

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member for Public Health

DATE OF MEETING: 09 July 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.

COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES

A healthy place

Safe and resilient communities

Update:

- *I am particularly proud to congratulate Recovery Solutions on a fantastic CQC Inspection result. The brilliant work they do is a testament to the commitment of our staff to helping our residents to live longer, healthier lives. It is great to see their dedication and compassion being properly recognised with an 'outstanding' rating in the 'Caring' category.*

1. HIGHLIGHTS

Update:

1.1 Creating Healthy Environments Public Health Programme

1.1.1 The Homeless Football World Cup

- The Homeless Football World Cup is an annual event that seeks to use the power of football to engage those that have or may experience homelessness, social isolation or addiction issues. The trials to select the team to represent England at this year's event took place at Middlesbrough Sports Village on Thursday 15 May, the first time any trials have taken place outside of London.
- The trials, coinciding 10 years to the day since the official opening of Middlesbrough Sports Village and forming part of their 10-year anniversary celebrations, attracted 110 participants from across the North East, Liverpool and London. Led by Public Health South Tees and the Culture Team the trials were organised in partnership with Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation and the national homeless football charity Street Soccer. David Duke, Street Soccer's CEO, was interviewed by Middlesbrough Football Club's Gordon Cox in front of an audience of VIP's from across Teesside. David provided a captivating insight into the challenges he faced whilst homeless in Scotland and how playing football with others facing similar challenges to himself provided a reason for hope and a pathway to a more secure future.

- The trials in Middlesbrough proved to be an enormous success raising hope and aspiration whilst also identifying two players to represent England in the showcase Homeless Football World Cup Finals later this year in Oslo. Public Health South Tees and colleagues across the Council are now turning their attention to the future and how it can best harness the power of football to assist more people across South Tees experiencing homelessness, social isolation or addiction issues. Options currently being considered include developing an annual programme of homeless football engagement; continuation and enhancement of an annual event to act as trials for the Homeless Football World Cup; and bid to host the Homeless Football World Cup in Middlesbrough 2030 as part of the town's bicentenary celebrations.

1.1.2 Holiday Activities and Food Programme - Bring it On!

- Bring it On Boro was delivered during the Easter Holiday period. 50 providers offered HAF provisions and created 8,888 Universal places and 412 SEND Specialist places, this equated to 25% of eligible children and young people who accessed the programme.
- The percentage of eligible children and young people who accessed the programme at Easter decreased in comparison to the previous year's Easter delivery, however the 20% target from the DfE was reached. Whilst there has been a significant increase in FSM eligible numbers the funding allocated for the Middlesbrough programme decreased, impacting on the number of sessions and providers that could be funded. In addition, the late confirmation of funding from the DfE directly impacted on the Easter uptake, advertising from providers was of a varied quality and no household support funding was available to open up places to those children not in receipt of FSM (if spaces are available for non FSM – this does have a positive impact on FSM numbers).
- The summer HAF programme commences Monday 21st July 2025. Following the concerns at Easter we have worked with providers on their advertising, produced a new marketing plan, Household Support Funding is available and there is a new booking platform being used – EEQU. This will check a child's eligibility on point of booking and will enable detailed reports / data are available to inform any changes that may be needed.

1.2 Vulnerable People Public Health Programme

1.2.1 CQC Inspection Result - Recovery Solutions

- The recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of Recovery Solutions, took place over four days in February. The CQC is the independent regulator of health and adult social care services in England. Their role is to assess how safe, effective, caring, responsive, and well-led services are. During the visit, inspectors met with many of the team - both individually and in groups - and spoke with our partners and service users.
- The service received the following ratings:
 - Safe – Good
 - Effective – Good
 - Caring – Outstanding
 - Well-led – Good

- Responsive – Good
- These ratings give us an overall outcome of “Good”, with special recognition for the exceptional care and compassion the team demonstrate every day, reflected in the “Outstanding” rating for Caring.
- This achievement is a testament to the dedication and the positive impact staff make on the lives of those we support. A few areas for development were identified, and we have already begun work to address these as part of our continued focus on improving quality and driving ongoing service improvement.
- The full inspection reports are now publicly available.

1.3 Health Protection Public Health Programme

This quarter, the Health Protection Public Health Programme has made significant progress in strengthening local preparedness, planning, and vaccination equity across the Tees Valley including:

1.3.1 Outbreak Management and IPC Policy Development

- We have successfully developed and ratified the Local Authority Outbreak Management Plan and an updated Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Policy. Both documents have been formally signed off by the Health Protection Assurance Partnership Board and the Local Management Team (LMT). These updated policies reflect current national guidance, lessons learned from recent incidents, and feedback from local partners.

1.3.2 Pandemic Preparedness and Exercise Pegasus

- Work is underway to update our Pandemic Preparedness Plan in line with national expectations ahead of Exercise Pegasus, a multi-agency national simulation exercise designed to test local and regional responses to a future pandemic. To support this, we will be holding a local workshop on 1st August with partners to test our draft plan, identify gaps, and make necessary amendments prior to the formal exercise later in the year. The session will bring together health, emergency planning, social care and community partners to strengthen our shared readiness.

1.3.3 Tees Valley Immunisation Programme

- The Tees Valley Local Immunisation Steering Group has now finalised the Childhood Vaccination Equity Programme, developed using the £190k funding allocation from the ICB. The programme will focus on engagement and co-production with target groups across the Tees Valley. In Middlesbrough, the local focus will be on improving uptake among migrant groups, asylum seekers, and refugees.

1.4 III Health Prevention Programme

1.4.1 CVD Prevention & NHS Health Checks

- New Service Specification accepted by GPs from 1st April for delivery of NHS Health Checks (ages 40-74) to identify CVD risk in participants. New spec encourages better referrals to Stop Smoking and Alcohol reduction services for those patients needing support. An additional community offer for the checks has been created through partnership with ELM GP Federation to reach communities

most at risk or hesitant to access checks in GP surgeries. Two community BP projects are also continuing through our health champions who are offering BP checks in communities, with significant figures finding high BP readings leading to referrals to GPs.

1.4.2 COPD Better Health Warmer Homes Project

- First phase of this project completed, which involved ensuring patients suffering from COPD could access fuel vouchers to ensure they are able to function in warm homes. Aim to complete by August 2025 with full evaluation of all health benefits associated with receiving fuel voucher support for these patients.

1.4.3 Poverty collaboration

- Continuing to work with Localmotion and wider partners to develop collaborative work that could support the Council in its objective to address poverty. Meetings have been held with Middlesbrough Collaborative in relation to potential partnering on gendered poverty projects commencing this year.

1.5 Mental Health and Emotional Resilience

1.5.1 Mental Health Awareness Week

- During May, this national campaign was promoted to celebrate the power and importance of community on our mental health. We know that being part of a community is vital for our mental health and wellbeing. We thrive when we have strong connections with others and supportive communities around us. Social media was flooded with positive wellbeing community messages and Middlesbrough Health Champions, Council Mental Health First Aiders and schools all shared tools and tips for mental wellbeing and ways to get involved with their communities to boost mental health and access to support if needed.

1.5.2 Dementia Action Week

- Dementia Action Week is a national awareness campaign, from 19th – 25th May 2025. This year's theme was: "Recognise the Symptoms. Act Early. Support Better"
- The week aims to raise awareness of dementia and its early symptoms, encourage timely diagnosis, promote support networks and services for people living with dementia and combat stigma and build dementia-inclusive communities. A timetable of activities took place during the week in Middlesbrough including:
 - Pop-up information stalls at Hill Street Centre and the Parkway Centre Coulby Newham with Dementia Support Services including Dementia Action Teesside, Alzheimer's Society, Carers Together, Healthwatch, MBC Staying Included Team, Age Friendly Middlesbrough, North Ormesby Day Centre and the Woodside Memory Clinic - to provide information and advice and signposting.
 - Lunch and Learn Session at the Mustafa Centre Middlesbrough hosted by the BME Network CIC and Public Health which focused on raising awareness about Dementia and Cancer within the South Asian community. The event explored the signs, challenges, and support available for those affected by Dementia, and also launched a new Cancer Awareness initiative aimed at encouraging early detection and improving understanding in our communities.

- Facilitated a spotlight on Dementia Friendly Businesses in Middlesbrough, which included interviews and videos which were promoted on social media to raise the profile and for public awareness of what's on offer in Middlesbrough for people living with dementia and carers.
- Facilitated several dementia awareness sessions with MBC Staff and bespoke sessions for dementia carers.

1.5.3 **Live Well Centre Ageing Well Hub**

- The new Live Well Centre Ageing Well Hub Timetable is being established which includes a range of activities throughout the week delivered by internal and external partners and include:
 - Health and Well-being Sessions, History Walks, Digital Support, Confidence Building, Books on Prescription and a drop in Coffee Morning with Guest speakers and visits from Professionals including Middlesbrough Community Learns, Recovery Connections, Safer Communities, North East Ambulance Service, Occupational Therapy, Employment support and Falls Prevention.
- Numbers of attendees are intermittently low but a communication plan is being developing to raise the profile and we have recruited more Age Friendly Ambassadors to circulate and share activities information with older people in the community.
- Seniors Connected Team (Collaboration with Middlesbrough Libraries and Public Health) have been awarded £23,709.03 additional Know Your Neighbourhood Funding for:
 - Procuring alternative provision for longer-term continuation of activity
 - Securing a legacy
 - Supporting ongoing groups
 - Building upon existing networks, extend co-design activity with community groups and supporting intergenerational activities outreach and creative engagement
- Public Health have agreed two years funding for the Seniors Connected / Age Friendly Project Coordinator post which is going out to advert and will support the AF and SC project activities and the development of the Ageing Well Hub, but will also have a focus on Community engagement.