

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Executive Member Adult Social Care and Public Health

**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**

*A healthy place*

*Safe and resilient communities*

#### **Update:**

- 1.1 *The Live Well Centre relocation will support early interventions to support health across the town, and support independence and resilience within vulnerable populations.*
- 1.2 *Both the CQC inspection and Adult Safeguarding Week have raised the importance of our work to protect vulnerable adults, and prompted evaluation of areas for improvement.*
- 1.3 *Auto-enrolment of free school meals continues to promote health and wellbeing in young people across our town, supporting our efforts to tackle child poverty.*

### **2. HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Update:**

#### **2.1 Live Well Centre Relocation**

- 2.1.1 The Live Well Centre is relocating into an empty unit in the Cleveland Centre at the end of December. The Live Well Centre is a positive initiative to improve the health of Middlesbrough residents, offering a wide range of preventative clinics and health and wellbeing services. The centre, a joint Public Health South Tees and Middlesbrough Council project, follows the 'Health on the High Street' model which makes services easier to access for everyone. By placing our services in the heart of our community, we hope to reduce barriers to accessing services and improve overall health outcomes within the town.
- 2.1.2 The Live Well Centre currently attracts around 1,000 visitors weekly to its current home at Dundas House. We expect footfall to increase as we move to a more accessible location and offer new services, which will be a big boost in supporting town centre businesses.
- 2.1.3 Services that will be offered include:
  - Various NHS clinics, such as:
  - Bowel screening,
  - Diabetes remission and support,
  - TB clinics,

- Community Midwifery,
- Pulmonary Rehab,
- Waiting well programme.
- Sexual health services provided by HCRG for the region, providing contraception, testing and vasectomies.
- The Stop Smoking service for South Tees offering nicotine replacement and Swap to Stop support.
- Welfare rights and some Citizens Advice support.

2.1.4 The centre also includes:

- A state-of-the-art gym delivering specialist GP referral programmes
- A large training kitchen area allowing teaching of cookery, weight management, nutrition, budgeting, and planning.
- Conference and meeting facilities

2.1.5 The Live Well Centre is also pleased to announce the launch of a dedicated multi-use hub within the new building. Its primary aim is to support those with dementia and sensory issue, and older people in the town. This is currently under consultation and more details will be announced shortly.

## **2.2 CQC Inspection of Adult Social Care**

2.2.1 Between 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October the Care Quality Commission (CQC) were on-site in Middlesbrough as part of the Local Authority Assessment of our delivery of duties under Part 1. Of the Care Act 2014. The on-site phase was a combination of interviews and focus groups conducted with staff members; partner organisations and users of our services. We anticipate that we will receive a draft outcome early in December with the likely publication of the inspection report on the CQC website in January 2025.

## **2.3 Safeguarding Adults Week**

2.3.1 Safeguarding Adults Week took place between the 18th and 22nd of November. Safeguarding Adults Week is a time for us and our partners to join force to raise awareness of key safeguarding issues, start important conversations about safeguarding, learn how to recognise signs of abuse and neglect and develop confidence in recording and reporting safeguarding themes. A schedule of activities took place based on a range of themes focussed on adult safeguarding.

## **3. THE TIME AHEAD**

### **Update:**

### **3.1 Auto-enrolment of Free School Meals and Maximising Pupil Premium Funding Pilot**

3.1.1 In June 2024, the pilot for the auto-enrolment of free school meals commenced, with the aim of increasing the number of children registered for free school meals and capture eligible children whose families have not submitted applications, maximise the amount of Pupil Premium funding to Middlesbrough schools thus increasing school funding to increase educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. The pilot has been a collaboration between various Council departments including Public Health, Resident and Business Support, Data Protection, Legal, Data and Analytics and Marketing and Communication.

- 3.1.2 Consultation took place with Middlesbrough schools, with 100% of schools participating in the pilot. The pilot utilised existing household data on Council Tax Reduction to identify potentially eligible children. The families identified were written to, giving them the option to opt out of having their data processed. Two opt outs were received. In total, 799 pupils were checked, with 630 entitled to free school meals. Those not passing the eligibility checker continue to be checked (this is due to working and fluctuating wages on Universal Credit).
- 3.1.3 Subject to the pupils being entered on to the October School Census, it is forecasted that the Pupil Premium funding generated from the pilot programme will be approximately £800,000. The savings generated for Middlesbrough families is approximately £252,000 per child per year. The increase in children entitled to free school meals, will also result in more children being eligible to participate in the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF). Furthermore, more families have been accessing the Household Support Fund administered by Resident and Business Support.
- 3.1.4 A follow up report will be brought to the Executive in February 2025, which will outline the outcomes of the pilot programme, consultation with schools, along with recommendations and options of how the auto-enrolment of free school meals can be continued.