



COUNCIL MEETING

25 January 2018

GATESHEAD COUNCIL

REPORT FROM THE CABINET

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This is the report from the Cabinet. Its purpose is to report on issues for the period November 2017 to January 2018.

PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES

2. PEOPLE

Children and Young People

Bensham Grove Nursery School

Ofsted conducted a short inspection of this school on 8 November 2017 and reconfirmed the school's rating of outstanding.

The Inspector commented that the outstanding quality of education in the school has been maintained since the last inspection in November 2013. A new Head Teacher was appointed in September 2017 and it was noted that there is unwavering support from staff, who appreciated the Head's willingness to listen to their opinions and develop their expertise.

Key findings included:

- Leaders have adapted the curriculum to suit the changing needs of the different children who have joined the school in recent years.
- A notable strength of the school's provision is the development of effective learning skills which transfer to all aspects of children's lives.
- Excellent relationships between children and adults are rooted in the fact that staff know each child exceptionally well.
- Recognition that the school has identified areas of improvement in terms of developing the children's writing skills.
- Parents value the regular, informal, daily communication they receive from staff.
- Governors have recognised it is necessary to develop the leadership skills of all staff.

The Inspector did propose that Leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that children, particularly those with typical or better starting points for their age, make substantial progress in writing and that governors keep a check on this through more precise targets in the school development plan.

Primary and Special School Ratings

The position of Gateshead's primary and special schools continues to be very strong in relation to Ofsted inspection outcomes. The vast majority of primary, nursery and special schools have decided not to become academies and remain directly within the Gateshead family. The figures are impressive:

- Of 74 Primary, Junior, Infant, Nursery and Special Schools, 29 are graded outstanding (39%) and 69 are graded Good or Outstanding (93%)

By the end of primary school Gateshead school's recorded the following SAT results for the academic year 16/17:

- 81% of children reached the expected standard in Writing at the end of Year 6. Gateshead LA ranks 10th in this measure. (There are 152 LAs.)
- 76% of children reached the expected standard in Reading at the end of Year 6. Gateshead LA ranks 17th in this measure.
- 79% of children reached the expected standard in Writing at the end of Year 6. Gateshead LA ranks 26th in this measure.
- 67% of children reached the expected standard in all of Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of Year 6. Gateshead LA ranks 15th in this measure.

Mental Health Support in Schools

The Council has been successful in a bid to deliver the Anna Freud Foundation (AFF) mental health in schools programme.

The programme was successfully piloted in 2015/16 in 255 schools and children and young people's mental health services across 27 Clinical Commissioning Groups in England and was independently evaluated by Ecorys.

Funded by the Department for Education, it is in its second phase with the AFF delivering the programme in a further 20 areas, including Gateshead. The initiative aims to improve partnership working between Education and Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS), bringing together mental health leads in schools and colleges and CYPMHS to embed long term collaboration and integrated working.

It is anticipated that the first of two workshops will be delivered in May 2018 and 42 schools have expressed their desire to participate including primary, secondary, special schools, the pupil referral unit and Gateshead College.

Adult Social Care

Delayed Transfers of Care – Improved Better Care Fund

The Government has previously written to all councils expressing the urgency of the need to reduce delayed transfers of care before winter, challenging entrenched poor performance by conducting a review of all Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) allocated announced at the Spring Budget.

The Council received a joint letter from the Secretaries of State for Health and Communities and Local Government, dated 5 December 2017, confirming there will be no impact on Gateshead's additional iBCF allocation in 2018/19, as a result of Gateshead's improved performance (as reported to November's Council Meeting).

North East Care Awards

The Council had cause to celebrate after its employees were successful in a number of categories at the North East Care Awards. The awards celebrate excellence across the social care sector in the region and recognise and celebrate the contribution of

outstanding teams and individuals. The awards also bring together the statutory, independent and voluntary sectors.

Lisa Elliot, Enterprise Coordinator, won the Care Innovator Award for creating ‘All Sortz’, an enterprise run by people with learning disabilities which recycles and regenerates disused furniture. These items are then sold and the money re-invested into All Sortz. The judges stated Lisa was a worthy winner, as she “showed her passion and dedication for supporting people to live a meaningful life” and had “excellent enthusiasm” for making a difference.”

The Frontline Leaders Award was won by Audrey Nisbets, an assistant manager at Shadon House. The judges deemed her an outstanding finalist, stating: “Audrey is committed and passionate about working with people who have dementia and works to help rehabilitate people to go back to their own homes. A very worthy winner”.

The Putting People First/Personalisation Award was won by the Rapid Response domiciliary care service, which provides an immediate response to vulnerable people in their own homes, assessing and stabilising them to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital or residential care. The judges selected the service as winners of this award as they were impressed by the “rapid response in crisis situations (providing) care unique to individuals and their circumstances, while preventing admission to care or hospital. Their commitment and hard work is evident”.

Lynne Shaw, from Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust and the Eastwood Promoting Independence Centre won the Good Nurse Award. Lynne, is a Nurse Consultant providing care to older people in the Eastwood Promoting Independence Centre. The judges were clearly impressed by Lynne, admiring the fact that she “works to build on the success of Gateshead for people living in care homes, helping to transform services to improve the well-being of older people by improving the skills of staff. She truly is an outstanding nurse”.

PRIME

The PRIME enablement service commenced in November 2016, serving to enable vulnerable adults in Gateshead to optimise their confidence, daily living skills and overall functioning to continue living independently within their own homes.

The service is pivotal to the Council’s aim in minimising the numbers of individuals being inappropriately admitted to residential/nursing care settings and on to hospital wards, as well as minimising the quantity of domiciliary care support that is provided/commissioned by the Council.

PRIME has achieved some outstanding success since the service’s inception, with over 1200 people supported by the service in the last 12 months. A recent example of the creativity exhibited by PRIME workers is the support given to a 42 year old female service user who has multiple sclerosis. The lady’s condition was adversely affecting her mobility causing restricted access to her local community and social isolation. With an appreciation that the lady used an electric wheelchair, the worker contacted Go Ahead North East and secured agreement with them to gain access to one of their buses whereby the lady, supported by staff, could practice manoeuvring on and off the bus until she was confident she could complete the task independently. The lady is now able to use the local bus service to travel independently into Gateshead for her

shopping and to meet friends. This small achievement has improved the lady's mobility, confidence and self-esteem.

3. PLACE AND ECONOMY

Environment and Transport

District Energy Scheme ADE Award

For the Gateshead District Energy Scheme, the Council won the Visionary Project Award at the Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE) 50th anniversary awards ceremony at the Science Museum in London, on 19th October 2017. The special award received the most entries out of any category at the event, and highlighted projects that look forward and dramatically change the vision of the energy industry for the future.

The Gateshead scheme was judged to be a "truly visionary" project, being unique in the country, combining both heat and electricity networks to local customers, as well as peak power generation to help balance the National Grid from both battery storage, combined heat and power and heat storage.

Heritage at Risk 2017

Historic England published the annual heritage at risk register in Autumn 2017. There are 299 sites included on the register in the North East region, a decrease of 1 from 2016. In Gateshead there are 6 buildings and structures, 2 places of worship, 2 archaeological sites, and 1 conservation area. In addition there are two joint entries – Newburn Ford battlefield (with Newcastle City Council) and owes Railway (with Sunderland City Council). This is an increase of 1 entry from 2016. The full list reads as:

- Winlaton Mill Ironworks
- Dunston Staiths
- Ravensworth Castle (Nash House)
- Ravensworth Castle
- Gibside Hall
- Whinfield Coking Ovens
- Church of St Paul, Blaydon
- Church of St Chad, Rawling Road, Bensham
- Coal mining remains at Dunston Hill
- Site of Ravensworth Coal Mill
- Ravensworth Conservation Area
- Newburn Ford Battlefield (Shared with Newcastle)
- Bowes Railway (Shared with Sunderland)

Sunderland Road Link

The Council has been successful in its bid to the National Productivity Investment Fund for construction of the Sunderland Road Link. This will allow replacement of the subway linking the south end of Gateshead High Street with Sunderland Road with a new pedestrian, cycle and bus link. It will improve access to Gateshead town centre for existing residents and those living in the new housing to be built at Chandless. Preliminary work will start this year, with completion during 2019/20.

Environmental Enforcement

On 19 December 2017 Cabinet approved a proposal to establish an in-house on street environmental enforcement service. Delivery of this service will encompass provision of a team of on-street Environmental Enforcement Officers, complementary back office staff and associated IT support.

The state of the environment has been identified as a major concern in recent public surveys and it is considered that an in house team with on street patrols will act as a deterrent as well as directly addressing current environmental concerns.

It is anticipated that enforcement will commence in Summer 2018. The team will initially concentrate on dog fouling and littering concerns in public places. Members are being asked to provide detail of their particular concerns in terms of location and time of day. We will endeavour to deploy resources to address these concerns as an initial priority of the new function delivery.

Clean Bus Technology

In November, the Council submitted a bid for just over £1.5 million from the Government's Clean Bus Technology Fund. If successful, the project will involve the fitting of improved exhaust technology to 79 vehicles operating 9 routes in Gateshead. This technology will reduce the exhaust emissions of older buses down to the levels of the newest diesel buses (Euro VI). This will help to improve air quality across the Borough, but with a particular focus on the Nitrogen Dioxide exceedances identified by DEFRA.

Economy

Gateshead Goes Local Community Led Local Development

Following an application for funding, £2.2m of European funding has now been secured covering a five year period to March 2022. This will allow the Local Action Group (mix of residents and public, private and third sector partners) to part fund projects costing mainly between £20k - £200k to support employment and enterprise initiatives.

Gateshead Council has agreed to be the Accountable Body for the project and will transfer aid directly to projects. It is proposed that the Service Director Economic Development be given delegated authority to award grants following approval by the LAG.

Gateshead Goes Local launched on 17 January 2018 with an open call for projects via an expression of interest.

4. CONCLUSION

The Council is asked to note this report.