

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** 15 January 2025

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

#### **Strategic Priorities**

Improve outcomes for children and young people.  
Support Cultural assets and events.

#### **Education and Partnerships:**

- 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.
- Improve Youth Justice System.

#### **Culture:**

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

### 2. HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Education and Partnerships**

#### **2.1 Reparation Activity with young people and partners:**

The Youth Justice Service delivers reparation activity with young people, In recent months this has included:

#### **2.2 Work with Cleveland Fire Service**

Youth Justice Service (YJS) delivered an intervention with the Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service to challenge the young people and raise awareness of the work of the Fire and Rescue Service.

This activity involved the young person being engaged in an awareness session on the impact of fire in Guisborough Woods and the session also included details of a rescue of a parent and child trapped in a burning car. As part of an activity to repair the harm caused by his behaviour the young person also assisted in the cleaning of a fire tender and this offered the opportunity for fire and rescue staff to explain to the young person what the various working parts did and their importance in rescue situations. The young person engaged well with this activity and there have been no further incidences of ASB.

The activity has also provided an opportunity for further work between the YJS and the Fire and Rescue Service

### **2.3 In and Out of the Cold**

The YJS once again played an active role in 'In and Out of the Cold' project to engage and support homeless people. Young people were engaged in the sorting of clothing and other items and assisted with the delivery of items.

South Tees Youth Justice Service (STYJS) has been involved in this programme for many years and it assists the service to raise awareness of issues of deprivation, homelessness and other issues with young people.

### **2.4 Work with young people in Police Custody**

As part of the work of the Custody Navigators, the YJS has engaged with Middlesbrough Library Service and the National Literacy Trust to secure, books, activities and other resources that can be used with young people in the Custody Suite.

These resources promote reading with young people who would otherwise not consider this activity and enable the young people to take books home. This activity helps promote the child friendly culture we have promoted in the custody suite with Cleveland Police alongside the work of the Custody Navigators.

### **2.5 Youth Justice Service Open Day**

On 22 November 2024 Youth Justice held an YJS Open Day an annual event to promote the work of the service to stakeholders and partner agencies. This year's event was attended by 49 people, in an online environment, and the event provided the opportunity to showcase the work in Restorative Justice, the Voice of the Child, Positive Activities with Young People, work with Young People in Custody and Prevention activity.

Feedback from the event has been wholly positive and comments from partners include:

'So much fantastic work going on, well done all'

'More examples of positive work..'

'could there be some shadowing opportunities on some of the different projects?'

### **2.6 SHiFT Middlesbrough**

SHiFT Middlesbrough has been operating since May 2024 and works in partnership with Children's Services, Youth Justice Service and the Community and Safety Team. Work has commenced with all children open to the SHiFT Practice after the nomination process in July 2024. The SHiFT Practice in Middlesbrough works intensively with each child for 18 months, using the Breaking Cycles Model through a systemic approach. SHiFT Guides work with six children each, and they meet the child where they are at, whether they are living locally or away. They work flexibly and meet children and families on evenings and weekends where support is needed. SHiFT Guides are halfway through completing the systemic training and are using this approach to engage children.

The SHiFT outcomes consist of four elements which are Loved and Cared for, Safe and Stable, Healthy and Happy and have a sense of Purpose and Power. SHiFT's work is tailored to the needs of each child.

**Some of the outcomes SHiFT have been able to achieve so far are:**

- Children have been stepped down from Children Services Teams with appropriate planning and support for families provided by SHiFT.
- SHiFT have worked with children who have had a pattern of being missing from home and have reduced these episodes.
- SHiFT have supported children to secure education and training who were previously falling into the Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) category.
- SHiFT have supported young people to access mental health services and GP appointments where in the past children and families have struggled to access these services due to stigma.
- There has been a reduction in the number of children who have committed proven offences since working with SHiFT compared to the year prior to SHiFT involvement.

## **2.7 Early Years and Family Hub team**

The team continue to work hard to support parents providing interventions for parenting and home learning environment.

Start for life evaluation: Middlesbrough has been invited to participate in evaluations of the Start for life programme, using case studies to focus particularly on the 1001 days and infant feeding, peri-natal mental health strands of the Family Hubs transformation. This will start to take place this year.

Following a successful bid to what was the Department of Housing and Levelling Up (DHLUC), work will get underway to upgrade facilities at West Middlesbrough, Park End and Thorntree Family Hubs. This work includes installing improved kitchen facilities aimed at encouraging community cooking opportunities.

Upgrades are taking place to West Middlesbrough, Park End and Thorntree Family Hubs. Work is on track to commence in January 2025 and will provide opportunity to widen the current offer, further helping our communities.

During the Christmas break, North Ormesby provided Holiday Activity (HAF) and supported families with a range of enrichment activities.

The childcare expansion and wraparound grants have been issued to all schools and PVI (Private, Voluntary and Independent) who have returned their signed grant funding agreements.

## **2.8 Literacy**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Year of literacy has begun with a focus on Science. Last year saw geography and history colleagues across the Primary and Secondary phase working collaboratively to evaluate writing in these areas, across the curriculum. Continuing on that success, colleagues are invited to join the first science workshop in January.

In collaboration with the National Literacy Trust (NLT), four schools Christmas hampers were donated to schools giving away 500 hundred books for pupils. In addition, gifting also supported local organisations helping the wider community. Thank you to Public Health/Seniors Connected/Libraries who alone donated 120 books (Sherlock Holmes, Jane Eyre, James Patterson, Roy of Rovers etc) for attendees of the Christmas Day dinner for the lonely, to select and take away.

Our Middlesbrough Literacy lead presented to CEO Publishers/Trustees in London - video testimonial from Beech Grove evidencing the impact of book gifting to pupils who have limited access to books at home. This not only highlighted the importance of book gifting, but also the need for local access to free books. This is Something my colleague the Exec Member for Neighbourhoods acknowledges and has agreed to support me with.

## **2.9 Inclusion and Specialist Support Services**

The rate of referrals for education, health and care plan [EHCP] assessment has slowed gradually over the year, but the levels of children requiring assessment and receiving an education, health and care plan or place in a special school continues to be high.

Key areas include:

- the 20-week completion rate for statutory assessment in Middlesbrough remains higher than national levels, currently at 97% which is one of the highest in the country.
- A new inclusion model has been introduced in the early years and staff at the Cleveland Unit nursery have welcomed their first cohort of children in assessment places to support early identification of need.
- The new Discovery Secondary Academy opened in Autumn Term, offering secondary age places for children with severe learning difficulties.

We know that the SEND system is broken and we look forward to working with National Government to make sure a new system works best for the children and their families and puts their needs first.

Permanent exclusion and suspension in Middlesbrough remain above national levels. There is a strong commitment from leaders and staff across the local area to tackle this issue with many examples of innovative and emerging good practice in place. There is a slowing of the growth rate, and the in-year data is positive regarding the number of days lost to suspension which are reducing for children with additional vulnerabilities compared to the previous academic year.

Key areas include:

- Staff from across inclusion and specialist support services have completed training to become a trauma aware and attachment informed service.
- A new early assessment provision has been commissioned at Acklam Grange School to support the prevention of exclusions.
- The Hospital School provision delivered by River Tees Multi-Academy Trust, has moved to a new site at Sandringham House with support from high needs capital funding. This will allow development of local provision for children who are not able to attend their mainstream school as a result of physical or mental ill health.

I have a further meeting with the Minister for State Stephen Morgan MP on Outwood Riverside in January.

There have also been a number of Ofsted inspections in November/December and I would like to congratulate schools on their positive outcomes. Especially Trinity Catholic College who achieved a 'Good' overall rating.

I'd also like to congratulate Middlesbrough Learning for their 'Very Strong Good with Outstanding' in their inspection.

I'd like to thank all our council Education and Partnership teams for their dedication, commitment and steadfast belief that our children and young people in Middlesbrough deserve the best we can do. Especially Caroline Cannon, Trevor Dunn, Karen Smith, Allison Potter, Kay Dargue and Joe Tynan. Thank you for all your work over 2024.

## Culture

### 2.10 Middlesbrough Theatre

Middlesbrough Theatre, under the stewardship of David Lindsey, continued its Christmas celebration with the amazing Snow White Pantomime. The Panto exceeded its sales target, with a number of sold-out shows during December. Another big thank you to David and the team at Middlesbrough Theatre. and the Town Hall.

DATE	PRODUCTION	PERFS	ATTEND	INCOME	CUMULATIVES	
Friday 1st November 2024	Tommy Cannon and Friends	1	94	1656.00	94	1,656.00
Saturday 2nd November 2024	ABC - An Intimate Evening With Martin Fry	1	220	7826.80	314	9,482.80
Tues 12th to Sat 16th November 2024	Les Miserables - School Edition (MYT)	5	1,904	28693.50	2,218	38,176.30
Tues 19th to Thurs 21st November 2024	A Christmas Carol	5	1,589	19547.00	3,807	57,723.30
Friday 22nd November 2024	The Nutcracker	1	157	2607.00	3,964	60,330.30
Saturday 23rd November 2024	The World Famous Elvis Show	1	205	5529.00	4,169	65,859.30
Wed 27th to Thurs 28th November 2024	Nativity! (Conyers School)	4	1,195	0.00	5,364	65,859.30
Fri 6th December 2024 - Sat 4 Jan 2025	Snow White Pantomime	45	16,255	307905.20	21,619	373,764.50
		63	21,619	373764.50		

## **2.11 Museums**

The festive programme at the Dorman Museum saw family events and activities running from the end of November to 22 December.

As part of its festive programme, the Dorman hosted Holly and Ivy's Festive Book Club with the National Literacy Club on Saturday 21 December and Sunday 22 December. This was a wonderful opportunity for families to enter a world of wonder and embark on a literary journey together, reading a Christmas story whilst enjoying a delicious hot chocolate, before decorating Christmas biscuits and creating a Christmas craft. Big thank you to Allison Potter and the Museum Team.

The Dorman's latest exhibition 'Spellbound' opened on Saturday 7 December. 'Spellbound' has been co-curated with Middlesbrough Circle of Magicians and tells the history of group, its members (including some very famous household names) and explores more about the tricks themselves. It is not to be missed!

JR Bowes, Museums Manager, attended a reception at the British Museum (BM) to celebrate the museum's national Partnerships on Monday 2 December. This continues the good relationship between Middlesbrough Museums and the BM which started through the award-winning British Museum in Your Classroom project.

## **2.12 Town Hall**

Highlights from the Autumn season at Middlesbrough Town Hall include Big Country, From The Jam, The Three Degrees, Kenton Cool, Matt Forde, The Vaccines, Scouting For Girls, a Paranormal Halloween Investigation, Lennox Lewis, Milton Jones, Mo Gilligan, Paddy McGuinness and Russell Kane.

Our new classical season launched in October with the Royal Northern Sinfonia & Craig Ogden, with two concerts taking place in December with The Hungarian Radio Orchestra performing Beethoven's Symphony No.7 & the Royal Northern Sinfonia performing RNS Handel's Messiah. We were also delighted to have added in the return of Royal Northern Sinfonia's Viennese New Years concert on 2nd January to start off the New Year & Spring season at the Town Hall. We are currently in discussions with The Glasshouse regarding future plans for the BBC Proms, and how the Town Hall may be able to become a part of this programme.

In November we hosted Teesside University's 25th Animex Festival, which has been running for a number of years within the Town Hall & was a great success. We also hosted the BBC Premiere of Smoggie Queens at the end of November, which was filmed in Teesside earlier this year, ahead of its on-screen debut on BBC Three the following evening.

The delivery of December shows and events, included shows with Cattle & Cane, Christmas By Candlelight, Schools Big Gig Rockin' Christmas, Family Big Gig, PP Arnold, Rob Lamberti, The Southmartins & Orange Pip Christmas.

In the New Year we have some new shows & some returning favourites, Al Murray makes a return in March after his sell out tour show in 2024, An Evening with Jimmy White, Ken Doherty & John Virgo, Teesside Musical Theatre Company will perform for the first time at Middlesbrough Town Hall with a week-long run of Disney's Beauty & The Beast, Chris McCausland returns with a sold- out show

following his recent run on Strictly Come Dancing, Matt Goss will take to the Main Hall stage in March & we are partnering with Middlesbrough Theatre to bring the Royal Shakespeare Company's tour of The Tempest in February, rounding off the Spring season with our annual Shine Festival & Shine Schools Festival presented by Musinc.

### **2.13 Musinc**

The Musinc team have enjoyed a very busy period in the run up to Christmas including delivering the following events:

- Schools Big Gig Rockin' Christmas – 900 attendees from 15 local schools and home ed families
- Family Big Gig Rockin Christmas – 120 attendees (up from 60 last year)
- Amplify showcase – 100 audience members across Amplify and the Juniors event. The event featured performances from our own participants as well as young musicians from across the Tees Valley.
- MTH Performing Arts performed 'The North Pole's Got Talent' (written by their tutor team) for an audience of 60 family and friends.

Musinc have also been doing work behind the scenes on their branding and website. Check it out here: [Homepage - Musinc](#)

## **Creative Sector Update**

### **2.14 Seven Stories**

On 12 December, we hosted a visit to Middlesbrough from the CEO and Creative Director of Seven Stories. This followed an earlier visit from a small group of council colleagues from Culture, Education, Libraries and Public Health to Seven Stories in Newcastle in October. Seven Stories are looking at ways to increase their engagement within the Tees Valley and both visits have been opportunities to discuss what this might look like, including everything from working with partners in Middlesbrough to co-deliver programmes of activity, even the possibility of having pop-ups or a satellite of Seven Stories here in Middlesbrough. There is a great deal of enthusiasm on both sides to work closely together in an ambitious way to engage more children and young people with the joy of books and storytelling. Watch this space!

### **2.15 Creative Factory**

Creative Factory is the new charitable company set up by Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership which is delivering against a £2m grant from the government's from the then, Levelling Up Partnerships programme to provide more permanent and accessible space for artists and creatives across Middlesbrough. Thanks to the funding, Creative Factory has already acquired a former retail unit in the town centre and is looking at residential live/work space in Gresham. Work on a business plan and fundraising strategy is ongoing to develop Creative Factory as a voice and strategic lead for the cultural sector locally.

### **2.16** I'd like to thank JR, Tracy and the Museums team as well Richard Horniman, Gaye Kirby, Adam Henry, the Town Centre team, Michelle McPhee, Lisa Templeman, Sam Gilmore and Thomas Rhind, Kesia Bruce, JR Bowes, Tracy Roulston, David Lindsey, Middlesbrough Town Hall Team, Middlesbrough Theatre

Team, Museums Team and Teesside Archives Teams for all their hard work during 2024.

- 2.17** I had meeting with various people about events over the upcoming two years. I would like to thank Councillor Morrish and Mr Rathmell and the Middlesbrough Branch of The Royal British Legion for their positive input and ideas into the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day this year.