

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL
24.11.2021

Achievement Team

1. Actions to embed the Learning and Education Strategy are currently underway. Meetings with Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Trusts and Head Teachers have taken place, with further meetings planned to secure collaboration across all schools and settings with a vision towards improving outcomes for all children and young people.
2. The discussions have focused on:
 - How the LA should undertake the statutory duty of intervening in under-performing schools through the Supporting Schools Policy.
 - How best practice is identified and support brokered.
 - Operational practice of local authority advisory team.

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Ethnic Minority Achievement Team (EMAT)

3. MBC's Traveller Education Team has been commissioned to deliver support and targeted provision across Redcar and Cleveland. The Traveller Education team has built upon an existing LA relationship to support COVID recovery, remote education delivery on the Haven Traveller Site, and Post-16 support.
4. EMAT has continued to provide International New Arrival support for 5 families moving to the area via the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme. The UK Government established a bespoke resettlement scheme for former Locally Employed Staff in Afghanistan and their families. EMAT Family Support Workers liaise closely with the Stronger Communities team, Admissions and allocated schools to ensure a smooth and successful transition into education.

School Readiness

5. The team have supported three Afghan Refugee families who have been rehoused in Middlesbrough, registering them with the Children's Centre and providing Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) particularly around nursery entitlement.
6. The School readiness team are also working with the Digital Team to promote the work of the team to residents in the town. The first piece will include one of our local families inviting the people into her home to talk about her experiences of the School Readiness team and the impact on her family.
7. The team's work will feature in the Love Middlesbrough Magazine in the December issue.

¹ [Learning & Education Strategy.pdf](#)

Schools

8. Work to establish business-as-usual routines is going well. School visits are now underway allowing the team to further understand the key priorities of individual schools.
9. **The main focuses are:**
 - Curriculum development
 - Reading across the curriculum
 - Attendance
 - Interventions aimed at addressing gaps in learning
10. School Advisory Service support has also included:
 - Developing the Support -to-Talk website with the South Tees Speech and Language Team. The resource will provide parents and professionals with relevant information and guidance to support early speech and language development, with the aim of reducing the number of inappropriate referrals to the Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT).
 - 32 teachers from 26 Primary schools attended the first face-to-face English Lead Network since March 2020, and the key messages from the DfE's July 2021 Reading Framework were disseminated alongside the Ofsted Early Reading/Phonics/ Deep Dive messages.
 - Three 'Reading Deep Dives'/Reviews have been conducted, with a further three in discussion. Good practice has been observed across the schools, testimony to the excellent work being undertaken within schools in this area. Recommendations and areas for development have been identified; have been positively received by leaders, and actions taken to implement the suggestions.

Early Years Development

11. In preparation for the statutory roll out of the EYFS Reforms on September 1st, the EYD team delivered a series of briefings attended by over 300 early years practitioners across Middlesbrough. These included teachers, head teachers, PVI nursery managers, EY practitioners and childminders. Subsequently, relationships across the sector continue to go from strength to strength through regular email contact with all schools and nurseries and virtual meetings. Face-to-face support visits have proved to be highly valued and have a very positive impact on practice and confidence in implementing the new reforms. Collaborative relationships between other LA partners, including Stockton, Redcar & Cleveland and Hartlepool continue to grow, helping to share good practice and experiences. So far this term, the team have worked with 21 nurseries and 3 schools with many more scheduled for this half term.

12. Feedback from visits:

"Thank you for coming, it was greatly appreciated and was lovely to work with you, it was a very positive and reassuring experience especially never being through an Ofsted inspection as a manager it certainly helped me. I look forward to working with you again in the future, thank you again for all your help and offering of support it's greatly appreciated."

"Thank you so much to you both for supporting us with the deep dive on Monday, and for your hard work on completing the report for us. It has been very helpful to have an objective view of our school and our reading practices. I know our staff will be so happy to hear the feedback from the deep dive and will work hard to implement our next steps."

"Your name immediately sprung to mind as someone who we would like to work collaboratively with in order to further develop our EYFS."

“Really big thank you for yesterday. Your visit will make a big difference and I look forward to you coming back to visit again soon.”

“Thank you for your continued support and for the amazing visit we had. It filled my team and I with confidence and I really hope we get to work together again soon.”

Inclusion and Specialist Support Service

13. The SEND Strategy was launched in September 2021. The Strategy sets the key priorities across the local area to ensure that the needs of children and young people with SEND are met. There have been a number of briefing sessions, which have taken place in October and November with staff across Education, Health and Social Care regarding the strategy and key priorities. The Strategy has been published on Middlesbrough’s Local Offer and shared more widely with our families.
14. A number of service areas have been restructured within the Inclusion and Specialist Support Service. These changes came into effect in September 2021. These changes have provided additional capacity within a number of service areas through utilising funding differently. This includes increased capacity within the Annual Review Team who support with the reviews of the Education, Health and Care Plans, further changes within the Inclusion and Outreach Model to provide further support to schools and settings in meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities.

Middlesbrough Community Learning

Middlesbrough Council Youth Hub Launch

15. Middlesbrough jobseekers under the age of 25 will be able to access extra support in their search for work The Hub has been developed in partnership with Middlesbrough Community Learning and DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) and will be launched Thursday 4th November.
16. The hub, which is based at the Multimedia Exchange Building in Middlesbrough (opposite Jobcentre Plus), is part of the UK Government’s multi-billion-pound Plan for jobs, and is one of dozens of similar hubs being opened across the country.
17. Young jobseekers will be able to take advantage of a comprehensive service, with Youth Employability Coaches from Jobcentre Plus providing them with tailored support to find work or reskill for alternative careers and alerting them to available training opportunities in the locality.
18. The Middlesbrough hub will operate Monday to Friday, and partner organisations will also be able to offer guidance on wider issues related to unemployment, including budgeting, debt management and housing.

50 Futures Refresh

19. Over the last week, a number of briefings have been held for council staff to showcase the success of the 50 Futures Work Experience programme. To date over 186 residents have engaged with the programme. 126 completed a work experience placement within the Council which has led to 45 residents securing employment. Over the next few months, the programme will be rebranded and will begin to be rolled out to external partners to gain commitment to provide meaningful work experience for residents. An external launch will be scheduled for Jan 2022.