

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
24TH MARCH 2021

EDUCATION

1. The signs are that the return of all pupils to school on March 8 has gone very well across the town and I would like to thank all pupils, teachers, parents and carers for playing their part in this. We are working closely with headteachers to support the national educational catch up programme and will keep you updated as more details on this become available.
2. Middlesbrough Council is receiving £1.047m from the Government's Holiday Activities Fund meaning hot meals and holiday clubs will be made available to disadvantaged children in the town.

The cash will fund food, enrichment and education activities for more than 8,000 children and young people on free school meals and who have special educational needs in the school breaks. Depending on the take up, the council may also have the option of extending activities to those not in receipt of free school meals.

3. The Inclusion and Specialist Support Service continues to retain our 90% completion rate of an Education Health and Care Plan during COVID 19, which ensures that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are assessed within the required timeframe. Alongside this, we are now seeing an increase in requests for assessment, which we continue to monitor closely.
4. The new temporary building which will house Outwood Riverside Academy at Russell Street is almost ready. We anticipate the children will be able to move into the new building soon, probably after Easter.
5. Middlesbrough has jointly (with R&C) commissioned a new service provider to provide advice and guidance to parents and children if they feel their SEND requirements are not being adequately addressed by either their school or the local authority.
6. The Learning Middlesbrough website is under redevelopment but a brand new Remote Learning area has been launched offering schools, parents and the wider community opportunity to access on-line learning resources. The page also supports schools with remote access and the sharing of best practice on a range of curriculum areas including mental health and PE.
[Remote Learning and Support for Schools and Parents - Learning in Middlesbrough \(learningmiddlesbrough.co.uk\)](http://learningmiddlesbrough.co.uk)
7. The Youth Offending Service continues to be operational throughout the Covid pandemic, providing services to children and young people in court, custody, the police station and community.

A variety of methods are being utilised to engage with young people and their families including the use of 'Whatsapp' and walk and talk sessions. Recent audit activity shows there has been no deterioration in practice quality during this time and feedback from young people remains positive.

COMMUNITIES

8. Since starting in November 2020, the Strategic Cohesion and Migration Manager has continued to work with partners and develop relationships in relation to community development and engagement.

This includes the relaunch of the Middlesbrough Interfaith Network (MIN), which has members from almost all faith organisations in the Middlesbrough area, and the Migration Multi-Agency Meeting (MMAM). Both meetings have proved invaluable in the past, in relation to information sharing and working with community activators and organisations.

9. The LAASLO (asylum support officer) has continued to offer support to newly granted refugees, ensuring that they are properly supported into independence. He has also offered extensive support to refugees who have already been in Middlesbrough for some time and who have had changes of circumstances, such as housing needs and employment.

10. Some other key areas of focus and success have been;

- Delivering care packs to asylum seeker mothers and children, in partnership with Streets Ahead's Feast of Fun through Councillor Chris Cooke.
- Working with the North Ormesby and Newport locality teams to identify areas of improvement for community cohesion.
- Providing updates to the Local Resilience Forum's death management group around faith issues relating to Covid and funeral management.
- Considering options around uptake of the EU Settlement Scheme by our new and emerging communities.

11. Following the Parsons Green terrorist attack, revised changes to the National Channel Guidance was introduced in November 2020. The guidance places more scrutiny and compliance on Local Authorities.

In addition to this, it also seeks to ensure a more statutory involvement from internal partners in understanding their shared joint responsibility for attendance, involvement and management of individuals at risk.

Therefore work has been completed on a variety of areas including embedding the PREVENT and CHANNEL roles within the LA Constitution and ensure departments are aware of their roles and responsibilities regarding safeguarding individuals at risk of radicalisation.

12. The Active Intelligence Mapping (AIM) process commenced in August 2020 and consists of a partnership of key agencies who meet on a fortnightly basis to review analytical data from a wide range of sources.

Mapped data highlights clusters of problematic areas in terms of crime, ASB, fly tipping and deliberate fires across the town. Services then utilise this data to deploy and/or co-ordinate resources within geographical areas of Middlesbrough addressing the problems identified.

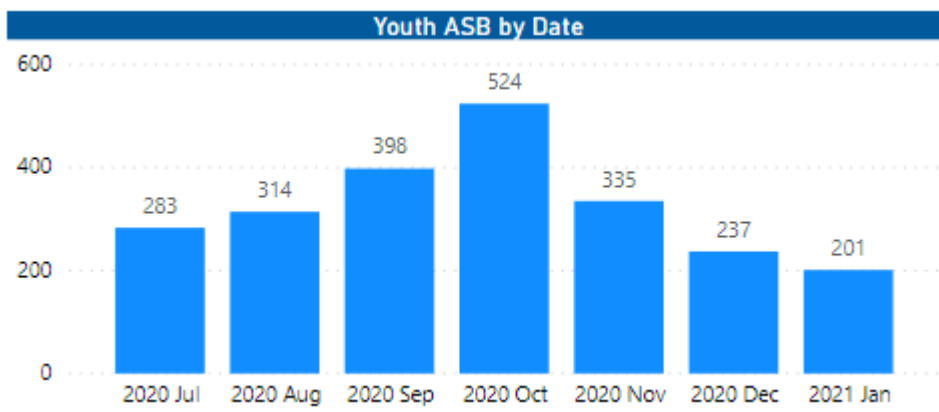
13. The charts below illustrate a continuing downward trend in all four key measures; police crime, ASB, fires and environmental council data. There has been a marginal upturn for environmental reports in January but these figures are still below the average value for the last six months.



Below is just a small sample of some of the actions initiated via AIM since the process commenced;

- Developed joint patrols with police in response to Covid
- Enhanced data sharing between police, council and fire analysts
- Coordinated approach to address fly-tipping including increased enforcement, pending use of Community Protection Notices (CPNs), introduced use of stickers, North Ormesby wheelie bin pilot and additional containers within communal bins
- Four dispersal orders implemented in town centre, Trimdon Shops, Thorntree Park and North Ormesby
- Priority alleys identified re fly-tipping/installation of rapid CCTV cameras
- Drug dealing in Newport and North Ormesby – executed warrants, several house closures.

14. The graph below relates to youth related anti-social behaviour also showing a steady decline since October, however Covid/lockdown should also be considered as a factor for the reduction of incidents.



15. The Community Safety Plan 2020 has now been finalised and is awaiting executive approval. The strategic priorities which are linked to Mayor’s Vision consist the following;

- Perceptions and feeling safe
- Tackling the root causes

- Locality working (including town centre)

A secondary Community Safety Delivery Plan is currently being drafted, which will feed into the overarching strategic priorities and will be monitored by the Community Safety Partnership on a quarterly basis.

16. The Office of the Police and Crime Commission has agreed to continue to fund the Targeted Youth Outreach service for 2021/22. During 2019/20 the Targeted Youth Service activities operating across all four Local Authority areas made over 9000 contacts with young people in targeted areas. Engagement with local policing teams in 2020 has reaffirmed the support for continuing the service which forms a key strand of multi-agency problem solving activity regarding antisocial behaviour.

In Middlesbrough the service will continue to be delivered by Safer Communities (previously known as Safe in Tees Valley). The service will be intelligence led by the AIM process, providing short term interventions in hotspot locations identified by partnership analysis.

To ensure co-ordination, work is ongoing to link in with the new youth service contracts, which will have three different aspects;

- Universal Youth Work – delivered by Linx
- Targeted Youth Service – The Junction
- Transitions Youth Support – MFC

CULTURE AND EVENTS

17. The culture team has received the maximum amount of support from Historic England for the Heritage Action Zone Cultural Programme – this is around £120,000 which is in addition to the circa £1m investment from Historic England for the capital improvements of the area.
18. The culture team has submitted a bid to Arts Council England's next round of culture recovery funding for our venues. This follows last year's successful bid on behalf of the Town Hall in which we were awarded £200,000.
19. Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership's website is up and running: www.boroculture.co.uk
20. The Culture team has continued to be active in supporting the emergency response to Covid with redeployments of staffing to various different areas of the authority. The Town hall has also continued to deliver the Nightingale court and provide space for Teesside University to delivery face to face training not possible on campus.
21. The Government road map has identified June 21 as the earliest point museums may be able to open without social distancing measures in place. Middlesbrough museums will open as follows:
- The Dorman Memorial Museum July 1 – operating Thursday – Sunday weekly.
 - The Captain Cook Birth place Museum July 15 - operating Thursday – Sunday weekly.
22. The education and curatorial team have continued to develop their series of digital exhibitions reaching audiences of over 100,000 this year alone. Some of the highlights from this year's program include
- The origin of the Captain Cook Birth Place Museum which has reached 8,838 so far.
 - The story of the Linthorpe Pottery collection donated by the Metcalf Family has reached 8,256 so far
23. At the Town Hall and Theatre, although audiences will be smaller as social distancing measures are phased out, we have a summer of fun programmed including, Comedy In the

Courtyard, Red Box Market Place, Classical Café, AIR Live, Folk Lines, Summer Sessions, wrestling and family cinema.

24. Building on the success of last year's outdoor theatre season we kick off this year's season on Wednesday July 28 with David Walliams's Mr Stink followed in August by The Great Gatsby, Romeo and Juliet and Pride and Prejudice
25. The Autumn season sees a return of some old favorite to the Town Hall Main stage including: Sarah Millican, Katherine Ryan, Jimmy Carr and Jason Manford for Comedy Fans and The Stylistics, Boyzlife, Paul Weller, Jo Whiley and Martin Kemp for music fans. And for those after something a little bit different we have An Audience with Sir Michael Parkinson and Sir Ranulph Fiennes.
26. Newham Grange Farm has been closed since December 30 2020 and in line with the roadmap dates we should expect to be open for the April 12.

The instalment of the interactive heritage centre for the linear build for Newham Grange Farm is almost complete and open for the busy summer. A new sponsorship scheme is also being launched this month with the opportunities for people to sponsor animal families on the farm.
27. The new events organisers' portal is now available for event organisers to submit their events which take place on Middlesbrough Council land. This process replaces the old procedure to create a more efficient process. www.middlesbrough-events.co.uk
28. Middlesbrough Mela planning has begun with an Arts Council bid submitted and project plans in line with Covid been devised.
29. Christmas planning is underway with a programme including the culmination of the light switch on and parade, Christmas markets, Christmas window, Christmas Orange Pip and a range number of other exciting elements proposed.
30. NightFall planning is underway for a successful illumination event, which will take place in Stewart Park in December.