

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Philippa Storey

DATE OF MEETING: 27 March 2024

1. 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

DIRECTORATE PRIORITIES

Education:

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

Culture:

- Encouragement of grass roots participation.
- Increase income generation events at the town hall.
- Consolidate cultural offer.
- Make events sustainable.

HIGHLIGHTS

Turnaround

2. Turnaround is a prevention programme funded by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) that means Youth Justice services can intervene at an early point to stop children, who are on the edge of entering the justice system, from going over that edge. This earlier intervention has meant that 45 children have so far been prevented from entering the youth justice system with another 42 children in the Turnaround system. 45 children in the closed cases have not reoffended. This is a brilliant result and one reason why Turnaround funding should be maintained in the future, although with a more localised approach.

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Update on Outwood Riverside

3. The Push to get the new Outwood Riverside School actually built, is ongoing. It has been confirmed that no further remedial work is now needed on the site (other than what had already been agreed). This removed another potential delay to getting spades in the ground at site.
4. The planning for the temporary accommodation that is being erected on the Eston site for the year 7 children is well underway and the Trust and DfE are working together to ensure the accommodation meets the needs and requirements of the students. This is not ideal for anyone and I know that many parents have issues with their children being bused off site. This is not fault of the school or teachers – they have worked incredibly hard, along with students to maintain educational and ofsted standards at the school. Again I urge the DfE again to expedite this process and get spades in the ground at the earliest opportunity.

Ofsted inspection results

5. Ofsted inspections have continued to go well for our schools. 90% of our schools have been graded as good or better All of our Private and Voluntary Independent Nursery settings and childminders continue to be judged good or outstanding and they all deserve a massive congratulations.

High Needs Budget

6. The High Needs Budget is facing significant pressure due systemic issues across the sector. These include increases in the number of children requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan and children who are risk of or who have been excluded. Middlesbrough are part of the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme which is in place to support LAs address the pressures in the High Needs Budget. There is an action plan aimed at reducing the costs across the system. This is closely monitored by our SEND Advisor and DBV lead from Department for Education.

Middlesbrough Literacy Trust -their ongoing work with Allison Potter

7. Over the lifetime of the National Literacy Trust (NLT) in Middlesbrough, the trust has developed a strong partnership with James Cook University Hospital, particularly the neonatal intensive care unit. Working with staff over the years we have normalised reading, singing and talking to babies on the unit. Thanks to Walker Books, parents are gifted a book bag, including a copy of Guess How Much I Love You (<https://fb.watch/qOszpvQPwn/>) and information about the benefits of reading to babies, particularly those born prematurely.
8. A key partner is the Head of Supporter Services at Middlesbrough Football Club. They are passionate about the importance of reading and book ownership, so the trust work together with them to promote this. The trust book gifts at certain matches through the season, talking to young fans about book choice and reading preferences. The NLT in Middlesbrough provide family book bundle prizes, books to support various 'days' such as giving

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copies environmental themed books for National Green Day on 9th Feb and copies of Frozen Planet II for International Polar Bear Day on 27th Feb. Every year we do focussed activity to celebrate World Book Day, gifting 100s of the WBD (World Book Day) books at home matches.

9. World Book Day (WBD) in a huge focus each year. One year the NLT(National Literacy Trust) in Middlesbrough secured 15,000 WBD titles and Allison Potter distributed the books to every primary school in Middlesbrough, particularly those in the most disadvantaged areas of the town, where the children are less likely to use their £1 WBD voucher. In 2024 we did things differently. We hosted 2 sessions at the Dorman Museum, one for childminders the other for Elective Home Educated families, themed around two of the WBD books – dinosaurs and space. The trust created 2 hour-long activity sessions with books at the heart, and all who attended received the WBD title plus another dinosaur/space book. Two primary schools visited local care-homes and read with residents (intergenerational reading) and these links are to be further developed across the year. The pupils took copies of books to be added to the residents' bookshelves, donated by the NLT in Middlesbrough. WBD titles were gifted to The Junction to give to their young people over the week, Nepacs to gift to children visiting HMP Holme House, Ormesby Hall's free WBD event, The Kings Academy plus the MFC men's and women's matches on 6th & 10th March.
10. July 2024 sees the 3rd Big Boro Book Bash, in partnership with the Town Hall and the Arts Council's Connecting Stories project. Over 1000 pupils from Middlesbrough primary schools will gather at the Town Hall for a morning of 'reading' related activity – we have secured the author Tom Percival as the headline. All attending will receive copies of one of Tom's books too. Happening in the same week will be a 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' interactive trail in one of the parks (working with the Early Years (EY's) Family Hubs team, EYs professionals and Early Years Literacy Champions. This session will be aimed at our youngest residents, with families, child minders and EYs settings being invited to join in. Every child will receive their own copy of the book to take home to keep!

20 years of Stainsby Nursery

11. Stainsby Nursery opened in 2004 and this month, celebrated its 20th Anniversary. A celebratory event was held to mark this important milestone. A trip down memory lane of the nurseries former children –, showcased the excellent start to life and learning children get at Stainsby. A delightful display of photographs showed children from the past to their achievements today. Janet Dixon the current manager who set up the provision from the start deserves every accolade.

Admissions

12. The Council successfully managed 'year 7 offer day' on the 1st of March by ensuring that all Middlesbrough year 6 children who wanted one received an offer of a secondary school place in the town. 92.6% of children received an

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offer of a place at their first or second choice of secondary school, which is brilliant. However, This does mean that 7.4% of children didn't get the place they or their family wanted and this is something we must work on,

The Education Alliance Board

13. Launched at a meeting at the beginning of March, the board aims to strengthen collaboration across schools and settings to develop approaches that will work across the broader educational sector, bringing ideas together.

Family Hubs

14. Fantastic work continues to be undertaken making sure a range of services are collocated and working collaboratively to meet the needs of families within the community.

Culture

Musinc Overview

15. Musinc provides opportunities in Middlesbrough for people of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances to make music, connect with others and explore their musical identity. They have regular term-time music sessions for young people, with in-school and extra-curricular provision, a schools programme of live events as well as activities for adults

16. Bandjam is for young people who are looking for professional tuition in guitar, bass, drums, keyboard or vocals. Musinc offer group tuition with opportunities to play alongside other musicians. they provide instruments at the session, but you're welcome to bring yours along as well. Bandjam Juniors is from age 8 to 11 and takes place from 4.45 to 5.45pm. Bandjam seniors, from age 12 to 17 takes place from 6pm to 7pm. Both take place at Middlesbrough Town Hall and the groups perform regularly at the venue, as well as at events across Middlesbrough.

17. Young Producers is a free programme for those aged 15 to 21 who want to gain knowledge and experience in the music and events industries. The young people meet as a group and take steps to plan and deliver a live event. They get advice from specialists in the field, including marketers, technicians, and event organisers, on what it takes to make an event at Middlesbrough Town Hall a success. In the past, Young Producers have coordinated and produced live music events such as our Town Hall Takeovers, where up-and-coming local bands and performers were invited to grace the stage. Our next cohort of Young Producers will begin in the Summer.

Recent Highlights

- Total Participants to date since April 2023: 1379
- Total Audiences to date since April 2023: 3301

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- On Monday 26 February we welcomed 270 young people, from 9 local schools, to perform as part of Shine Festival. An inclusive, open stage event where groups received feedback from our feedback panel.
- Open Orchestra weekly sessions continue this half term with 25 young people regularly attending. Open Orchestra have been working with composer Kate Whitley to develop an arrangement for Open Up Music and Open Orchestras of her composition 'Falling' which will be used by Open Orchestras across the country. This is the first time Open Up Music have developed a new composition in collaboration with a group of young musicians. The group are also taking part in a research project led by Nottingham University, which looks at Digital Scores and the way that having a live stimulus can impact on performers and performances.

18. Upcoming Events

- Monday 18th March 2024 – MTH Community Choir and North East Opera
7.30pm, Middlesbrough Town Hall
- Tuesday 19th March 2024 – Amplify (Open Mic)
6pm, Middlesbrough Town Hall
- Friday 12th April 2024 – Classical Café for Schools: Paddington Bear
1.30pm, Middlesbrough Town Hall

19. Musinc is a fantastic organisation and I full recommend parents to enrol their children in a class. Anyone interested in Musinc events, please email: musinc@middlesbrough.gov.uk.

Cultural Ambassador Programme

20. A new corporate membership programme has been launched to enable businesses to support Middlesbrough's annual cultural programme including the likes of Mela, Middlesbrough Pride, Middlesbrough Art Week, Taste of Africa Carnival, etc. Membership is £5,000 a year and we have signed up our first member – Leonardo Hotel. If any businesses or interested or you think any businesses in your area may be interested, please let me know and we'll speak to them and send out a sponsorship pack.

The Big Give

21. Work is ongoing with Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership to deliver a week-long fundraising campaign – The Big Give: Arts for Impact – to raise funds for the Partnership to support events, public art and the development of creative spaces in Middlesbrough. We're targeting to raise £10K, which will be matched £1 for £1 by The Big Give. The campaign went live on Tuesday 19 March and donations can be made from then until 26 March on our campaign page <https://donate.biggive.org/campaign/a056900002SEV3uAAH>

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Orange Pip Future

22. People make places – people visit Middlesbrough town centre because they NEED to, rather than they WANT to. Like many towns and cities, we need to repurpose the function of our town centre, we need to appeal to the ‘WANTS’ of people and build an innovative experiential economy where people want to spend their time. Events like Orange Pip market are crucial to achieving this. Orange Pip Market is a highlight of Middlesbrough’s social calendar, Influenced by a range of world-class markets such as Borough in London and Smorgasburg in New York City, Orange Pip features the very best in local and regional food, live music and entertainment.
23. Since its inception in 2016 under Mayor Dave Budd, Orange Pip has grown into the popular and iconic event that it is today. As well as being a staple in the social calendar of residents and visitors, its continued success has proved vital in supporting local businesses and the wider town centre economy.
24. To date, Orange Pip has been solely funded by Middlesbrough Council, but now is the time for us to explore more sustainable models for running this much-loved event therefore we are looking to work collaboratively with the wider business community and other external stakeholders to secure the future of Orange Pip and keep this unique event, grown in Middlesbrough, for people to enjoy long into the future. Sponsorship packs are available from the council.

Embedding Culture within the local plan

25. On the Local Plan, we worked with our Planning Team following the production of a new 10 year Creative Vision for Middlesbrough 2023-2033, to write a policy which reflects the aims and ambitions of the cultural sector for creativity in Middlesbrough. The policy makes a commitment to supporting these aims as well as highlighting some areas of focus in the town where we see opportunities to both protect and develop our cultural offer.

Run Through half Marathon

26. The inaugural Middlesbrough Half Marathon and Junior Race, in partnership with RunThrough, took place on Sunday 3 March with over 2,000 people taking part and tens of thousands of pounds raised for local and national charities as a result. Starting in Centre Square, the route took in Albert Park and the Riverside Stadium before looping around the docks and finishing back at Centre Square. The Junior Race took place around Centre Square. Next year’s event is already in the diary for 2 March 2025 and we hope to establish the Half Marathon and Junior Race as a significant fixture in the town’s annual calendar and one that celebrates fitness, community spirit, and the town’s vibrant culture. There were teething issues with regards to vehicle access and this will be addressed by the next event.

Middlesbrough Town Hall Programing Update

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27. We have had a fantastic start to 2024 at Middlesbrough Town Hall, with shows, events, conferences & everything in between. Highlights of the start of 2024 include sell out performances with Sarah Millican, You Me At Six, Guz Khan & Jimeoin. Our Classical Season continued with performances from Royal Northern Sinfonia & the Archangelo Ensemble, with ticket numbers increasing each event. The team also worked closely with Middlesbrough Football Club to present their 20th Anniversary Carling Cup dinner & celebration on 29th February.

2024 Upcoming Highlights

- Middlesbrough Pride – 28th September 2024
- Open Air Season in the Courtyard in collaboration with Middlesbrough Theatre – Summer 2024 From The Jam, Big Country & Scouting For Girls - All music concerts
- Other highlights - Mo Gilligan, Paddy McGuinness, Milton Jones, Jeff Stelling

Working with local musicians

28. We are continuing our work with Henry Carden on our Artist in Residency project as part of our Arts Council NPO funding, we've been very lucky to have support from BBC Introducing at all of our AiR events this year and we're looking forward to continuing this relationship into the financial next year.

29. We are also working in conjunction with Middlesbrough Gigs, an independent music organisation promoting shows solely in the heart of Middlesbrough in the following partner venues: Middlesbrough Town Hall & Crypt; Teesside University Students Union; Café Etch. Our first concert will be in May, with further details to be announced in the next few weeks.

30. Middlesbrough Gigs is committed to bringing the best new and emerging regional, national and international acts to Middlesbrough. The team behind Middlesbrough Gigs have decades of experience in delivering high quality live events in the town.