



COUNCIL MEETING

14 July 2016

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 May - July 2016.

PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES

2. PEOPLE

Children and Young People

Foster Care Fortnight

Every year the Fostering Network runs a national campaign to raise the profile of fostering and recruit new carers. This year's event took place between the 16 and 29 May and the theme was "Time to Foster, Time to Care." The Council's Fostering Service always takes advantage of this national campaign in order to maximise interest in becoming a foster carer with the Council, as well as showing our existing carers how much they are valued.

A campaign was therefore undertaken with the objectives to:

- raise the profile of the service;
- attract new enquiries; and
- value our existing carers.

Activities included:

- bridge banners on Felling bypass and the Civic Centre perimeter fencing;
- information in Council Info/on plasma screens in the Civic Centre;
- information evening held for anyone interested in becoming a foster carer;
- radio advertising to promote information evening;
- "Gateshead Now" direct email;
- social media campaign; and
- coffee morning and support group for current foster carers.

The service will continue to use the "Could you...would you...will you?" theme throughout the summer and autumn to raise general awareness of the Council's need for both foster carers and adoptive families. Adopting a joint approach will maximise exposure for both services and ensure value for money is achieved for any "paid for" advertising.

The social media campaign underpinned the other channels and six posts were published on the Gateshead Fostering and Adoption Website page during "Foster Care Fortnight". These posts were seen over 2,600 times, and generated 177 interactions ie likes, shares and comments.

The coffee morning for Gateshead's existing foster carers was attended by nearly 70 carers; a record number of attendees for a session of this type. Our carers were able to:

- find out more about "Foster Talk" our new provider of independent support for foster carers;
- find out about upcoming training and support groups;
- meet members of the service including business support staff and new marketing and recruitment officer;
- be thanked, in person, for all the work they do during "Foster Care Fortnight"; and
- network with other carers as well as the fostering service.

There was also an information evening held, which was attended by eight sets of potential foster carers as a direct result of the campaign.

There was an increase in traffic on the Council's website during the May campaign period and an increase in the number of enquiries into the service, with enquiries more than doubling compared to the previous month.

The Fostering Service will continue to undertake marketing and recruitment activities throughout the year and plan to support future "Foster Care Fortnight" national campaigns; building on this year's approach to further increase enquiries.

Brandling Primary School – Outcome of Inspection

This school was inspected on 24 and 25 May 2016 by Ofsted and judged to be outstanding in all areas.

The inspectors have reported that "the inspirational leadership of the head teacher has led to a culture of high expectations, where pupils learn exceptionally well". They noted that disadvantaged pupils make as much progress as others in school and their attainment exceeded that of their classmates and all pupils nationally in 2015, particularly in reading and writing.

The inspectors noted that the governing body challenges leaders rigorously about the school's performance and visit regularly to see how well pupils are learning. It was also noted that pupils' behaviour in lessons and around the school is impressive, that they are exceptionally polite and well-mannered, and attitudes to learning are exemplary.

Outcome of Short Quality Screening Inspection

Gateshead's Youth Offending Team was subject to a short quality screening inspection from 23-25 May 2016.

HM Inspectorate of Probation report says "we found that work to reduce reoffending, to protect the public, protect children and young people, and to make sure sentences were served, was of very high quality. It was encouraging to see that the work of the Youth Offending Team had improved substantially in all areas since our previous inspection in 2010. Staff were committed and enthusiastic, and they had a detailed knowledge of the children and young people they were working with."

The following key strengths were also highlighted in the report:

- High quality initial assessments of children and young people provided a firm foundation for work to reduce future offending.

- Vulnerability assessments were of good quality, informing the work that needs to be undertaken to protect children and young people.
- Planning for work to reduce offending, manage the risk of harm posed to others, and address safeguarding and vulnerability was very good.
- Case managers engaged very well with children and young people and their parents/carers, taking diversity factors and barriers to engagement into account.
- Management oversight was effective in ensuring the quality of the work.

There was only one area requiring improvement; in a small number of cases pre-sentence reports failed to give sufficient attention to considering suitable alternatives to custody.

Health and Wellbeing

Keep Active Keep Well

The Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group recently extended the current Physical Activity Step Down programme (previously 'Exercise on Referral') until 31 March with the intention to extend further.

The commission, worth £70,000, will support the employment of 2 Physical Activity Specialists within the Sport, Physical Activity & Health Development team, working across a number of leisure facilities.

This new pilot, called Keep Active, Keep Well, will support patients with long term conditions such as heart disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder and diabetes and will include either a 12 week behavioural change for exercise programme or a motivational interviewing support via telephone.

Gateshead's Better Care Fund (BCF) submission for 2016/17

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a pooled fund for councils and NHS organisations to jointly plan and deliver local services that support the integration of health and social care. 2016/17 has been identified within our Gateshead Plan as a transition year whereby schemes are aligned with emerging models of care such as the care homes and emergency care vanguards, out-of-hospital care, the redesign of community health services, prevention and enablement services. Gateshead's BCF pooled fund for 2016/17 is £16.488m.

NHS England has recently indicated that Gateshead's BCF submission for 2016/17 has been given a draft rating of "fully approved". Final approval ratings will be confirmed in due course.

Adult Social Care

Shadon House – Outstanding Judgement

Shadon House has been judged as Outstanding following a recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) unannounced inspection. Shadon House is one of the Council's promoting independent centres providing support for people who struggle to live alone, and enabling people to live independent lives.

The inspection found that the centre was Good in the categories of Safe and Effective, and Outstanding in the categories of Caring, Responsive, and Well-led, leading to an overall Outstanding judgement.

The inspector noted that the registered manager provided strong, clear leadership and ensured an enabling and person-centred culture was firmly embedded in the service. There was also clear commitment to continuous improvement of the service and evidence of innovation and creativity in all areas, such as pioneering projects as 'Hen Power', and 'Mum's test' which is where staff members ask their own parents or loved ones to identify the areas and issues that would be important to them, if they needed to come into the service.

The inspector highlighted the strong emphasis on ensuring people had meaningful occupation and activity throughout the day and evening. People's relatives informed the inspection team that they were very impressed with the quality of care provided and spoke of the positive impact that a stay at Shadon House had on their loved ones.

3. PLACE AND ECONOMY

Environment and Transport

The Land of Oak and Iron Visitor Centre

The Land of Oak & Iron Visitor Centre is being developed by the Council in partnership with Groundwork NE & Cumbria. The proposed £1.2m investment in Winlaton Mill represents the largest single investment to date in rural Gateshead in response to the Rural Economic Strategy. Funding will largely come from external sources with Groundwork NE & Cumbria responsible for making applications and for ongoing revenue and maintenance costs. Design work is being undertaken by the in-house team.

Economy

Developing the Social Enterprise Sector in Gateshead

The following events and activities are taking place which will further social enterprise in Gateshead:

- A visit by Social Enterprise UK, the national infrastructure body for social enterprise (13-14 July). This event will showcase social enterprise, culminating in the "Social Enterprise Summit" bringing together social entrepreneurs, supporters and stakeholders for a change to network.
- The North East Social Enterprise Festival, hosted by Social Enterprise Acumen, will be held at Sage Gateshead on 29 October, showcasing social enterprise from across the region.
- A research project will be undertaken in collaboration with Leeds University to explore the social enterprise ecosystem.

Region Värmland Market Visit to Gateshead

The Council and Sunne Municipality, based in Region Värmland, Sweden have signed a 'Commitment to Collaboration' setting out their intention to develop mutually beneficial trade and investment activity over an 18 month period. As a result of this agreement four Gateshead-based digital technology companies visited Region Värmland in November 2015, to explore business opportunities in Sweden. Each of the companies has benefitted significantly as a result of participating in the market visit, increasing their knowledge of Nordic market sectors, establishing contacts with Swedish digital technology companies, and directly supporting a number of digital projects via Sunne Municipality.

In May 2016, the Council hosted six visitors from companies based in Region Värmland, delivering a programme of activity aimed at promoting Gateshead as a business destination. As a result of participating in the visit one software company has expressed an interest in setting up an office in Gateshead and another is developing a joint project with Northumbria University, as well as working collaboratively with a Gateshead based digital sector firm in the field of virtual reality technology.

Gateshead Regeneration Partnership, Training and Employment Outcomes

The Gateshead Regeneration Partnership, between the Council, the developer Galliford Try and the housing provider Home Group, is building homes in Saltwell and Birtley. As well as providing new, spacious, energy efficient homes for families, the Partnership is also benefitting the local economy by ensuring that the developer uses local businesses in the supply chain, sustains employment for local people, and provides training and apprenticeships for local students and residents.

Housing

Ravensworth Road Update

The Council appointed Keepmoat Homes to redevelop the former Ravensworth Road (and Rocket) site in Dunston, and so far, a new supermarket and older persons' accommodation have been built. In May 2016, construction started on a new unit on the site for Boots pharmacy, to allow them to move out of Tower Court, the last remaining block of the old estate. Once this happens, in September 2016, the Council will demolish Tower Court to make way for Keepmoat to build 45 new family homes starting next year. The final phase will be the development of a new medical centre, which has recently received NHS funding approval, subject to finding an investor.

Assisted Living Scheme, Winlaton

The Council has been successful in its bid to the Care and Support Specialised Housing (CASSH) Fund. This award is for £532,000 towards the cost of the development of enhanced specialist housing schemes for people with learning disabilities and autism, and their elderly carers.

The scheme is situated on three sites in the heart of Winlaton village, close to shops, transport and local amenities. It will provide flexible living with the right level of care and support suited to the individual needs.

The completed units will form part of the Council's housing stock managed by the Gateshead Housing Company. Therefore, they will also help sustain the Housing Revenue Account.

Because of the age profile of some of the carers it is considered that this provision will prolong the independence of the client group through providing on site help, support and care and also prevent potential longer term residential care by providing that support. This will help support the sustainability of adult social care by reducing future call on budgets for residential care.

The proposed developments incorporate the use of communal shared spaces to enhance wellbeing. At Ramsay Street a communal 'walled garden' has been incorporated, at Half Fields Road there is a 'shared garden' which can be developed by residents, whilst at Derwent View the area benefits from attractive surroundings of

trees and green space. They are all aimed to provide a safe, risk managed, environment that can be enhanced by specialist support, equipment and programmes.

The specific sites are:

- Ramsay Street, Winlaton
This is a two storey development comprising of a block of flats with six one bedroom flats, one studio flat and one concierge flat with associated amenities and courtyard 'walled' garden. In addition, there is one two storey high two bedroom house. The development is located within a mixed use area providing opportunities for integration within the community
- Half Fields Road, Winlaton
This development comprises of a pair of single storey semi-detached two bedroom wheelchair friendly bungalows with associated amenities located in a residential area. The proposed layout with a shared garden provides a secluded and safe setting for enjoyment and interaction between residents.
- Derwent View, Winlaton
This is a two storey high block of flats comprising of five one bedroom flats located in a residential area. The building is surrounded by a 'green belt garden' that provides a secluded and safe setting for enjoyment and interaction between residents.

4. COMMUNITIES

Communities and Volunteering

Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations

Three local groups held an event and lit beacons across Gateshead on 21 April as part of the Queen's birthday celebrations.

John Bell from Gateshead celebrated his 90th birthday by pressing the button to light up Gateshead Millennium Bridge in red, white and blue. A parade including 101 Regiment Royal Artillery also took place on the Bridge on 12 June.

St Mary's Heritage Centre hosted a celebratory coffee morning on 11 June which was free to the public. Several other events also took place across the Borough.

Volunteers' Month

Volunteers' month was held during June 2016. The main purpose was to raise the profile of volunteering and to recognise the contribution made by volunteers in Gateshead.

The four themes for the month were young people, environmental tidy up activities, charities, voluntary and community groups, and older people.

As in previous volunteers' months, £10,000 from the Capacity Building Fund is available for groups to apply with grants up to £300 per application.

An event was held in Trinity Square on 24 June to celebrate the end of the month and a totaliser was live during June to record the volunteer hours contributed throughout the month.

Community Ownership and Management of Assets Programme

The Council successfully applied to be part of the Community Ownership and Management of Assets programme in 2015.

The programme is operated by Locality, on behalf of DCLG, and is aimed at supporting community organisations to take over responsibility for running community buildings.

In the first phase of the programme the Council applied for support to assist the following asset transfers:

Building	Current position
Dunston Activity Centre	Tenancy at Will signed
Gateshead Indoor Bowling Centre	Tenancy at Will signed
Winlaton Community Centre	Lease signed
Low Fell Library	Lease signed
Winlaton Library	Lease signed
Sunderland Road Library	Lease signed
Emmaville Hall, Crawcrook	Lease signed
Saltwell Park Boat House / Training Centre	No clear timescale for implementation
Whickham Thorns Outdoor Activity Centre	Tenancy at Will signed
Barley Mow Village Hall	Implementation by 31 March 2017

The Council has applied for additional support on behalf of Gateshead Scouts who have recently taken over responsibility for Whickham Thorns Activity Centre.

Culture, Sport and Leisure

Library Service Work with Children and Young People

The library service continues to develop a range of new initiatives for children and young people. These include a Books on Prescription for young people – special collections of books aimed at supporting and helping children and young people with mental health challenges. The service has successfully rolled-out a Chatterbooks project, developing 10 reading groups in schools across the borough. This is an initiative to promote reading for pleasure in schools. The library service has also been identified as a ‘mentoring authority’ for its excellent work with young people by The Reading Agency.

Library Service – Digital Library Service Developments

Digital library services have continued to be developed. In April, the service was invited to participate in Maker Month, an initiative co-ordinated by the Centre for Life. Activities included robotics workshops and air powered rocket cars. All libraries, Council and volunteered managed, are now equipped to provide free Wi-Fi access for the public, following a grant from the Arts Council. The number of e-books lent by the service continues to grow, with total issues of e-books and e-audio now over 10,000 per year. The range of e-books is gradually improving as more publishers release titles for libraries to lend.

Chopwell Library Relocation

Chopwell Library has successfully relocated into the premises of Chopwell Children's Centre, which is located in Chopwell Primary School. The new premises are fully integrated and will allow close working between the children centre and easy use of the library by the school. The library offers an excellent range of stock and ICT facilities.

Tall Ships Race 2018

Over the next two years, a network of sailing ambassadors will support regional activities to promote and raise awareness of sail training as an activity that all young people can be involved in.

The Inclusive Futures (IF) programme, which is hosted by the Council's Sport, Physical Activity and Health Development Team have selected one of the projects young volunteers to be Gateshead's Sail Training Ambassador. The ambassadors will undertake a range of shore based training and voyages as well as attending events.

The programme was officially launched on 9 May by HRH Princess Royal.

Legacy Games

Gateshead International Stadium hosted the 7th Legacy Games event on 12-13 May. The event engaged over 250 young people with disabilities in sport and physical activity and was supported by 60 officials and volunteers.

The event is the qualifier for the National Championships held in Warwick in June and is supported by Gateshead College students and Gateshead Inclusive Futures volunteers.

Sport England Inspired Facilities – Gateshead Awards

The Council supported the Gateshead Indoor Bowling Centre with a bid to Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund for £75,000. Sport England has confirmed that the bid was successful and will be used to fund a replacement boiler system and to refurbish and modernise the café and kitchen area. Gateshead Community Rowing Club also received £75,000 to improve security on their site. Cedars Academy received an 'in principle' offer of funding to help fund a new sports hall.

Officers are continuing to work with Felling Magpies FC and Greenside Cricket Club who were unsuccessful in this round to attract funding from other sources.

Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) White Paper

The Culture White Paper was published by DCMS in March 2016. This is the first paper on culture in over 50 years.

The main areas of policy include increased participation in culture, cultural communities, international profile and cultural investment.

A few of the key recommendations are as follows:

- Gateshead will be working with partners to develop an action plan for cultural inclusion for children and young people.
- Consider viable models for a dedicated cultural volunteering programme in the Borough.
- Continue to engage/explore opportunities through the NE Culture Partnership.
- Develop NewcastleGateshead Culture 2030 programme to host world class events.
- Identify historic areas which could benefit from heritage led regeneration.

Sport England Strategy

In December 2015, the Government published Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation. The strategy has 5 main outcomes which are physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development, and economic development.

In May 2016 Sport England published their new strategy, Sport England: Towards and Active Nation 2016 – 2021.

Key features of the new strategy include funding to get young people active from the age of 5, piloting new ways of working, investing up to £30m in a new volunteering strategy to attract a new and more diverse range of volunteers.

Sport England has 7 new investment programmes to directly respond to the policy direction.

Sport England are also to launch a new fund of up to £1m to support prospective hosts in developing their bids to bring major events to England plus a further £2m through the Major Events Engagement Fund.

5. CONCLUSION

The Council is asked to note this report.