



COUNCIL MEETING

22 September 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 July – September 2016.

PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES

2. PEOPLE

Children and Young People

Ofsted inspection of Bensham Grove Nursery

Following an inspection by Ofsted in April 2016, Bensham Grove Nursery has been judged as Outstanding, an improvement on the previous inspection rating of Good.

The inspectors observed the quality of teaching during activities indoors and outdoors and assessed the impact this has on children's learning. They found that staff have excellent knowledge of the children. Assessments are precise and checked closely to ensure that any gaps in learning are quickly identified and supported. They also commented that the children's emotional wellbeing is exceptionally well fostered.

The inspectors found that the management team and staff implement highly effective methods to evaluate the strengths and any areas of weakness in the nursery. They also noted that the nursery involves parents and children in the process to make sure their views are listened to and used to make changes.

The Gateshead Art Project

In 2015 the art project commemorating the centenary of the First World War won national recognition and Gateshead Youth Offending Team were presented with the Youth Justice Board's Creative Arts for Children and Young People Award 2015.

In 2016 the art project expanded on this theme and its success and 'Being British' was commissioned. This project has enabled young people to develop a greater understanding of culture, diversity and history. Young people who have taken part in the project have developed their understanding of national land marks and their significance. A number of pieces of work have used symbolism to provoke iconic images of 'Being British'. The young people have benefited from understanding how the different parts of the United Kingdom come together to represent Britain. Their work was showcased at the Civic Centre over July and August.

Health and Wellbeing

Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust – Outstanding Judgement

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (NTW), a provider of mental health and disability services, has been rated as 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The independent regulator of health and adult social care in England published its findings in the form of 15 core service reports and an overall report, which rated NTW as 'Outstanding'; the best possible outcome. All of the individual service reports were also either 'Outstanding' or 'Good'.

Nationally, NTW is one of the first NHS providers of such services to receive an Outstanding rating.

NTW provides services from over 60 sites across Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland, as well as providing a number of regional and national specialist services.

The inspectors made the following comments, against each of the five categories:

- Safe (Good) – “There was an openness and transparency in relation to safety across the Trust. Staff were able to tell us about the need for openness and transparency when mistakes were made.”
- Effective (Outstanding) – “Services offered patients a comprehensive, holistic approach to their assessment, planning and delivery of care. Innovation in practice was actively encouraged. The Trust was committed to the continual development of its staff.”
- Caring (Outstanding) – “Staff were motivated, inspired and enthusiastic in offering care that promoted people’s dignity. Staff demonstrated that they cared about the well-being of patients and had pride in their work. Feedback from patients and carers regarding their care and treatment was consistently positive.”
- Responsive (Outstanding) – “Service users, carers and staff were consulted and involved in the design and development of new services and there was evidence of the Trust listening to and learning from patients. Services were continually reviewed and developed to respond to the needs of patients and improve care and treatment offered.”
- Well Led (Outstanding) – “The Trust had a clear vision and values which were incorporated into all aspects of the Trust’s business. External stakeholders felt leadership within the Trust was proactive. Staff across the organisation said that senior managers were visible and supportive.

3. PLACE AND ECONOMY

Environment and Transport

Landlord Prosecution

The Council has successfully prosecuted a Gateshead Landlord who failed to deal with problem tenants. The landlord was fined over £10, 000 plus costs. The District Judge told the court that the offences were serious and by the landlord’s failure to deal with the anti-social behaviour unnecessary alarm and distress had been imposed on

innocent victims who had been driven from their homes. He said he hoped the sentencing would send out a message to other landlords that they should fulfil their legal responsibilities and licensing obligations.

Controlling Public Fundraising in Gateshead Town Centre

The Council, as a Licensing Authority, is responsible for controlling a number of activities relating to charitable giving including 'door to door collections' and 'street collections'. Both of these collection methods are regulated by legislation.

Over recent years however a new fundraising practice has emerged which falls outside of the scope of current legislation. This involves charitable organisations stationing staff in public streets to collect peoples' personal financial details for the purpose of routine giving by direct debit.

Since the opening of the Trinity Square development, the Council has received an increasing number of complaints about charitable organisations carrying out this kind of fundraising causing a nuisance to visitors to the Town Centre.

The Public Fundraising Association (PFRA) is the standards and membership body for organisations carrying out face-to-face fundraising.

In the absence of legislation applying to direct debit forms of fundraising, the PFRA provides a bridge between councils and charities maintaining professional standards and providing a fair allocation of fundraising on the ground.

They work with local authorities to set up Site Management Agreements which ensure fundraising in local areas is proportionate. They make sure their members stick to the terms of their Site Management Agreement through a programme of spot checks, mystery shopping and co-regulation with Council partners. Breaches of the conditions of the SMA attract penalty points under their penalties and sanctions regime.

Officers and Trinity Square Management representatives have met with the PFRA and are considering entering into an Site Management Agreement for the Town Centre area in order to better control those conducting direct debit fundraising. A draft Site Management Agreement has been drawn up for consideration.

A Site Management Agreement with the PFRA will *not* control the conduct of 'touts' i.e. those businesses operating in the town centre approaching members of the public to sign up for services e.g. telecoms companies and energy companies. Other measures to deal with this issue are currently being explored by Officers including the use of Public Space Control Orders under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Blaydon Footbridge

The footbridge over the A696 Blaydon Viaduct was damaged due to vehicle impact on 8 August causing severe traffic disruption.

The span over the eastbound carriageway was demolished by contractors on 11 August and the carriageway was re-opened to traffic.

The design of a replacement span is currently being progressed; the works to replace the span are estimated to be undertaken in January 2017.

A driver of a low loader carrying an excavator has been questioned under caution by the Police, and the insurance details have been passed to the Council.

Go Ahead Child Fares

In August 2016, Go North East made some significant changes to the fares charged to young people across the NECA area:

- A flat £1 single fare for everyone aged 18 and under across the NECA area (a small number of exceptions apply). Parents are able to purchase tickets on their mobile and gift it to their child's mobile instantly or in advance.
- The price of a day ticket price was frozen at £3.75; with weekly and monthly tickets available for £15.50 and £58.00 respectively. All offer unlimited travel on Go North East services across the NECA area.
- Everyone in full time education (including apprentices and mature students) is eligible for the day, week and monthly tickets.
- While welcome, it should be noted that these new fares may not offer best value for all passengers. For example, under 16s in Tyne & Wear can travel all day on any bus, metro or the Shields ferry for £1.10 if they have an Under 16 Pop Card.

4. COMMUNITIES

Communities and Volunteering

Fill the Holiday Gap

In Gateshead "Fill the Holiday Gap" aims to tackle the problems faced by some families, who normally receive free school meals. Providing those extra meals during school holidays can be a real struggle for many families. There is also evidence both locally and nationally that food banks experience a peak in demand during school holidays.

Live Well Gateshead's Capacity Building programme, supported by the Council, has been working closely with a range of community organisations who have applied to support the "Fill the Holiday Gap" programme in 2016.

In total, 20 community groups planned, developed and delivered over 80 "Fill the Holiday Gap" events during July and August 2016

Culture, Sport and Leisure

Snow Dogs

The Great North Snow Dogs art trail will take place from 17 September until 2 December. The event will feature around 50 designed artworks and each snow dog will be created by local artists and communities. The trail will be across Tyneside and will encourage people to get active and 'be tourists in their own town'. One of the snow dogs will be located outside Gateshead Central Library and is designed to highlight Gateshead's key cultural assets. Gateshead will benefit from an enhanced profile from being part of a national project.

Dine by the Tyne

In May 2016, Performance Square hosted the 'Dine by the Tyne' event. The Sky table was suspended 30 metres in the air where 22 people could enjoy lunch, dinner or cocktails in the sky.

The event was a great success and discussions are under way regarding another event in August 2017. The event brought in £3000 for the Council and £3000 income to Sage Gateshead.

Saltwell Museum at the Shipley

A gallery within the Shipley Art Gallery has been fitted out to provide a space with flexible display casing and structures to house collections from the old Saltwell Park Museum, originally conceived as Gateshead's 'Local and Industrial Museum', that closed in 1969. The new gallery at the Shipley Art Gallery was opened by the Mayor of Gateshead at a well-attended public event on 11 June 2016.

The Saltwell Park Museum collections are wide-ranging and include local history, natural history and decorative art. They are complemented in the new gallery by film footage of Gateshead in the 1960s. A jukebox in the gallery contains music from around 1933 when the Saltwell Park Museum opened and from around 1969 when it closed. Initial feedback on the gallery has been extremely positive.

I AM TEAM GB

On Saturday 27 August, hundreds of thousands of people across the UK kicked off the bank holiday weekend by looking for ways to get out and get active in their community.

Sponsored by ITV and The National Lottery, and supported by 'Join In' and the British Olympic Association, I AM TEAM GB was the nation's biggest ever sports day.

There were thousands of events across the country, with one televised event held in an iconic venue in each of ITV's broadcasting regions. Gateshead International Stadium was chosen as the venue for the Tyne Tees area and was broadcast live on ITV.

The celebration event at the stadium saw over 1,000 local people taking part in a whole range of exciting Olympic sports including track, throwing and jumping events, rowing, tennis and trampolining.

Participants were also given the chance to meet Olympic athletes including silver medallist gymnast on the trampoline, Bryony Page; bronze medallist in gymnastics, Amy Tinkler; as well as swimmer Amy Willmott and silver medallist rowers Katie Greves, Jessica Eddie (pictured above) and Zoe Lee. They all took time out of their busy schedules to promote the fun, excitement and health benefits of regular participation in sport and to hopefully inspire the next generation of budding Olympians.

The event at Gateshead International Stadium received great media coverage with both local and national news reports.

Chase Park Archaeology Project

Following the successful allocation of a Heritage Lottery Grant for the improvement of Chase Park in Whickham, the first of many engagement events identified in the community engagement plan took place on 24 June.

The Chase Park Archaeology Event gave 140 Year 5 pupils from the local Primary Schools in Whickham an opportunity to learn about what the park was like back in the 1700's.

The second part of the archaeology project will involve a smaller cohort of secondary school students working with the archaeologists from Durham University. This is planned to be delivered in late September.

Great North 10K

The Great North 10K took place on 3 July.

The event was sold out two weeks prior to the day – with over 6,000 participants taking part. The atmosphere was great and the weather was kind, offering wall to wall sunshine for the duration of the event.

Reading Partners Roadshow

On 22 – 23 June, the Reading Agency held their annual Reading Partners Roadshow at Gateshead Central Library – the first day was for children’s publishers and the second day for adult publishers. Librarians from throughout the North East region were invited to attend the roadshows.

English Schools Athletics Association

The Council successfully supported the hosting and delivery of the National Track & Field Championships in July.

There were over 1000 elite junior athletes involved in the Championships and these were cheered on by more than 9,000 spectators over what proved to be two sunny days in Gateshead.

Digital Update

The Council has been successful in securing £40k funding from the Arts Council Grants for the Arts Libraries Fund. The fund supports public library-led projects that stimulate partnerships between libraries, artists and arts organisations, encouraging communities to participate actively in artistic and cultural activities.

Digital Makings is a year-long programme of participatory Digital Arts activities encompassing a broad range of specialisms for people to discover and explore and will run until July 2017.

Make Art Happen & Chalk

Officers are working with Helix Arts to recruit eight artists who are interested in learning how to design, manage and deliver effective participatory arts projects. The programme is aimed at artists beginning to deliver participatory workshops, both emerging artists or established studio based artists who are expanding their practice into the participatory arts field.

The Council worked in partnership with Chalk to present a Cineplay Festival in Gateshead. The Festival, which ran across Newcastle and Gateshead from 19 - 21 August, involved three days of playful, immersive cinema, workshops and activities for young children and their families.

The Festival also featured scooter adventures, secret screenings, live scores, coding, dancing, baby power ballads and more.

Family Challenge Trail

A Family Challenge Trail was launched this summer to encourage families to be more active and healthy in a safe and fun environment.

The initiative, delivered as part of the Council's Get Active programme, consists of orienteering style challenges at a number of venues across Gateshead.

The programme will enable the service to engage more families from across Gateshead in health and wellbeing activity.

5. CONCLUSION

The Council is asked to note this report.