

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Deputy Mayor & Executive Member for Education and Culture

DATE OF MEETING: 27 November 2024

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on areas of activity within my portfolio including performance against strategic priorities.

1. COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

Education:

- Supporting schools to improve the attendance of all children, particularly those who are most vulnerable.
- 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.
- Increase adult learning and skills outcomes.

Culture:

- Encouragement of grass roots participation.
- Increase income generation events at the Town Hall.
- Consolidate cultural offer.
- Sustainable events.

2. EDUCATION

2.1. Alternative Provision

As of November 2024, there are currently 279 children accessing education in an Alternative Provision. Of these pupils, 26 are secondary and 15 are primary. This equates to 1.07% of the total current school age population.

Of the 279 children in alternative provision:

- 188 are there as result of being permanently excluded from their mainstream school.
- 108 have identified special educational needs (SEN).
- 42 have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for their SEN.
- 38 are open to Social Care on a Child In Need plan (CIN)
- 13 are open to Social Care on a Child Protection Plan (CP)
- 8 are Children Looked After (CLA)
- 7 are open to the Youth Justice Service

Last academic year, 4.8% of permanently excluded children reintegrated back into mainstream education following a period in alternative provision. Reintegration of permanently excluded children is a priority area of focus which the local authority is working in partnership with schools to achieve. This year there is a stretch target in place to achieve 50 pupil re-integrations over the academic year. So far since September 2024 there have been 2 successful re-integrations with another child currently on a transition programme back into school.

There are a small number of children who are assessed for an education, health and care plan (EHCP) during their time in alternative provision. Last academic year, 7.64% of children and young people permanently excluded from school subsequently received an EHCP and 66.6% of primary aged children referred to Alternative Provision for intervention places subsequently received an EHCP. Nine children who were assessed for an EHCP in alternative provision subsequently on into more specialist provision within 12 months of securing an EHCP.

2.2. Ofsted Inspections for Primary Schools

Ofsted September 2023 to end of October 2024 for Middlesbrough Primary Schools:

- Acklam Whin – 25/10/2023 – Good
- Berwick Hills – 14/11/2023 – Good
- Caldicotes – 24/09/2024 – Good
- Corpus Christi RC Primary School – 09/04/2024 – Good
- Linthorpe Community Primary School – 30/04/2024 – Outstanding
- Newham Bridge – 05/10/2023 – Good
- North Ormesby Primary Academy – 01/10/2024 – Good
- Sacred Heart Primary School – 08/05/2024 – Good
- St Alphonsus' Catholic Primary School – 22/05/2024 – Good
- St Edward's RC Primary School – 05/02/2024 – Good
- St Gerard's RC Primary School – 01/04/2024 – Good
- St Thomas More RC Primary School – 20/02/2024 – Good
- Sunnyside Academy – 30/11/2023 – Good
- River Tees Academy Primary – 10/04/2024 – Good
- River Tees Hospital School – 03/07/2024 – Good
- Trinity Catholic College – 06/10/2023 – RI
- Priory Woods School – 13/09/2023 - Outstanding

3. FAMILY HUBS GOOD NEWS STORIES

3.1. Amazing Babies

Aimee recently attended Amazing Babies with her son, Kaiden, at West Middlesbrough Family Hub. Despite initial nerves, Aimee quickly settled into the sessions where she felt welcomed and comfortable.

Aimee said: “As a first-time mum I found the classes both useful for Kaiden and myself too – Amazing Babies has got me out the house and interacting with other mams. “I’ve learnt it’s never too early to interact with my baby through talking and reading, as you think they’re not listening, but they are and pick up everything.

“The sessions also showed you don’t need to spend a fortune and buy all the latest toys – you can make your own fun out of household items.”

Sessions are suitable for babies under 6 months old. They are delivered in 5-week blocks each half-term at our Family Hubs.

3.2. Let’s Talk

The Let’s Talk sessions are hosted by the Family Hubs service and provide practical ideas and tips to help develop young children’s language skills. Andrea and Mark said: “Over the last couple of months the help and support we have been given has been invaluable.

“We were put at ease during our video calls and the sessions were fun for us as adults “

“We took so much from it and my son has become a right chatter box and is already stringing a few words together, which he wasn’t doing prior to the sessions.”

“We have trained ourselves as parents to different approaches and it’s really worked.”

“For any parents who have concerns about their children’s speech, please give it a go, as we only have positive things to say about the help and guidance given. Without this support, I believe my little boy would still be struggling with his speech.

“The six weeks sessions taught us so much as parents.”

Parents of two-year-olds who meet the criteria can take part in the Let’s Talk programme.

3.3. Triple P for Babies

Once activated, the code gives 12 months access to seven online modules, which can be accessed from a computer, tablet or smartphone and completed at any time.

Middlesbrough first-time mum, Haley said: “I have loved using the Triple P app to access information at the tap of the button. It has provided me with lots of reassurance about my baby’s development.

“The app is very interactive and features lots of videos and quizzes to test your knowledge. I am a very visual learner, and the online programme has helped to boost my parenting skills.”

Your code will be sent you as part of your welcome call from the Family Hub team, this will take place once your health visitor has completed your new birth visit.

4. CULTURE

4.1. Middlesbrough Theatre

The theatre hosted *Les Misérables* by Middlesbrough Youth Theatre. The performance was outstanding and a huge congratulations to all the young people involved for such a fantastic show.

The theatre has enjoyed several sold-out performances this Autumn, notably by Taylor Fever – a tribute to Taylor Swift - which sold out two performances, has already sold out a third in February and a fourth has just gone on sale for April.

On the drama front, Rita, Sue and Bob Too – widely known from the film version – also sold out – only the third play to have done so in the past 25 years (the others were Abigail's Party and Jim Cartwright's Two).

The theatre is now gearing up for panto. This year it's the turn of Snow White with Melinda Messenger starring as the Wicked Queen - the first time she has played the "baddie" – and popular comic Philip Green returning for his sixth year as Muddles the Jester. Advance sales are very healthy, and the theatre is looking forward to another successful season (oh yes, it is!).

4.2. Museums

Boro, A Shirt History Exhibition:

The purpose of the exhibition is to democratise our spaces while allowing community members to gain a greater understanding of the work of museums, considerations, and curatorial techniques. The opportunity gave them hands on experience which has grown their confidence and knowledge to continue to deliver pop-up exhibitions. The exhibition was 50% funded by the Tees Valley Museums NPO.

The exhibition ran for 3 months and attracted 3234 paying visitors. Income generated from the exhibition was 4x greater than the museum investment. There was a noticeable change in visitor demographic attending and engaging with the exhibition with an increase of male teenagers, fathers and grandparent visiting as groups which was welcomed as they would be previously considered as less engaged in museums.

Working with the MFC foundation we delivered weekly dementia sessions with 74 attending over 6 days.

The exhibition was well received by the media with a few highlights:

- BBC Look North - https://youtu.be/QYN2vO5Q9Nw?si=GU6-UI96laT_tMtX
- Renowned Football Youtuber - <https://youtu.be/nutSBAzqBak?si=dmxErQbRCtITUji->
- BBC Radio Tees, A tour of the Boro Shirts Exhibition on BBC Sounds

Visitors to the exhibition have included:

- Tom Hatfield, son of legendary Jack Hatfield who supplied essential equipment to the club and was made one of the club's directors in 1952).
- Former footballer and now councillor Jim Platt who played for Middlesbrough before coaching in the local community centre and at a private football school in Teesside. I'd like to Thank Councillor Platt for his personal support towards the exhibition.
- Nick Gates, son of defender Bill Gates who retired in 1974, who inspired a charity campaign related to footballers with dementia after heading footballs, for which his wife, Dr Judith Gates, launched the "Head for Change" and "Head Safe Football" charities.
- Premier league referee Jeff Winter who is a proud supporter of the club and was a regular Premiership referee for over seven seasons.

- Most recently former striker Bernie Slaven, who has several shirts displayed as part of the exhibition. Slaven was twice named the club's Player of the Year and scored 146 goals during his eight years at Ayresome Park.

My Boro My Shirt was a community exhibition funded by Borderlands featuring 15 different fan portraits of MFC fans showcase the diversity among the Boro's supporter base. Co-ordinated by Rob Nichols and Ellen Sowerby from the Middlesbrough Supporters Forum, following the recent riots the exhibition was a poignant reminder of the makeup and strength of our community and was celebrated and positively praised by visitors.

Middlesbrough Museums in your Classroom:

October saw the start of an exciting new partnership between Middlesbrough Museums, Literacy Trust and Beech Grove Primary School who will be working together over the next 3 years to use museum to inspire literacy learning and enhance teaching skills. Pupils from Beech Grove have visited Dorman Museum 3 times through October to see and investigate items from its WW2 collection followed up by working with a local author to develop their creative writing. Upcoming sessions with Beech Grove Primary School also include working with an animator, discovering the history of their school with Teesside Archives which will accumulate into an annual exhibition at their school with real artefacts where engaged students will share their learning with their peers.

Dorman Museum programmed a packed activity for October Half Term with activity available each day. The programme was designed to add to the existing museum offer while optimising on commercial opportunities.

The Museum team continue to do an absolutely outstanding job and their contribution to the fabric of events and cultural offer in Middlesbrough remains critical to the success of the town.

WINTER WHAT'S ON 2024



DORMAN
MUSEUM



Christmas Extravaganza

Sat 30 Nov & Sun 1 Dec, 10.30am - 3.30pm
Market | Elf Town | Trails | Family Crafts



Festive Magic Weekend

Sat 7 & Sun 8 Dec, 10am - 4pm
Magic Workshops | Crafts | Shows | Exhibition



Big Science Workshop

Sat 14 Dec, 10.30am & 12pm
Interactive Workshop & Experiments



Groovy Kinda Christmas

Sun 15 Dec, 11am & 1pm
Interactive Family Show



Holly & Ivy's Festive Book Club

Sat 21 & Sun 22 Dec, 10.30am & 12.30pm
Storytime | Crafts | Games | Biscuit Decorating



Magical Sleigh VR Ride

Sat 30 Nov - Sun 22 Dec, 10.30am - 3.30pm
Fly around the world on Santa's new sleigh

- 🕒 Open Tuesday - Sunday, 10am - 4pm
- 🎫 Museum admission free, activity charges apply
- 📍 Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, TS5 6LA

Discover more family events and activities
www.wearemiddlesbrough.com

SCAN
FOR
TICKETS

