

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE MEMBER: DEPUTY MAYOR AND EDUCATION AND CULTURE - COUNCILLOR PHILIPPA STOREY

**DATE OF MEETING: 18 September 2023**

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

#### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**Strategic Priority:** *Children and Young People - We will show Middlesbrough's children that they matter and work to make our town safe and welcoming and to improve outcomes for all children and young people.*

#### **Update: Youth Justice Partnerships**

1. The Government recently published the 'Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan'. In partnership with the other two Cleveland Youth Justice Services, a model of service delivery has been developed. Youth Justice Services are aiming to commence delivery in September.
2. As part of our response to violent crime involving young people we have developed a 'Custody Navigator' focussing on providing immediate interventions when young people present at custody, followed by advocacy to ensure appropriate longer term local support is offered and accessed. Four Custody Navigators will seek to identify opportunities to develop a trusting relationship whereby the detainee can be referred to appropriate support through a tailored service plan that connects them to services such counselling, mentoring, or help with conflict resolution, employment, or substance misuse. Although the initial contact is likely to be within the custody setting, Navigators will continue to provide ongoing support to individuals beyond release. This pilot will operate across Cleveland until March 2025.

#### **Access to Education**

3. Middlesbrough Council are working with DfE to appoint staff to drive up attendance, the attendance teams will be school based and have very specific remits to support school leaders – this is great news and represents an exciting step forward for us. We are planning a launch event to be held in September funded by DfE which will show case the work that is going on in the Council and in schools to support attendance.

4. The Virtual School is going from strength to strength; a recent fantastic conference brought together key stakeholders from across the area to reflect on our use of language with our care experienced young people and launched wave 2 of Proclaim – meaning 10 schools in Middlesbrough now are part of Proclaim a project working to ensure schools better understand the needs of their pupils having the potential to improve school attendance and reduce exclusions. More information on Proclaim can be found here:



## **Inclusion and Specialist Support**

5. We have recently been working with the DfE's Delivering Better Value Team to consider how we can further meet the outcomes of children and young people with SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities). We are in the final stages of this work and hope to be successful in our £1m grant application to further develop opportunities across the local area.
6. Alongside key developments there has also been the publication of the SEND and AP Improvement Plan. The main focus of the improvement plan is to ensure greater inclusion within mainstream settings for children and young people with SEND. Within the plan partners across Education, Health and Social Care will be held to account through the new National Standards and Accountability Framework. The SEND and Inclusion strategic board will be updating the local areas key priorities to reflect the improvement plan. Information will be used from feedback received from parents, carers, young people, and key partners at a number of engagement events which have taken place over the last few months. These events have included:
- Inclusion Conferences
  - Young Persons Conference
  - Big Ask Survey
  - DBV Engagement Events
  - Drop-in- Clinics



## Achievement

7. Our Achievement Service aims to ensure that every child and young person in Middlesbrough has equal access to high quality education that increases and improves life chances, through achievement of the best possible outcomes at every stage of their learning journey and beyond.
8. Advisors across the service work in collaboration with schools and settings to share best practice and understand the needs of the school's community. This year engagement with the team has seen 100% of secondary school request literacy support, over 240 early years practitioners attend LA led network or professional development sessions and 96 reviews of practice have been completed.
9. Family Hubs were launched in July 2023 and will improve relationships between families and services providing greater connectivity between services so that they can better understand family needs and provide much improved access to services due to co-location.



10. The Early Years team (formerly the School Readiness team) continue to deliver support for families and support families so that all eligible 2 years olds have access to high quality learning provision. 97% of our eligible 2-year-olds now attend a setting ranking Middlesbrough 1st in the Northeast and 2nd regionally for take up.
11. Our two maintained nurseries and the Cleveland Unit retained their Outstanding and Good judgments and in the current academic year.
12. Huge thank you to the whole Education Team and Youth Justice Team.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Culture

13. *Hi Street Fest* was an amazing success, building on partnerships with Historic England and Orange Pip and local community groups.



14. Middlesbrough Theatre has some amazing productions on in September, such as A Room of Ones Own by Virginia Woolf presenting by Dyad Productions. Please have a look online or the Theatre Facebook Page to see a full list of what is on.
15. The team at Newham Grange Farm have worked their socks off this summer, with new events such as the build a farm friend, competitions, as well as visiting your favourite animals and the farm play park. Meetings will be taking place with the Askham Bryan College to see how we can increase our offer at the Farm.
16. We are delighted to Celebrate Middlesbrough Art week, courtesy of The Auxiliary. Middlesbrough Art Week is back for its 6th edition and takes place across the town from Thursday 28th September to Saturday 7th October. Formerly known as the Art Weekender, MAW now extends to a full week of free exhibitions, talks, workshops, performances, events and exciting public interventions. This years' MAW programme presents over 120 artists made up of regional, national and international artists.
17. Our annual coat appeal has started and I would like to express a big thank you to Middlesbrough Town Hall and the Dorman Museum for offering to be drop off points and to BBC Radio Tees for their support. The free coat pop up shop will be happening in October. A date is just waiting to be finalised.
18. The Dorman Museum continues to go from strength to strength – big thank you to team. This summer, as well as the amazing Titanic exhibition which has smashed visitor numbers for previous exhibitions, there has also been a Titanic Water colour workshop, a brilliant pre-historic day Dino Day, Bird Coaster Making workshops (with Pixie Pots) and the Big Science – Fizzy Science Workshop.
19. The St Hilda Digital Walk, which starts at My Place (the old Custom House), is a must for history enthusiasts. I would like to personally thank Steve Thompson and the volunteers for putting it together.

Cllr Philippa Storey  
18 September 2023

