

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

**EDUCATION**

1. We have been working hard to listen to the challenges experienced by schools during the pandemic via a number of forums. One pressing problem is digital poverty and how it impacts on the ability of our pupils to take part in remote learning. We are about to launch a scheme to offer extra laptops and WiFi access to pupils that will supplement school equipment and the extra laptops provided by DfE. We will review this pilot closely and adjust as necessary.
2. The Virtual School has launched the new electronic Personal Education Plan (ePEP). This is the electronic file that we have for every looked after child which holds all of their educational information. This newly upgraded version takes into account all of the feedback from children, schools and social workers and should help support children's progress in school.
3. Consultation on School Admissions Arrangements for 2022 has begun.
4. In October 2019, Middlesbrough led on a Free School bid for a Tees Valley Free School for children and young people with Social Emotional Needs and for those with Autism. This bid was successful and the new school will be based in Redcar. Work is currently underway and we hope to see this open in September 2022. This will bring additional capacity to the local area. Alongside this, we have worked with our partners in Tees Valley Education to build a Free School on the site at Nature's World. This is for children with physical and medical needs and will be open in September 2022.
5. 84% of Middlesbrough families are engaging with the two-year-old funding offer and accessing 15 hours early years education.
6. The Early Years Development Lead (EYDL) continues to work closely with schools and nurseries, providing regular updates, information and support to ensure schools and PVI's are supported during Coronavirus and learning and best practise is shared across the sector.
7. Looked after children's attendance at school reached 92% w/c December 7 2020.
8. The completion rate for Personal Education Plans (PEPs) topped 94% w/c December 7 2020, which is the highest rate ever.
9. The Inclusion and Specialist Support Service continues to retain a 90% completion rate of Education Health and Care Plans during COVID-19, which ensures that children and young people with SEND are assessed within the required timeframe.

10. Our National Literacy Trust lead continues to work passionately to ensure all pupils have access to high quality texts and is in the process of supporting the handout of over 12,500 books donated through the National Literacy Trust to food banks.
11. The Hullabaloo project that offered baby play packs to Middlesbrough families in the absence of face to face baby classes has now ended. The analysis of final data shows:
  - 411 families were contacted
  - 395 packs were delivered to 384 families in Middlesbrough and nine out of area – the latter families moved from the initial contact
  - 244 people signed up as a result of contact within Children’s Centres
  - 205 people enrolled with the project as a result of University research

## **CULTURE & EVENTS**

12. Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership (MCP) has had huge success, with members that include Middlesbrough Council bringing in more than £1m of funding in 2020 for cultural projects. Our aim is to make Middlesbrough the country’s most creative town.
13. MCP submitted a £120,000 bid to Historic England for further programming of the Heritage Action Zone.
14. Middlesbrough Council is supporting Teesside University pitch for the ‘Festival of 2020’, a £10million high profile festival which would bring significant attention and investment to the area. We have a one in two chance of being successful.
15. Middlesbrough Parks and green spaces were once again successful in obtaining The Green Flag award for 2020/2021. Sites include Stewart Park, Albert Park, Fairy Dell, Thorn tree park, Pallister Park, Hemlington Lake and Linthorpe Cemetery.
16. Tree planting has taken place across a number of parks during the autumn, with more than 160 semi mature trees and whips been planted. On the subject of trees, The Friends Of Stewart Park launched an Interesting Trees Of Stewart Park Leaflet. The leaflet was a joint venture with the Friends and park staff. A big thank you goes to the Friends group who solely funded the leaflet. We are very grateful for this.
17. The Environment Agency started work on the lake in Albert Park in late summer as part of the larger flood defence scheme on Marton West beck. It is hoped work is completed by Spring 2021.
18. In October, the Dorman museum continued to open Thursdays through Sundays with a steady stream of visitors attending. October half term was particularly popular, thanks in part to our ability to offer Covid 19 safe and socially distanced family craft activities. Feedback from visitors was excellent and positive.
19. On November 5, due to Covid 19 Tier 3 restrictions, the museum closed and will remain closed to the public until January 2021. Our visitor services team was furloughed for a short period at the beginning of November. They have now returned to work, engaged across archives and museums sorting, cleaning, boxing and auditing our collections. Our curatorial and learning team has continued to engage with audiences both locally and internationally, producing online education resources, social media posts and series of videos. The learning team has engaged with 750

school children via a mixture of digital resources, virtual classroom sessions, physical loan material and outreach sessions.

20. The curatorial team has taken the lead on social media output co-curating 18 videos. Our first Facebook Santa video went live on December 4 and was an immediate hit with a fantastic reach of over 13K. The second Santa video followed on December 7, so far achieving a reach over 9k at the time of this report.
21. A second experimental online escape room 'Escape from the Museum' took place on November 29. It was fully booked, receiving encouraging reviews from families who took part. The escape room was supported by the Tees Valley Museums Group NPO.
22. Newham Grange Farm re-opened on December 5. Festive farms events took place until December 24 including a Covid safe Christmas Trail. December Festive Farm dates were fully booked with nearly 6000 visitors attending. Work is commencing on the build phase of a new child friendly exhibition space in the linear building, which should be complete by March 2021.

## **COMMUNITIES**

23. The new Strategic Cohesion and Migration Manager, Jolande Mace, started within the community safety team on November 1 2020. During her first month, Jolande has started to develop relationships with internal and external partners, shadowed the street wardens in each of the different wards and relaunched both the Multi Agency Migration Meeting and the Interfaith Network, which will be held in January 2021. In addition, she has been heavily involved in the Council's Covid response, particularly in relation to community mass testing opportunities and working with the community Covid Champions.  
Jolande brings with her the LAASLO (Local Authority Asylum Support Liaison Officer), Andrew Robertson, whom she managed in her previous role. Andy supports Middlesbrough's asylum seeker population, assisting them with things such as social integration, identifying English lessons and volunteering opportunities during their asylum journey. If the Home Office grants refugee status, the LAASLO supports the new refugee during the "move on" process, which is a 28 day period in which they must apply for a bank account and Universal Credit and find their own housing opportunities.
24. The Mayor launched the CCTV Small Grant initiative in August 2020 inviting residents to apply for funding to purchase and install CCTV cameras on the outside of their properties. We were overwhelmed by the response and received in excess of 500 applications. Unfortunately we could not award all residents with funding so had to employ a strategy to identify those most in need. We analysed Police, Fire and MBC data including; crime, ASB, deliberate fire setting and fly tipping from April 2019 to March 2020 to identify hot spot locations. We then correlated the hot spot areas with resident applications. We allocated £300 each to 67 residents throughout Middlesbrough. The first cameras and recording devices have now been installed.
25. Active Intelligence Mapping (AIM) meetings continue to identify hot spot areas for crime, ASB, fire setting and fly tipping throughout Middlesbrough - setting actions and monitoring outcomes. There was a significant decrease in crime and ASB across the town with 200 fewer incidents this period. Current key areas are Easterside, North

Ormesby and The Viewley Centre in Hemlington for anti-social behaviour with Central and Newport wards being hot spots for fly tipping. The town centre priorities are shop lifting and other thefts. Partners are continuing to work together to tackle all of these issues.

26. School patrols have been taking place daily and have been made up from patrols utilising the CCTV enforcement car and traditional foot patrol. Schools where parking issues are prevalent have had enforcement patrols each morning. Below you will find a break down in enforcement activity for the month of November and year to date. Please note the information in this table is for the full financial year to date starting from April 1. The low numbers for several months are as a result of the suspension of car parking enforcement. Our duties are now fully resumed. We always adopt an ambassadorial approach to car parking enforcement and only issues Penalty Charge Notices where education and warnings are not possible. The total PCN'S issued in November were 398. A further 312 tickets could have been issued but were cancelled beforehand due to adopting an educational approach or the vehicle owner returned whilst the observation period was still taking place.

PCN's Issued 2020-21								
April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	YTD
28	7	3	85	134	136	113	383	889

PCN's Spoiled Before Issue 2020-21								
April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	YTD
20	12	6	37	75	65	84	312	611

PCN's Issued at Schools by CCTV								
April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	YTD
0	0	0	0	0	0	13	15	28

PCN's Issued at Schools by NSW								
April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	YTD
0	0	0	0	0	3	0	7	10

## Libraries

27. On December 1 our Top Reading Duo returned to social media presenting "The Middlesbrough Libraries Story Advent Calendar" published each day at 4pm until Christmas Eve. The Gazette covered this story.



28. On Christmas Day we launched a campaign to promote Borrowbox, our 24/7 Digital



Library, to both new and existing customers who may have received tech related presents for Christmas.

29. Libraries celebrated Nursery Rhyme week with Martyn the Music Man broadcasting extra sessions and welcoming more families to join his weekly sessions. As an incentive, School Readiness provided goody bags which included a book and two musical instruments as prizes for ten new families who joined the sessions.

30. Middlesbrough Libraries supported a very different Northern Children's Book festival this year in November. Due to the Covid pandemic the festival had to be quickly adapted so author visits could be hosted digitally. This didn't stop the children from Lingfield School, Marton, being inspired by a virtual visit from picture book author and illustrator Julia Woolf.



## Hubs

31. Working in partnership with local businesses and councillors, there was a great take up for OAP hampers within the Ladgate ward. Thirty food hampers were also delivered with help from the local Rotarians.

The service secured funding to deliver 25 food parcels to families in need over Christmas in the Newport area. The funding has been sought from Middlesbrough Together. Items such as cereal, pasta, sauces and long life foods have been provided. The parcels will be delivered to families the Ethnic Minorities Achievement Team (EMAT) support and work with.

Nearly 400 meals Christmas meals were also delivered to residents with the help of council staff, police and The Oven restaurant.

We are very aware that many council staff and councillors went above and beyond to support their residents during Christmas and we want to thank each and every one of them.



32. Social services family contact has now resumed with in the hub. This service enables looked after children to spend time with other siblings and family members which over the past few months has not been able to go ahead due to lockdown restrictions. Harbour Support Services have now been reinstated in line with social distancing guidelines. Harbour provide two sessions for children that have been involved with domestic violence. In the current climate with a reported increase in domestic violence this is a much needed service for the children of the families.