

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
20.10.2021

1. South Tees Youth Offending Service

South Tees Youth Offending Service held their annual open day on 15th September. The event was well attended by over 50 people including staff, partner agencies, Corporate Parenting Board Members and Councillors from both Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Local Authorities. The event was held virtually, and saw presentations on current priorities, the 'Child First' principle and how it is applied in practice, caseload demographics, and a section on the voice of the child. There was also a powerful input from a young person currently open to the service who spoke about his experiences with YOS and how the service has helped him. Feedback on the event has been very positive and the Service plan to hold the event again next year.

2. Achievement Team

GCSE results. Outcomes in 2021 at the end of key stage 3 improved in all areas with the exception of the number of pupils being entered for the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc). In the absence of national comparison data, it is difficult to predict any closing of attainment gaps. However overall, progress and attainment in Middlesbrough improved for the second year.

Below is the Gap Analysis 2019-2021:

Subject Area	Percentage +/-
Attainment 8	+6%
5+ English and Math's	+11%
4+ English and Math's	+11.5%
5+ English	+11.7%
4+ English	+13.8%
5+ Math's	+10.3%
4+ Math's	+11%

In all areas of GCSE statutory assessment there is a percentage increase in the key outcome measures.

3. Schools

Overall, engagement with schools and settings is very good, and schools are reporting continued good attendance and engagement of students since the start of the new school year.

In addition to monthly LA meetings with Head Teachers, Middlesbrough's Private and Voluntary Independent (PVI) nursery settings now also attend monthly LA led meetings, which allow for the sharing of best practice and shared understanding of strategic priorities.

Following a recent visit by the Executive Member for Education and Partnerships to Acklam Grange it was clear that the vibrancy to the school day has returned as covid-

restrictions are now easing within the classroom. A series of visits across all of the education sector in Middlesbrough will now continue throughout the new school term

4. Maintained, Private, Voluntary and Independent Nurseries

For the AY20 (Achieving Two Year Old) cohort – children aged two who are now eligible to take up a nursery place in advance of their 3rd birthday – participation is high. 86% of 2 year olds now attend a nursery setting, ranking the LA 11th nationally. Promotion of the offer will continue to all eligible families using lessons learnt from covid such as the use of social media communication methods to engage hard-to-reach families.

5. Ethnic Minority Achievement Team (EMAT)

A new EAL (English as additional language) network meeting has now started meeting termly with colleagues from primary and secondary schools sharing best practice. Subsequently professional development has now been planned. Feedback from the first meeting has been extremely positive and welcomed by schools.

In response to the implementation of the new RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) curriculum, the LA successfully led community consultations aimed at addressing common misconceptions, in order to alleviate fears and ensure as many pupils as possible are able to attend the lessons. There's been very positive feedback from the wider community and schools as a consequence.

6. School Readiness

Children's Centres continue to offer a bespoke delivery method. The team have continued to develop a virtual offer for families, which has been successful in engaging some families who would not normally use our Children's Centre services. Reach and Registration figures for the centres have remained consistent over the lockdown period as staff have worked hard to engage with families on a virtual basis. Social media platforms have also been invested in which have offered parents the opportunity to engage in national literacy campaigns. Initiatives include:

- Take10 - The **Take 10** Challenge encourages people to read for just **10** minutes a day to improve their wellbeing and support their literacy.
- Bath, Book, Bed - Bath, Book, Bed routine: a simple solution to sleepless nights
- Look for a Book - Look for a Book encourages children and families to explore their local area together, while emphasising the importance of reading for enjoyment. Middlesbrough Reads and Teesside Look for a Book have distributed over 500 reading packs, which include a brand new book and reading tips for parents

All of these initiatives are promoted on the Early Years Facebook page and through the Council communication team.

7. Access to Education

The DfE has extended the remit of Virtual School Headteachers to include strategic oversight of the academic performance of children involved with Child Protection and Children in Need Social Care services. Funding has been provided to support this, and is time limited to March 2022 - the DfE will decide shortly whether to extend this funding period. Within Middlesbrough Virtual School, we are well placed to implement these new responsibilities. The Virtual School began to track and analyse the school attendance of children open to Social Care in June and we have put in place robust systems to support this and to improve the attendance of these vulnerable children. Good attendance is the pre-cursor to improved achievement so we have made a good start on getting the foundations in place.

Further to the above, DfE invited bids for funding to pilot new approaches to supporting post-16 looked after children; we submitted a bid and found out in early September that

we were the only Authority in the area to be successful. We will receive an additional £60k of grant funding to help us fund a post 16 project – fantastic news!

Personal Education Plan (PEP) completion within timescales is very good at around 98%. All of the looked after children of school age have a PEP, which is co-produced by the school, social worker and Virtual School, with input from the child.

8. New Schools

In October 2019, Middlesbrough Council led on a Free School bid for a Tees Valley Free School for children and young people with Social Emotional Needs and for those with Autism. This bid was successful and the new school will be based in Redcar. Work is currently underway and the school is planned to open in October 2022. The school will have approximately 100 students when fully open. These places are for children across the Tees Valley.

Tees Valley Education have also been successful in their bid to build a Free School on the site at Natures World, which will be called Discovery Special Academy. The school is currently based at Tees Valley Education's site at Brambles Primary Academy. The school will be for up to 84 children aged 4-11 with complex and significant learning, communication, physical and medical needs. The new site will be open in September 2022.

In addition, Outwood Grange Academy Trust (OGAT) has also received approval from the Government's Free School Programme to establish a new 1,050-place secondary school to serve central Middlesbrough. This school is currently operating at its temporary site on Russell Street and it is planned that the school will move to its permanent location in September 2023.