

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

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

DATE OF MEETING: 26 March 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

- A Successful and Ambitious Town
- A Healthy Place
- Safe and Resilient Communities

2. HIGHLIGHTS

EDUCATION & PARTNERSHIPS

2.1. Proclaim: Mentoring and creating local expertise to keep vulnerable children in school

Middlesbrough is on a journey towards creating attachment-aware and trauma-informed schools. The Council is offering learning and mentorship to teachers in trauma informed approaches to children. Learning serves as the cornerstone of empowerment, equipping our schools with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement and sustain systemic change towards a trauma informed approach to learning.

PROCLAIM aims to foster growth, building confidence, resilience, and a sense of purpose when adopting a relational approach in the classroom. PROCLAIM Mentorship, offered to Head Teachers, provides invaluable guidance and support. Mentors offer encouragement, help set goals, and assist in overcoming obstacles, serving as positive role models who demonstrate the behaviours, attitudes, and values that contribute to success and well-being.

For schools committed to becoming attachment-aware and trauma-informed, integrating learning and mentorship into their framework is crucial. Inclusive education ensures that learning opportunities are accessible to the entire school community.

PROCLAIM offers a model of change that empowers staff and young people, helping them thrive despite the challenges they may face. This holistic approach not only addresses the immediate needs of staff and students but also lays the foundation for their long-term success and well-being.

Currently 6 schools have taken up the offer of Mentorships and Postgraduate Certificates in Attachment, Trauma and Mental Health. On completion, the lead in each school will become a mentor and support other schools on their journey.

The trauma informed approach helps keep children in school, reduces suspensions and assists teachers in dealing with situations in a nonconfrontational manner.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Victoria Banks (Virtual School Head) and Dr Lisa Garforth (Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist) for creating and running this programme and for making such a significant positive difference to the lives of our children.

2.2. SHiFT

SHiFT is an innovative organisation, founded in 2019, with a track record for delivering exceptional outcomes that break the destructive cycle of children and young people caught up in, or at risk of, crime.

SHiFT Middlesbrough provides 1-1 intensive support for 27 of the most vulnerable children and young people in Middlesbrough. Children and young people identified for SHiFT are those for whom, despite the efforts of other professionals, 'business as usual' responses have not been able to make the difference needed and where concern about their wellbeing is high and escalating. For over a quarter of the children SHiFT Middlesbrough is working with, their vulnerabilities and professional responses to their management to date, mean that they were, at the start of SHiFT's work, accommodated in high-cost placements, often a long way from home and not making the difference desired to improve the child's situation. For all children there are concerns about increasing risk, vulnerability, and the negative impacts this can have on their living arrangements.

The highly complex needs of this vulnerable group needs the intensity and expertise of the work SHiFT is delivering. SHiFT Guides work alongside existing professionals, including Social Workers, providing a level of intensity that Social Workers are not resourced to be able to deliver. SHiFT has an evidenced track record for delivering exceptional outcomes and in year cost savings and cost avoidance through, for example, reducing reliance on high-cost placements, avoiding children being remanded in custody, and supporting children to return to mainstream education from alternative provision.

CULTURE

2.3. Musinc

Musinc continues to deliver expert engagement in music. Creating opportunities for all ages and circumstances to come together to participate, create and enjoy music of different genres.

This must include a huge well done to everyone from Open Orchestra who journeyed down to the Symphony Hall in Birmingham to perform in Music for Youth, an inclusive music festival celebrating, D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young musicians. The orchestra is made up of 25 young musicians from Priory Woods School and Beverley School.

Musinc also produce the annual Shine Choirs Festival, a celebration of community and school vocal performances, at Middlesbrough Town Hall. The two day festival featured

performances from 15 choirs and 11 school groups, with a total of approx.. 900 performers. The event was BSL interpreted by Jenna, who signed 75 songs across the events.

Musinc run a whole range of programmes and I would recommend anyone to follow them on social media and sign up to take part. Unfortunately, I have no musical talent, but I do enjoy seeing and listening to the amazing musical talent that Middlesbrough has.

3. THE TIME AHEAD

3.1. VE Day 80

VE Day 80 celebration funding and organising are underway, with an announcement either made or about to be made by the time this report is published.

3.2. New Festivals

Two new festivals are being planned with partners, including the MFC Foundation, National Literacy Trust Middlesbrough and Teesside University, for next two years, leading up to Middlesbrough's Bicentennial.

3.3. Orange Pip

Orange Pip is returning.