

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
7th July 2021

1. Youth Offending

Following the success of last year's event, the Youth Offending Service will be holding a virtual annual 'open day' in September, which will reflect on the work of the service over the last 12 months. An invite to this year's event has been extended to all Councillors and Executive Members from across both local authority areas, and offers the opportunity to gain insight in to the operational work of the local YOS.

2. SEND

The SEN Assessment Team complete Education, Health and Care Plans within a 20-week statutory process. Each year the SEN2 Data is published nationally which shares key information regarding a number of SEN data sets. Within this year's published data, it states that in 2020, **58.0%** of new EHC plans were issued within 20 weeks. Middlesbrough was at **99%** and as a result was second highest in the North East and ranked ninth nationally (excluding exceptions). This is a huge achievement considering that the service has worked through COVID, implemented new ways of working with families and assessment processes.

3. Achievement Service

The Achievement Service has reviewed its relationship with schools and focussed on providing greater interface and support for schools.

The service is now providing the following:

- Ensuring that strategic coherence is in place which enables schools to collaborate and develop purposeful partnerships to improve the quality of teaching and learning
- Building capacity across the education system so there is a willing, skilled and ambitious workforce to lead a sector-led model of school improvement
- Championing the needs of vulnerable children and young people so there is an inclusive learning system for all
- Ensuring a sufficient supply of good education places including early education and child care and sufficient local provision for pupils with enhanced learning needs

87% of 2 year olds are now attending a pre-school setting. This ranks Middlesbrough 11th out of 152 other LAs.

4. Community Learning - Steps towards Cleaning Employability Programme

This on-going programme is in partnership with the Council's cleaning team has so far resulted in 14 job offers and 35 residents have completed 50 Futures work experience, placement, obtained a new qualification(s), a work related reference and been offered a guaranteed interview with Middlesbrough Council, along with interview coaching and support. Unsuccessful applicants are being supported by Key Workers from MCL's Routes to Work team until they find suitable employment with the Council or elsewhere. Approximately 20 more residents are enrolled to complete the programme over the next 2-3 weeks and the programme will continue as long as there is demand for cleaning and domestic roles within

the Council. We are hoping to put similar arrangements in place for all other low/entry level roles and support any unsuccessful applicants to other or all other council vacancies

5. Community Learning - MCL Pop-up Events in Middlesbrough

As lockdown restrictions eased, Middlesbrough Community Learning set up three weeks of pop-up employability, education, training and volunteering events in Middlesbrough town centre, to engage vulnerable residents who we had been unable to engage online during the pandemic. Socially distanced and Covid-secure stalls were set up in the bus station, Cleveland Centre and Dundas Centre to provide information advice and guidance on a range of council services, including; courses, education, employment support, apprenticeships and volunteering and 50 Futures. The events have proven to be successful, especially from a resident engagement, health and wellbeing perspective.

