



Notice of a Meeting of the

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Proceedings of the
Borough Council and reports to Council**

December 2022/January 2023

**Councillor Stuart Smith
Mayor**

**J Sampson
Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)**

REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That a meeting of the Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council will be held on Thursday 12 January 2023 at 2pm in the Civic Centre, Ridley Street, Redcar and all and several Members of the said Council are hereby summoned to attend.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present.

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
- 2. To receive Declarations of Interest.**
- 3. To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2022.**
- 4. To note the attendance matrix from the last meeting**
- 5. To receive any Announcements from the Mayor, the Leader of the Council or Cabinet Members.**
- 6. To receive any Announcements from the Managing Director (Head of Paid Service).**
- 7. To consider Questions from the Public for which Notice has been given.**
- 8. To consider and agree any Reports from the Cabinet and the Council's Committees.**

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Minute No</u>	<u>Report Title</u>
A.	12.01.23	Council		Children in our Care & Care Leavers Update Report

- 9. To receive Reports from Portfolio Holders.**

**A) Report of the Cabinet Member for Adults
(HEREWITH)**

(A period of 10 minutes, or such longer period at the discretion of the Mayor, will be set aside for questions which must be succinct and relate directly to matters within the report).

10. To consider Reports.

Report of the Leader of the Council:

A) Decisions Taken Under Urgency Provisions (HEREWITH)

Reports of the Governance Director and Monitoring Officer:

B) Review of Proportionality and Distribution of Seats (TO FOLLOW)

11. To consider Motions.

12. To appoint Members.

Where there are vacancies or changes in appointment:

- To appoint Members of Council Bodies and Representatives to serve on other bodies to which Members are appointed by the Council; and
- To approve any changes to Committee membership and to appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs where appropriate.

13. To reply to Questions from Members of the Council.

Questions to the Chair, Members of the Cabinet, Chairs of any Committee or Sub-Committee, Members of the Fire Authority, Police and Crime Panel or the Tees Valley Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee, for which notice has been given.



JOHN SAMPSON

Managing Director (Head of Paid Service)
Redcar and Cleveland House
Kirkleatham Street
Redcar
Yorkshire
TS10 1RT

4 January 2023

24 NOVEMBER 2022

BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Borough Council was held on 24 November 2022 in the Civic Centre, Redcar.

PRESENT His Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Stuart Smith),
Councillors Baldwin, Barnes, Brady, Brook, Brown,
B Clarke, R Clark, Craig, Cutler, Davies, Fletcher, Foggo,
Gallacher, Gray, Griffiths, Hannaway, Head, Holyoake,
C Holmes, L Holmes, Hunt, S Jeffrey, Jones, Kay, King,
Lanigan, Lockwood, Massey, Morgan, G Nightingale,
I Nightingale, Ovens, Pallister, C Quartermain,
L Quartermain, Rees, Richardson, Rider, Sandra Smith,
V Smith, Thomson, Watts, Wells and Westbury.

OFFICIALS K Boulton, D Boville, E Dale, S Newton, P Rice,
J Sampson, C Styles and P Winstanley.

The Mayor announced the sad death of Councillor Foley-McCormack and former Councillor Sylvia Szintai and Members joined him in a minute's silence as a mark of respect and paid tribute to them.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ayre, Berry, Cawley, Dowson, Fisher, Lax-Keller, Moody, Turner, Waterfield, Williams and Wilson.

37. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record and the attendance matrix be noted.

38. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

38.01 **Mayor's Announcements:**

"An award has been received for participation in the Queen's Baton Relay. Can I ask Patrick Rice and Councillor Westbury to come forward to receive the award.

I would like to thank everybody involved in the Remembrance Services and Parades throughout the Borough on Remembrance weekend, there was a fantastic turnout from the public in Redcar and throughout the area and it was good to see the local Community, British Legion and Council came together to ensure that everything went smoothly.

Thank you to those who attended and supported my charity night at Coco and Rum raising over £870.

It is a tradition that the Mayor leads out the charity boxing day dip in Redcar. This year I intend to join the dippers to raise funds for my chosen charities, my costume has been purchased and I hope you will support and sponsor me in my endeavours.

I will be switching on the Redcar Christmas lights this Sunday and as this is the last full Council meeting before Christmas I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2023.”

38.02 Leader’s Announcements:

We are all well aware of the finances and what is happening in the UK with Central Government and I just want to take this opportunity while I can. We have had 11 years of austerity and the situation is getting worse. I want to thank all the Councillor’s who came to look at our budgets and I am sure that you are well aware that Local Government have not been awarded very much at all this year. and it seems that what we are getting out of the Ministers is that you put that on the residents of your borough. The residents of this borough have had enough, I think, and we are going to have to do something to balance the books and I absolutely understand that we have statutory services that we have to honour here. We have been short changed, and I have written to the Prime Minister and the Ministers and I have spoken to out MP’s but I am not getting anything back and it seems that as Local Councils we are on our own.

I had a meeting with the 12 northern councils, and we are all in the same position and it is impacting on Adult and Children’s Services and things that we cannot control as they are statutory. We are doing the best we can but the people who are going to suffer are the people out there and we are doing everything we can as a Council to try and support them. This is not just the people we looked after during Covid or people who were out of work, it has gone to the next level, we have families who are working who are now starting to struggle. I understand having watched the Prime Minister and Ministers that this is going to go on during 2023, 2024 and possible even 2025 which does not bode well for our residents. I understand that because we did not get anything about levelling up and it is coming in on the 7th December where before it always looked like it was going to be alright because we did not get the first round, now I am even doubting that and I do not know where that is going to go to.

Fortunately for Redcar Town Board deal the finance was already signed so it was not the case of that being pulled back, so we have got that so with the cost of living rise we have at the moment and the cost of all the products coming in we do not know how we will manage it. I wanted to take this opportunity of thanking all of you for coming forward to help us to see what we can do with the budget and mitigate as much damage out there as we possibly can for the residents.

Yesterday marked a sad day for our borough with the Redcar blast

furnace being demolished.

The steelworks has played a huge part in the lives of many families in our borough and it will be strange not to see the structure on the horizon.

However, we must provide attractive jobs for our residents and developing the industries of the future gives us a real chance to do that. We now hope the development of Teesworks will attract more industry-leading companies from across the world to provide these jobs for future generations.

I would like to thank all members, residents and volunteers from the Royal British Legion who contributed towards remembering all servicemen and women who served their country with great honour.

We have a tradition in our borough of showing respect to the fallen and I'm glad to say this year was no exception. I hope and expect this will continue into the future

Members may be aware that we celebrated our centenary this month.

The first meeting of Redcar Borough Council was held on November 9th, 1922. There was a huge demand for tickets and around 2,000 members of the public attended, with hundreds more outside.

Over the years, different councils were formed and eventually became the council we represent today. They were all at the centre of society and provided help to those in need.

Throughout all the challenges for local government, that remains the case today and I'm sure all members are proud of their support for their residents.

Last time we met we were on the brink of the opening night for The Regent.

The first few weeks have been hugely encouraging with brilliant ticket sales and positive feedback from the public. I look forward to this continuing and all our residents having the opportunity to watch the best films at an affordable price in a venue we can all be proud of.

It is good to see two businesses moving into the former Barclays Banks building in Loftus.

Restoration work has brought the building back to life so it can now be used for the benefit of the community.

Christmas is still some weeks away but the celebrations will start very

soon with lights switch-ons and parades across our borough.

There are extensive plans to mark the festive season, organised both by the council and the many volunteers who bring cheer to our communities.

The past few years have been very challenging and this year is no different, but I'm sure people will appreciate the opportunity to celebrate and spend time with their loved ones.

Members I think you will all be aware that there was to be a motion today from Councillor Lockwood with regard to looking at how this Council operates in the future. Councillor Lockwood has withdrawn that motion and I have spoken with him, Councillor Wells and Councillor Barnes. A Councillor came down from Richmond and the LGA to talk about this. It was felt that something this critical needed to be looked at in depth. There are different options and I never worked in the old system that was here at the Council before but there are variations to that. We looked at Richmond, it is a smaller Authority without any Children's Services and with a very small budget. They have actually asked that we have a look, if a group can be put together across the Council, to see what it would be like with any changes we could put in and bring it back to Council. Let's have a look and see if we are operating in the best way we can as there are a number of options without going to a committee system. I know Hartlepool have that at the moment but there are pros and cons so if we are going to change anything we need to have a look first and see where we go with this."

38.03 Cabinet Member for Resources Announcement:-

"I want to take this opportunity to thank Members for attending and contributing to the Member's briefing on our finances. I am sure this will help in this dire situation. A matrix has been produced following the contribution of Members, and the ideas that have been put forward are and will be taken into account. I want to reiterate what the Leader has just said that we very much welcome ideas from the Council to deal with what is probably an unprecedented situation for the Council."

39. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Councillor Gallacher presented a report which gave an update on his portfolio and answered Members' questions in relation to it: - **NOTED.**

40. MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME.

The Governance Director and Monitoring Officer sought a decision from the Borough Council with regard to the Members' Allowance Scheme given the outcome of the pay negotiations for staff.

RESOLVED that the Borough Council approves an increase in Members'

Allowances of 1.49%, in line with the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) and affirmed the principle of converting pay awards in the form of a flat rate payments into percentages as set out within the report.

41. **TO APPOINT MEMBERS**

RESOLVED that on the successful motion of Councillor Brown and duly seconded by Councillor Pallister that Councillor S Jeffrey be appointed as Vice Chair of the Growth Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.

42. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.**

42.01 **Question from Councillor Wells to the Leader:-**

“Considering that the written word can often be misinterpreted, do you think that elected members should show responsibility when using social media and always bear in mind that when something is posted on Facebook, Twitter, etc. it is on there forever.”

42.02 **Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:-**

“Yes I do”

42.03 **Supplementary Question from Councillor Wells:-**

“Last week the Leader of one of the political groups put the following on Facebook “The Independent members of this council would not get elected if they nailed their political belief to the mast.” They referred to the independent members as being far left or far right and that some of these Members declined membership of the main parties, would not make good councillors, inferring that they do not turn up for meeting. On the same post the Leader of another political group stated that independent councillors have allegiance with a political party and I quote “the blue one” and that they stand in wards that they would not win as Tories. Do you not agree that these malicious lies are not only insulting to every independent member of this council but also derogatory to the residents who voted for them?”

42.04 **Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:-**

“I am quite shocked to hear that and there is a process to go through and whether it is Facebook or twitter if this is brought to the attention of the monitoring officer I am quite sure it will be dealt with”

The Mayor thanked Members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

Council

ATTENDANCE RECORD - 2022/23

Surname	First name	19.05.22 (AGM)	09.06.22	14.07.22	08.09.22	13.10.22	24.11.22	12.01.23	16.02.23	30.03.23	27.04.23	25.05.23 (AGM)	Total Meetings Attended / total possible
Ayre	Billy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols						/11
Baldwin	Neil	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Barnes	Alison	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Berry	Peter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols						/11
Brady	Charlie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Brook	Adam	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Brown	Alec	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Cawley	Ceri	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols						/11
Clark	Robert	Apols	✓	Apols	Apols	Apols	✓						/11
Clarke	Bill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Craig	Julie	✓	Apols 4	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Cutler	Graham	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Davies	Wayne	✓	Apols	Apols	Apols	✓	✓						/11
Dowson	Deborah	✓	Apols	✓	Apols	✓	Apols						/11
Fisher	Dave	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols						/11
Fletcher	Martin	✓	✓	Apols2	✓	Apols	✓						/11
Foggo	Cliff	✓	Apols 1	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Foley McCormack	Chris	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols3	✓						/11

Gallacher	Chris	✓	✓	✓	Apols5	✓	✓							/11
Gray	Tim	✓	✓	Apols	Apols5	Apols 1	✓							/11
Griffiths	Malcolm	Apols (3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							/11
Hannaway	Craig	✓	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓							/11
Head	Malcolm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							/11
Hixon	Andrew	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols2	✓							/11
Holmes	Craig	X	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols	✓							/11
Holmes	Lee	X	Apols	✓	Apols	Apols	✓							/11
Holyoake	Shelagh	✓	✓	Apols1	Apols5	✓	✓							/11
Hunt	Barry	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓							/11
Jeffery	Graham	Apols	Apols	Apols	Apols	✓	✓							/11
Jeffrey	Sue	Apols (3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							/11
Jones	Chris	✓	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols	✓							/11
Kay	Steve	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							/11
King	Karen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							/11
Lanigan	Mary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							/11
Lax-Keeler	Yvonne	✓	Apols	Apols	✓	✓	Apols							/11
Lockwood	Mike	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							/11
Massey	Chris	✓	✓	✓	Apols5	✓	✓							/11
Moody	Shaun	✓	Apols	Apols2	✓	✓	Apols							/11
Morgan	Carole	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							/11
Nightingale	Glyn	✓	Apols	✓	✓	Apols5	✓							/11
Nightingale	Irene	Apols	✓	✓	✓	Apols5	✓							/11
Ovens	Mary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							/11

Pallister	Lynn	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓						/11
Quartermain	Carl	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols5	Apols5	✓						/11
Quartermain	Leah	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓						/11
Rees	Dan	✓	Apols	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Richardson	Carrie	✓	Apols	✓	✓	Apols	✓						
Rider	Vera	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Smith	Sandra	Apols	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓						/11
Smith	Stuart	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Smith	Vince	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Thomson	Philip	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Turner	Andrea	Apols	✓	✓	✓	Apols	Apols						/11
Waterfield	Stephen	X	✓	Apols5	✓	Apols	Apols5						/11
Watts	Anne	✓	✓	Apols3	✓	Apols	✓						/11
Wells	Billy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Westburny	Louise	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						/11
Williams	Geraldine	✓	✓	✓	Apols	✓	Apols						/11
Wilson	Margaret	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apols						/11

Key	
✓	Attended
RA	Apologies Submitted (replacement attended)
Apols	Apologies Submitted (no replacement)
X	Did Not Attend (no apologies received)
C	Cancelled Meeting
n/a	Not a Member

Reason for Absence (NB Full details may not be provided for reasons of confidentiality)	
1	Personal Commitment
2	Work Commitment
3	Illness/Medical
4	Conflicting Council Commitment
5	Other
6	Civic Duties



Member Report

Children in Our Care & Care Leavers Update Report

Report to:	Council
Report from:	Cabinet Member for Children
Portfolio:	Children & Families
Report Date:	14 th November 2022
Decision Type:	Executive
Council Priority:	Meeting Residents' Needs

HEADLINE POSITION

1.0 Summary of report

- 1.1 To update Members of the Corporate Parenting Board about the work undertaken by the Children & Families Service in respect of Children in Our Care and Care Leavers for the second Quarter which includes July, August and September 2022.
- 1.2 This report provides a general update on activity within the Children in Our Care and Care Leaving Service; Our Virtual School Service around the work we do to support the educational needs of Children in Our Care; and information in relation to our Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) young people.
- 1.3 This report should be read in conjunction with the associated document: Lead Member Briefing: Children in Our Care Performance Data. It presents the key dataset pertinent to this area of service, along with analysis as appropriate.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Children in Our Care & Care Leavers Update Report and the Performance Data for Quarter One, are noted by the Corporate Parenting Board.

DETAILED PROPOSALS

3.0 What are the objectives of the report and how do they link to the Council's priorities

- 3.1 The objective of the report is to provide a quarterly update on activity within the Children in Our Care and Care Leaving Teams, our Virtual School and the work they have done to support the educational needs of Children in Our Care; and information in relation to our young people who are Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT).

3.2 This quarterly report links to the Council priority of meeting residents' needs.

4.0 What options have been considered

4.1 The report and performance data are to be noted only, decision/options are not required

5.0 Impact Assessment

5.1 Social Value – The Services detailed provide support to some of our most vulnerable children in Redcar and Cleveland. They seek to provide them with a service that gives them the best opportunities to thrive and develop through into adulthood and to stay close and connected to their families and communities within local foster homes.

5.2 Legal – The teams which are highlighted within this report are governed by Statutory requirements.

5.3 Financial – By providing our children and young people with the right support, education and foster homes we will reduce the number of moves while they are in our care, we will reduce a reliance on external costly placements and support our children and young people to achieve and reach their full potential as adults.

5.4 Human Resources – The report details the teams who are involved within the report. This has no impact in regard to HR matters.

6.0 Service Update

6.1 Fostering

6.1.1 The fostering team have had 12 Initial Inquiries in the second Quarter of 2022. There are 4 fostering households due to attend Skills to Foster training in September. During the Quarter there has been a further 3 fostering households who have confirmed they will attend the Skills to Foster training on 15th and 16th October 2022. There are also 10 initial assessments ongoing and if successful these applicants will be invited to attend Skills to Foster over the coming months.

6.1.2 Foster carer recruitment continues to be a service priority. Our recruitment of foster carers over the summer has seen the team attending the Festival of Thrift, summer events in Redcar and in local school fayres, as well as promoting our presence on social media. Our fostering Face Book page is being used as a platform to promote the service area and to provide information about becoming a foster carer, this is updated daily and there has been an increase in public interest and interaction. Moving forward the team have been invited to be interviewed on BBC Tees radio, it is hoped that this will be recorded and will air in the coming months.

- 6.1.3 Following a slow start in approving mainstream foster carers we are pleased to report that the first two mainstream fostering families will attend panel in October. It is predicted that there should be at least one new mainstream fostering family approved each month until the end of March 2023.
- 6.1.4 Family and Friend assessments has been an area with increased demand. There were 14 carers temporary approved between April to June and 20 carers from July to September. The Fostering Team are discussing with Family and Friend carers if they would wish to consider being mainstream carers with a particular focus on those where children have moved on.

6.2 Mockingbird

- 6.2.1 The first Mockingbird Constellation went live at the start of September 2022. We have six families as part of the constellation and two more that we are currently talking to about whether they would wish to be part of this.
- 6.2.2 To strengthen the Mockingbird Constellation prior to the 'go live date' there has been regular team building activities over the summer. Those in the constellation have met once a month for a 'coffee morning' without the children, giving them the chance to get to know each other and start to build a relationship. They also attend a monthly social event with the Children in Our Care, and children who foster, to build relationships with each other, again with the view of normalising the provision of care and modelling the activities a family unit would enjoy.
- 6.2.3 The families within the Constellation have all signed up to a Nurturing Attachments programme. This will run for 18 weeks and will be delivered by the in-house therapy team, embedding a consistent therapeutic parenting approach, which is a fundamental strength of the model. The aim of this is to upskill the foster carers and as the children move through the constellation they will receive a consistent response from the carers, that in turn will help them to feel safe and secure.

6.3 Unaccompanied Young People

- 6.3.1 During Quarter two we have supported up to 19 unaccompanied young people in our care, and 37 unaccompanied care leavers. Five young people received the right to remain during the Quarter. This entitles them to access employment opportunities, benefits, and housing when they reach 18. We reported in Q1 that there were two missing Unaccompanied Young People, this has now reduced to one after a young person who had been missing was located by the police and returned to our care. This young person has disclosed he had been exploited by a trafficking gang and forced to work. He has now settled well and is in college and recently told the social worker he feels safe.
- 6.3.2 At a recent regional asylum-seeking forum, the good practice of the team was recognised. It was commended about the creative methods that the team uses such as pictorial tools to break down barriers and welcome our young people into the borough when they first arrive. The manager has forged a reputation

regionally as an 'expert' and offers support, guidance, and advice to other local authorities.

6.4 Care Leavers & Support

- 6.4.1 Within Quarter 2 there were 161 care leavers accessing support, 124 of which were being supported by Target our Leaving Care team and 37 by our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking team. Thirty-six care leavers were over the age of 21 years old.
- 6.4.2 From the 161 care leavers open within Quarter 2, 103 were engage in Education, Employment, and Training (EET), with 58 who were not accessing any EET. The EET training officer within Target is have some positive outcomes with 15 of our most vulnerable care leavers. The most notable impact has been in the confidence of the young people, this has come from knowing that there is someone there to help them navigate through an area they have been unfamiliar with. We have also secured 4 places for young people on the mentoring programme which is a valuable way to connect care experienced people with someone who has knowledge and experience and is willing to help and share this. To support future work the EET officer has been to several meetings with key agencies to discuss training and employment opportunities this has included Teesswork Skills Academy, Triage, Grangetown Hub and Middlesbrough College Adult Learning.
- 6.4.3 The leaving care service have set up a care experienced forum that provides a space for young people to come together. The group meets on the last Wednesday of each month to discuss matters regarding services that would help them and support that is available. The group plan to formulate questions and identify any key challenges that they wish to discuss with the Director and Assistant Director of Children Services during Care Leaver week in October.
- 6.4.4 A group of 10 care experienced young people attended an overnight residential on 7th & 8th September to Carlton Lodge. The purpose was to develop relationships with one another and agree a plan of work over the next twelve months that will raise awareness of pertinent issues affecting them. The young people took part in activities they had not previous tried such as Jacobs Ladder; Problem Solving; Raft Building; Canoeing; Football and Axe throwing. Our young people told us 'It was great to work as a team', 'We should have stayed for longer' and 'it was a great day'. The personal advisors who attended the residential with the young people reported feeling humbled and proud of the achievements of the young people.

6.5 Virtual School Service Update

- 6.5.1 Our Summer 2022 GCSE's returned to the previously externally marked examination. Whilst this is provisional data and not yet ratified there does look to be some fantastic achievements that are worth celebrating. From our year 11 cohort of 25 pupils, only 3 did not receive any external examinations: one young person attends a special school, and this was not applicable to his curriculum and 2 young people did not attend their examinations. 15 out of 22 pupils were awarded external certification (9 with Education, Health Care Plan's (EHCPs) including GCSEs, equivalent passes such as level 1 and 2 awards, Entry levels,

functional skills, ASDAN (Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) awards and qualifications in Construction. All pupils followed an individualised pathway with relevant qualifications. 22 out of 25 pupils left education with a nationally recognised qualification or certification. 10 pupils gained at least one GCSE pass at grade 4 or higher (or equivalent) including 4 pupils with EHCPs. These 10 pupils gained 40 GCSE grade 4 or above or an equivalent pass. A further 7 pupils gained GCSEs grades 1 to 3 alongside other external accredited courses. 7 of the 22 pupils gained grade 5 or equivalent pass or above; there was a total of 13 grades 5 or above (or equivalent) passes gained.

- 6.5.2 By the end of the academic year, the overall school attendance of the Virtual School statutory aged cohort rose by over 4.68% from 86.90% in 2020-21 to 91.58% 2021-22. Most notably, there were increases across all key stages but especially for Key stage 3 and 4, where there has been intensive work. Attendance improved by 8.23% and KS4 by 5.57% on the previous academic year. Whilst national attendance figures for CioC will not be released until the Spring of 2023, a benchmark comparison can be done against all authorities using Welfare Call for their attendance collection (over 100 authorities and an estimated 2/3 of all statutory aged CioC). Welfare Call users' overall attendance for last academic year was 88.84%, with Redcar & Cleveland almost 3% higher at 91.81%. Moreover, R&C had less authorised and unauthorised absence.
- 6.5.3 It was previously highlighted that the Virtual School were worried about learning time lost due to the number of suspensions. However, by the end of the academic year, a total of 30 (10.06%) pupils received at least one suspension in 2020-21. Whilst the actual number of children who were suspended remained the same as in the previous year – there was a reduction in the percentage of the cohort who received them. National comparisons for this area take some time to be ratified and data is lagged by a year. However, if we compare with those Local Authorities that use Welfare Call for collection of attendance and suspension data, we can see that the figure of over 100 Local Authorities stood at 11.96% of the CioC cohort that were suspended, whilst R&C was 1.9% lower at 10.06% of our cohort.
- 6.5.4 Whilst the number of pupils receiving suspensions remained the same as the previous year, conversely the number of days these 30 pupils were suspended for increased significantly from the previous year from 212.5 days in 2020-21 to 326.5 days in 2021-22. Due to this rise, bespoke interventions and strategies were implemented by the Virtual School in partnership with our schools, and an extensive and enhanced training offer was provided. By the summer term 2022, this was beginning to have an effect. Despite higher numbers of days of suspension, VS managed to reduce the number of days suspension for each term consecutively, showing the positive impact of the interventions provided for both individual pupils and school staff.
- 6.5.5 A positive impact over last two years can clearly be seen in reference to our Personal Education Plans (PEP) with improved completion times by the end of the academic year 2021-22. The completion rates for social workers had reduced by almost 13 days from 19.06 days in 2019-20 to 5.71 days; for designated teachers, completion had reduced by 8 days from an average of 15.06 days to 6.88 days. In addition, completion time for quality assurance by

Virtual School was an average of 5 days, following the revision of the quality assurance processes.

6.6 Children in Our Care Vulnerable to Exploitation

- 6.6.1 At the end of Quarter 2, the service reported 23 children as active to our Vulnerable, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked procedures (VEMT), With 9 of these children being in our care.
- 6.6.2 There are increasing worries about the escalation in the number of children who are being exploited and the incidence of serious violence in our borough. This impacts on our children and young people who are both victims of serious injury and have a propensity to carry weapons and inflict injury on others. We are worried about the current medium of exploitation; whereby children are coerced into committing offences and into drug dealing in our communities using motorbikes, which are often stolen, ridden without appropriate authority and without safety wear, such as helmets. We are working closely with our partners in community safety and with the neighbourhood police team to address these risks and to try and reduce the likelihood of harm to our children and communities.
- 6.6.3 We submitted a bid in September 2022 to work with a nationally recognised lead Professor, Carlene Firmin, from Durham University. She is an expert in contextual safeguarding and to work with the Department of Education, in developing a pathway for engaging with children and families when there is risk outside of the family home (ROTH). We are thrilled to share that we have been selected and we are one of only three local authority applicants in the whole country to have been successful! We have secured support in developing this pathway during the next six months. This is a very exciting and prestigious opportunity for our local authority which we are being funded to trial.

6.7 No Wrong Door

- 6.7.1 Our No Wrong Door Hub has continued to offer a robust edge of care service supporting 53 young people in Quarter 2 compared to 48 in the previous Quarter. In our recent Ofsted inspection, the team were praised for the work that they have done, with inspectors reflecting 'The team provides responsive support to children and families. Mapping meetings lead to detailed creative packages of support from workers who are skilled in developing relationships and a range of models of direct work. The work is mostly helping children to remain in the family home or in supporting plans for reunification. Workers have stickability, building positive relationships and providing a high level of support and challenge to young people and their parents. Work is reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains appropriate and is effecting change.'
- 6.7.2 Our Ofsted registration is progressing with a visit to inspect the hub and interviews scheduled to take place with the Registered Manager and Responsible Individual early in January. Successful registration will enable our residential element of the NWD approach to be implemented.

7.0 Consultation and Engagement

7.1 The attached report and performance data provide a review of Quarter one.

8.0 Appendices and Background Papers

8.1 Appendix 1 – Lead Member Briefing: Children in Our Care Performance Data

9.0 Contact Officer

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Lead Member for Children’s Services Briefing

CIOC Performance – Q2 2022/2023



Appendix 1

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To update Members of the Council with key performance data that supports the work undertaken by the Children & Families Service in respect of Children in Our Care and Care Leavers to the end of the Quarter 2 reporting period, September 2022.

1.2 This Appendix Report accompanies the Children in our Care & Care Leavers Update Report.

2.0 Summary

2.1 This report provides a summary update on performance within the Children in Our Care service.

2.2 It presents the key dataset pertinent to this area of service, along with analysis as appropriate.

3.0 Children in Our Care

3.1 Table A

2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		Q1 2022/23		Q2 2022/23	
No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate
348	126.0	316	114.6	341	123.5	354	128.2	362	131.1

3.2 The number of Children in Our Care at September 2022 was 354, which is an increase of 21 children from March 2022. Between April and September 2022, 81 became children in our care and 60 children left care.

3.3 Of the 354 Children in Our Care at June 2022, 19 were Unaccompanied Children which is a decrease of 5 children from March 2022. These young people turned 18 and moved into the Leaving Care Team.

3.4 National published figures relating to children in care are currently only available up to March 2021. They highlight that the average rate of children in care per 10,000 amongst our statistical neighbours was 105.7; and the North-East per 10,000 was 108.5, at that point we recorded a rate of 114.6. At September 2022, our rate is 131.1. At this stage we are not aware of how this compares nationally and whether other LA averages have also increased in line with our own rates.

3.5 We do have access to more current data through our regional network, although not formally ratified or published. This data does provide some indication of local trends and tells us that there has been an increase across the last year, with the average rate across

the region at 114 per 10,000 at March 2022. This compares with our rate of 122 at the same point, placing us 5th highest in the NE region of 12 LAs.

3.6 It is worth noting that, if we excluded the number of our unaccompanied children from the overall figure, our rate of children in our care per 10,000 would reduce to 124.2, bringing us slightly closer to the average of 114. This is pertinent as we do have a higher-than-average proportion of unaccompanied children in our care, compared to many other local authorities nationally.

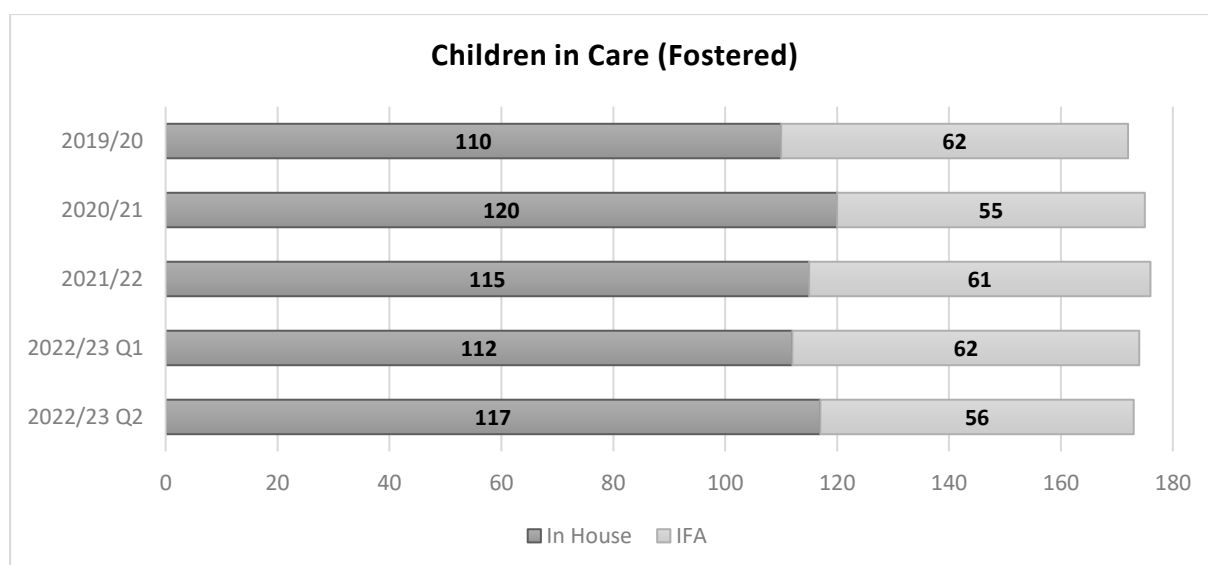
4.0 Children in Care Placement Categories

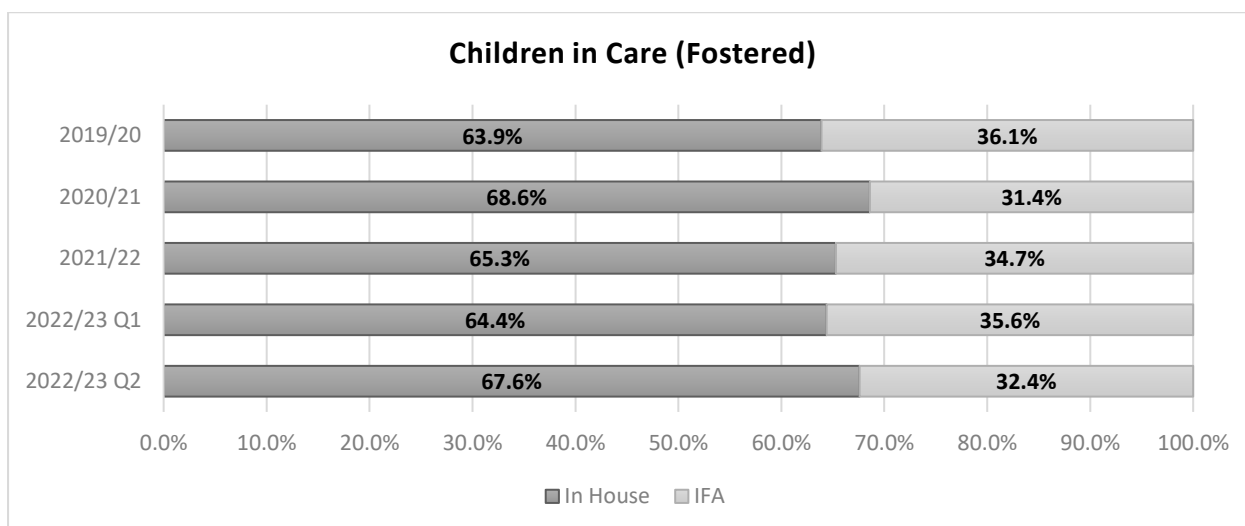
4.1 Table B

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23 Q1	2022/23 Q2
Placed with in House Foster Carers	130 37.3%	120 37.9%	115 33.7%	112 31.6%	117 32.3%
Placed with Family & Friends Carers	66 18.9%	64 20.3%	73 21.1%	75 21.2%	81 22.4%
Placed with Independent Foster Carers	70 20.1%	55 17.4%	61 17.9%	62 17.5%	56 15.5%
Placed in Residential Settings	33 9.5%	27 8.5%	27 7.9%	29 8.2%	30 8.3%

4.2 Since the previous quarter, we have seen an increase in the number of all children in our care placed with in-house foster carers with a corresponding decrease in children placed in IFA placements.

4.3 We have also seen a slight increase in the number of children placed in residential placements of one child. In the quarter, three children moved from residential placements to Independent Living and Family and Friends placements, and four children moved into Residential, three from in-house foster placements and the other from Independent Living.





4.4 Over the last quarter we have seen an increase in the number of children fostered who are placed in-house, and a reduction in IFAs. It is positive to note that we have slowly increased in the number of fostered children placed with in-house foster carers from 53% in March 2019 to 67.6% in June 2022. This remains strong against our target of 65%.

5.0 Number and % of Children in our Care placed within Redcar & Cleveland Borough and outside Borough

5.1 Table C

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Q1 22/23	Q2 22/23
Children in our Care placed within the borough of Redcar and Cleveland	198 56.3%	193 61.1%	212 62%	226 / 354 63.8%	234 / 362 64.6%
Children in our Care placed outside of our Borough	154 43.8%	123 38.9%	129 38%	128* / 354 36.2%	128 / 362 35.4%
Total	352 100%	316 100%	341 100%	354 100%	362 100%

**128 includes 8 children who are placed for adoption in confidential placements.*

5.2 Of the 128 children placed out of Borough, 8 are in adoptive placements awaiting final Legal Orders. Of the remaining 120, 92 are placed either within or very near to the boundary of the Tees Valley area so therefore still able to maintain close links with their family and friends in Redcar and Cleveland.

5.3 The number placed outside of Tees Valley boundary has slightly increased to 28 children (7.7%) children in our care. Of the 28 children, 8 are placed with Family and Friends, 5 in IFA placements, 9 in residential placement, 1 living semi independently, 2 with parents, 1 in an NHS Trust, 1 in a Mother & Baby and 1 in Prison. For these children, placements include Sunderland, Cumbria and Newcastle. As reported previously, these placements are identified for each child based on suitability and best match to meet their individual needs.

6.0 Children becoming children in our care by age between 01.04.2022 and 30.09.2022

6.1 Table D

Age at admission	Total	%	2022/23
0	19	23.3%	32 = 39.5%
1	2	4.7%	
2	7	11.6%	
3	4	6.9%	
4	4	6.9%	16 = 19.8%
5	7	6.9%	
6	3	4.7%	
7	2	4.7%	
8	5	4.7%	11 = 13.6%
9	2	0%	
10	2	4.7%	
11	2	0%	
12	4	4.7%	16 = 19.7%
13	6	6.9%	
14	3	2.3%	
15	3	0%	
16	4	2.3%	6 = 7.4%
17	2	4.7%	
Total	81	100%	

6.1 The table clearly demonstrates that infants under the age of 1 continue to represent the highest category of children entering our care by age, with 19 in total between April and September this year. This equates to over 23% of the total cohort.

6.2 When the data is sorted into age bandings of 0 to 3 years olds inclusive, 4 to 7 year olds, 8 to 11 years olds and 12 to 15 year olds, it is shown that the youngest age group equates to almost 40% of the total number of children becoming looked after in the quarter.

6.3 It is worth noting that there are 54 young people currently in our care aged 17. They will therefore either be leaving care or transferring to the Leaving Care Team over the next year, which should positively impact on overall children in our care figures (subject to numbers entering the system at the same time.)

6.4 Between April and September 2022, 60 children have left our care with 19 (31.7%) aged 18+.

7.0 Children in Our Care Subject to Exploitation

7.1 Table E

	<u>Q2 21/22</u>		<u>Q3 21/22</u>		<u>Q4 21/22</u>		<u>Q1 22/23</u>		<u>Q2 22/23</u>	
Number of CIOC *VEMT	10		12		12		12		9	
**CCE - Female	1	10%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
CCE - Male	2	20%	3	25%	6	50%	7	64%	4	44.5%
***CSE – Female	1	10%	1	8.3%	0	0%	0	0%	1	11%
CSE – Male	0	0%	1	8.3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Missing – Female	0	0%	0	0%	1	8.3%	1	9%	0	0%
Missing – Male	6	60%	7	58.4%	5	41.7%	3	27%	4	44.5%

*VEMT=Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing or Trafficked; **CCE=Child Criminal Exploitation; ***CSE = Child Sexual Exploitation

7.1 There has been very little movement in the number of children in our care subject to VEMT over the last year. The greatest area of shift is the number of missing episodes per quarter, as per the table below.

7.2 Table F

	<u>Q1 21/22</u>	<u>Q2 21/22</u>	<u>Q3 21/22</u>	<u>Q4 21/22</u>	<u>Q1 22/23</u>	<u>Q2 22/23</u>
Number of CIOC Missing	30	27	29	22	28	34
Number of Missing Episodes	111	65	93	106	140	186
Average no. of missing episodes per CIOC	3.7	2.4	3.2	4.8	5	5.5

7.3 Table F provides a summary of the number of children in our care who go missing from their home (usually a foster placement or residential home), and the number of individual missing episodes across the year. The number of individual children in our care to experience a missing episode has remained fairly static across the last year with a slight increase in Quarter 2, and the average number of episodes per child has increased from an average of 3.7 in Q1 21/22 to 5.5 in Q2 22/23 per child. This is partly due to the increasing number of teenagers in our care from 124 at Q1 21/22 to 149 at Q2 22/23.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended that the contents of this report is noted.

9.0 Contact Officer

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Cabinet Member for Adults Annual Report for 2022/23

To: Borough Council

Date: 12 January 2023

From: Councillor Mary Ovens, Cabinet Member for Adults

Ref:

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This is my fourth year as Cabinet Member for Adults, and it has been another extremely challenging year for all of us.
- 1.2 I will start by saying how enormously grateful I am to every individual working in the social care sector, regardless of role. You have been amazing throughout this very difficult period and because of your commitment, many people at the heart of our health and care system are safe and well.
- 1.3 The road to recovery will not be straightforward but I know you are doing your best to support adults, unpaid carers, and each other, in our joint ambition to serve people and empower them to have the best possible lives.

2.0 Reflections

- 2.1 When I was preparing to write this report, I reflected that much of the focus of the last 12 months has been to consolidate positive developments arising out of this global public health emergency. This included collaboration across the social care sector to mitigate negative impacts on the lives of individuals, families and the social care staff who work tirelessly to support people, their carers, and each other.
- 2.2 It continues to be a very long, hard road with everyone very tired, especially with repeated COVID-19 variants circulating and the recent emergence of Influenza outbreaks, which continue to compound the stress on the whole health, social care and public service system.
- 2.3 Social work has always been at its best in dealing with uncertainty and crisis. However, the difficulties in accessing resources to support people have placed unprecedented strain on ethical decision making and challenges the principles of human rights and social justice for those we are here to serve. What is clear is that there will be no return to the status quo after COVID-19.
- 2.4 I have been humbled throughout my four years as Cabinet Member for Adults by the efforts everyone has made to manage so many challenges and so much uncertainty. Many thanks to all of you, who have worked tirelessly during the most difficult of

times, and who stepped up to ensure the Adult Social Care response was the best it could be during such an unprecedented period.

2.5 As we recover and grapple with the changes and the 'new normal', the challenge for Adult Social Care is to take a big leap forward by redesigning and reimagining practice working alongside people, their carers, and the communities in which they live, to be ambitious for the best possible lives and outcomes for all. However, with the number of vacancies across the Adult Social Care service, the commissioned care sector, and the increasing demand driven by the cost-of-living crisis, this will be no mean feat.

2.6 **Community**

2.7 At the time of writing, we are approaching winter, and the temperature is turning much colder. This will be a very challenging season for our elderly and disabled population, many of whom are clinically extremely vulnerable. Not only will there be a physical risk to people's health from not turning the heating on enough, or not having the money to buy food as prices continue to rise, but with the dark nights drawing in and several months of a cold winter ahead, there is the very real impact of social isolation for many vulnerable people who live alone and may not see another human being for days on end. The Council commissions a befriending service with Age UK, with some really positive outcomes for individuals, but these are still limited resources for the whole borough.

2.8 I continue to be amazed by the continued dedication and commitment of our community organisations and the voluntary sector who work tirelessly, often under the radar, to support those in need and in crisis. It is our collective responsibility in these very difficult times to be more community minded, be a good neighbour and help those less able and vulnerable. If you take one thing away from my annual report this, please consider others in your local community regardless of age. We must all continue to look out for one another, take the time to notice people who may be in need, offer a smile, a kind word, or a helping hand. These things don't cost us anything and can make a significant difference to someone's day, week, and life. By taking collective responsibility and sacrificing a small amount of our time to help others, we will together make a huge difference to the lives of some of our most vulnerable and isolated community members.

2.9 **Cost of Living**

2.10 Rising costs are affecting us all and we know that the adults and unpaid carers we support are likely to be amongst those most vulnerable. The Council has put together a 30-point plan which outlines how we are going to help and support residents and Adult Social Care will be offering the following to support people through the winter months:

- Our Housing Adaptations Team can carry out ‘warm and well’ assessments for the over 65s to improve heat retention and, where needed, install draft excluders and radiator silver backing to reflect heat back into the home.
- The Meadowgate Centre will offer Fish Friday to provide a hot meal and social event for previous users of the service who live alone with no family support.
- The Dunes Bistro is exploring the use of the ‘Too Good to Go’ app with the potential to offer hot meals at a reduced rate.
- Our Reablement and Independence Team will carry out ‘warm and well’ assessments with the adults they support and aim to have a supply of thermals, hats gloves and blankets to distribute to the most vulnerable residents.
- We will support unpaid carers by giving additional funding to Carers Together to provide guidance and items to help those they care for stay warm and well.

2.11 **Crisis in our care sector**

- 2.12 As we emerge from the worst of the pandemic the Adult Social Care workforce continues to experience crisis like never before. The biggest single challenge facing our care providers continues to be the lack of available staff. Reduced workforce availability for the past three years poses the biggest risk to the welfare of adults with care and support needs and their unpaid carers. Some of this is due to sickness as a result of increased viral infections including COVID-19 and influenza in care settings, but the biggest issue is the number of vacancies in the workforce resulting from the terms and conditions, including pay. A struggle to recruit and retain high quality staff has compounded issues for providers as high agency premiums are inflating staffing costs.
- 2.13 Positively, there have been announcements of short-term government grants again to support winter pressures in the NHS. This funding can genuinely support care providers to sustain financial viability in the short term. However, our care providers and our care workers desperately need long term surety of funding, to resolve the ongoing crisis in care. I’m at risk of sounding like a broken record here, but there is still no parity of esteem with the NHS, and care workers are still only paid the National Living Wage for one of the most important jobs in society, caring for our vulnerable and elderly.
- 2.14 Skills for Care is commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care to collect data on Adult Social Care providers and turn this data into intelligence and insight which is relied upon by the Government and across our sector. Skills for Care data shows that in Redcar and Cleveland we have 3,600 care sector jobs and 3,200 people employed in our care workforce overall, meaning a vacancy rate of 9.2% or 400 jobs. This is an even worse picture when we look at our domiciliary care

workforce which has 1,400 jobs and an 11.6% vacancy rate. The data shows a turnover rate in the care sector workforce of 28.4% overall, and 21.2% for domiciliary care only. Positively, not all turnover resulted in workers leaving the sector, since 73% of starters were recruited from within the Adult Social Care sector. Therefore, although employers need to recruit to these posts, the sector retains their skills and experience. The starters rate between 2019/20 and 2021/22 decreased from 31.0% to 25.9% which partially explains the first decrease in filled posts and the highest vacancy rate in Adult Social Care since records began in 2012/13.

- 2.15 In April 2022, the National Living Wage increased to £9.50, which the majority of our care sector staff are paid. Real-term pay has increased each year until 2021/22 where it saw a decrease. Inflation increased by 7% between 2020/21 and 2021/22 meaning that the nominal pay increase was not enough to outweigh the rise of inflation over the period. This means care workers who have the responsibility to care for our most vulnerable residents, in often difficult circumstances are worse off now than they were before the pandemic. No wonder there is a crisis in care.
- 2.16 In my last Annual report, I described how the government had pledged £500 million funding to support workforce capacity and capability in the *People at the Heart of our Care* paper. This was designed to reduce the barriers to integrated working, however continued pressures on the NHS and hospital beds, culminating in prospective strikes over pay for nurses, all whilst the care sector continues to be in severe crisis in terms of staffing resources, give little hope in fixing the system in the short term. During the height of the pandemic care workers were clapped, alongside their NHS colleagues. Yet, it appears they have soon been forgotten. For our esteemed care staff, unless fundamental issues like pay rates are addressed, it is hard to see any significant change being achieved. We continue to see the hand offs that people who need care and support often experience when navigating the complicated health and social care system at a time of increased vulnerability.
- 2.17 We are continually re-developing our domiciliary care action plan to address the market issues through increasing contract capacity and initiating pilot schemes. Through our care at home provider forums, we have regular conversations with all providers to understand current challenges and look at ways to address them.
- 2.18 We have attempted to support recruitment in the sector prior to the pandemic through the Care Academy, which was initially successful in providing free quality training, guaranteed interview schemes and funding for DBS. As a result of the pandemic, courses were transferred online but enrolment figures dropped and continued to fall post lockdowns.
- 2.19 Two new care campaigns have replaced the Academy in order to try and raise awareness of career routes and attract more staff to the sector. We are participating in a national care campaign and also working in partnership with Anglo American

and other partners to establish a localised recruitment campaign “Proud to Care”, launched to increase uptake in paid carers across the Borough and tackle the increasing perception of limited development and career progression in the Adult Social Care sector.

2.20 **Partnership working**

2.21 We have well embedded collaborative relationships with our esteemed health partners in the Integrated Care Board, and the NHS Trusts. We are all working tirelessly to support each other to release pressure on the health and social care system, but this is not without challenge.

2.22 The pressure on all parts of the system is immense with regular reports in the media of a lack of hospital beds, ambulance delays and long waits in Accident and Emergency departments. To support our health colleagues, and the people who are being cared for by our local system we are prioritising hospital discharges and have developed enhanced tracking systems to ensure as many as possible adults get the right care, in the right place at the right time. However, this remains an ongoing challenge due to the capacity challenges in our commissioned domiciliary care sector.

2.23 We have daily discharge calls with our system partners to manage patient flow working collaboratively to achieve solutions to address system pressures and participate in Tees Valley Incident Command Calls which are held several times weekly, including evenings and weekends in times of severe system pressure. We continue to invest in ways to improve the hospital discharge and ensure people have the opportunity where possible to return home and enable independence.

2.24 **Managing demand in Adult Social Care**

2.25 Staffing capacity combined with increasing demand in our services is continuing to have a significant impact across the service. Actions are in place with prioritisation and risk management, sharing allocation of work across teams.

2.26 We have seen some resource improvements with a number of key appointments in the year, prior to the current recruitment freeze. Our recruitment work across frontline services continues but back-office functions are being seriously affected as key posts remain unfilled and we are dealing with increased levels of staff sickness.

2.27 The performance information available to us shows we are heading for an increased outturn in activity for 2022/23 across all activities in Adult Social Care, including contacts, referrals, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Safeguarding, Mental Health Act assessments and demand for Occupational Therapy. To manage the increased demand against the backdrop of vacancies across capacity challenges across all

teams, we have had to pause non-urgent work such as planned annual assessment where there is no urgent need, to manage the influx of new referrals.

2.28 We are working hard to reduce waiting lists for Occupational Therapy by recruiting additional staff as the rapid implementation of the Discharge to Assess policy by the NHS during the pandemic has meant a lot of the therapeutic assessments that were done pre discharge are now passed to Adult Social Care to undertake in the community, meaning the current demand exceeds our capacity. We anticipate that we will continue to see increased pressure on all our services because of current social challenges, increased complexity of need, the cost-of-living crisis, and ONS population projections, which show an expected increase of between 2-3,000 people aged 80+ in the borough in the next 5 years.

2.29 **Safeguarding Adults Week**

2.30 National Adult Safeguarding week took place in November 2022 and the overarching theme was 'Responding to Contemporary Safeguarding Challenges'. Activities included online training, workshops, and drop-in sessions on a range of different materials including how technology can aid perpetrators in their abuse. A special in person event aimed at new and newly qualified staff was delivered on predatory marriage, and a number of sessions were delivered with carers groups on elder abuse. A stall and presence in Redcar High Street promoted awareness of adult abuse and neglect, enabling the public to meet our staff and discuss any concerns

2.31 **Charging reform**

2.32 Last year I set out the government plan for Adult Social Care reform in England which includes a lifetime cap on the amount anyone in England will need to spend on their personal care, alongside a more generous means-test for local authority financial support. In Chancellor Jeremy Hunt's November Autumn statement, he put back the implementation of the Adult Social Care charging reforms to October 2025. The Department of Health and Social Care has advised it is working to agree a revised timetable, with details to follow.

2.33 We understand the purpose of the delay is to release funding that would otherwise have been spent on the reforms to enable councils to address pressures on core services, including by increasing the number of care packages delivered, which we will come on to later in my report.

2.34 We, alongside other councils, and the rest of the social care sector, have undertaken valuable work in recent months to prepare for the charging reforms going live. Whilst this delay gives us more time to address existing pressures to our essential frontline services, the Council's financial position and recent recruitment freeze has meant that we are unable to fill vacant posts, which are essential for our preparation for

government reform, as well as progressing our work on being more efficient and addressing the shortages in the domiciliary care sector.

2.35 Care Quality Commission Assurance of Adult Social Care

2.36 The amendment to the Health and Care Bill in October 2021, giving the Care Quality Commission (CQC) new powers to have oversight of Integrated Care Systems and to assess how local authorities deliver their social care duties under the Care Act, remains in statute.

2.37 The new assessment model I referenced in my last report will come into effect in April 2023, and in preparation for this we have established a number of working groups with a cross section of representatives from across the department, which feed into a programme board chaired by the Executive Director of Adults and Communities. We are currently preparing for a peer review through North East Association for Directors of Adult Social Services planned for January 2023.

2.38 Achievements this year

2.39 Despite the difficulties Adult Social Care has faced throughout the year, we have worked hard to achieve our commitments set out in the corporate plan and other important achievements to meet the needs of adults with care and support needs in our borough.

2.40 Extra Care Housing - We are increasing the availability of extra care housing across the borough due to demand and waiting lists. We currently have 4 schemes comprising of 209 units planned to increase to 325 over the next 3 years.

2.41 A new supported living care community at Hummersea in Loftus has been built for people with disabilities and older people as part of the Redcare partnership with Beyond Housing. Residents have moved into the majority of properties now at 'The View', with the remaining properties to be released by the construction company in Spring 2023.

2.42 A further supported living care community at Kirkleatham for older people and people with disabilities has commenced construction. The project group is continuing to resolve some resource queries including the need for joists so hoists can be fitted and increased door width to allow greater accessibility.

2.43 Unpaid Carers - Our South Tees Carers Strategy 2021-2026 sets out the priorities for the identification and support of unpaid carers of all ages. We have recommissioned We Care You Care for a further 12 months from 01 April 2022 to lead on all carer support information sharing on a community level. The South Tees

- 2.44 Carers Forum continues to meet quarterly and monitor progress for unpaid carer support against the South Tees Carers Strategy.
- 2.45 We celebrated Carers Week in June, where a variety of activities and events were held across the Borough from drop-in sessions, coffee mornings, sing-a-longs, and musical train journeys to days out. The week was successful in raising awareness and promoting support for our unpaid carers.
- 2.46 Mental Health Hub - A virtual hub is being developed in partnership with Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust as an opportunity for representatives from health and social care to come together virtually to discuss referrals, complex cases and link in support. The hub is planned to liaise with drug and alcohol and impact recovery service, supporting improved joint working to enable us to better meet the needs of the adult.
- 2.47 Ageing Well Partnership - A new partnership will bring together adults aged 65+, their representatives, public, voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. With an independent chair, the members will collaborate to ensure their voices are heard and their views influence our decision making and service delivery. The terms of reference for this group have been established in this quarter and the first meeting is planned for early January.
- 2.48 Community Opportunities Framework - A new framework will bring together a wide range of care and support options for adults with an assessed need, including those with learning disabilities and complex needs, and address some of the needs of adults who currently have no suitable services available.
- 2.49 Current day service providers are being supported to apply to join the framework and it is hoped new providers may be brought into the area and new models of care developed. The desired outcome is a more diverse range of care and support options available throughout the week, with opportunities for more specific services to be developed to support people, around health, education, training, employment, and inclusion, that will meet the needs of more of the adults we support. Market engagement events have taken place for providers and the framework is envisaged to start in January 2023.
- 2.50 Rota Visits Recommenced - Members visits to residential and nursing care homes have started again, providing Members with an understanding of residential settings and enable them to contribute to our Care Quality Assurance programme.
- 2.51 We have had mixed feedback from our care homes, and some have explained that it feels like another level of scrutiny and additional pressure, as they continue to struggle with resources and competing demands from multiple professionals. We will work with our care providers to review the current programme in the new year.

3.0 **Conclusions**

- 3.1 My last four years as Cabinet Member for Adults has seen Adult Social Care and our communities deal with multiple and extreme challenges. Firstly, we had a cyber-attack, quickly followed by the pandemic which we know threw Adult Social Care into the biggest crisis seen for generations.
- 3.2 Looking forward, Adult Social Care has more significant challenges ahead, which we are only just beginning. Our care sector remains fragile with a long way to go to achieve the stability and capacity we enjoyed pre-pandemic. Not only that, but a new CQC assurance programme will shortly commence, all at a time when we are still recovering from the ongoing effects of the pandemic.
- 3.3 I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for the support and proactive Member involvement at Adults & Communities Scrutiny & Improvement Committee over the last four years. Your continued support and contributions support the work that we do to support our vulnerable residents, is very much appreciated and I know this will continue.
- 3.4 Finally, I would like to pay tribute to David Walsh, former leader of Redcar and Cleveland Council and Cabinet Member for Adults, who sadly passed away in July this year. David was a strong advocate for people with care and support needs and a passionate public servant who dedicated his life to serving others.

Mary Ovens
Cabinet Member for Adults



Member Report – For Information

Decisions Taken Under Urgency Decisions

Report to: Borough Council

Report from: Leader of the Council

Portfolio: Leader of the Council

Report Date: 12 January 2023

Decision Type: For Information

Council Priority: All Priorities

HEADLINE POSITION

1.0 Summary of report

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of decisions that have been taken recently using urgency provisions as set out in the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules and that require reporting to Council.

DETAILED PROPOSALS

2.0 What are the objectives of the report and how do they link to the Council's priorities

- 2.1 This report aims to inform Members of any urgent decisions taken by the Council during the last quarter and since the last report to Borough Council on 8 September 2022.

3.0 Background and detail

- 3.1 The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements) (Meeting and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Council's Constitution set out procedures to be followed in respect of executive decision making, including delegated decisions. Notice of key and/or confidential decisions must be given in a Forward Plan and published on the Council's website at least 28 days before the decision is taken. Where a decision needs to be taken for which the required notice period cannot be given, it can still be made if certain tests are met.
- 3.2 General Exception - If the 28 day forward plan period cannot be complied with for a key decision, then the decision may still be taken if it is impracticable to defer the decision for compliance with these arrangements. If this test is met, then the decision can still proceed but the following actions must also be taken:
- The chair of the relevant Scrutiny and Improvement Committee (or if there is no chair, the whole committee individually) must be informed by notice in writing of the decision to be taken, and this notice must also be published, with

reasons for the urgency, at least 5 working days in advance of the decision being taken.

3.3 Special Urgency – If a key decision is so urgent that it is not possible to comply with the general exception urgency rules, by virtue of the date on which it must be taken, then there are some further special urgency provisions which can be used if the following actions are taken:

- The agreement of the chair of the relevant Scrutiny and Improvement Committee that the decision cannot reasonably be deferred must be obtained (or if there is no chair, or the chair is unable to act, the Mayor, or in their absence the Deputy Mayor);
- A notice setting out this position and detailing the reasons for the urgency must be published.
- The use of the special urgency provisions must be report to the Council by the Leader on a quarterly basis.

3.4 Urgency and Call-in – Where it is the application of the call-in procedure that will give rise to issues, then there is a separate urgency provision which applies if it is considered that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. If that test is met, then the decision maker may give notice, in publishing the decision, that call-in does not apply and the reasons for the urgency. However, this decision must then be reported to the Full Council at the next available meeting with reasons for using this procedure.

4.0 Appendices and Background Papers

4.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of decisions taken using urgency provisions, including links to the associated decisions records.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 Council Members are requested to note the following decisions that have been taken using urgency provisions:

- a. Approval of the use of the Household Support Fund (extended funding).

6.0 Contact Officer

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6.2 Position: Governance Manager

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Summary of decisions taken using urgency provisions

Details of the individual decisions can be accessed by clicking on the decision title

Decision	Decision Maker and date of decision	Reason for Urgency	Scrutiny Consultation
<p>Special Urgency</p> <p>Approval of the use of the Household Support Fund (extended funding).</p> <p>Value: The Council's funding allocation is £1,296,381</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources – Cllr Glyn Nightingale</p> <p>23 November 2022</p>	<p>In September 2022 Government announced an extension of the Household Support Fund of a further £421 million to be available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living. This funding covers the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 inclusive. The expectation is that the Fund should be used to support households in the most need; particularly those who may not be eligible for the other support that the government has recently made available but who are nevertheless in need. Energy bills are of particular concern to low-income households during the period of the fund and local authorities should prioritise supporting households with the cost of energy.</p> <p>The published delegated decision outlines how the scheme will operate in Redcar and Cleveland.</p> <p>Urgency provisions were applied in order to ensure the scheme was rolled out and target recipients were able to access the funding quickly.</p>	<p>Councillor Chris Massey – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.</p>