

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: MAYOR CHRIS COOKE

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

Update: Health Panel

The health inequalities vary dramatically across Middlesbrough with the life expectancy of a female in North Ormesby at 73.9 years in comparison to 86.6 years in Stainton and Thornton (as you can see in the table appended to the report).

In order to begin to tackle the health inequalities in Middlesbrough I have decided to create a panel made up of members from health professionals, public health and one member from every ward that has more than one "1" rank indicator these wards are set out below. The purpose of the panel is to create a better way of working between ward members and public health so we can begin to look at causes and factors behind the data but also more efficiently bridge any gaps in communication between public health and residents. Once we have established this initial process the aim will be to expand the remit until we have covered all wards in Middlesbrough.

Update: Inpatient Detox

The current situation for inpatient drug and alcohol detox is very limited inpatient detox availability with our closest option for drug detox being in Liverpool and we fund a limited number of places each year on a cost per case basis. The Tees Public Health teams also fund an alcohol detox bed at North Tees Hospital.

The National Drug Strategy ("From Harm to Hope") acknowledged the under-funding of substance misuse services, including a "lack of specialist services, including inpatient detoxification and residential rehabilitation". The national funding that followed this Strategy include an element for inpatient detox, with a requirement to offer at least 2% of people in treatment inpatient detox.

Public Health South Tees are leading a programme with seven other north east Councils and Home Group to develop a more local inpatient detox option in Brotton in East Cleveland, using an existing building that has been refurbished to a high specification by Home Group.

A draft service specification has been developed and is currently being finalised prior to a procurement process to secure a provider, with market testing indicating interest in providing the service. The provider should be secured by December 2023 and the service mobilised to commence in April 2024.

Once patients have completed their detox they'll return home to continue rehab if well supported, or on to their local residential rehab programme.

Update: Breast Feeding Borough Declaration

Breastfeeding rates at birth across South Tees are lower than the national average particularly 6- 8 weeks post birth. The benefits of breast feeding are received both by mother and child. The benefits to maternal health include protection from ovarian cancers and heart disease with the benefits to child to include protection from heart disease, asthma, Sudden Infant Death syndrome and diabetes.

A declaration on breastfeeding entails 10 commitments that would seek to normalise a breastfeeding culture. A similar campaign was delivered in Blackburn and Darwen which resulted in the continuation of breast feeding for months after birth.

Update: Healthy Weight Declaration (HWD)

A HWD will increase the number of people living in Middlesbrough who are a healthy weight and improve nutrition and hydration outcomes across the town. Approximately 71% of adults in Middlesbrough are overweight or obese, with 1 in every 3 children in reception being overweight. The difficulties of maintaining a healthy weight are compounded further by the living crisis where essential items have increased in price. Maintaining a healthy weight is challenging for many given all the external factors and influences on our lives. We therefore need a multi-faceted approach, to look at the whole system of social, economic and environmental factors that impact on weight.

The HWD includes 16 standard commitments that will work in conjunction with an elected member champion who will help to progress the HWD. The HWD has been developed to support local authorities to demonstrate commitment at a leadership level to develop and implement policies that promote healthy weight and improve the health and well-being of the local population.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Orchard Day Service- 16/08/23

The Orchard Day Service provides mental health support and care for adults. During my visit, I met with the Unit Manager who provided a tour of the facilities. Each room provides different sensory stimulation based on the needs of the service users. The corridors were wide which allowed easy access for those who required mobility aids. The Orchard have implemented a



centralised alarm system which uses lights in the corridor to signal staff to the appropriate room, in an event of an emergency. There is an outdoor area with inclusive playground equipment. The service also has a minibus which allows visits outside the centre including a cinema trip on the day of my visit, which was positively received by service users.

The Orchard Day Service is in high demand. Families with prospective service users have moved house to be in a location that falls within the catchment area. The derelict land adjacent to the building was discussed which provides potential scope to expand and mitigate the demand on the service.

Teesside Stroke Club- 31/08/23

Teesside Stroke Club is led by Ted Docherty, who fundraised £300,000 to provide people who suffered with stroke, bespoke motorised machines and walking aids to facilitate recovery. Attendees can use the machinery provided to increase their physical fitness and confidence amongst others in similar positions. Ted recalled attendees started the club unable to talk and are now in a position where they can converse with others. The Club crucially provides a social outlet and community for both attendees and their respective carers.



Upon talking to attendees, I became aware of the indiscriminate nature of stroke through meeting attendees in their late 20s who were previously in physically active jobs. Moving forward the club seeks to increase its diversity amongst attendees.

THE TIME AHEAD

Upcoming report for Council:

Draft Statement of Licensing Policy will go to Council in November

Upcoming initiatives:

The Care Quality Commission will commence inspection of Local Authority delivery of Care Act 2014, Part 1, duties towards the end of this calendar year.

A programme of briefings for all Elected Members is in development and will commence in approximately a month.

NAME : Mayor Chris Cooke

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