1 hour and 40 minutes discussing circumstances she was facing in the community and her frustrations from previous support she was offered but wasn't listened too.

Female was then released on bail.

Female was then in regular contact with K via email as her phone had been seized from Police to support their investigation.

K supported the female in the community to complete a housing application, sign up for the 12-week Princes Trust Programme, re-engage into CAMHS support and access the YJS Turnaround project.

This programme will be further enhanced by the introduction of an Enhanced Case Worker from May 2024, who will offer a Navigator type support to vulnerable adults in police custody. In addition, CURV are also funding Navigators to support vulnerable people in the Accident and Emergency Department at James Cook Hospital in Middlesbrough.

Youth Custody Suite

In addition to the Custody Navigator project, STYJS has also played a lead role, with Cleveland Police and the OPCC in the design and delivery of a trauma informed, young person custody area at Middlesbrough Police HQ. This has included artwork painted on cell walls based on designs prepared by young people, a breakout room to offer young people time out of cells, young people have their own entry point and reception and a small exercise area. This means that no child will ever need to come in to contact with an adult offender during their detention. This project will not only benefit countless children for years to come but it also shows the strength in the partnership and Cleveland Police's vision to work differently in this area with children.

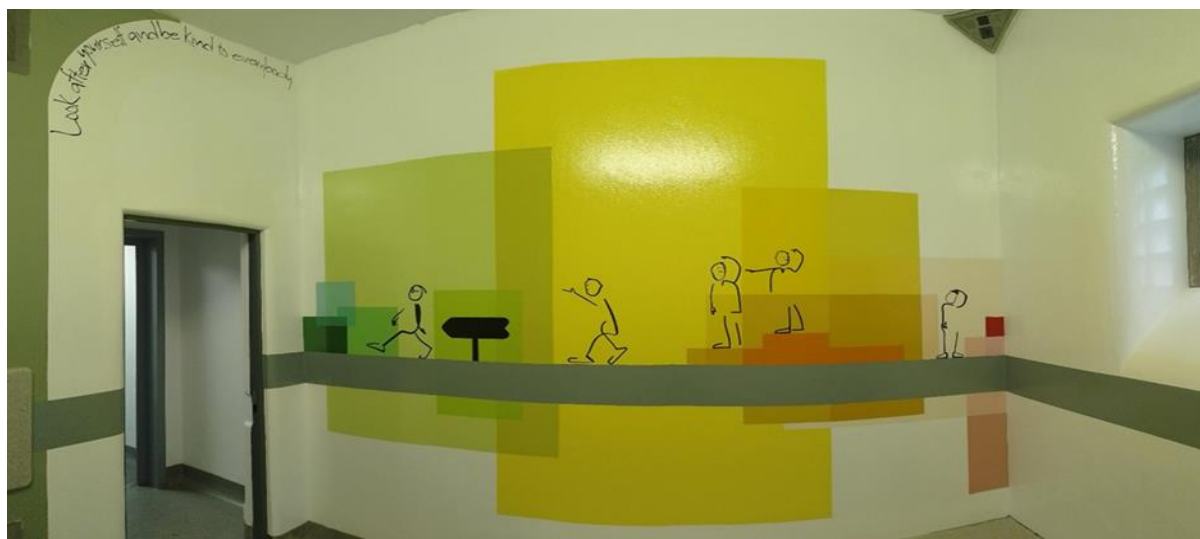


Image from the Youth Custody Suite at Middlesbrough Police HQ

Inclusion Pathway

In January 2023 STYJS introduced the Inclusion Pathway for STYJS Case Managers to refer into the STYJS Education Training and Employment (ETE) Team for support for young people who are at risk of falling out of Education and Training. This pathway is designed for young people open to the STYJS and is to promote engagement in the education system, improve attendance, prevent exclusions (fixed-term and permanent), improve attainment, and deliver targeted educational support.

The Inclusion Pathway is supported by partners in Education and is designed to deliver effective practice in respect of partnership arrangements with Schools, Colleges and Training Providers which actively support the delivery of education.

During 2023 the Inclusion Pathway engaged with 89 young people identified as at risk of exclusion and/or poor attendance. The average attendance for all young people in the first month of commencement was 74%. The attendance was then captured on case closure and the average attendance increased to 87%. Therefore, giving a total of 13% increase in attendance for year 2023.

With reference to exclusions in the 2021/22 academic year there had been 120 permanent and fixed term exclusions for children open to the STYJS in Middlesbrough. This relates to 34 students, 4 of whom were excluded permanently. The Inclusion Pathway commencement dates were from Jan 2023 to Dec 2023. Over the course of this period there were 107 exclusions giving a decrease of 13 exclusions.

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 Therapist has proven to be a highly successful resource for the YJS offering advice and guidance to staff, training in communication and language, support and intervention with young people and support to parents. Since the introduction of the SALT offer in January 2023 80 young people have been referred to service (31 from Redcar and Cleveland and 49 from Middlesbrough), with 65 young people receiving intervention.

In addition, the Therapist has worked closely with the ETE Specialist to challenge schools where a young person has been at risk of exclusion and promote the benefits of greater communication and language awareness to understand a child's behaviours and responses. Of the 80 young people referred for SALT intervention 34 young people had received a permanent exclusion from school.

The work of the Speech and Language Therapist is highly valued by staff, young people and parents. YJS staff view the SALT offer to be effective to their work and describe how the Therapist can always respond appropriately to the needs of young people.

Comments from parents show the value such work brings, with one parent stating:

Just wanted to say thank for all of your help and support over the months. Finally, after your help I am getting somewhere.

A young person commented:

Thank you so much for all of your support – you get me!

Making Good/Immediate Justice

Part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, STYJS in partnership with the other Cleveland YJS and the OPCC launched the Making Good Immediate Justice Programme in September 2023. The aim of Making good is to engage with young people who have been referred following incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour. The Programme challenges such behaviours and engages young people into activities to repair any harm caused. Since the introduction of Making Good, 28 young people have been referred to the programme, with 18 being contacted within 48 hours and 6 completing the activity.

Case Study Child L:

L came through to the Making Good programme on a referral from a Stage 2 Warning letter from Community Safety. The behaviour complained about is in relation to L being part of a group that were heaving intoxicated on the Esplanade at Redcar. Due to possible risks, it was necessary for Officers to bring L home. L's mum agreed for

her to participate in the Making Good Programme and specifically requested an intervention around alcohol due to concerns that L's behaviours were being influenced by alcohol use.

As part of the programme L engaged in 2 intervention sessions including a focus on ASB and her alcohol use. Work focussed on how L's behaviours can impact on victims and the community with an additional focus on the long-term impact of alcohol and risks caused by spiking of drinks. In addition, L completed a reparation activity in the Red Lion Garden in Redcar, and as part of this activity discussed how the garden was a haven for elderly residents with work focussing on clearing weeds and debris to improve access.

Through Making Good Intervention L has had the opportunity to open up and reflect on her history with anti-social behaviour, reflect on how this can affect herself and others within her community and she has now given something back to her community in the form of reparation. Workers involved feel like L has been focussed and possibly even felt a sense of accomplishment about completing the programme.

Feedback from L and her mum has been positive:

L stated: "I liked E (the worker). I found her very easy to talk to, she said she was not strict and found her very funny. L enjoyed her time with E doing the gardening."

Mum stated "I found E to be a lovely person, I must admit I was quite nervous at first and wasn't sure what to expect, but I needn't have worried as she was a normal person, easy to talk to and very friendly. I am thankful for all the advice and time that she has spent with L."

LOOKING FORWARD

Looking Forward to 2024-2025 there are a number of challenges facing the service and many of these are outlined above. With challenge comes opportunity and the STYJS will be looking forwards to further developing the scope of our work, with a specific focus on prevention and diversion and establishing a child focussed, restorative culture in the service.

- Prevention will be a significant area for development during 2024-2025 and the end of Turnaround presents a significant challenge to the service. There are uncertainties over funding, however STYJS will be looking forwards, engaging with key stakeholders and staff to identify a new model for prevention which creates opportunity for young people and supports them to move away from offending behaviour.
- The new SHiFT programmes in Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland create opportunities for positive engagement with our most vulnerable and at-risk young people. As a key partner in both areas STYJS will be supporting the development of the SHiFT models locally and seeking to ensure that these offer maximum benefits for the young people engaging with these services.
- STYJS continues to identify opportunities for young people to contribute to their communities and repair any harm brought by their behaviours. Reparation activity has previously included working in charity shops, supporting the In/Out of the Cold annual homelessness project as well supporting work to improve community spaces. During 2024-2025 STYJS will be further developing our community reparation activity to create a project which can offer young people practical skills and interests, while also growing produce that can be donated to local community foodbanks.
- Developing a Restorative culture which encompasses all areas of the service and can influence how other services work with young people is an aspiration STYJS will continue to try to achieve. During 2023-2024 further steps were made to achieving this goal with training to support staff and managers and during 2024-2025 we will continue this staff development activity with training of all staff in the service and the development of a framework of procedures and practice guidance which can guide how we work.
- As child focussed service the voice of the child is an important part of the foundations upon which we are seeking to build the service. Previously we have engaged young people in the

redesign and rebranding of the YJS with a new vision and mission statement. During 2024-2025 we hope to build on the influence young people can have on service delivery and design with such activities as further developing our young person's survey, seeking young people's views on the services we deliver, listening to these and developing practice where this is possible.

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	18/04/23	11/07/23	18/10/23	16/01/24
Prevention & Partnerships MBC	✓	Apols	Apols	Apols
STYJS (Head of Service)	✓	✓	✓	✓
YJB	✓	✓	✓	✓
R & C Children's Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
NPS			✓	
Police	Apols	✓	✓	✓
Commissioning - CCG		✓	✓	✓
Legal - Courts				
Public Health M'bro/R&C	✓	✓	✓	Apols
Councillor MBC	✓			✓
Councillor RC	Apols	✓	✓	
PCC	✓	✓	✓	✓
Education MBC	✓	Apols	✓	✓

APPENDIX 2– STYJS Statutory Functions

Statutory functions include:

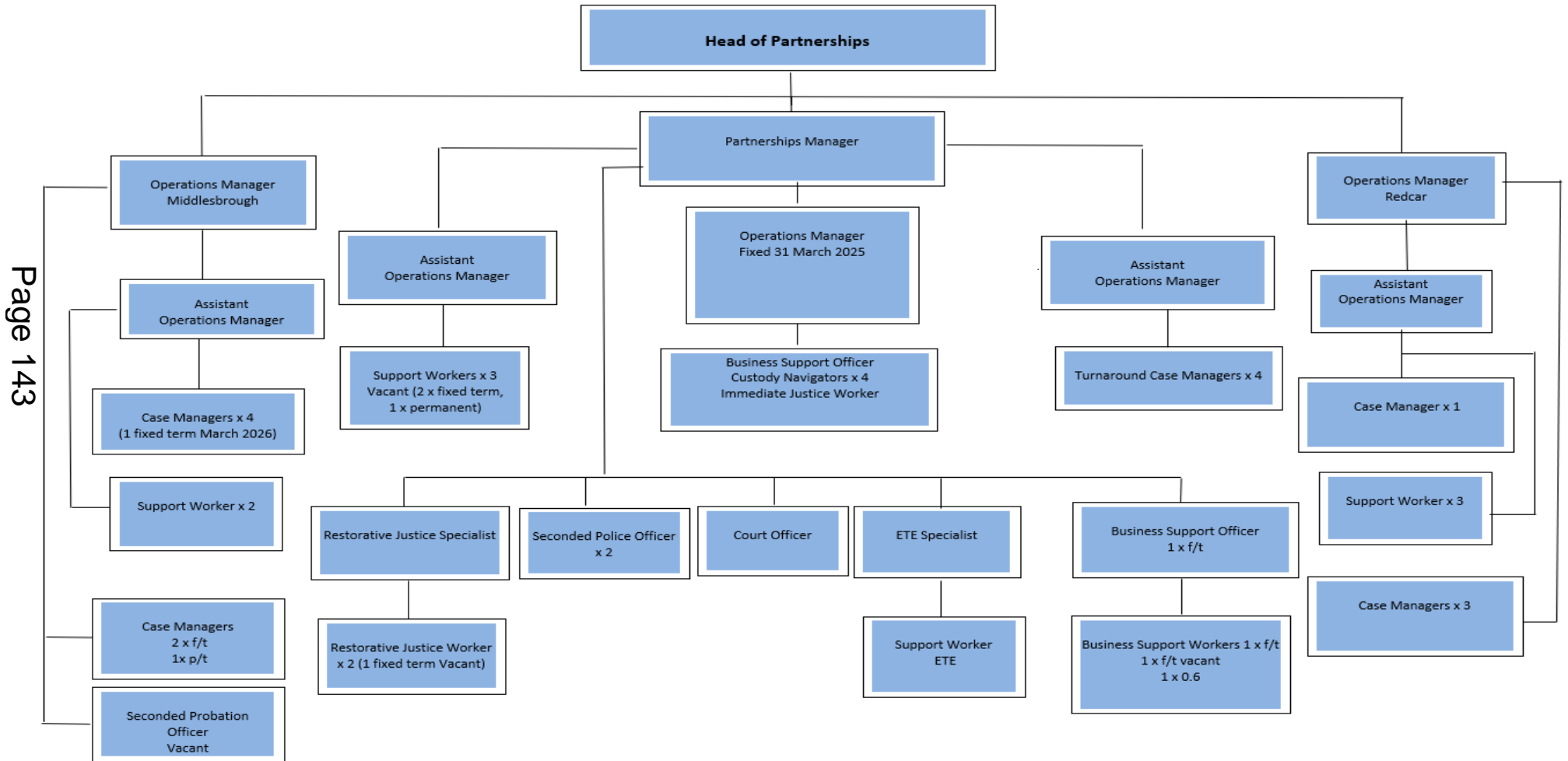
- Statutory Responsibility for Court Orders (Community and Custody) as they relate to young people, including all Requirements and Licences
- Compliance with National Standards for Youth Justice 2013 (accountable to Ministers)
- Enforcement of Court Orders and Licences
- Provision of Out of Court Disposals (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 (MAPP)
- Duty to cooperate with MAPP, 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 2024



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APPENDIX 4 South Tees Youth Offending Service: Service Development Plan

South Tees Youth Justice Service: Service Development Plan 2024-2025

Priority 1: Prevention and Diversion- To further develop opportunities for prevention and early intervention with young people and their families.			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
Undertake a scoping and consultation process with staff and stakeholders to identify a preferred model for prevention service delivery after April 2025.	Head of Service Partnerships Manager Operations Manager	September 2024	
Consult with partners in Police and voluntary sector to identify what provision they currently offer.	Head of Service Partnerships Manager Operations Manager	September 2024	
Prepare a report to the YJS Management Board outlining the options for prevention service delivery after April 2025.	Head of Service Partnerships Manager	October 2024	
Undertake discussions with the OPCC to identify opportunities to extend the funding for the Custody Navigators, Making Good and OOCDD programmes.	Head of Service Partnerships Manager	March 2025	
Further develop group-based programmes including working in schools, Tuff Tees, Lady Bugs. School holiday programmes and the Pre Court programme.	Asst Operations Manager	Ongoing	
Undertake and audit of prevention activity to identify the impact/success of this area of work.	Partnerships Manager Operations Manager	December 2024	
Priority 2: Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation- To further develop practice to ensure that STYJS can respond appropriately and effectively to the needs of young people involved in or at risk of serious violence and/or exploitation.			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
With partner agencies undertake a scoping exercise to understand the seriousness and extent of serious violence and how this impacts on young people.	Head of Service Partnerships Manager Operations Managers	December 2024	
Further develop opportunities for staff training and development in this area of work, including specialist training.	All Managers	Ongoing	
Develop the operational links with the SHiFT programme and areas for joined up working.	Operations Managers	Ongoing	
Identify proven in practice interventions and programmes which can support the work of the YJS.	All Managers	Ongoing	

Deliver programmes of intervention to engage and divert young people at risk of serious violence and exploitation	Asst Operations Managers	Ongoing	
Priority 3: Preparation for Inspection – To ensure that STYJS are fully prepared for the challenge of a potential HMIP Inspection during 2024-25.			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
Undertake a benchmarking exercise against the current Inspection Standards to identify the base line for STYJS	Partnerships Manager	October 2024	
Undertake a full case file audit of STYJS cases using the Inspection CARAG tool	All Managers	September 2024	
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	July 2024	
Benchmark STYJS against Youth Justice Inspection Reports and Thematic Inspection Reports to ensure STYJS preparedness for Inspection	Partnerships Manager Asst Operations Manager	Ongoing Action	
Deliver a development with session with Management Board Members to raise their awareness of the inspection process	Head of Service	October 2024	
Priority 4: Education, Training and Employment- To ensure that all young people supervised by STYJS have access to opportunities for Education, Training and Employment.			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
Employ a new Education, Training and Employment Specialist to lead in this area of work.	Partnerships Manager	July 2024	Interviews were held in May 2024 and awaiting clearance to appoint a new worker into post
Review practice in this area to identify gaps in provision and opportunities for new areas of work.	ETE Specialist	September 2024	
With partners, including Police, schools and Education Support Services undertake a review of offending by young people to identify levels of offending during school times.	ETE Specialist	December 2024	
YJS ETE Specialist to build maintain and enhance links to Education Support Services across both local authority areas.	ETE Specialist	Ongoing	
Priority 5: Resettlement- To ensure that young people are effectively supported upon resettlement to the community.			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
Prepare a new Remand Strategy to guide practice in this area.	Partnerships Manager Operations Managers	October 2024	

Undertake a review of RYDA cases from 2023-2024 to identify any learning and practice development areas to report this to the YJS Management Board	Partnerships Manager	October 2024	
Examine opportunities to extend the use of the Release on Temporary Licence scheme to support the resettlement of young people.	Operations Manager	December 2024	
Support and work with parents/families of young people to assist them during custody and resettlement processes.	All Staff	Ongoing	
Work with the Probation Service to understand the potential implications for practice of developments in the Probation Service relation to Transition and Resettlement of 18 year olds.	All Managers	December 2024	
Introduce Resettlement Panels as a multi-agency forum to support planning for the resettlement of young people.	Operations Managers	September 2024	
Priority 6: Restorative Practice- To establish a Restorative Culture in STYJS which supports effective work with the young people and communities we serve.			
Key Actions	Who will do it	Timescales	Review/Update on Actions/RAG Rating
Roll out Restorative Practice Training to all staff in the YJS.	Restorative Justice Specialist	September 2024	
Prepare and re-submit application for Restorative Justice Organisation to the Restorative Justice Council.	Restorative Justice Specialist	September 2024	
Review Restorative Practice Guidance.	Restorative Justice Specialist	October 2024	
Undertake a scoping exercise of current Restorative practice and processes to identify gaps in practice and areas for development.	Partnerships Manager Restorative Justice Specialist	November 2024	
Prepare reports to the YJS Management Board on Restorative Justice activity, including a focus on work with victims, reparation, and forms of mediation.	Restorative Justice Specialist	Ongoing	
Identify opportunities to provide reflective support and supervision to staff working with victims of crime.	Partnerships Manager	September 2024	

APPENDIX 5: Common Youth Justice Terms

ACE	Adverse Childhood Experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long-lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal Exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
CURV	Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence- a joined-up, preventative approach to tackling serious violence, with the Commissioner's office taking a leading role in bringing together local

	organisations such as the police, YJS, local authorities, public health teams and local hospital trusts.
Custody Navigator	A new role in the YJS designed to act as a key support to young people in the Police Custody area, to engage young people to divert them away from offending
EHCP	Education and Health Care Plan, a plan outlining the education, health, and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, Training or Employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
EOTAS	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
HMIP	His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
Immediate Justice-Making Good	Part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan, to engage young people involved in anti-social behaviour and crime into swift and visible interventions to challenge behaviours and reduce harm
ISS	Intensive Supervision and Surveillance-a high intensity programme used as part of the Youth Rehabilitation Order as an alternative to custody
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court

Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Number of children and young people appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
ROTL	Release on Temporary Licence
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication needs
STC	Secure Training Centre
SCH	Secure Children's Home
Turnaround	This is an early intervention, diversion and prevention programme designed to divert young people away from involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour
VEMT	Relates to young people who may be Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing or Trafficked
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
Youth Justice KPIS	This refers to the key performance indicators for Youth Justice with an additional 10 introduced from April 2023
YOI	Young Offender Institution

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MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL



Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Relevant Executive Member:	Executive Member for Finance and Governance
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	11 September 2024
Title:	Vacancies on Committees 2024/2025
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value
Key decision:	No
Why:	Not applicable
Subject to call in?:	No
Why:	Not Applicable

Proposed decision(s)

That the Council, subject to receipt of nominations to the vacancies listed at paragraph 2.1 of the report, approves the places allocated in accordance with the wishes of the political groups and other Councillors and fills the vacancies.

Executive summary

To seek Members' approval for nominations of appointment to vacant positions on committees and scrutiny panels due to vacancies that were not filled at the Annual Council meeting and resignations from committees.

1. Purpose

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

2. Recommendations

2.1 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:

People Scrutiny Panel

Vice Chair

Corporate Health and Safety Steering Group

2 vacancies

You Matter to Us – Corporate Parenting Board

1 vacancy

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 Council is required to appoint to any vacant places on Committees to ensure that all meetings will be quorate.

4. Background and relevant information

4.1 Following resignations from Committees and places on Committees 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.

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

5.1 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)

5.1 *Financial (including procurement and Social Value)*

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

5.2 *Legal*

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.

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.

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.

5.3 ***Risk***

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.

5.4 ***Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion***

No protected groups are affected by the decision.

5.4 ***Climate Change / Environmental***

Not applicable.

5.5 ***Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers***

Not applicable.

5.6 **Data Protection**

Not applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Update Memberships of Committees	Democratic Services Officers	18 September 2024

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Council	Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies 2024/2025	17 July 2024

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services
Submitted to:	Council
Date:	11 September 2024
Title:	Update on Urgent Decisions
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value

Proposed decision(s)
No decision is required. Council is asked to note the decisions that have been taken under urgency rules.

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

1. Purpose

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

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council
Notes the decisions that have been taken under the urgency rules.

3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

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

4. Background and relevant information

4.1 SPECIAL URGENT DECISIONS

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. There have been two special urgent decisions since the last report to Council on 27 March 2024:

Date:	1 May 2024
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	Garden Waste Subscription Service – Additional Bin Purchase
Reason for Urgency	<p>The decision is required as demand for the service has surpassed expectations and as a result additional urgent brown garden bins are required to cope with the increased demand. If the bins were not ordered urgently, then the Council would not be able to fulfil the orders of all residents who have signed up to the subscription service, would not be able to enable any additional residents to sign up for the service from this point forward or enable any future subscriptions at a later date. The order of the additional bins is urgent as the garden waste subscription service commenced from 1st April however not all residents who have signed up to the service have received a new garden waste bin due to the increased demand and therefore are at risk of missing numerous garden waste collections when they have paid for the service.</p> <p>The decision is unable to comply with the notice periods in part 6.22 or the forward work programme requirements in part 6.32 of the Constitution. The general exception in 6.35 cannot be followed as the decision must be made urgently to fulfil orders, enable additional orders to be made and to ensure waste collection is carried out to subscribers.</p> <p>Therefore the request is made for an exemption for special urgency for the decision under Part 6.36 of the Constitution.</p>

Date:	1 May 2024
Decision Maker	Executive
Decision	Household Support Fund 2024
Reason for Urgency	<p>The special urgent decision is required as Central Government advised of a further round of the Household Support Fund (HSF) in the Spring Budget. This funding was due to end, therefore the decision by Central Government to continue has only just been made, hence the short timescale for implementation.</p> <p>Following direction from Central Government, the scheme for 24/25 requires Executive approval and until such approval is provided the Local Authority is prevented from distributing any funds.</p> <p>In addition the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) require confirmation of an approved delivery plan by 10 May 2024.</p> <p>The decision is unable to comply with the notice periods in part 6.22 or the forward work programme requirements in part 6.32 of the Constitution. The general exception in 6.35 cannot be followed as the decision must be made urgently to approve the Household Support Fund and delivery plan, for submission of the delivery plan to DWP, to start to distribute the funds to vulnerable residents and deliver the scheme as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>Therefore the request is made for an exemption for special urgency for the decision under Part 6.36 of the Constitution.</p>

4.2 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. There have been no urgent decisions taken since the last report to Council on 27 March 2024.

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

- 5.1 Do Nothing: 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)

5.2 Financial (including procurement and Social Value)

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

5.3 Legal

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

5.4 Risk

Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.

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

5.5 Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion

No protected groups are affected by the decision.

5.6 Climate Change / Environmental

Not applicable.

5.7 Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers

Not applicable.

5.8 Data Protection

Not applicable.

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

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Report is for noting only.		

Appendices

1	
2	
3	

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Executive	Garden Waste Subscription Service – Additional Bin Purchase	1 May 2024
Executive	Household Support Fund 2024	1 May 2024

Contact: Charlotte Benjamin Email: charlotte_benjamin@middlesbrough.gov.uk

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