

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

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

#### DATE OF MEETING - 29 November 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

Improve outcomes for children and young people  
Support Cultural assets and events and improve access to culture.

#### DIRECTORATE PRIORITIES

##### Education:

- Supporting schools to improve the attendance of all children, particularly the most vulnerable.
- increasing the number of SEND CYP in mainstream settings.
- Improve parenting support and the home learning experience to support children's learning and development and school readiness.
- Reduce the number of children and young people who are suspended or have been excluded.

##### Culture:

- Encouragement of grass roots participation in events and events planning.
- Increase income generation events at the town hall.
- Diversify Museum offer.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

##### EDUCATION

1. At the beginning of November, the council hosted its first ever inclusion and attendance conference. The conference was supported by the DfE. The aim of the conference was:
  - provide schools with support.
  - to create an understanding about the challenging home life many children who are absent from school face.
  - to encourage trauma informed response.

- help break down barriers for children to re-enter school life after long absences.
2. The conference was extremely well attended by schools and trusts and I thank the education team and the schools and trusts for their determination to help our most vulnerable children get the education they need to succeed.
  3. Since November further Inclusion events have also taken place with schools, settings, health, social care and parents. These conferences have had a clear focus on the local area SEND and Inclusion priorities.
  4. A young person's conference took place in May 2023 in the Town Hall. This was for young people with SEND. The event was well attended by young people who during the event developed a transitions video which can be found on the SEND Local Offer website,
  5. In September this year the DfE awarded £1m grant funding to support Middlesbrough achieve key priorities outlined within the Delivering Better Value Programme. This programme is aimed at supporting greater inclusion in mainstream settings and improving outcomes for children and young people. This funding will support the pressures on the high needs budget which is used to support children and young people with SEND and those in Alternative Provision.
  6. Separately a meeting with Baroness Baran was productive, placing the issue of Outwood Riverside School firmly on the Ministers desk and agenda.
  7. The full SEND inspection report could well be published before the council meeting in November, but after this report has been finalised. we will bring an update in our next meeting with any good news to share
  8. Following the successful launch of the Family Hubs in July, a range of services are working collaboratively to support families, primarily in the 0-2 age group but 0-25 for Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND). Four main hubs, located in West Middlesbrough, Thorntree, Hemlington and Park End are working with families offering enhanced services delivered through transformed Children Centres ensuring all families can access the support they need. We also have two outreach sites in Abingdon and North Ormesby. As part of our commitment to ensuring every child gets the best start, the service formerly known as School Readiness, has been rebranded into the Early Years and Family Hub team. As well as the additionality provided through the Family Hubs, the Early Years and Family Hub team have maintained their existing offer to families.
  9. Launched in September our Year of Literacy seeks to work with school-based colleagues across both Primary and Secondary phases to strengthen writing across all subjects and phases as well. In addition, the work also improves links between primary and secondary schools through the development of a

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bespoke intervention programme for year 6 pupils transitioning into year 7 to improve reading skills.

## **CULTURE**

10. The Museum team continue to bring expansive exhibitions to Middlesbrough, with the Lego Exhibition in place at the Dorman Museum until mid-December and is continuing to do extremely well.
11. The Dorman after Dark – Over 100 tickets sold with £2,500 of income made across the evening. It was a really inspiring event for adults with many of the attendees asking us to do it again as they enjoyed it so much! Big thank you to all the Museum and Events team.
12. The Museum of Cryptozoology, a fantastic Halloween Day imagined by Chloe. Everyone had got involved as the number of visitors we had took us by surprise. In total we welcomed 1254 people!
13. The total takings for the day across the animal handling, crafts, trails, exhibition VR, was an impressive £1,515.
14. A huge congratulations and well done to the Dorman Museum for being on the shortlist for the Northeast Culture Awards. Its British Museum in Your Classroom project has made the final shortlist in the category of Best Arts and Education Partnership. The winner will be announced at the awards ceremony on 13 December.
15. Nightfall is again at Stewart Park over 29 November – 3 December. Artist Amelia Kosminsky has been commissioned to create a safe sensory space within our temporary gallery at the Cook Museum and will create a relaxed environment with projections and sounds called 'Living Light'. Amelia is an artist specialising in light sculpture, video art and photography. Her video artwork has most recently been seen on the screens in Piccadilly Circus with 'Sparks of Nature' and accompanying the San Diego Symphony Orchestra for their concert Singing With The Devil. Her light sculptures have also been seen at Christmas at Kew, Durham Lumiere and the Mayor of London's City Lights festival.
16. The Town Hall has welcomed fantastic acts as well providing NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) space for community use, such as Andys Man Club, BandJam, Classical Café and more – please visit the town hall website! Thank you to the Town Hall Team
17. Middlesbrough Theatre is welcoming a host of Christmas performances, such as Elf the Musical, A Christmas Carol and the wonderful Cinderella Panto. – Thank you, David Lindsey and team.
18. Our Events team have been busy with Diwali and Remembrance and are now gearing up for the Christmas Lights Switch On taking place on 19 November, preceded by an afternoon of family fun in the form of

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performances, workshops and street theatre. There's also Orange Pip Christmas taking place in the Town Hall on 16 December.

19. Our Archives team have partnered up with Navigator North to deliver 'Last Orders' at The Masham; an exhibition exploring Middlesbrough's lost and historic pubs.
20. Visual and Creative Arts continues to be a central force for cultural progression – with Navigator North, Pineapple Black and The Auxilliary all holding significant events. 58 artists submitted proposals for the first 8 artist commissions as part of the Most Creative Train Station programme, funded through the Cultural Development Fund. The 8 artists selected will develop work to appear in Middlesbrough Train Station in 2024. Teesside University also delivered Animex: the international festival of animation, VFX and games, which was supported by cultural venues across the town including the Town Hall.

Councillor Philippa Storey

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