



COUNCIL MEETING

27 April 2017

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 March to April 2017.

PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES

2. PEOPLE

Health

Quality Assessment Framework

A new Quality Assessment Framework for monitoring the quality of commissioned adult social care services in Gateshead has been introduced. The new tool will look at five different outcomes that include:

- Outcome 1: People Benefit from Person Centred Care & Support
- Outcome 2: People are Safeguarded from Abuse
- Outcome 3: People are Supported by Excellent Staff
- Outcome 4: Organisational & Management Systems ensure excellent quality services
- Outcome 5: People benefit from excellent Security, Health & Safety

A workshop was held for all providers on 30 March 2017 to explain the new quality tool and how to use it. The new quality tool will be used from this month and services including Residential, Independent Supported Living and Home Care will all be assessed across the five outcomes.

Children and Young People

Key Stage 2 Results

Eight schools in Gateshead have received a congratulatory letter from the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb MP, for their performance at Key Stage 2 level. The new progress measure introduced in 2016 shows the progress of each child compared with all others nationally who joined key stage 2 at the same level of attainment. In schools with the highest progress scores, children are generally making progress than similar ability children nationally.

The schools in Gateshead that are in the top 10% of average progress scores in reading, writing and mathematics are Bede Community Primary School, Brandling Primary School, Brighton Avenue Primary School, Carr Hill Community Primary School, Clover Hill Community Primary School, Fellside Community Primary School, St Aidan's Church of England Primary School and St Augustine's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School.

Family Intervention Service

The Council has been successful in attracting £50,000 of additional funding to support couple and co-parents to improve the quality of family relationships. The Local Family Offer is a national Department of Work and Pensions programme to test new approaches to increasing family stability through practitioners being able to identify and respond to relationship distress using timely, evidence-based interventions. Over 75 frontline practitioners were trained in the 'Think Couple' approach in 2016 and new couple therapy and group (Parents as Partners) pathways created, as well as a new directory of relationship services.

Ofsted Interim Inspection

Following the full inspection of Grove House in November 2016 which reconfirmed their Outstanding rating, Ofsted carried out an interim inspection on 22 March 2017 and found that the home has "Improved Effectiveness".

During the visit, the Inspectors observed one young person who had come for a tea visit, at which his birthday was celebrated with a party at the home. It was noted that the environment and staffs' attention to detail provides children with an experience that is tailored to their individual needs.

It was also noted that monitoring systems in the staff office had been reviewed, reorganised and colour-coded to improve upon accessibility and that risk assessment documentation was more robust due to improvements made since the last inspection.

There were no requirements or recommendations made at this inspection.

At the interim inspection, Ofsted make a judgement on whether the home has improved in effectiveness, sustained effectiveness or declined in effectiveness since the previous full inspection.

Adult Social Care

Special Olympics Gateshead Tyne & Wear

Kevin Keegan visited Marquisway Resource Centre on 3 March 2017 where he re-recorded the 'This Time' 1982 World Cup song with Special Olympics Gateshead Tyne and Wear athletes. The song will be played when 38 Gateshead Tyne & Wear athletes walk out on to Sheffield United's Bramall Lane football pitch as part of the Special Olympics GB National Games on 8 August 2017.

Celebrate Winlaton

Winlaton Community Base worked in partnership with Digital Voice and a range of Winlaton community groups to produce a 'Celebrate Winlaton' exhibition on Saturday 18th March 2017. The event involved service users from Winlaton Base producing films which showcased Winlaton's industrial heritage.

Award Winners

At the Great Britain Care awards held on 31 March 2017 in Birmingham, Guidepost, won the 'Putting People First Personalisation' award. The judges praised Guidepost for the choice, control and personal growth that they provide to adults with learning disabilities to remain independent and influential in their own community.

Congratulations also go to Angling 4 All sporting club who won the 'Outstanding Sports Club of the Year' award at the North East Disability Sports Awards at Slaley Hall on 23 March 2017. Richard Young (Special Olympics Gateshead Tyne and Wear athlete) was also a winner of the 'Participant of the year' award.

Special Olympics Gateshead Tyne and Wear were also winners of the 'Sports Club of the Year' award at the Gateshead Awards with one of the club's athletes, Daniel Boyles, winning the 'Sports Achiever of the Year' award.

3. PLACE AND ECONOMY

Environment and Transport

National Productivity Investment Fund – Gateshead Allocations

The Council expects to receive £772,000 pounds in 2017/18 from the Government's National Productivity Investment fund for investment in the local transport network. This is required to be spent on highway and other local transport improvements which aim to reduce congestion at key locations, upgrade or improve the maintenance of local highway assets, to improve access to employment and housing, to develop economic and job creation opportunities.

It is proposed to use this funding as part of an overall highways infrastructure investment programme in the following ways:

- Making major repairs to embankments on the main A184 route between the A1 and central Tyneside;
- Improving access to the central Tyneside area which will include minor works to main routes into the area as well as supporting the Tyne and Wear UTMC system, which helps manage traffic within it;
- Support for development, especially helping smaller developers meet some of the transport costs associated with them;
- Highway maintenance schemes on main roads of strategic importance to future economic needs and growth.

Individual project allocations will be confirmed in a report to the Cabinet alongside the Council's other planned investment in highways infrastructure.

4. COMMUNITIES

Communities and Volunteering

Police and Crime Commissioner Victims Fund

The Council and its partners have been successful in a number of recent funding applications designed to address a range of Community Safety activities within the Borough. Funding has been received from:

- Department of Communities and Local Government – to enhance and strengthen provision of and access to specialist accommodation to support victims of domestic abuse across Northumbria;
- Building a Stronger Britain Together Fund – to provide a targeted service to support young people who are expressing extreme and racist ideas and attitudes and who are vulnerable to radicalisation. Funding will also be used to develop a set of online

- resources that will enable community based workers and volunteers to be able to confidently challenge extreme language, behaviour and attitudes;
- Police and Crime Commissioner – to increase domestic violence provision and support within Accident and Emergency as well as providing additional resources to address violence committed by an adolescent against a parent/carer.

Culture, Sport and Leisure

Library Service Update

Work with children and young people remain a key priority for the library service. There has been a range of innovative initiative recently. Gateshead College hosted the second 'Gamerama' event, an event for video gamers, artists and filmmakers at Gateshead College's Baltic campus.

The Library Service helped host and organise the event and developed the 'Gamemaker' video game design competition for talented young designers.

The Library Service has also been working in partnership with Shipley Art Gallery to encourage families to visit the Gallery and the Central Library and to take part in 'Busy Bairs', a range of creative activities aimed at encouraging parent/child interaction around art, stories and books. The project targeted families, identified by Children's Centre staff and Health visitors.

'Hello Baby' is a pre-natal project. The Library Service has secured a small amount of funding from ASCEL (Association of Senior Children's & Education Librarians) to test a pilot project aimed at encouraging expectant parents to read/sing/share songs, stories and rhymes before their babies are born. Research shows that babies recognise and respond to the sounds and rhythms of their parents voices whilst in the womb. This work will contribute to research into the Children's Library Journey from pre-birth to 18 years.

5. CONCLUSION

The Council is asked to note this report.