



COUNCIL MEETING

21 MARCH 2019

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 January – March 2019.

PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES

2. PEOPLE

Children and Young People

GAP Group

Gateshead based GAP Group (NE) Ltd and the Council's learningSkills service have worked together to identify skills shortages and training need, and a recently developed Apprenticeship standard was identified in Waste Resource Management. The Council Apprenticeship Team re-trained to ensure the Council could support the delivery. After a successful two-day recruitment GAP Group have employed a further eight Apprentices bringing the total to ten. This opportunity has developed progression routes for young people who may have struggled in their previous education history.

ABC123

ABC123 is a new group at the Central Library offering family reading activities for those with English as an additional language. Working with the Refugee Resettlement Support Workers families have been identified who would benefit from support with speech and language development. The sessions demonstrate best practice to families about sharing books and activities with their children and aim to improve speech and language in both adults and children.

Anime Attax

Over 350 young people attended this event which was held in the Central Library. The day was a fantastic creative celebration of Japanese culture and was substantially organised by young people for young people. The Library Service has developed a strong 'anime committee' who planned and developed the day. The young people build many life skills from delivering an event of this nature including developing funding applications to support the event.

Adult Social Care

Domiciliary Care and PRIME Service

The Council's domiciliary care and PRIME service was inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 23 and 31 January 2019 and judged to be Good overall.

The inspection follows the following questions, all of which were rated as Good:

- Is the service safe?

- Is the service effective?
- Is the service caring?
- Is the service responsive?
- Is the service well-led?

The inspectors found that accidents and incidents were appropriately recorded and risk assessments were in place, and that appropriate arrangements were in place for the safe administration and storage of medicines. They also noted that staff understood their responsibilities with regard to safeguarding and had been trained in adult protection.

It was noted that people felt supported to have maximum choice and control of their lives and staff supported them in the least restrictive way possible. The inspectors reported that people and family members were complimentary about the standard of care provided and that staff treated people with dignity and respect.

Staff who were spoken to by the inspectors said they felt supported by management and that there were regular staff meetings and development days. In addition, inspectors felt there was a robust quality assurance process in place that included health and safety, people and management, service delivery, care and support and continuous improvement.

3. PLACE AND ECONOMY

Environment and Transport

Environmental Enforcement

The new environmental enforcement service went live on 9 January, with live enforcement following an extension period of engagement and education for members of the public.

Officers are able to issue FPNs for the following offences:

- Dog Fouling
- Littering
- Littering from vehicles
- Fly posting
- Graffiti

Since the service went live, 84 FPNs have been issued for offences of Littering and Dog Fouling. Of those 48 have been paid totalling £3,600. There are a few cases that are now entering the prosecution stage and these will be progressed to the Magistrates Court in due course.

News about the team was released in the local press and on social media. The feedback from the public has been encouraging and news about the creation of the team has been welcomed by the residents of Gateshead. The team continue to receive information regarding 'hot spots' in relation to littering and dog fouling which enables the Enforcement Officers to direct their patrols in key areas at key times. Those officers are continuing to build good community links, both to highlight the new service and as good sources of intelligence. That information, as well as information gained from visits across the Borough, is already contributing to deployment decisions.

Members of the team have contacted all councillors to provide a point of contact for environmental issues and to encourage the reporting of environmental offences, many of which are a blight on our communities which we are doing our best to tackle.

The technology used to undertake this enforcement should allow better presentation and use of data. In due course, as more FPN data is collected, it is expected that location-based data will be automatically available, showing which areas are generating the most enforcement activity.

Go Ahead Electric Vehicles

In May 2018, the Government announced a new round of its Ultra Low Emission Bus Fund; providing £48m of funding the purchase of Ultra Low Emission Buses and the infrastructure to support them between 2018/19 and 2020/21. The fund would meet up to 50% of cost difference between an ultra-low emission bus and equivalent diesel bus, rising to 75% of that difference for zero-emission buses. The scheme would also fund 75% of infrastructure costs.

A bid was submitted by Go North East with assistance from the Council and Nexus for 18 battery electric vehicles, operating with zero tailpipe emissions; for the 53/54 and 58 services and the necessary charging infrastructure at the Riverside Depot in Gateshead. On 6 February 2019, the Government announced that Go North East had been partially successful; securing the funding for nine buses and the charging infrastructure. It is intended that the buses will be used to operate the 53/54 service and they are due to be in service in Spring 2020.

This funding, and the accompanying investment from Go North East, will complement the wider air quality initiatives currently under consideration.

4. COMMUNITIES

Communities and Volunteering

Bensham Community Centre

Bensham Community Centre is celebrating one hundred years since it was bequeathed to the community for group activities and learning. To mark the centenary anniversary of the gifting of Bensham Grove Community Centre to the people of Gateshead, two ceramic panels were unveiled on 9 March 2019 by the Mayor of Gateshead. A new crowdfunding campaign will be launched to raise money to develop plans for a new pottery workshop on site. The mosaic 'Thriving Bensham' was created by members of the Gateshead Council learningSkills OpenDoor programme for people with learning disabilities and Bensham Grove members, supported by ceramist and tutor Christine Constant.

Culture, Sport and Leisure

Early Word Together

The library service is delivering a new programme called Early Words Together. This is an intervention which supports families in improving the home learning environment for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Library Service and Early Help employees have undertaken in-depth training with National Literacy Trust who manage the programme. Starting in January 2019 the service will be working with targeted priority families to promote speech and language development and early literacy.

Reducing Young Carer Isolation

Gateshead Young Carers in partnership with the Council's library service have been successful in obtaining funding from the Co-op's Building Connections Fund Youth Strand. The focus of the partnership is to encourage young people to be involved with co-designing events and spaces for other young people.

Working with artists and film makers, young carers, will create a display in the Library's Youth Space and deliver an evening event for National Young Carer Awareness Day (January 31st). The library service will support this short-term project for a further six months following co-design, providing a regular dedicated drop-in space and creative workshops for nine months overall.

World Down Syndrome Day

The Gateshead Millennium Bridge will be lit up on 21 March in blue and yellow to support World Down Syndrome Day.

Go Easy

Go Gateshead Sport & Leisure have launched the Go Easy programme across Gateshead Leisure facilities. Go Easy is ideal for those who are thinking about becoming more active but unsure of where to start including those with long term conditions.

The Go Easy programme offers free 'Fit to Talk' sessions which promote the benefits of exercise and advice on overcoming barriers as well as information of what is available locally. A free day pass is also given to try one of the many sessions available as part of the Go Easy programme including circuits, water-based sessions, walking sports as well as walking groups within the community. The programme also includes sessions for those who have pulmonary disease as well as those who have cardiac problems or recovering from a stroke.

Information packs have been sent to GP Practices across Gateshead including flyers and timetables as well as direction to the web page on the Go Easy website which provides further information.

For further information please visit www.gogateshead.com/goeasy

5. CONCLUSION

The Council is asked to note this report.