

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### **STRATEGIC**

#### **South Tees Youth Offending Service (STYOS)**

STYOS held an open day and this year an invite went to all councillors. The event reflected upon the previous year's work, work during Covid and a presentation was given on specific areas of work including restorative practice and intervention. The day was well attended and the service has received some positive feedback.

#### **South Tees Safeguarding Partnership (STSCP)**

The STSCP is operational and replaced the Local Safeguarding Children Boards in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. The arrangements cover the South Tees geographic area with the following agencies having equal responsibility: Middlesbrough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Council, Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group and Cleveland Police.

The STSCP aims to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system which places the child at the heart of the process with a key focus on improving practice and enhancing outcomes for children and their families.

#### **Education, Health and Care Plans (SEND)**

Covid continues to limit the ability to carry out assessments to support the EHCP process. Across the country local areas have applied innovation to ensure that assessments can continue to take place and that the 20 week process is not delayed. Currently within Middlesbrough the 20 week completion rate remains above 90%, which is above the national average ensuring our young people get best support possible.

#### **Early Years Specialist Support Service (EYSSS)**

The EYSSS, a specialist assessment setting for children with a variety of special educational needs and disabilities, was previously based at James Cook University Hospital. In response to Covid, this setting was closed to allow the emergency response from the hospital to take place.

As from September 2020, the service will be temporarily based at Hemlington Initiative Centre for one year. During this time, the service will work with partners to develop a new and improved model within the community.

#### **Access to Education**

Outwood Riverside school is now fully open to its first year 7 cohort and feedback from students and pupils has been great.

### **Schools Re-opening**

All schools and academies reopened to all Middlesbrough children and young people during the week commencing August 31. School leaders worked through government guidance to ensure detailed plans and risk assessments for opening were in place. Feedback about re-opening has been positive with leaders reporting that pupils are pleased to be back at school, have settled well and are enjoying learning in the classroom again.

Some schools have experienced positive Covid cases. Generally, positive cases have not resulted in widespread disruption to schools and only bubbles (groups of staff and pupils organised in school to minimise the spread of transmission) or part of bubbles have been closed. Full school closures are being considered carefully and are only taking place where reduced staffing means the school cannot open safely and where the risk has been assessed carefully.

There has been consistent communication with parents and carers from Middlesbrough Council and schools so that they understand how and when to seek a test and what to do if there are symptoms in the household.

### **Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership**

The cultural partnership has been successful with the Heritage Action Zone pilot funding, this will involve a joint commissioning model in Middlesbrough Railway station's 'Tunnel Gallery'.

We will be launching the partnership in a series of digital and in person events.

## **PERFORMANCE, INVOLVEMENT AND PROMOTION**

### **Access to Education**

Attendance at school is around 85%, marginally higher than national.

Council officers manned the town centre streets during the first week of term to help ensure a smooth start to Riverside school, helping the new year 7s and their parents on their way.

The Virtual School has rolled out on line training to all schools to help upskill staff in dealing with children who may be struggling to adapt to the return to school.

### **Middlesbrough Community Learning Service**

All three of our centres have reopened across the town including Lingfield Countryside Centre, Multi Media Exchange and CLC Building in Acklam. Due to social distancing restrictions, the delivery of learning has significantly changed. Face to face, delivery has been reduced and a more blended approach to delivering learning has been adopted across all aspects of the service.

Throughout the pandemic, the staff continued to deliver remote learning activities and provided online employability support to our residents. This led to over 500 residents accessing distance learning opportunities, 12 apprentices completing their apprenticeship and 28 people moving into work during March–August 2020

### **Routes to Work**

Well done to our Routes to Work team for being awarded a Civic Award for Improving Employment Opportunities for our Residents. The project is aimed at supporting residents over the age of 30, who have been long term unemployment and facing barriers to moving on with their lives. The project to date has engaged with over 900 Middlesbrough residents and moved some of our most disadvantaged residents closer to work or into employment.

**TEES VALLEY  
ROUTES TO WORK**



### **Opportunities for Culture During Covid**

There has been so much amazing work done to continue cultural engagement with audiences throughout the pandemic. Below are just a couple of the highlights.

- The Dorman Museum, Newham Grange Farm, the sports centres and Middlesbrough Archives are now open to the public and operating a Covid secure service. We have had fantastic feedback from visitors.
- Middlesbrough Mela at home project took place over a four week period, created content involved storybook commission and production of 1000 books, online storytelling in English, BLS and Urdu, Mela yoga sessions, music making sessions, arts workshops, mandala workshops, art packs and much more.
- Middlesbrough Town Hall ran one socially distanced comedy event within the building and hosted one outdoor theatre show, Twelfth Night, in partnership with Middlesbrough Theatre.

### **Neighbourhood Safety Warden Service & Town Centre Team**

The Community Safety Team has continued to respond to the impact of Covid with wardens promoting social distancing, keep left campaigns and conducting on the street temperature gun checks with members of the public to raise awareness of risks.

Wardens as usual have responded to a vast range of issues from addressing ASB across the town through to truly fantastic work supporting vulnerable residents.

The Neighbourhood Safety officers have been proactive across the ward on a diverse range of issues affecting local communities however some stand out events this month include the following:

Following formal action being taken against a youth who had been involved in setting a fire in Linthorpe Cemetery, the youth has now completed three one-hour long sessions working alongside the Neighbourhood Wardens to collect litter within the cemetery grounds and has taken positive steps to address his behaviour.

Neighbourhood Safety Officer's (NSO) Neil, Erin and Darren took part in a joint exercise alongside Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Policing Team and Cleveland Police motorcycle unit called Operation Endurance.

The purpose of the exercise was to make the town's roads safer. Four vehicles were seized as part of Operation Endurance (which is dedicated to tackling off-road vehicles and associated antisocial behaviour) and Operation Phoenix.

### **Library Click and Collect Service**

Community Hubs and Libraries re-opened on August 4 offering a Click and Collect library service and a limited return of some community services including nurseries, credit unions and limited sports based services, all complying with the current Covid secure guidelines. This has been a welcome return for many residents who have valued the return to some sort of normal. During the period up until mid-September, the service has issued 6,900 books.

### **Middlesbrough Libraries Active Mind Project**

As a result of Covid, many services and activities can no longer take place in the usual way. People have not been able to meet in groups or attend events, which of course has a negative impact, especially for the elderly and people living with dementia.

A Dementia Café would normally take place at a number of our venues on a monthly basis, where carers and their friends or family members can come in and have a chat whilst engaging in an activity.

Middlesbrough Library Service is aiming to pull together what we are calling 'Active Mind' bags. These bags will be completely free to borrow and will contain up to 10 items such as books, activities/games/puzzles, photos, posters, clothing, recipes, audio and lots more!

The items within the bags will span the 1940's to the 1970's - the aim being to encourage conversations, stimulate the mind, and reminisce. Initially we would like to put together 40 bags, which we will loan out to library members, the same as we would a book.

### **Locality Working**



The temporary locality-working hub in the Newport Ward is now operational Monday to Thursday at Newport Community Hub and key services and partners are now able to co-locate to work jointly from one building.

Weekly locality meetings hosted virtually (via Webex) are also operational. Named staff allocated to locality working from a wide range of services including social care, homelessness, substance misuse services, education, environment and public health are now meeting to progress joint working and to develop action plans to meet the needs of local residents. Fortnightly multi agency ward walkabouts are also taking place to increase resident engagement and to identify issues 'on the street'.

The locality space within North Ormesby Hub has had delivery of chairs and desks to set out the space ready for those teams to use that are currently out and about in the area, helping to strengthen those links. The space is also operational with area care, wardens, selective landlord licensing and police colleagues all slowly returning to the venue in a controlled way.

Both locality areas are linked with projects such as looking at the impact of drinking in the home, digital access for Middlesbrough residents and a Covid 19 recovery research project.

The Safer Streets project now has a working group that meets fortnightly. The locality team is taking a leading role in identifying areas of need, sourcing equipment and engaging with partners and the community to ensure action is taken in the correct areas.

### **Community Involvement and Promotion**

Our alley way project is very much in full swing with four groups having secured funding so far and residents from many more streets expressing an interest.

We also have an officer who is coordinating the scheme, supporting residents with funding applications and helping to tackle any barriers they may have in transforming their alley way. A letter drop is taking place across Newport to raise further interest.

We are working with Alley Pals and Urban Rebirth, the aim being to assist each other to enable us to improve as many alleys as possible.