

**OUR CORPORATE PARENTING
STRATEGY
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE
IN MIDDLESBROUGH**

**Scrutiny Panel Update
January 2021**



MIDDLESBROUGH
CHILDREN
MATTER

Our massive thanks to the children and young people from Middlesbrough who have contributed to the preparation of our Corporate Parenting Strategy, supported by our partners The Care Leaders.

We are especially grateful to the young people who have contributed some of their experiences, views and ideas in short videos that are included in the live version of this presentation.

All of the young people involved have given their positive consent to their stories being shared to support this important piece of work.



Welcome ... Some Key Messages

- **Our Corporate Parenting strategy sets out our vision and action for supporting children & young people in our care**
- **Our strategy is one important element of our wider Improvement Plan for our whole-system of support for children and young people in Middlesbrough**
- **We are doing some things well, but we have a lot to do to improve our support for children and young people in our care**
- **Our strategy has been developed during 2020 in consultation with our staff, our members, our partners and young people. All have contributed to ensuring we have a strong and effective strategy in place**
- **Our children and young people are continuing to make a significant contribution to the development of this piece of work**

This is How Children & Young People Have a Say in Shaping Their Care in Middlesbrough

Thematic Surveys on Specific Topics
Confidentially through Advocacy and

*and using this information to improve
people*

This is the Shape of Our Strategy



Our Guiding Principles Developed with Children & Young People

OUR NEEDS &
WISHES

OUR FRIENDS &
FAMILY

Contact with all the

families

OUR VOICE &
INFLUENCE

OUR EDUCATION &
EMPLOYMENT

having a real voice

influence the plans
for our care

need

ready, and to make

adult life

OUR HEALTH &
WELLBEING

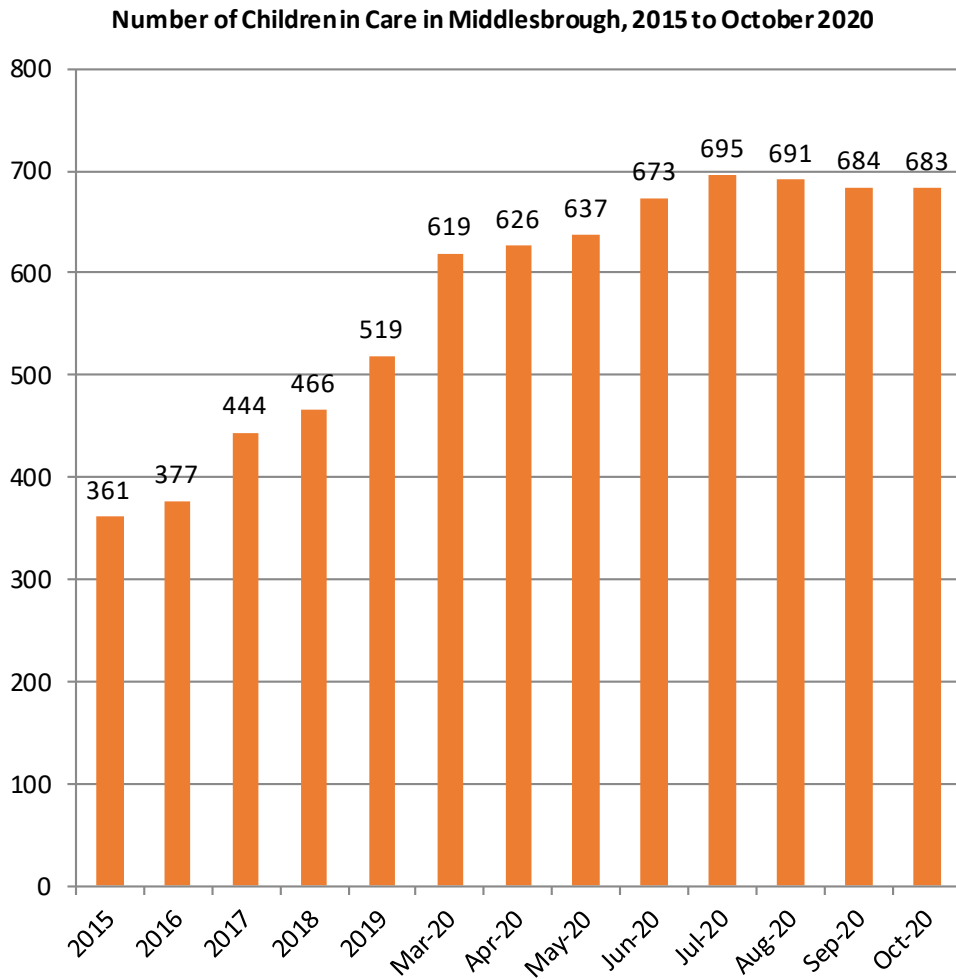
Some Things We Do Well for Children in Our Care

- **Children have more stable placements and there is a steady reduction in the proportion of children who had three or more placement moves in our care**
- **We are reducing drift and delay for children in our care, supported by a targeted focus from our Futures for Families and Innovate projects**
- **More children are supported by us in attending school regularly, and there is a decrease in fixed term exclusions, leading to a more stable and effective learning experience for children**
- **Our visits and contacts with children in our care are increasingly within timescale, leading to an improved experience of care and support**

Some of the Things We Need to Improve

- **Early identification of risk to support children on the edge of care**
- **Quality and timeliness of our permanence planning**
- **Availability of sufficient and suitable local homes**
- **Access to emotional and mental health support**
- **Educational attainment for children in our care, and Employment and training outcomes for Care Leavers**
- **Robust oversight from Independent Reviewing Officers**
- **Better decision-making on placements & resources**
- **Systematic dental and health checks for children in our care**

Some Facts About Trends & Demand in Middlesbrough



- **The proportion of children in our care has increased by 89% over the last 5 years - this exceeds national and regional trends**
- **In recent months numbers in our care have started to gradually reduce**
- **There is significant recent improvement in the balance between young people entering and those leaving care**
- **However ... children are still spending too long in our care and we are taking action to improve our permanency practice**
- **As we improve our practice we are reinvesting resources to reduce drift and delay and to support children on the edge of care**

Our Corporate Parenting Priorities





**For a full copy of our Corporate Parenting Strategy
please email
karen_sproston@middlesbrough.gov.uk**

Our mission is to show
Middlesbrough children
that they matter.



middlesbroughchildrenmatter.co.uk

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