



Notice of a Meeting of the

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

September/October 2022

**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 13 October 2022 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 8 September 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.**

Questions from Terry Galloway to Councillor Lanigan, Leader of the Council:-

“By the time I’d left care I’d lived in over 100 places, as a child in care I did not think people listened. As a care leaver I felt that I left care with no voice and dumped to fend for myself.

However, in the end I made a life for myself despite the early trauma and run several companies and campaign nationally.

However, my brother and sister lost their children to the care system. The cycle repeats. My brother has serious trauma and is still butting up against a system not designed for care experienced people, he is in and out of prison, addicted to drugs and will inevitably die early. By the time he was 32 he had cost the state £1.2m. People from care are 70% more likely to die prematurely than others.

My sister Hazel, was so traumatised, abused and neglected in care and never received the help she needed and at 33 years old, after many bad relationships was stabbed in the heart by her boyfriend, 2 days after disclosing to statutory services she felt was going to die. The system is broken.

It was tragic, and it is tragic, but the real tragedy is... It is still happening.

Leader - How do you think the motion listed later on the agenda for this meeting about care leavers is going to give voice to care experienced people and what difference do you think it will make?"

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.	13.10.22	Council		Children in our Care & Care Leavers Update Report

9. To receive Reports from Portfolio Holders.

A) Report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing (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.

A) Veritau Tees Valley Limited – Approval to be an admitted body of the Teesside Pension Fund

11. To consider Motions.

MOVED by Councillor Barnes and duly seconded by Councillor King that:

Care Leavers Protected Characteristic Motion

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care headed by Josh McCallister published in May 2022 a final report and recommendations that included:

"Government should make care experience a protected characteristic" and "New legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations."

On Protected Characteristics for Care Experience – (Care Review May 2022).

"Many care experienced people face discrimination, stigma, and prejudice in their day to day lives. Public perceptions of care experience centre on the idea that children are irredeemably damaged and that can lead to discrimination and assumptions being made.

One young person told the review that a teacher had told them "You're smart - for a kid in care", another young person said "I don't want people to point out that I am in care if I don't want that mentioned. It makes me so cross – that shouldn't happen."

This stigma and discrimination can be explicit, and often comes with assumptions about the likely characteristics of children and adults that have care experience. They can also be implicit and are evidenced in the way care experience is discussed in schools, workplaces, and the media.

At its worst this can lead to care experienced people being refused employment, failing to succeed in education or facing unfair judgements about their ability to parent when they have children and families of their own.

Hearing testimony from care experienced people sharing the discrimination they have experienced, even from a very young age, it is clear that such discrimination can be similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2010). So, while there may be ways that society can help reduce stigma and discrimination, including creating greater public consciousness on these issues, just as with other areas of equality, there is a case to go further. Therefore, the government should make care experience a protected characteristic.

Making care experience a protected characteristic would provide greater authority to employers, businesses, public services, and policy makers to put in place policies and programmes which promote better outcomes for care experienced people. It will make the UK the first country in the world to recognise care experienced people in this way. As a measure, it will bolster and pave the way for a number of the recommendations in this chapter.”

Care Review May 2022.

Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives;

Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;

Care experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system;

Care experienced people may encounter inconsistent support in different geographical areas outside of Redcar and Cleveland;

As corporate parents, councillors have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by us as an authority;

All corporate parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in any aspect of council work;

Councillors should be champions of the children in our care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society;

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics;

This Council therefore resolves: -

That it recognises that care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination;

That it recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;

That future decisions, services and policies made and adopted by the Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic;

That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment;

That this Council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic. To formally call upon all other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.

For the Council to continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.

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

5 October 2022

BOROUGH COUNCIL

8 SEPTEMBER 2022

BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Borough Council was held on 8 September 2022 in the Civic Centre, Redcar.

PRESENT His Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Stuart Smith), Councillors Ayre, Baldwin, Barnes, Berry, Brady, Brook, Brown, Cawley, B Clarke, Craig, Cutler, Fisher, Fletcher, Foggo, Foley-McCormack, Griffiths, Hannaway, Head, Hixon, C Holmes, Hunt, S Jeffrey, Jones, Kay, King, Lanigan, Lax-Keeler, Lockwood, Moody, Morgan, G Nightingale, I Nightingale, Ovens, Pallister, L Quartermain, Rees, Richardson, Rider, Sandra Smith, V Smith, Thomson, Turner, Waterfield, Watts, Wells, Westbury and Wilson.

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

The Mayor announced the sad death of former Councillor David Walsh. Members joined him in a minute's silence as a mark of respect and then paid tribute to him.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Clark, Davies, Dowson, Gallacher, Gray, L Holmes, Holyoake, G Jeffery, Massey, C Quartermain and Williams.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillor Hannaway declared an interest in all matters relating to Gresley Court Saltburn as a relative was a resident.

17. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record and the attendance matrix be noted.

18. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**18.01 **Mayor's Announcements:**

- Stage 4 of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race took place in our area yesterday and I would like to thank everybody involved in the organisation of the event.
- I'm holding a Charity Race Night at Saltburn Golf Club on Saturday, 15th October tickets are only £5 which includes pie & peas, all are welcome to attend.

18.02 **Leader Announcements:**

18.03 **Tour of Britain**

Our beautiful borough was shown nationally and internationally yesterday with a stage of the Tour of Britain cycling race starting from Redcar and travelling out to East Cleveland.

Securing the start of a stage of such a prestigious event is a real coup for us and it was lovely to see people of all ages coming out to watch the riders as they rode out towards the North York Moors.

We now have a track record of hosting successful cycling events and we will hopefully see further high-profile events in Redcar and Cleveland.

18.04 **Regent**

I'm sure you will all be aware that we have confirmed an operator for the Regent.

Merlin Cinemas have an excellent national reputation for running attraction of this size and I am sure they will make a success of running a fabulous venue for everybody in the borough.

The price to watch a film will be extremely competitive and I'm now looking forward to the final preparations to be completed and seeing the Regent open its doors.

18.05 **Duncan Place**

In Loftus, work has started on the scheme to bring council services together in Duncan Place.

This includes the relocation of Loftus library and a brand-new community hall.

18.06 **Green Flag**

Two of our fabulous green spaces have once again been recognised as among the best in the country.

Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag Award was given to Flatts Lane Woodland Country Park and Guisborough Branch Walkway. The award demands very high standards and is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces. I would like to thank the staff and volunteers who have made this possible.

18.07 **Levelling up**

We are hopeful that our borough will benefit from funding from the Government's Levelling Up fund.

If the two bids – one solely for Redcar and Cleveland and a joint bid with Middlesbrough – are successful, they would make a big difference to the look of our towns and the amenities on offer to residents.

18.08 **Guisborough Town Hall**

The project to restore Guisborough Town Hall was completed with the official opening by the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire.

The transformation is a great example of how our council and its

members work with local communities to improve where they live

19. **SENIOR STRUCTURE AND REVISED SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS.**

The Council received and considered a report presented by Councillor G Nightingale and duly seconded by Councillor Lanigan, setting out the relevant considerations, following Cabinet decisions made in relation to the Senior Structure and Revised Scrutiny Arrangements report at its meeting on 2 August 2022.

RESOLVED that :-

1.The revised senior structure be noted and the implementation of the re-evaluated job grade for the post of Finance Director be approved;

2.The current Scrutiny and Improvement Committee arrangements be revised and that the following committees are constituted and take their place, with effect from the September of the 2022/23 civic year: -

- Adults, Wellbeing & Health;
- Children & Families;
- Corporate Resources & Governance;
- Climate & the Environment; and
- Growth;

3.The Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend the constitution accordingly.

20. **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT.**

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

21. **DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROVISIONS.**

The Leader of the Council requested Members note the following decisions that had been taken recently using urgency provisions as set out in the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules which required reporting to Council:-

- Provision of Supported Living Scheme at Ormesby Road;
- Contract for redevelopment of the Ridings Project; and
- Contract variation for the delivery of the Green Homes Grant

:-NOTED.

22. **REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS**

Members were requested to endorse the proposed changes to the distribution of seats on Committees and Boards as a result of recent changes in political proportionality.

RESOLVED that the proposed distribution of seats to the different Political Groups as set out in the report be agreed.

23. **TO APPOINT MEMBERS**

MOVED by Councillor Brown and duly seconded by Councillor Pallister that Councillor Brook be appointed as Chair of the Climate Change Scrutiny & Improvement Committee

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Griffiths and duly seconded by Councillor Lanigan that Councillor Thomson be appointed as Chair of the Climate Change Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Brown and duly seconded by Councillor Pallister that Councillor Cawley be appointed as Vice Chair of the Climate Change Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Hixon and duly seconded by Councillor Waterfield that Councillor Craig be appointed as Vice Chair of the Climate Change Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.

The motions were put to the vote, whereupon it was:

RESOLVED:-

1. That on the successful motion of Councillor Griffiths and duly seconded by Councillor Lanigan that Councillor Thomson be appointed as Chair of the Climate Change Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.
2. That on the successful motion of Councillor Hixon and duly seconded by Councillor Waterfield that Councillor Craig be appointed as Vice Chair of the Climate Change Scrutiny & Improvement Committee
3. That on the successful motion of Councillor G Nightingale and duly seconded by Councillor Lanigan that the remaining changes to committee membership be agreed as set out below:

Revised Scrutiny and Improvement Committees

RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

15 Members (4 Labour, 4 Lib Dem, 1 Conservative, 1 Cleveland Independent Group, 3 Independent Group, 2 Independent)

Labour	C Massey (Chair)
Labour	S Jeffrey (Vice Chair)
Labour	A Brown
Labour	C Brady
Lib Dem	D Dowson
Lib Dem	M Head
Lib Dem	I Nightingale
Lib Dem	S Moody
Conservative	A Hixon
Cleveland Independent Group	P Thomson
Independent Group	Sandra Smith
Independent Group	G Cutler
Independent Group	V Rider
Independent	A Watts
Independent	J Craig

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

13 Members (3 Labour, 3 Lib Dem, 2 Conservative, 0 Cleveland Independent Group, 3 Independent Group, 2 Independent)

Labour	D Rees
Labour	G Williams
Labour	C Richardson
Lib Dem	M Head
Lib Dem	K King
Lib Dem	M Wilson
Conservative	A Turner
Conservative	C Holmes
Independent Group	V Rider (Chair)
Independent Group	T Gray
Independent Group	G Cutler
Independent	C Hannaway (Vice Chair)
Independent	D Fisher

ADULTS, WELLBEING AND HEALTH SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

13 Members (3 Labour, 3 Lib Dem, 1 Cleveland Independent Group, 3 Independent Group, 2 Independent, 1 Conservative)

Labour	S Holyoake (Chair)
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BOROUGH COUNCIL

8 SEPTEMBER 2022

Labour	L Pallister (Vice Chair)
Labour	C Cawley
Lib Dem	D Dowson
Lib Dem	K King
Lib Dem	M Wilson
Cleveland Independent Group	P Thomson
Independent Group	T Gray
Independent Group	Sandra Smith
Independent Group	W Davies
Independent	B Wells
Independent	A Watts
Conservative	A Turner

GROWTH SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

13 Members (3 Labour, 3 Lib Dem, 1 Cleveland Independent Group, 2 Independent Group, 2 Independent, 2 Conservative)

Labour	B Ayre
Labour	C Foley-McCormack (Chair)
Labour	S Jeffrey
Lib Dem	M Head
Lib Dem	C Jones
Lib Dem	Y Lax-Keeler
Cleveland Independent Group	P Thomson
Independent Group	N Baldwin
Independent Group	W Davies
Independent	V Smith (Vice Chair)
Independent	R Clark
Conservative	S Waterfield
Conservative	A Turner

CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

13 Members (3 Labour, 3 Lib Dem, 1 Cleveland Independent, 3 Independent Group, 2 Independent, 1 Conservative)

Labour	A Brook
Labour	C Cawley
Labour	L Pallister
Lib Dem	C Morgan
Lib Dem	C Jones
Lib Dem	I Nightingale
Cleveland Independent Group	P Thomson
Independent Group	N Baldwin
Independent Group	V Rider

Independent Group	S Smith
Independent	V Smith
Independent	J Craig
Conservative	S Waterfield

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the Climate and Environment Scrutiny and Improvement Committee

Position	Nomination	Proposer	
Chair	A Brook	A Brown	
Vice-Chair	C Cawley	A Brown	

Proportionality Changes outside of Scrutiny & Improvement Committees

Employment, Health & Safety Committee

- Councillor Waterfield to replace Councillor S Kay

South Tees Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

- Councillor S Holyoake to replace Councillor V Rider

Other Membership Changes

Governance Committee

- Councillor V Rider to replace Councillor P Berry

TVCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee (named substitute)

- Councillor V Rider to replace Councillor P Berry as named substitute

Shareholder Committee

- Councillor V Rider to replace Councillor P Berry

River Tees Port Health Authority

- Councillor A Brown to replace Councillor C Quartermain

24. **MOTION.**

MOVED by Councillor Thomson and duly seconded by Councillor Griffiths that:

“This Council seeks to regulate the residency overnight in nominated streets and areas within the Borough by limiting the stay of specific vehicles.

In general terms, these vehicles in the main are technically known as Motor Caravans, although are better known colloquially as motor homes.

Many residents have expressed concern about the volume of such vehicles being parked overnight in certain areas, particularly residential areas and more particularly in Saltburn, along Marine Parade and Glenside.

This concentration of Motor Caravans has radically altered the ambience of areas in the Borough and has impacted on the use of the highway, in some cases detracting from the amenities of areas and resulting in many instances of abuse of the local environment.

Through this motion it is requested that the Council consider enacting No Overnight Parking restrictions in nominated and agreed areas of the Borough.

This is to be enacted through Road Traffic Regulation Orders or other relevant powers as appropriate to mitigate against the highway impact and other adverse effects.

It is understood that the Department of Transport has issued to at least one local authority, through special directive, appropriate traffic signage which will facilitate the prohibition of waiting of motor caravans during specific hours.

By introducing a Prohibition of Overnight Parking between nominated hours in agreed areas it is expected that the concerns expressed by residents about the impact of overnight parking of these vehicles can be addressed.

It is expected that all elected members will be consulted to seek their views and to identify agreed areas that would be subject to such Prohibition.

It is understood that full public consultation will subsequently be required to be undertaken to assess the views of all interested parties in the Borough.

Whilst intending to reduce the limit to where and when Motor Caravans can park, it is also expected that full support will be given to encourage Motor Caravan users to visit the Borough and utilise the nominated areas which are being provided for their enjoyment.

It is therefore proposed that subject to the outcome of any consultation as outlined above and any necessary approval being received from the Department of Transport or other appropriate body, this Council shall proceed to introduce appropriate Prohibition of Overnight Parking restrictions in relevant locations identified through the consultation process, and to do so at the earliest opportunity but, at the latest by the 1st of April 2024."

RESOLVED that on the successful motion of Councillor Thomson and duly seconded by Councillor Griffiths the following motion was put to the vote and declared carried:-

“This Council seeks to regulate the residency overnight in nominated streets and areas within the Borough by limiting the stay of specific vehicles.

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25. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

25.01 Question from Councillor Lockwood to Councillor Foggo, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport:

“Could you please tell us what the Council’s policy has been concerning the maintenance of unadopted roads in the borough, during the tenure of your administration?”

25.02 Councillor Foggo replied as follows:

“The Council is responsible for maintaining the roads, footpaths and associated infrastructure within the Borough which is defined as the “Adopted Highway.”

Adopted Highway means “highway maintainable at the public expense” as defined in Section 329 of the Highways Act 1980.

The Council is also responsible for the maintenance of walls, paths and roads in the Council’s parks, open spaces, and cemeteries, which although not part of the adopted highway network, are still assets that need to be maintained.

There are other roads within the Borough which are not owned by the council and would be defined as private roads.

There may be occasions where it is difficult to determine the ownership of some roads, with the added complication that they may not be constructed to a standard that would enable them to be adopted by the Council.

For a short period of time a budget had been allocated to carryout repairs to private unadopted roads due to the impact on local communities, however this has now stopped due to other service priorities.”

The Highways capital allocation is made from two grant allocations from Government which was further added to with some of the Councils own resources which were sourced and maintained through prudential borrowing. It was this additional Council resource that was targeted to

work on the wider road infrastructure to resolve some sub-standard neighbourhood estates but only to an unacceptable level and not a more acceptable adoptable road standard which was identified as one of the Council's priorities to improve the physical appearance of the Borough."

25.03 Supplementary Question from Councillor Lockwood to Councillor Foggo:

"Earlier this year the Leader of the Council was made aware of anomalies in the authorisation spending a substantial amount of money from the 21/22 Highways maintenance budget on resurfacing unadopted alleyways in the Lockwood Ward. The Leader said the person responsible for the irregularities in the authorisation process was an Officer who was no longer with the Council and that there were e-mails and a paper trail to prove this. Despite agreeing at the time to make this paper trail available to Members and despite several requests since, the e-mails are still not available. So that the workings of this Council can be seen to be open and transparent and because after over 6 months it seems unlikely that the said paper trail will be unlikely to materialise do you think it would now be appropriate to have an inquiry so that the following questions can be determined? Why was this work seen as a priority over normal highways maintenance, why was the relevant Cabinet Member was not aware of the work, why was the work was stopped as soon as the Cabinet Members successor became aware of the work, what was the substantial amount of money that the original budget authorisation was for and how much was actually spent before it was stopped. Why was there no cost code for this budget and who gave the actual authorisation for the money to be spent and the work to be carried out?"

25.04 Councillor Foggo replied as follows:

"The main question you asked was for an investigation into it, as far as an investigation is concerned, I would suspect it would have to be implemented through Council and the questions you have asked I don't know the answers to . If you submit them to me in writing I will see what I can do to respond to them but I suspect that a lot of them are not to do with my side of things but also to do with the finance side of things so if you send them to me I will see what I can come up with."

25.05 Question from Councillor Pallister to Councillor Gallacher, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth.

"What plans have Redcar and Cleveland Council put in place for struggling local businesses including the voluntary sector to mitigate the impact of the rise in energy costs?"

Will the Council consider temporarily reducing or removing business rate collection to risk closure of many local businesses and those

organisations set up to support many of our most vulnerable through the cost-of-living crisis?"

25.06 Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:

"The Council is looking to Central Government and the new Prime Minister, over the coming days to bring forward a comprehensive support package for households, business and the voluntary sector to help with the rise in energy costs. Depending on what is proposed the Council will adapt accordingly and support any implementation if/when required.

In the meantime, the Council's Business Engagement Team has regular contact with the full range of businesses across the Borough. This interaction intensified through COVID and has continued throughout recovery and now into the "cost of living" crisis.

Once legal issues are resolved with the Company, towards the end of 2022, the Business Engagement team will start to utilise the finite Redcar & Cleveland Enterprise Funding package. This grant funding will support businesses seeking to modernise and be more efficient in areas including, although not limited to, improved production, digitisation, energy cost reduction etc. This will directly assist local businesses upon implementation."

25.07 Supplementary question from Councillor Pallister:

"Our local businesses work long hours and put a lot of their money in to make it a success and the hospitality industry and other small businesses are on the verge of collapse. The BCS organisation, which you didn't mention, are continuing to see people who need help and what we don't want to see is pubs, shops and cafes and the BCS that deliver to those most in need across our Borough unable to access those vital support services. I am pleased that Government is taking Labour's policy and they are going to freeze utility bills and hopefully give help to businesses now and lets hope the BCS are included in that. This will not happen immediately so in the meantime how quick is the funding from the Council going to get to businesses as its very likely that some have closed and others will close very soon?"

25.08 Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:

"I am not convinced by what central Government are saying at the moment that there is going to be enough funding and whether it is just for gas and electricity and whether or not it is just for businesses . There doesn't seem to be anything coming out about Local Authorities and what we are actually going to get from them. I haven't heard the Prime Minister or any of the Ministers say that. I had a meeting with the LGA last week and they are as concerned and they are lobbying. Redcar and Cleveland Council will do everything they can. The last thing we want is for any

business to close as that doesn't build our economy. We will move as quickly as we can and we will let the Council know where we are with this."

25.09 Question from Councillor Pallister to Councillor Lanigan, Leader of the Council.

"What plans have Redcar and Cleveland Council and the South Tees HWB Board put in place to support local people struggling with the increased rises in energy and food costs.?"

25.10 Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:

"I am fully aware of the cost of living crisis facing the residents of this borough and want to ensure that as a Council we lead the way in ensuring we do all we can to help.

I had a pre meeting with the Health and Wellbeing Board and it was brought to their attention, not that it should have needed to be, and we have involved the NHS and Public Health. I have a meeting next week with them and this is top of the agenda.

The crisis can potentially have a devastating effect on the physical and mental health of residents, and holding gas and electricity at the rate that they are saying between £2,000-£2,500 is still going to cause devastation for these families and where are people going to find that I don't know The loss of businesses could mean more people will be out of work.

We already provide a number of services to support those in need, however I think that what we are going to find is that it isn't just the people we are aware of at the moment but that there is another tier. With prices going up whether you are working or not, whether you have children or not it's going to impact on all of us.

The meeting of the Live Well South Tees Board is taking place on the 22 September 2022 and we will be announcing our initial package of support in advance of the meeting. We will be requesting at the Board that a Task and Finish Group is established from the Board Membership to ensure that as a collective we work together in a coordinated manner in delivering our support offer. It will move quickly as we can't afford as a Borough to be on the back foot because we don't know what is coming round the corner at us. I am not convinced that Central Government at the moment have all the answers and I know the Prime Minister has just got the new cabinet in place but we are going to hit crisis pretty quickly. It is not just the businesses. We will do everything we can, and I will let Council know exactly where we are. We are pulling together now. It should not have been for me to take this matter to the Health and Wellbeing Board to say we have a crisis looming here and what are we doing about it? They have agreed and they are working alongside

Middlesbrough and with all the executives and Public Health and we should have some answers for you pretty quickly. We cannot do without the voluntary sector. Redcar and Cleveland will be opening up just like we did with Covid and getting everyone else involved as this is not a political thing it is about every single one of us being out there and helping the residents.”

25.11 **Supplementary Question from Councillor Pallister to Councillor Lanigan:**

“On the 1 September the Health and Wellbeing Board finally met with a plan to assist residents in Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough with the rising cost of living. The Leader then in an email said we cannot be complacent we need to be absolutely on the front foot but we are on the back foot. Nearly four months ago I raised this at the Adult and Communities Scrutiny Committee in a question to the Director of Public Health for South Tees. What was the Health and Wellbeing Board doing to address the cost of living crisis? We have senior representation from our Leaders, Cabinet Members, NHS, the DWP, Tees Esk Wear Valley Housing and Police, all in a position to make people’s lives better and all have the powers to do that quickly.

Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland have the most deprived wards in the country so people are already struggling and living in poverty and we wait till last week to even discuss a plan. I was hoping on my first question that you would say there are grants available for businesses and that within two weeks we know exactly who they are, what the problems are and how much they need and what support they need. We have all seen that there was going to be a cost of living crisis for some time so I cannot believe its taken this long to get round the table to discuss the most important issue that our residents face. How soon will people get the help they desperately need when there should have already been a plan in place months ago?”

25.12 **Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:**

“I can only apologise for that I was not aware that you had raised it at Scrutiny so I brought it up at the pre meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Nobody said that this had already been brought to the fore and it wasn’t even on the agenda for the next Health and Wellbeing Board. It is now and I have asked them all that were sat on that pre agenda meeting to go away because what I don’t want is when I go to the Health and Wellbeing Board is for them to say we will go have a look. I need them to have a look now as there is no point in delaying it another week. We all know we have deprivation in our areas which is going to increase but I will make sure we do this as quickly as possible. I will make sure all Members are brought up to speed and I can only apologise on behalf of Public Health.”

25.13 Question from Councillor Brown to Councillor Gallacher, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth.

“How much will the cost be to redesign and refit the Regent Cinema and how long will it take before its opened?”

25.14 Councillor Lanigan Replied as follows:

“The Regent will be a major asset for the whole borough and we are delighted to have a major, national operator in Merlin.

We are working closely with the operator and can confirm that we will be making alterations to the lobby to fit with Merlin’s operating model.

Making minor alterations to accommodate the operator’s individual requirements was always expected and has been budgeted for. The overall project has been delivered in budget, including the alterations now being undertaken. We don’t have final costings for the works but there is currently circa £200k of budget provision remaining, although we anticipate the actual cost will be well below that.

Recruitment and training of the Merlin team and Licensing is currently under way and aligns with the minor works schedule, so these alterations will not result in any delay to the venue opening. We have had over 700 applicants and I can confirm that everyone is now in place.”

25.15 Supplementary Question from Councillor Brown to Councillor Lanigan:

“Can you just confirm some of these points please? Firstly, that there was a £200,000 underspend on the build. Secondly, Merlin has described how the building will have to be altered for the service but why was the cinema built with a theatre/art style foyer as opposed to a cinema foyer. Was this an oversight or pre-emptive? The foyer has also been described as having no space for food sales and the ticket desk location will make it unpleasant for queuing patrons because of the swinging doors. The bar service area was described by the new operator as tiny, a challenge and chaotic and without a cold cellar. Why wasn’t any of this picked up at the planning stage and why did you sign it off without paying attention to these important details?”

25.16 Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:

“Yes, I can confirm there is currently a underspend circa £200,000. I can’t answer the other questions and I suppose as Leader I should be able to but this is not my portfolio. When the planning went in it was designed as a small cinema however sometimes when you get operators in they want that changing. It would seem that you have quite a list from them but my understanding is that this will move quite quickly and the cinema will be

opening as per schedule.”

25.17 **Question from Councillor Thomson to Councillor Kay, Cabinet Member for Health and Welfare:**

“The recent sea water testing results at Saltburn have shown high levels of Intestinal Enterococci and E-coli. Such levels are disappointing and given that Saltburn beach has a Blue Flag status, this is a significant negative in promoting Saltburn as safe and enjoyable place to visit and enjoy. No explanation appears to be forthcoming to provide an understanding of these poor test results.

I previously requested that additional sampling of sea water be considered. This would have taken place near to the outflow of Pit Hills Stell. It is well known that storm overflows occur at this outfall and could affect sea bathing water quality.

Given the tidal flows along the shoreline it would be very useful to have additional sampling to supplement that currently undertaken West of the Saltburn Pier.

Previous requests have been turned down on a cost basis.

Can these additional costs be advised so that a considered evaluation of the benefit of such sampling can be made?”

25.18 **Councillor Kay replied as follows:**

“In accordance with the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 the Environment Agency (EA) has a duty to sample the bathing waters leading up to the start of the Bathing Water Season on the 15 May and to continue sampling in accordance with the monitoring calendar until the end of the season the 30 September, this is usually 1 sample per week per designated beach in Redcar & Cleveland. The beaches that are designated are Redcar Coatham, Redcar Lifeboat, Redcar Granville, Redcar Stray, Marske and Saltburn. The sampling point must be located where most bathers are expected and there is no requirement to have more than 1 sampling point at each designated beach.

The cause of high levels of Intestinal Enterococci and E-coli present in the Saltburn sample taken on 22nd August 2022 was not attributed to any known cause other than environmental influences such as rainfall, sea turbulence, land-runoff, seaweed decay, bird droppings, water temperature etc. Bathing Water Quality website states that Intestinal Enterococci and E-coli present in bathing water can come from many sources including sewage, agricultural livestock, wildlife, birds and road drainage.

Discussions were held with the EA during 2020/21 where it was advised

that sample results are only valid on the day they are obtained, it is the long term calculation of results over a 4 year period that determines the classification of a bathing water. Obtaining an extra sample from an additional sampling point would only show the water quality on that particular day at that one point and presently there is insufficient evidence to suggest the water quality at Saltburn is poor and requires extra sampling.”

25.19 **Supplementary Question from Councillor Thomson to Councillor Kay:**

“Given the answer that was provided it did not address the question. The question was can these additional costs be advised so that a considered evaluation of the benefit of such sampling can be made? I accept the answer but it did not address the question. My supplementary question is that given that we do not know the answer to the first question it is difficult for me to pose a supplementary however, I will take on board the observations that were made in respect of the answer. What we are aware of is that the sample that is currently taken does not get taken where there is clear entry into the sea of known pollutant supply i.e at Pit Hills Stell. Given that we know that and given that the sampling does not take place currently within the blue flag area, of which we are so proud, the validation of that is therefore very difficult to justify. Given the inadequacy of the answer to my question could I have in writing the answer so that we can then have a subsequent discussion about the merits of additional sampling?”

25.20 **Councillor Kay replied as follows:**

“I think I can answer that without anything being given in writing. You have to understand that we are not the people who do the testing because we get a report every week and its usually excellent or good does not mean that we are doing it. The Environment Agency do these tests and they come to their own conclusions. It has to be done in a bathing water area and the Environment Agency decide which are the bathing water areas. Pit Hill Stell is not a location where most people bathe and therefore does not meet the bathing water requirements, so the Environment Agency are never going to go there to test because it is not an appropriate place as its not where people generally bathe. This is all to do with bathing waters and not the general pollution of the sea.”

25.21 **Question from Councillor Thomson to Councillor Gallacher, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Housing (Councillor Lanigan to answer in the absence of Councillor Gallacher):**

“Saltburn Ward has one of the 17 Conservation Areas within the Borough.

The Saltburn Conservation Area Management Plan Supplementary

Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to provide further information on the Council's approach to preserving and enhancing the Saltburn Conservation Area and how this will be monitored. It has been adopted as an SPD in order to provide further guidance on Policy HE1 of the Adopted Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan, which sets out the Council's policy for the determination of planning applications within or affecting conservation areas.

Saltburn Conservation Area Appraisal of 2019 was one of the finest pieces of work prepared by an officer for this authority. With a view to stopping any further erosion to the character of the conservation area, the Council consulted on a draft Article 4 Direction and draft Local Development Order for the area between 6 April and 4 May 2021.

After considering the responses received, the Council confirmed and adopted the Direction and Order and the measures came into force on the 10th September 2021.

The Article 4 Direction is made under Article 4(2) of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 and will protect the character of Saltburn Conservation Area by removing certain 'permitted development rights' otherwise allowed by the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015.

All of this good intention and years of dedicated preparatory work and legislative time has little meaning if the guidelines and determinations are not enforced.

At the decision-making stages of these Policies and Orders members were advised that adequate enforcement resources were in place and were given assurances that if enforcement was required it would be delivered.

In practice, guidance has not always been adhered to and subsequent works have not always been the subject of enforcement. Even when enforcement measures have been initiated the time scale of resolution has been of extended periods in several cases.

While this situation exists the preservation of the prime features of the town's architecture will continue to suffer deterioration.

When will appropriate staffing and robust enforcement resources be made available?"

25.22

Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:

"The adoption of the Conservation Management Plan and Article 4

Direction serve the dual purpose of;

- (1) More effective application of local plan policy in decision making on applications and meeting the requirement of the Planning Regulations in ensuring that new development meets the legal test of preservation or enhancement of the conservation area
- (2) The extension planning powers within the Article 4 area so that specific minor works are the subject of planning control where they would otherwise not be

Members will recall that prior to the adoption of the Article 4 Direction, concerns were expressed that the measure would increase the number of enforcement cases with no increase in planning enforcement capacity. Officers consulted with other Councils, notably Middlesbrough where a similar Article 4 Direction had been adopted, and the evidence confirmed that whilst there was a slight increase in the number of enforcement cases, this was not excessive and did not place an additional unsustainable burden on planning enforcement services.

The delivery of planning enforcement is fully delegated to appropriate officers, the Council has an adopted enforcement policy and established procedures for dealing with enforcement cases, it employs a full time Senior Enforcement Officer who conducts the initial investigations and the final decision on enforcement action is taken by the Development Services Manager.

In addition, planning case Officers may have a role in enforcement cases along with specialist colleagues such as the Conservation Officer.

The adoption of the Article 4 Direction and Management Plan do not prioritise enforcement in Saltburn at the expense of the remainder of the Borough, all complaints are recorded and investigated in accordance with adopted procedures and there is necessarily a requirement to prioritise some cases over others.

It is critical that if effective enforcement is to take place, the correct planning and legal procedures are followed and Officers recognise that this can result in some cases taken a period of time to resolve.

It is also the case the majority of complaints are resolved through negotiation without the need for formal action and this can also affect the timeline to resolution and external factors such a COVID (e.g. availability of specialist materials etc.) continue to play a part in this.

All the currently reported breaches of control in Saltburn are recorded and are the subject of investigation or action and the Regulatory Committee receive as part of the committee agenda an update on all active enforcement cases.

It is recognised that there is a pressure on the enforcement service but

this is being effectively managed in line with the adopted enforcement policy.

At the present time, and given resource constraints, there is no immediate prospect of expanding the resources specifically allocated to planning enforcement. However, any future review of service provision in the Planning & Development service area will consider enforcement resources and look at providing additional capacity going forward.”

25.23 Supplementary Question from Councillor Thomson to Councillor Lanigan:

“Having received the answer that there is no intention for the Local Authority to consider in the short term any establishment increase which was contrary to the guidance that Ward Members were and have been given in the recent period of at least one and a half years, that is a disappointment. Given the answer that there is going to be none in the short term, reconsideration, can I ask that this remain on the table as a high priority so that Saltburn’s Article 4 is fully respected and that it is seen in its own right and not considered to be an aspect that is at the expense of other areas of the Borough but judged on its own merits?”

25.24 Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:

“I will make sure that the Cabinet Member is fully aware of that along with our Officers and if necessary to contact you directly.”

25.25 Question from Councillor Thomson to Councillor Foggo, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport:

“The approach to Saltburn Campus along Marske Mill Lane from Guisborough Road and Black Bridge is hazardous.

From the outset of the new development in 2008 this approach was inadequate.

It is poorly served by one pavement, although this was subsequently increased in width on Elected Member request, it remains under the minimum width of new development standards.

In addition to the inadequacy of pedestrian provision the speed of vehicle traffic is above that which should be expected in the vicinity of a school.

Several requests for improvements to safer standards have been made. These include:

- No loading at any time restriction on the single pavement;
- A 20 MPH restriction on this section of highway during school opening and closing periods;
- Flashing light system to warn of approach to school;

- SLOW signage on the highway approaches;
- Correction of the erroneous signage advising of distance to the pedestrian crossing; and,
- Revealing the School sign which is quite invisible to approaching traffic.

While it is recognised that there is no significant history of accidents on this section of highway, the number of expressions of concern received by Ward members is indicative of the concerns of parents and the level of stress experienced by many.

When will these requested improvements be introduced?"

25.26 Councillor Foggo replied as follows:

"Following previous requests for measures in this location via ward members and resident's various highway improvement works have been undertaken. These include:

- Widening of the footway on the approach to the bridge. This was achieved by extending the kerb line into the carriageway to extend the footway width and narrow the carriageway. It was not possible to widen the footway from the eastern side due to the highway constraints (the bridge, drop in level and network rail land). The footway was widened as much as possible to maintain 2 way flow and prevent larger vehicles encroaching the opposite lane at the corner. This also had the benefit of reducing the carriageway width to help encourage reduced speeds;
- 20mph speed limit at school times indicated by 20mph 'when lights flash' signs - erected on each approach to school;
- 30mph speed limit extended west on Guisborough Road adjacent to the golf club to reduce speed on traffic prior to entering the built-up area;
- Speed activated 30mph sign with slow down message installed on Guisborough Road adjacent to golf club;
- 30mph signs erected on high visibility backing board to increase prominence of signs;
- 30mph roundel marking on red high friction surfacing on Guisborough Road; and
- Fencing on Guisborough Road/Marske Mill Lane north/west side replaced with new fencing.

The above measures were implemented to supplement to existing measures which include:

- 2 bend/Junction warning signs on each side of the carriageway on Guisborough Road;
- 1 Junction warning sign on Guisborough Road;

BOROUGH COUNCIL

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- 3 SLOW markings on Guisborough Road approach to Marske Mill Lane;
- 3 School warning sign on Marske Mill Lane; and,
- Pedestrian Crossing 150 Yds sign and plate on each approach to crossing on Marske Mill Lane

In relation to the requests for further measures I have the following responses:

No loading at any time restriction on the single pavement;

As there are no properties or businesses located adjacent to this footway I'm not sure the reasoning for this request, we are not aware of an issue with vehicles loading in this location? There are double yellow lines already in place to prevent parking.

A 20 MPH restriction on this section of highway during school opening and closing periods;

This is already in place at school times via the 20mph when lights flash signs however, please note the eastbound approach sign and post on Guisborough Road was damaged and requires replacing, this work is being programmed accordingly as we now have the relevant procurement approval in place for the purchase of the replacement sign.

Flashing light system to warn of approach to school;

We already have that with in the 20mph signs above.

SLOW signage on the highway approaches;

As already stated there are 3 sets of SLOW markings already in place on Guisborough Road approach as detailed above. On Marske Mill Lane speeds are already reduced as vehicles enter from Windsor Road Junction then there is a bus stop clearway marking and pedestrian crossing (with zig zag markings), there is little space for additional SLOW markings.

Correction of the erroneous signage advising of distance to the pedestrian crossing; and,

The guidance suggests that a distance plate should not be necessary for this type of use particularly as the crossing is visible ahead, the guidance suggests a sign isn't required based on the forward visibility however I would recommend removing the incorrect distance plate and maintaining the sign given its already in place.

- Revealing the School sign which is quite invisible to approaching traffic.

This has been passed to neighbourhood teams to cut back vegetation obscuring sign.”

25.27 Supplementary Question from Councillor Thomson to Councillor Foggo:

“I will just remind Members of the policy we have just agreed in the report which states the safety of highway users is of paramount importance, and I do not think the reply from the Officers given to the portfolio holder reflects that sentiment. My supplementary question says, first of all, that the road width is not an issue, it continually gets put forward as a rationale for not doing anything, so in answer to the question about there being no loading restrictions on the single pavement at any time, every Ward Member, Mr Mayor has written to, has telephoned, has visited the highways section saying there has been repeated infringement of parking on that double yellow line. Every Ward Member will refute what you have just been advised that is so erroneous, Mr Mayor I really regret that you have been asked to repeat that.

My question Mr Mayor is, please reconsider the no loading at any time restriction based on the infringement that we are experiencing. I request that the information given to revealing the school sign is done immediately. School has already commenced and yet we have done nothing despite requests from Ward Members to reveal the signage. I am not satisfied at all with the answers the portfolio holder has been given by the Department so I will write in detail with my supplementary question and share them with all Members.”

25.28 Councillor Foggo replied as follows:-

“Well, what you actually said there Councillor Thomson was that people were parking on the double yellow lines, that is not loading, loading is for delivery vehicles. If its double yellow lines no one is allowed to park there therefore, it is up to the enforcement people to enforce the no parking. As far as the signage on the road itself, as the Officers have said, there is no room for many more signs available, there are already signs on the road to restrict to 20mph, and therefore we cannot see how you can improve on the safety with any more signage, all it would do would make the area so congested that no one would be able to see the signs.”

25.29 Question from Councillor Brady to Councillor Lanigan, Leader of the Council:

“How much funding does the authority estimate is required to mitigate the expected shortfall between residents' income and outgoings?”

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

“This is a complex and dynamic situation on a global scale, let alone nationally or locally.

Supply chains are struggling to meet post pandemic demand. This added to by the conflict in Ukraine, is causing the biggest inflation increases we have seen in the past 40 years.

Because of the issues at play, the situation is very volatile. Bodies like the Office for Budget Responsibility, Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Bank of England have had to continually revise their forecasts on inflation, interest rates, and economic growth. The position remains difficult to predict and Governments will need to keep the situation under review as it develops and adjust their responses accordingly.

The average weekly wage in RCBC is £511 per week as at March 2022 and CPI inflation has increased over the 4 months by 3.1% to the end of July 22, an increase of circa £16 per week, based on a ‘In Employment’ population, of 55,600 – a crude estimate has a RCBC shortfall of £890,000 per week or £835 per individual each year. This naturally is based on a lot of assumptions and averages and will generally not be representative on an individual to individual based comparison. I know how concerned you are as everyone is concerned about this and we really don’t know we are only taking an estimate that we can to mitigate any shortfalls and as I’ve explained in some of the previous answers given today we have no idea what central government are going to do for Local Authorities. I have asked our MP’s and I know because they have had an election down there that everything I ask at the moment they are saying can you wait until the new Prime Minister is in place and so its worrying, its worrying for this Authority, its worrying for all Authorities across the country, the LGA and that is why the Chair came up to see me. I am greatly concerned about Children’s Services and overspends that we have got here but what we are going to have to do is pull together with this because this is about our residents but it is extremely concerning but thank you for your question as it needs to be out there in the public domain.”

26. **SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 9**

The Mayor reminded Members that as the meeting had lasted for nearly three hours, it was necessary to suspend Council Procedure Rule No. 9 to allow the meeting to continue.

27. **Supplementary Question from Councillor Brady to Councillor Lanigan:**

“What assessment has the administration made regarding the potential

use of reserves to address the cost of living crisis?”

27.01 Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:

“I’m not going to give you an off pat answer to this, as we don’t know what is going to happen. We have pay rises coming which of course our staff deserve and we have a shortfall in Children’s Services. The reserves that we have actually got we need to make sure that we can spend some of those if that is necessary. There are a lot of things happening at the moment and we don’t know how much Central Government is allocating to Local Authorities and at this moment in time nobody is mentioning anything whatsoever. Whether it is because central government has never given us the money that is due to us. We don’t know whether they are going to cut us and hit us with elderly care services. I notice that the new Prime Minister actually said that National Insurance would be wiped out. The main reason National Insurance came about at the time was to look after elderly care and that’s why we were all supposed to be paying it and what they are saying at the moment is that they are going to scrap that then where does the money come from for elderly care and the NHS? Does that actually mean that this Council won’t be getting any increases except a few percent which we can’t manage with and then we are going to have to be looking at other services. Our responsibility is for our residents out there but inflation is going through the roof and we don’t know as we head into winter how bad this is going to be. As far as the reserves Councillor Brady I can’t tell you that until I get all this information but we will come back to you. If we spend the reserves in the difficult situation we are in at the moment where does that leave us as we run into Winter. I will keep you fully informed and I am as concerned as everyone else in this Council Chamber with the current situation that we have got.”

27.02 Question from Councillor Brady to Councillor Lanigan, Leader of the Council:

“Has the administration written to the government to request an immediate Cost of Living Crisis Emergency plan? If so, have the administration provided them with an estimate of the amount of funding required to support our residents?”

27.03 Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:-

“We know the Government, with a new PM now appointed, are looking at emergency plans to address the cost-of-living crisis. This is thought likely to include support for rising energy bills, alongside reductions in taxation. We will wait to see the details of these plans.

We know that Redcar & Cleveland, alongside the Northeast and the North more generally have relatively higher levels of deprivation, which increase the financial vulnerability of our communities to these economic

shocks. We would hope to see the Government's response targeted to prioritise the most vulnerable.

We have lobbied Government many times on the need to level up through a more targeted approach in things like funding distribution and policy decisions, and we will continue to do so.

We will also lobby Government for the additional funding the local government sector needs to maintain the service provision for our most vulnerable residents rely on and are likely to need more of throughout the current economic challenges. I know that I have gone on about this but it is a crisis now but I do feel that it is going to get worse. I have been in touch with both our MP's and I have spoken to the LGA on several occasions but everything seems over this last couple of weeks to have been put on the back burner but now we actually have a Prime Minister in place and of course we have Simon Clarke, who is the levelling up Minister and he sits within our borders and it will be interesting to see what happens with that with Redcar, East Cleveland and Middlesbrough but I can absolutely assure you that the Council will do everything it can within its financial constraints that we have to help as many people as we can."

27.04 **Supplementary Question from Councillor Brady to Councillor Lanigan:**

"Will the Leader consider setting up a cross party working group just to discuss and look and plan forward given that is the biggest issue that we are currently facing?"

27.05 **Councillor Lanigan replied as follows:**

"That would be ideal as its going to affect every single one of us and I think that we are going to need any information coming out of central government. I have to tell you Councillor Brady that I am not holding my breath and what we have at the moment, as they aren't taxing the big companies like BP, it looks like the Government is going to borrow billions of pounds, I can't see that there is going to be a great deal left for Local Government or for our services. I think as much as we lobby and try to do everything that we can do, I think we may be short changed and I think the energy cap at £2,000-£2,500 is an astronomical sum. It will push people into debt anyway. I am not quite sure what they want Local Authorities to do but I think that is a really good suggestion you've made and we need to pull people from all areas of the Council to see what we can do."

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
Ayre	Billy	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Baldwin	Neil	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Barnes	Alison	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Berry	Peter	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Brady	Charlie	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Brook	Adam	✓	Apols	✓	✓				
Brown	Alec	X	✓	✓	✓				
Cawley	Ceri	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Clark	Robert	Apols	✓	Apols	Apols				
Clarke	Bill	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Cook	Carrie	✓	Apols	✓	✓				
Craig	Julie	✓	Apols 4	✓	✓				
Cutler	Graham	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Davies	Wayne	✓	Apols	Apols	Apols				
Dowson	Deborah	✓	Apols	✓	Apols				
Fisher	Dave	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Fletcher	Martin	✓	✓	Apols2	✓				
Foggo	Cliff	✓	Apols 1	✓	✓				
Foley McCormack	Chris	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Gallacher	Chris	✓	✓	✓	Apols5				
Gray	Tim	✓	✓	Apols	Apols5				
Griffiths	Malcolm	Apols (3)	✓	✓	✓				
Hannaway	Craig	✓	✓	Apols	✓				
Head	Malcolm	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Hixon	Andrew	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Holmes	Craig	X	Apols	Apols	✓				
Holmes	Lee	X	Apols	✓	Apols				
Holyoake	Shelagh	✓	✓	Apols1	Apols5				
Hunt	Barry	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Jeffery	Graham	Apols	Apols	Apols	Apols				
Jeffrey	Sue	Apols (3)	✓	✓	✓				
Jones	Chris	✓	Apols	Apols	✓				
Kay	Steve	✓	✓	✓	✓				
King	Karen	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Lanigan	Mary	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Lax-Keeler	Yvonne	✓	Apols	Apols	✓				
Lockwood	Mike	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Massey	Chris	✓	✓	✓	Apols5				
Moody	Shaun	✓	Apols	Apols2	✓				
Morgan	Carole	✓	✓	✓	✓				

Nightingale	Glyn	✓	Apols	✓	✓				
Nightingale	Irene	Apols	✓	✓	✓				
Ovens	Mary	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Pallister	Lynn	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Quartermain	Carl	Apols	Apols	✓	Apols5				
Quartermain	Leah	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Rees	Dan	✓	Apols	✓	✓				
Rider	Vera	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Smith	Sandra	Apols	✓	✓	✓				
Smith	Stuart	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Smith	Vince	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Thomson	Philip	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Turner	Andrea	Apols	✓	✓	✓				
Waterfield	Stephen	X	✓	Apols5	✓				
Watts	Anne	✓	✓	Apols3	✓				
Wells	Billy	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Westburny	Louise	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Williams	Geraldine	✓	✓	✓	Apols				
Wilson	Margaret	✓	✓	✓	✓				

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)	
1	Personal Commitment
2	Work Commitment
3	Illness/Medical
4	Committing Council Commitment
5	Other
6	Civic Duties



Council

Children in Our Care & Care Leavers Update Report

Report to: Council
Report from: Cabinet Member for Children
Portfolio: Children & Families
Report Date: 13 October 2022
Decision Type: Executive
Council Priority: Meeting Residents Needs

HEADLINE POSITION

1.0 Summary of report

- 1.1 To update Members of the Council about the work undertaken by the Children & Families Service in respect of Children in Our Care and Care Leavers for the first quarter which includes April, May and June 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 the 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 Members of the Council.

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 our Children in Our Care; and information in relation to our young people who are Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT). young people.

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

6.2 The fostering team have had 26 Initial Inquiries in the first quarter, with 5 fostering households due to attend Skills to Foster training in July 2022. During the quarter there has been a further 4 fostering households confirmed that they will be attend the Skills to Foster training on 9th and 10th September 2022. There are also 6 initial assessments ongoing and if successful these applicants will be invited to attend Skills to Foster training in September.

6.3 Foster carer recruitment continues to be a service priority. Events have been planned for over the summer holidays and the team have attended a number of events including Redcar Gala, Redcar Races and summer fayres at local primary

schools prior to the end of term. The team have entered a singing competition on TFM radio in June to raise the profile of fostering across the region and some up and coming events are the Festival of Thrift in September, a pop-up stall in the Dundas Arcade and a radio interview on BBC Tees radio throughout the Autumn.

- 6.4 The fostering team will officially launch Mockingbird in September 2022. As previously reported Mockingbird is an evidence-based model structured around the support and relationships an extended family provides. The model nurtures the relationships between children, young people and foster families supporting them to build a resilient and caring community. Below is a link which provides further information about Mockingbird.
- 6.5 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw29zdo_QYE&list=PLkdFp2m6d0miG4cV8irt-TjEytzjXC_Em&index=1
- 6.6 The Mockingbird liaison officer has worked with foster families to identify the satellite families within the first constellation. The Hub Home Carer has been identified and is supporting all the families involved in the project. There will be a launch event on 3rd September involving the families within the constellation. The event will be supported by the Lead Member for Children and Families and the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board, alongside members of the fostering team. The plan is they will spend the day in Saltburn at the Beach Huts, playing beach games and getting to know each other.
- 6.7 **Unaccompanied Children and Young People**
- 6.8 During quarter one we were supporting 21 unaccompanied young people in our care, and 34 unaccompanied care leavers. There are 2, unaccompanied children who remain classed as missing. Previously we had 3 however we have had confirmation from Interpol that one of our missing young people has been located in Germany and is now deemed to be an adult.
- 6.9 The team organised an event on 24th June for Refugee Week to celebrate with our young people who have been supported in the asylum seeking process. The event aimed to raise awareness of the needs of our children and the support available for them. Organisations such MIND, Cleveland Police, National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS), immigration Solicitors, Home Start and the Refugee Council attended the event, setting up stands and engaging our young people to answer any questions they had.
- 6.10 One of the most meaningful moments of the day was when the young people were given the opportunity to speak in front of the audience, introduce themselves, talk about their stories and achievements and give their sincere thanks to those who have supported them along the way and offered them a community to be part of.

- 6.11 One of the young people arrived unplanned at Teesport in October 2019 and he told the people in attendance, “In the beginning it was hard for me because I could not understand the people in this country, not just the language, but in general. I felt like I did not fit in. But after a few months, it got easier. I met kind people, I made friends, and I’ve been improving my English, which I’m still working on and it’s going well.”
- 6.12 At the end of August 2022, the government announced that with immediate effect they would be increasing the threshold for which a local authority is no longer expected to receive UASC under the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). The current level of 0.07% will become 0.1% of a Local Authority’s general child population. For Redcar and Cleveland this means 7 young people in addition to the 19 that we are allotted to take. Further to this the transfer timescales have reduced to 5 working days. The Local Authority will strive to meet this increase and understand how vital it is to support young people who arrive in our country alone. However, we do share the National view about worry in relation to placement sufficiency as well as the rising costs associated with placements.

6.13 Care Leavers & Support

- 6.14 There are 147 care leavers accessing support, 113 by the Leaving Care service and 34 by the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking team. Thirty – two care leavers are over the age of 21 years old.
- 6.15 We have 92 of our care Leavers engaging in Education, training, and employment, an additional 4 Care leavers are starting University in September 2022 to study degrees in the following areas, Mental Health Nursing, Paramedic, Psychology and Adult nursing. This gives us a total of 9 Care leavers attending University, which is something we should all celebrate as it is an amazing achievement, and I am sure you will join us in wishing our young people well. In addition, we have 6 care leavers who are in apprenticeship role’s within RCBC and one who has secured full time employment with RCBC.
- 6.16 There are 55 Care leavers who are not in education, training, or employment. There are support and development opportunities which we are promoting, and it is hoped we can continue to match some to a mentor who will support them to access opportunities as well as build their confidence. We have developed a new service role to specifically support our young people who have had challenging life experiences and are not accessing education, employment, or training. Our new officer will start in their post on 1st September and provide these young people with tailored support.

6.17 Education, Employment and Training for Children in Our Care and Care Leavers

6.18 We currently have 5 apprentices and 1 who is progressing through clearances who will commence in July 2022.

6.19 There are 3 Care Leavers who continue on the Kickstart programme. They are based in the following areas:

- Waste
- Virtual School
- Youth Service

6.20 Their programme will come to an end in September, so they will receive dedicated support to explore and apply for progression routes and permanent employment.

6.21 We are currently training business mentors to mentor NEET young people, Children in Our Care and Care Leavers to support their progression to and in Education, Employment and Training (EET).

- Number of Mentors trained: 17
- Number of Mentors DBS Cleared: 14
- Number of Matches: 12 of which Care Leavers: 7

6.22 **Virtual School Service Update**

6.23 In May half term, children who are in our care from Reception to year 3 took part in an arts day at Tuned In; the children created an array of wonderful designs, enjoyed the activities, and explored what creativity meant to them. The day was part of a national consultation about Artsmark for Arts Council England so we were delighted that our young people had their voice heard. Details of the outcome of the consultation will be shared when available

6.24 As reported previously, a main area of priority for the Virtual School remains the number of suspensions, children receiving suspensions and days lost to learning. In April, May and June 2022 we have started to see a decrease in the number of children receiving suspensions which is positive. For the previous quarter the number of children receiving suspensions was- Jan: 10, Feb: 9, and March: 10. For this quarter, 5 young people received suspensions in April, 8 in May and 8 in June. We are now beginning to see the positive impact of bespoke interventions and also the increased training provided to schools on trauma informed practice and challenge around academy and trust level behaviour policies. To date, at the end of June 22, we have had 30 different Children in our Care receive suspensions this year equating to 9.6% of our cohort. This is a reduction of 5% from 14.6% of the cohort (31) at the end of 2018-19.

6.25 Prior to the pandemic non- attendance for holidays during school term time for our Children in Care was low. This was a result of collaborative work between the Virtual School and the Children in Care Teams working together to introduce a process. Post pandemic we have seen numbers increase again with 45 school days missed within the quarter (April/May/June). Each individual case has been reviewed and actions agreed around expectations of foster carers. The virtual school will deliver training with foster carers in Autumn 22.

6.26 Children in Our Care Vulnerable to Exploitation

6.27 At the end of Quarter 1 in 2022, the service reported 26 children as active to our VEMT procedures (Vulnerable, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked) and 11 were children in our care.

6.28 As previously detailed a number within the VEMT cohort have been identified as being involved in, or at serious risk of, criminal exploitation. We are aware that this is a local and national issue alongside worries in relation to Sexual exploitation and the risk that young people are trafficked. Like many other areas nationally we have seen an increase in the number of young people who are carrying weapons and an increase in serious youth violence.

6.29 Child Safety Week was the 6th – 10th June 2022 and the VEMT team delivered a series of workshops to the Children's Services raising awareness of what exploitation currently looks like in Redcar and Cleveland. There was a focus on a recent case study and attendees were shown and asked to use the recently relaunched Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) toolkit. These workshops were very positively received, and we will aim to continue to deliver these across the service and to individual teams when it is required.

6.30 No Wrong Door

6.31 As previously shared our children's hub opened in September 2021 and has since offered a robust edge of care service. Our Ofsted registration has been progressed and we anticipate that we will open our residential beds by the end of October 2022.

6.32 The team are currently supporting 48 young people, through the edge of care model. They are building some excellent relationships with our young people and their families, and the benefit of the multi-agency model, particularly the impact of police data analyst, the life coach (psychologist), and the communication support worker (speech therapist) can be seen. It is particularly interesting to note the number of young people who have speech and language difficulties that have previously been undetected. Out of the 48 young people, 22 have been engaged by the speech therapist with 16 identified as having a speech and language need (73% of the 22).

6.33 We look forward to our residential setting opening so that we can further expand this work in accordance with the model.

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

9.1 Name: Victoria McLeod

9.2 Position: Assistant Director for Children's Social Care & Early Help

9.3 Email Address: Victoria.McLeod@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

9.4 Telephone Number: 01642 771674

Lead Member for Children’s Services Briefing

CIOC Performance – Q1 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 1 reporting period, June 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		Q1 2021/22		Q2 2021/22		Q3 2021/22		Q4 2021/22		Q1 2022/23	
No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate	No	Rate
348	126.0	316	114.6	320	115.9	328	118.8	334	121.0	341	123.5	354	128.2

- 3.2 The number of Children in Our Care at June 2022 was 354, which is an increase of 13 children from March 2022. In the quarter, 39 became children in our care and 26 left care.
- 3.3 Between March 2021 and March 2022 there was a gradual increase of an average of 1.6% each quarter, from 316 children in our care to 337. The rate of increase over the last quarter, however, has risen more sharply, with an almost 5% increase from 337 to 354. We now have the highest number of children in care since May 2020, when there were 360.
- 3.4 Of the 354 Children in Our Care at June 2022, 21 were Unaccompanied Children. This is a decrease of 3 children from March 2022. These 3 young people turned 18 and moved into the Leaving Care Team during the quarter, accounting for the reduction in numbers.
- 3.5 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 June 2022, our rate is 128.2. 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.

3.6 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.

3.7 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 120.6, 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

Number of children in our care placements:	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 Q1	2021/22 Q2	2021/22 Q3	2021/22 Q4	2022/23 Q1
Placed with in House Foster Carers	130	120	110	110	120	115	112
Placed with Family & Friends Carers	66	64	63	75	75	73	75
Placed with Independent Foster Carers	70	55	55	53	56	61	62
Placed in Residential Settings	33	27	28	25	23	27	29

4.2 Although we have seen a further marginal decrease in the number of children placed in-house, and a corresponding increase in IFAs and residentials in the quarter, the percentage of children in in-house foster placements still remains strong at 64% against a target of 65%. Of the 9 children who left In-House Foster Placements during the quarter, 4 moved to adoptive placements, 3 returned home and 2 moved to Independent Living, so all positive and appropriate moves.

4.3 As the data shows, there were 2 additional young people who moved into residential care in this quarter. One of these young people was living with parents prior to moving into the residential placement and the other moved from living with independent foster carers.

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

5.1 Table C

	Q4 19/20	Q4 20/21	Q1 21/22	Q2 21/22	Q3 21/22	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23
Children in our Care placed within the borough of Redcar and Cleveland	198 56.3%	193 61.1%	202 63.1%	202 61.6%	212 63.5%	212 62%	226 / 354 63.8%
Children in our Care placed outside of our Borough	154 43.8%	123 38.9%	118 36.9%	126 38.4%	122 36.5%	129 38%	128* / 354 36.2%
Total	352 100%	316 100%	320 100%	328 100%	334 100%	341 100%	354 100%

*128 includes 10 children who are placed for adoption in confidential placements.

5.2 Of the 128 children placed out of Borough, 10 are in adoptive placements awaiting final Legal Orders. Of the remaining 118, 93 (75.6%) 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 is fairly static at 25 (7.1%) children in our care. 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, with some living with family and friends carers outside of our region.

6.0 Children becoming children in our care by age between 01.04.2021 and 30.06.2022

6.1 Table D

Age at admission	Total	%	
0	10	23.3%	20 = 46.5%
1	2	4.7%	
2	5	11.6%	
3	3	6.9%	
4	3	6.9%	10 = 23.2%
5	3	6.9%	
6	2	4.7%	
7	2	4.7%	
8	2	4.7%	4 = 9.3%
9	0	0%	
10	2	4.7%	
11	0	0%	
12	2	4.7%	6 = 14%
13	3	6.9%	
14	1	2.3%	
15	0	0%	
16	1	2.3%	3 = 7%
17	2	4.7%	
Total	43	100%	

6.2 The table clearly demonstrates that infants under the age of 1 represents the highest category of children entering our care by age, with 10 in total during the 3 months between April and June this year. This equates to over 23% of the total cohort of 43. 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 half of the total number of children becoming looked after in the quarter.

6.3 It is noteworthy that this quarter the percentage of children becoming children in our care over the age of 12 is reduced in comparison to previous reports. Sixty-three children aged 12+ became looked after at some point during 2021/22, with 41 of those aged between 15 and 17 years.

6.4 It is worth noting that there are 47 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.)

7.0 Children in Our Care Subject to Exploitation

7.1 Table E

	<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>	
Number of CIOC *VEMT	9		10		12		12		11	
**CCE - Female	1	11.1%	1	10%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
CCE - Male	7	77.8%	2	20%	3	25%	6	50%	7	64%
***CSE – Female	1	11.1%	1	10%	1	8.3%	0	0%	0	0%
CSE – Male	0	0%	0	0%	1	8.3%	0	0%	0	0%
Missing – Female	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	8.3%	1	9%
Missing – Male	0	0%	6	60%	7	58.4%	5	41.7%	3	27%

*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

	Q1 21/22	Q2 21/22	Q3 21/22	Q4 21/22	Q1 22/23
Number of CIOC Missing	30	27	29	22	28
Number of Missing Episodes	111	65	93	106	140
Average no. of missing episodes per CIOC	3.7	2.4	3.2	4.8	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 reduction in Quarter 4), but the average number of episodes per child has increased from an average of 3.5 to 5 per child. This is partly due to the increasing number of teenagers in our care, as discussed above, some of whom experience difficulties settling into a new home because of the trauma they have suffered prior to coming into our care.

7.4 Of the 28 children in our care missing in the first quarter, 6 have had 10 or more missing episodes (with one young person having 23 missing episodes). These young people are either placed in residential settings, Independent Living or Semi-Independent, with close scrutiny in place from their social worker and police where appropriate.

8.0 Recommendations

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

9.0 Contact Officer

Name: Michaela Bellas
Position: Service Improvement & Performance Officer
Address: Seafield House, Kirkleatham Street, Redcar, TS10 1SP
Telephone: 01642 771672
Email: Michaela.bellas@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk



Member Report

Health and Welfare

TO: Borough Council

DATE: October 2022

FROM: Cabinet Member for Health and Welfare

1.0 What is the purpose of this report?

This report provides the Borough Council with an update on progress, developments and key issues from the Health and Welfare Portfolio, over the past year.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Council Plan, 'Our Flourishing Future', set out the vision, values, and priorities for the borough. This report outlines how the Health and Welfare portfolio has delivered against the relevant priorities within the plan:

1. To improve long-term physical health and mental well-being, get young people more active, and ultimately save lives.
2. To take more preventative actions, to keep people safe, to enable more children and older people to live safely at home, with the right support at the right time.

2.2 The council has faced another year of challenges in our service delivery. The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to massively impact on lives whilst placing unprecedented challenge and demand on our services. We have continued to adapt our ways of working to continue to support and protect our staff and residents.

2.3 The service areas within my portfolio have been at the forefront of our response to tackling Covid-19. The teams have worked tirelessly in our endeavours to limit the impact of the virus. The Health Protection team have led on the Track and Trace work locally, provided Covid safe operating guidance to our business sector and responded to significantly higher volumes of queries from the public. Through our Public Health and Communities teams we have had a lead role in Covid vaccinations, interpreting the science and associated data and informing the regular communications to Members and residents. In response to demand for pop up vaccine sessions, the teams worked in collaboration with Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation and the NHS to deliver over 100 sessions across the borough. The sessions proved to be extremely popular with over 15,000 residents receiving a vaccine through the drop in approach. We will continue to work in partnership in our endeavours to ensure the vaccine programme is accessible to all and have currently embarked on two pop up sessions per week to ensure the autumn booster is accessible.

3.0 Public Health South Tees

3.1 Established in April 2018, Public Health South Tees continues to deliver strategic and financial benefits to the respective areas, including:

- A more efficient use of resources across both councils.
- Recruitment and retention of a specialist workforce; and
- Long-term sustainability, resilience, capacity, and capability to deliver public health and protection services.
- Securing significant external investment for services across South Tees

3.2 The joint service continues to benefit from shared expertise and experience in developing local services across our Empowering Communities and Health Protection teams; and developing programmes such as:

- Our response to the pandemic and development of broader health protection plans through the Health Protection Board
- development of the Changing Futures programme across South Tees to coordinate our response to substance misuse, domestic abuse, and homelessness, including launch of the South Tees Individual Placement and Support (IPS) employment service, which supports people into employment who were otherwise struggling to find opportunities; and increasing the meaningful role of lived experience participation and VCS infrastructure development
- Development of our successful joint bid with Middlesbrough Council and Teesside University to develop a Health Determinants Research Collaborative
- development of our South Tees approach to the best start in life, focussing on the first 1,001 days (from pregnancy to age 2); including work with Oxford University to develop a brain science led approach in South Tees, including workforce training, shared narrative, community resource and practitioner resources
- Embedding the Head Start approach to supporting the mental health of children and young people in our schools
- Relaunched our Specialist Stop Smoking Service – bringing all service provision back in house and making Vape provision part of our standard offer.
- Developed and launched Eat Well Early Years award across South Tees in February 2022
- The Sport England Local Delivery Pilot, You've Got This, continued to pursue the vision of "Active Lives as A Way of Life", collaborating with over 50 partner organisations to embed physical activity within their practice, including supporting South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to develop a physical activity offer within their Type 2 Diabetes Remission and Prep well pathways.
- Provided free hot meals and activities to thousands of children and young people as part of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme
- Secured additional funding to develop and implement the Managing Undernutrition South Tees (MUST) service across Learning Disability and Mental Health care homes across Redcar and Cleveland.
- Building our arts and health approach across South Tees
- The progress, achievements and developments are outlined in section 5.

4.0 Live Well South Tees Board

4.1 In July 2018 Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council joined-up with Middlesbrough Council to form a single Health and Wellbeing Board: **Live Well South Tees**.

The vision for the single Health and Wellbeing board is to “**empower the citizens of South Tees to live longer and healthier lives**”.

The Board has a focus on the following key themes:

- **Inequalities** - Addressing the underlying causes of inequalities across the local communities,
- **Integration and Collaboration** - across planning, commissioning, and service delivery.
- **Information and Data** – data sharing, community information, and information given to people.

The key work of the Live Well South Tees Board this year has been:

- Developing the mission, vision and goals for the Health and Wellbeing Board to support the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and update the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Updates on the development and transformation of Community Adult Mental Health services and engagement with place-based partners to create the vision of what future mental health service provision should be
- Endorsing the Better Care Fund Planning submissions for Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. The joint health and social care plans aim to achieve the national outcomes of enabling people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer and providing the right care in the right place at the right time.

5.0 Progress, Achievements and Developments

5.1 Context

5.1.1 Our corporate priority of Meeting Residents Needs is supported by our commitment to reduce inequalities, support communities, and promote wellbeing.

My priorities in the role of Cabinet Member for Health and Welfare for the past year have been:

1. To improve long-term physical health and mental well-being, get young people more active, and ultimately save lives.

2. To take more preventative actions, to keep people safe, to enable more children and older people to live safely at home, with the right support at the right time.

I have organised this section to align with these priorities.

5.2 Cost of Living

- 5.2.1** The rising Cost-of-Living has impacted upon everyone, with concerns escalating for the winter as the cost of energy, food and fuel continue to rise on an unprecedented scale. As a Local Authority, we have worked to establish an action plan which encompasses a multi-agency approach to Cost-of-Living support for residents, with a particular focus on targeting those who are the most vulnerable and more likely to be adversely affected by the crisis.
- 5.2.2** In September 2022, our action plan was finalised and approved for delivery. One of the first steps of delivery was mobilising a Cost-of-Living support section on our website and promoting the agenda at the Festival of Thrift. The development and promotion of the agenda will continue as the support offer continues to expand and more local support initiatives are mobilised. A task and finish group has been established and will hold task owners to account to ensure we are delivering upon our proposals, to the agreed timescales.
- 5.2.3** The full 30-point plan has been made public and is available on the Council Cost-of-Living section on our website. Some of the key themes focussed on in the plan are:
- Ensuring we have a comprehensive and up-to-date signposting offer to all elements of Cost-of-Living support for residents – utilising our website and other communications channels
 - Developing a provision for ‘Warm Spaces’
 - Working with partner agencies to deliver Cost-of-Living support groups and sessions – centred around financial advice, cooking on a budget and more
 - Issuing ‘Warm and Well’ packs and working in partnership to offer some free hot meal provision to our most vulnerable
 - Working to promote affordable warmth initiatives
 - Tackling ‘Cost of Living’ related scams and ensuring product safety
 - Cross-department collaboration to ensure delivery of key actions
- 5.2.4** We will continue to develop and adapt the plan as new concerns and challenges arise in an unpredictable financial climate, whilst ensuring we deliver on the original priorities.

5.3 Transformation Challenge

- 5.3.1** The Transformation Challenge Programme was based on an intensive key worker model and community development, to support vulnerable individuals with complex or multiple needs (who were not well-served by standard approaches) until April this year.
- 5.3.2** The Transformation Challenge project has made significant progress in testing out a transformational approach to working with adults, this included intensive one to one working with an outreach approach, this way of working benefited individuals who have multiple complex issues and cannot access services in the community. We have supported people to live ‘Longer and Healthier Lives’ we now continue to safeguard vulnerable adults under the new model, Changing Futures which covers Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough areas so they can lead safe, independent, and fulfilling lives. The learning from Transformation Challenge underpins the Changing Futures approach.

5.4 Changing Futures

- 5.4.1** South Tees Public Health have successfully secured £3.11million (total) funding from the DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) and the National Lottery to support people facing multiple vulnerabilities over the next two and a half years. The specific vulnerabilities will include two or more of the following:

- Substance use
- Domestic abuse
- Homelessness
- Acute housing problems
- Issues relating to mental health
- Criminality

5.4.2 The Changing Futures Programme started in April 2022. We have 5 enhanced caseload workers covering South Tees who deal with clients who have 4 or more of the essential criteria to merit an enhanced caseload worker. Enhanced caseload workers carry a caseload of 6 clients at any one given time due to the complexities of the cases.

5.4.3 In addition, we have 12 key workers who work across South Tees with clients who meet at least 2 of the essential criteria. The key workers carry a maximum caseload of 12 clients at any given time who have fewer complex needs compared to the enhanced caseload workers.

Since the programme started in April 2022, Changing Futures have supported/are supporting 119 clients to date.

We have supported clients to access essential services such as:

- Housing solutions
- Substance misuse services
- Welfare rights services
- Domestic Abuse support
- Anti-social behaviour issues
- Mental health support
- Community based activities
- Debt relief and benefit support

5.5 Social Prescribing

5.5.1 Since October 2021, the team of eight, full-time Social Prescribing Support Practitioners have received 974 referrals for patients across 16 GP Practices, from East Cleveland and Redcar Coastal Primary Care Network (PCN).

5.5.2 Our Social Prescribing Support Practitioners help to reduce health inequalities by supporting people to unpick complex issues affecting their wellbeing. We enable people to have more control over their lives, develop skills and give their time to others, through involvement in our local community groups, such as Foodbanks and Footprints in the Community, Whippet Up', MFC Foundation, First Light Trust for Veterans, The Link, Borderlands, Community Steppingstones, The Palace Hub & Carers Together. We also provide a 'Get to know your Social Prescriber' coffee mornings within Marske and Saltburn library.

5.5.3 The Support Practitioners have supported patients to achieve a variety of outcomes, including, access to debt management support, housing advice and guidance, benefit entitlements and signposting to specialist services and social care. Following the successes within both PCN's we have now recruited two new Support Practitioners to cover the Eston PCN area and will actively receive referrals from 1st October 2022.

5.5.4 99 patients received a Personalised Care Assessment using the Health & Wellbeing Prism and on discharge 94% showed improved assessment scores. As Social Prescribing is a short/brief intervention not all patients require a Personalised Care Assessment but are assessed on entry and discharge of the service.

5.5.5 On discharge, 919 rated our service as a 5, (0 being poor & 5 being excellent), To date we currently have 109 patients receiving support.

5.5.6 This collaboration with the PCN's strengthens our connectivity with primary care and supports our shared priorities in terms of residents leading longer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives.

5.6 The THRIVE Partnership

5.6.1 Redcar & Cleveland Substance Misuse and Domestic Abuse Service changed from April 2022. The new service is a specialist integrated drug, alcohol, and domestic abuse service (IDAS) called THRIVE.

5.6.2 THRIVE is a partnership made up of key delivery partners and members of Redcar & Cleveland Brough Council. We Are with You are the lead provider for the core Substance Misuse Service, along with Harbour who provide the core Domestic Abuse service. Intuitive Thinking Skills are the third key delivery partner who provide recovery and ambassador-based programmes for people who are part of THRIVE.

5.6.3 THRIVE will work closely with a range of partners across Redcar & Cleveland to deliver essential services. We firmly believe that an inclusive partnership approach is pivotal in supporting people, so they achieve long lasting change and a healthy, well-meaning lifestyle. THRIVE have supported/are supporting a total of 465 clients to date.

5.6.4 Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Following the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act in October 2021 and the new statutory responsibilities placed on local authorities the following has been achieved:

- Local Needs Assessment completed following liaison with domestic abuse service providers and consultation with practitioners and service users
- Domestic Abuse Strategy developed highlighting key priorities and this is published on the website
- Domestic Abuse Partnership Board reviewed, membership developed, and Terms of Reference agreed.
- Subgroups to the Partnership have been set up which include the following:
 - Lived experience of those affected by domestic abuse
 - Raising Awareness and Campaigns
 - Domestic Abuse Service Providers in Redcar and Cleveland
- Services commissioned to increase support provision within 'safe accommodation' including the following:
 - Move on/Recovery
 - Family Support
 - Therapeutic support for children and young people
 - Counselling for adults

- Completed and submitted the DLUHC annual return for domestic abuse regarding safe accommodation provision and support within safe accommodation for 2021/22

5.6.5 Domestic Abuse – The THRIVE Partnership

- Change in the core commissioned domestic abuse provider from April 2022 from Foundation to Harbour
- One contact number for We Are with You and Harbour and colleagues from each organisation co-located in one office
- Already seeing the benefit where victims of domestic abuse are also accessing services from, We Are with You and Intuitive Thinking Skills
- Shared case management system introduced (based on the system used by We Are with You) and training delivered to the Harbour team
- Harbour colleagues have shadowed We Are with You colleagues and Intuitive Thinking Skills colleagues

5.6.6 New Service Provision

- Harbour took over the management of the Refuge on 1st April 2022
- Access to additional services e.g., Mental Health IDVA
- Recovery service to ensure that support continues, where necessary, following move-on from the Refuge
- Preventions service, delivery of perpetrator programmes to stop the abusive behaviour
- Increased opportunities to get the voice of the person affected through established groups e.g., Survivors group, Service User Panel (est. since 2014 and looking to get Redcar and Cleveland reps on this), Recovery Group, Digital Messenger Group
- Training on Illegal Cultural Harms delivered (Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Early Help, Safeguarding, Education, Housing Options, Changing Futures, Social Prescribers)

5.6.7 New Workstreams

- Developing a pilot for a Housing Link Worker from Harbour to work within the Housing Options Team to provide specialist support to domestic abuse victims.
- Delivery of a training programme for Council staff including the Domestic Abuse Act, definitions, local authority responsibilities, professional curiosity, disclosures and information sharing, and the role of MARAC.
- Developing a performance framework with Harbour
- Re-launching the 'Ask for Angela' scheme in pub

5.6.8 Addictions – Drugs and Alcohol (Intuitive Thinking Skills, We Are with You)

5.6.9 Intuitive Thinking Skills (ITS)

5.6.10 Led by those with lived experience, ITS deliver accredited peer-led behaviour-change and abstinence programmes providing simple and practical tools for service users to empower them to be free from addictive behaviours. One of the main elements of delivery as part of the THRIVE partnership, is intensive work with individuals who are still using substances.

5.6.11 Following the mobilisation of the partnership in April, The Individual Placement Scheme began taking referrals on May 6th, 2022. Between this date and June 30th, 2022, 24 referrals have been made to their team.

5.6.12 We Are with You (WAWY)

- 5.6.13** WAWY have continued to deliver our commissioned substance misuse service offer, now as part of the THRIVE partnership as a lead delivery partner.
- 5.6.14** Starting in late 2020, WAWY undertook a full-service pathway review and re-design project, and the segmentation process was completed on time. The result of this project is a set of streamlined, coherent and interlocking pathways which will describe treatment optimisation and provide clarity of the treatment offer. Every pathway includes a defined evidence-based set of tools for interventions and include contingency management. Treatment optimisation is about every member of staff and our service users understanding the goals and aims of their treatment offer from WAWY.
- 5.6.15** As part of the development of support for service users with criminal justice links, 3 new roles have been created and recruited to. 2 new posts are adult criminal justice workers, and the remaining role is a young person's criminal justice worker. This will also support the re-introduction of Drug Testing on Arrest.
- 5.6.16** WAWY continue to respond to increased rates of home alcohol consumption and emerging trends of novel drug use, including use of crack cocaine, gamma butyrolactone (GBL) and complex benzodiazepines.

Recent achievements for the service include:

- WAWY reached the Top Quartile for people leaving treatment in a planned way – this follows a 3-month upward trajectory for people recorded as having primary opiate use.
- The Young Persons Team successfully closed 36 young people
- WAWY have maintained excellent prison communication and currently rank 2nd in the UK with a 78.5% engagement rate

5.7 Beat the Street

- 5.7.1** Beat the Street Redcar and Cleveland set out to increase physical activity levels across the population, encourage healthier lifestyles and address health inequalities. Over the 6-week game phase, 16,852 people took part in Beat the Street, travelling 140,775 miles in total. The programme engaged with 100% of the 48 Primary and SEN schools in the area, and a further 48 teams from local community groups and workplaces also took part.
- 5.7.2** The registration data from participants provides insight on the types of people the game was able to reach. The data showed that a large proportion (88%) of players were children and adults aged 19-55 years, suggesting that families were our biggest audience. Other demographic data suggest that players were representative of the population of Redcar and Cleveland; 97% were of white ethnic origin, and 34% of players were living in the top 20% of areas of deprivation.
- 5.7.3** The game was successful in tackling inactivity in adults and children, with fewer people reporting being inactive at the end of the game, and more people reporting meeting the recommended guidelines. Of the 8,554 people who completed the health survey, 1058 adults and 266 6 children self-reported as being inactive or less active. Of these, 61% of adults and 47% of children reported being active immediately after the game.
- 5.7.4** By placing Beat Boxes outside schools and running active travel promotions, the game has encouraged more people to travel actively. Following Beat the Street, 69% of players reported that they had walked more for travel, 10% had cycled more for travel and 3% had wheeled

more for travel. 28% of all Beat Box activity took place in key active travel times for schools, with more activity happening at school home time.

5.7.5 Anecdotal feedback from players suggested that people had spent more time with their family and friends, and that the game encouraged them to walk or cycle further. Through these small lifestyle changes, and making physical activity local, social, and fun, people are more likely to maintain their behaviours over a longer term. A six month follow up survey will be sent out to players in September 2022, which will look at long term behaviour change.

5.8 Making Every Contact Count

5.8.1 We have been working closely with Public Health England and other North-East local authorities and partners over the past year to develop a region wide approach to Making Every Contact Count (MECC).

5.8.2 MECC is an evidence-based approach to behaviour change that utilises the everyday interactions that organisations and individuals have with residents to help support them to make positive changes to their health and wellbeing. There is a focus on addressing wellbeing issues (mental health) and lifestyle behaviours (smoking, physical inactivity) as well as wider social determinants of health (finance, housing etc).

5.8.3 MECC supports the opportunistic delivery of consistent and concise health and wellbeing conversations, at scale, across organisations and populations. MECC conversations are easy and should only take a few minutes of brief intervention to communicate information and signpost to health and wellbeing services.

5.8.4 A MECC website has been developed in partnership with Public Health England and local partners to provide users with very brief intervention guidance on a wide range of health and wellbeing topics. An essential element of this is the facility to signpost to local health and wellbeing services. This has been populated with Redcar and Cleveland services and will be maintained in partnership with PHE.

5.8.5 MECC is a cost-effective method of embedding prevention in everyone's business. It empowers residents to take control of their health and wellbeing. To harness the potential of MECC and positively impact on the health and wellbeing of Redcar and Cleveland residents, MECC needs to be part of a whole systems approach, championed at all levels of the organisation and this will be the focus on activity throughout the next year.

5.9 Sexual Health

5.9.1 There is a statutory duty incumbent on Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups (now Integrated Care Systems) and NHS England and NHS Improvement to commission or provide sexual and reproductive health services. This covers all forms of contraception, coil fits for heavy menstrual bleeding (HMB), screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV, cervical screening, psychosexual counselling, and vasectomy services.

5.9.2 A new contract began on 1st August 2021 and the incumbent provider, Virgin Care Services Ltd was the successful bidder. The Tees integrated clinical sexual health service will deliver the requirements of all six commissioning partners: the four Tees local authorities, North- East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) (formerly NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)) and NHS England and Improvement (NHSE&I).

5.9.3 On 1st December 2021, Virgin Care Service Ltd was bought out by a company called Health Care Resourcing Group (HCRG) who are now our sexual health provider across Tees. This was a change in name only and did not affect any service provision or staffing levels.

5.9.4 The annual contract value for Redcar and Cleveland for the Tees clinical sexual health service is £817,665 and the contract length is three years with options of plus 1 year, plus 1 year, plus 1 year. Sexual health prevention costs for Redcar and Cleveland are an additional £60,852 annually.

HCRG continue to deliver prevention elements of sexual health including:

- A C-Card scheme (free condoms for 13–24-year-olds).
- Outreach to vulnerable groups including HIV testing and young people.
- Education and training for educational settings and organisations working with young people.

In the first year of the new contract running from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022 there were 3,370 appointments in total taken up by residents of Redcar and Cleveland.

Of those 3,370 appointments from August 1st, 2021, to July 31st, 2022:

- The largest group of attendees were the 16 – 24-year-olds at 1,182 (37%).
- 2,493 attending were female making up 74% of total attendees.
- 877 attending were males making up 26% of total attendees.
- 133 appointments were for psychosexual counselling just slightly down from last year.
- 303 vasectomies across South Tees were carried out. This is a subcontracted service delivered by Marie Stopes International.

5.9.5 COVID-19 lockdowns drove the need to change the service model and given the success of telephone triage and virtual appointments during lockdown, there is now a strong digital offer for patients to access online STI testing kits, condoms (age 16 and above), Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) and pregnancy tests.

The service always receives very good Family and Friends Test (FFT) scores. For the last 3 months, the average positive score was 100% in May, 99.4% in June and 98.4% in July.

5.10 Emotional Wellbeing, Mental Health and Social Isolation

5.10.1 The impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the social and economic consequences of the pandemic have meant that tackling mental health at a population level has never been more important. COVID-19 has been recognised as a public mental health emergency that exacerbates existing mental health inequalities.

5.10.2 Public Health England have been monitoring population mental health throughout the pandemic using a range of survey and other close to real-time data. This shows that self-reported mental health and wellbeing at a population level (including in anxiety, stress, and depression) has worsened during the pandemic and remains worse than pre-pandemic levels.

5.10.3 In 2022, a range of varied programmes and initiatives has been delivered across the borough by the Council and in partnership with our key partners to mitigate against some of the adverse consequences of the pandemic and strengthen community response and resilience.

In addition, we support awareness raising of community, grassroots and private sector wellbeing efforts that have sprung up across the borough.

5.10.4 To address local public mental health response a range of broad principles continue to be adopted including:

- A whole system prevention approach – as no single agency or intervention can provide the public mental health response
- People and Community Centred – involving local communities to identify needs, issues, and assets
- Good communication, collaboration, and partnership
- Tackling inequalities for those most at risk and living in the most deprived areas
- Life course approach

Building on existing arrangements – local programmes, partnerships and adopting national wellbeing resources and campaigns such as ‘Every Mind Matters’.

5.10.5 South Tees Wellbeing Network

5.10.6 The South Tees Wellbeing Network officially launched and went live for member sign up in early May 2022. We have now been running for just over 13 weeks and have nearly 500 members of the wellbeing workforce joined up already.

5.10.7 The network aims to offer a single place for the whole wellbeing workforce to connect over common issues and join up to collaborate and tackle the system issues in a coordinated manner. We know that the workforce understands the issues and have good knowledge of solutions, so we want to make use of these community assets to improve the system issues we have locally. This includes voluntary, statutory and for the first time, the private sector together in one network.

5.10.8 Upon signing up, members are asked to provide their basic details of place of work, role, and e-mail address before making ‘personalised selections’ about their areas of interest. This includes Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland or both, age groups and up to 15 wellbeing topic areas. This means all communications to members are personalised and they do not receive any information not related to their area, age’s groups, or topics of interest. It is hoped more and more services across the system will see the benefit of this and make more and more use of our functions.

The functions include:

- A monthly personalised newsletter with ‘dynamic content’, calls to action to help a member with a particular need (research, setting up a new service, joining up for a cause etc)
- Campaign information through various content including videos, audio podcast, resource sharing and all pushed through e-mail and social media.
- List of updated South Tees wellbeing partnerships showing how the system organises itself locally
- Find the right service – where we list the key local directories for our members to register their services and find services to refer their communities to
- Events – we are promoting our learning events to start exploring local issues and understand what needs to be done
- Development events – stakeholders who want to tackle issues identified in the learning events can get together.

- Connect with our members – a page that explains how members can submit their own content for newsletter, blogs, vlogs, calls to action etc to interact with each other directly.
- Emotional Wellbeing practical resources – a new part of the website being developed to build a strong database of resources for wellbeing in one place that all services can then make use of
- We are planning a festival of wellbeing across South Tees in 2023 with the theme of a year of wellbeing to meet our first goal of wellbeing awareness across the area.

5.10.9 Mental Health Campaigns

5.10.10 We continue to support national, regional, and local campaigns to challenge mental health stigma and discrimination and promote good mental health, wellbeing, and positive psychology practical ideas. These campaigns are essential in creating opportunities for developing and creating activity aimed at individual and community wellbeing and identifies tools for individual support. Our 'Feel Good South Tees' social media platforms continue to promote national and local campaigns with nearly 1500 followers (300 increase from October 2021).

Campaigns undertaken include:

5.10.11 Mental Health Awareness Week (May 2022) – Theme “Loneliness”

5.10.12 A range of planned community activities were promoted across the borough, led by Health improvement team, with support from colleagues, adopting the theme of loneliness as a known and highly prevalent issue related to mental health problems across the life course.

5.10.13 Maternal Mental Health Week May 2022

The Council once again supported local charity 'Raindrops to Rainbows' to light up buildings in purple to highlight and raise awareness of the importance of perinatal mental health in seeking support if needed. Social Media was utilised to provide links to support services and highlight local stories.

5.10.14 Men's Health Week 2022

Led by the Health Improvement Team, with the national theme of 'Men's MOT's', a series of community events pushing community conversations were completed, making use of the health bus and direct engagement in key community hubs. A variety of new contacts were made with a key intention of engaging to build a new men's health movement, which will culminate in a stakeholder event to adapt the learning from Middlesbrough approach to their 'BoroManCan' campaign and men's health plan.

5.11 Children and Young People – Head Start Programme

5.11.1 The Head Start service continued to be rolled out to schools during the 2021/22 academic year; providing a whole school resilience approach to support both school staff and pupils.

- Half - termly Mental Health Leads in Schools network events have taken place.
- Half-termly school staff mental health drop-ins have taken place.
- 29 schools have been supported by the Head Start team.
- 6 open Academic Resilience training sessions have been delivered.

- 4 mental health link governor awareness-raising sessions have been delivered.
- 96% agree that the HS team met the school's expectations
- 96% agree that HS team is beneficial for pupils
- 100% agree arranging HS session was straightforward and easy to do
- 100% agree HS was on time and organised

5.11.2 Feedback

"The session was extremely organised and covered all of the things that the children were feeling anxious about regarding their transition into Secondary."

"The team are so open, honest, and accessible in their approach to both teachers and pupils. Their service is not an, "add on," session but part of their holistic approach to the whole child as they actively ensure that it has a real-life purpose to them ... not just another tick box!"

Pupil Interventions

Head Starters Pupil Mental Health Champions

- No. of schools: 24
- No. of pupils: 356
- 37% feel better about the future
- 38% feel more helpful
- 42% feel more relaxed
- 40% are able to deal with problems better
- 37% are able to think more clearly
- 29% feel closer to people
- 46% are more able to make up their own mind

Pupil Group Interventions (Anxiety, friendships etc)

- No. of schools: 8
- No. of pupils: 174
- 59% Feel better about themselves
- 60% feel more confident
- 55% feel more confident

Assemblies Held

- No. of schools: 10
- No. of pupils: 1,963

Year 6/7 Transition Support

- No. of schools: 21
- No. of pupils: 712

5.12 Tees Training Hub / In-house Mental Health First Aid Training / Suicide Prevention Co-ordinator

5.12.1 The Tees Training Hub is a commissioned service across the Tees Valley to provide free mental health training to people who live or work in the Tees Valley. The provider is Let's Connect and is based in Hartlepool and offers face to face and online training.

5.12.2 In addition, our own Mental Health team have a legacy trained Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) instructor who has been delivering MHFA training courses to Redcar and Cleveland council staff for the last two years. This training offer continues and is to train enough staff across all department to act as first aiders, to offer corporate parity of esteem for mental health support as with Physical first aid. As well as the 2-day MHFA course, we now include in the offer portfolio the 1-day managers training and the half day (3 yearly) MHFA refreshers training. The training has received excellent feedback with significant increases in staff confidence to support colleagues and members of the public with their mental health, as a first aider.

5.12.3 After some recruitment challenges, a new appointment has been made for the important Tees wide suicide prevention role (Public Health Practitioner - Preventing Suicide Tees). The role is strategic and includes coordination of the Tees Suicide Prevention Taskforce, early reporting on suspected suicides to identify trends and hotspots as well as new developments in the suicide prevention agenda

5.13 Obesity

5.13.1 Achieving and maintaining a healthy weight is challenging and complex and a significant public health issue which can have a major impact on a person's physical, psychological, and emotional health and wellbeing. Adults living with obesity are more likely to develop cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, vascular dementia, at least 12 types of cancer, poorer mental health and significantly reduces life-expectancy.

5.13.2 One in four children in Redcar & Cleveland are overweight or obese in receptions (aged 4/5); with one in four children obese by the time they leave Primary School (aged 10/11) and continues into adulthood with 68.5% of our residents' overweight or obese.

Over the past year, we have implemented a range of actions to address obesity – for example:

- Through a grant from the Office for Health and Disparities (OHID) and the Public Health grant, we have commissioned Slimming World until 31st March 2023. Adults can access 12 weeks of free weight management support via Slimming World if they meet the following criteria:
 - Are a resident of Redcar and Cleveland
 - Have a BMI over 30 with no significant health issues (or a BMI over 27.5 in BAME communities)
 - Aged 16 or over
 - Ready to make changes to their lifestyle
 - Not have been a member of Slimming World or accessed free weight management support in the last six months
 - Participants can self-refer into the programme or referrals can be accepted by a health professional.
- Through funding from the Department of Education, the Holiday Activities & Food Programme continues to evolve and improve. During the Christmas 2021 holidays, 10 local providers delivered 22 HAF Clubs with 572 children attending. During the Easter 2022 holidays, 11 local providers delivered 24 HAF Clubs with 701 children

attending. A full-time management team is now in place to develop and the deliver the programme through to the end of 2024 when the current funding ends. During the summer 2022 holidays, 1,565 primary children attended, 648 secondaries taking the total for the summer as 2,213 unique participants across all ages which is 34.66% of total eligible population.

Over the next year, we will continue to develop our wider actions around obesity by working with other Council departments and partners to influence and address things that encourage an obesogenic environment and unhealthy weight gain.

5.14 Tackling Inactivity: You've Got This (YGT) (South Tees Local Delivery Pilot)

- 5.14.1** You've Got This' is a programme running until 2025 to tackle health inequalities in South Tees by supporting those who are least active to become more active, with the vision of "Active Lives as a Way of Life". The programme takes a population level approach, recognising the need to tackle growing levels of inactivity and obesity locally and nationally. This means that as well as focussing on behaviour change amongst individuals, the programme looks at addressing wider social, economic, and environmental issues that impact on peoples' physical activity. These challenges include, for example, supporting the development of a physical environment that enables active lives and enhancing policies to enable people to be more active.
- 5.14.2** YGT's wider partnership of over 50 organisations is known as The Exchange, members are Ambassadors who take a leadership role, building a value of physical activity within their organisations and encouraging active living amongst their staff, service users and beneficiaries.
- 5.14.3** A key achievement has been developing an innovative commissioning model, with the support of RCBC's Procurement Team. This replaces traditional competitive tendering processes with collaborations that bring Exchange organisations together around defined insight, focusing on addressing the identified issues together. These collaborations also bring the skills and experience of a range of organisations together and enables smaller and specialist organisations to participate in delivery.
- 5.14.4** Over the last year, the programme has continued to collect insight from our communities, improving understanding of the real barriers to physical activity and gathering a wealth of information that can be used by YGT and partners to align their work closely to community needs.
- 5.14.5** In addition to the leadership and insight workstreams described above, activity has continued to develop in the South Tees-wide and Community Focus Area (CFA) workstreams. Prehabilitation Prior to Major Surgery has continued, with the development of online digital offer for patients, as well as face-to-face support.
- 5.14.6** The Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) workstream has restarted following the pandemic. The workstream introduces physical activity alongside dietary interventions to bring T2D into remission. It takes a patient-centred approach where an exercise professional supports each patient to identify activity that they find enjoyable and is appropriate to their condition.
- 5.14.7** YGT has continued to support Social Prescribing Teams across South Tees. Over 35 social prescribers and key workers have undertaken Motivational Interviewing training, building their skills to engage with patients and better understand patients' needs and the opportunities for physical activity as part of their journey.

5.14.8 YGT has continued to work with Slimming World across South Tees, engaging with all of the consultants across the area to gain insight into their issues post lockdown. From this, “Magic Movers” have been developed in all 34 local groups. These are volunteers who support other members to move more both inside and outside of the group meetings.

5.14.9 The Community Focus Area (CFA) work encompasses Grangetown and South Bank in Redcar and Cleveland alongside North Ormesby and Brambles & Thorntree in Middlesbrough. A range of programmes have continued to be delivered.

In addition, YGT has been able to support a number of other initiatives in the CFA, including:

- Contributed to the capital costs of fencing around Kingsley Field, Grangetown, to reduce antisocial behaviour and activate the space.
- Commissioned innovative community insight work to support the Church Lane North Development, working closely with Beyond Housing.
- Invested to support the Community Shed at Grangetown United.
- Supported volunteers with PPE to support South Bank in Bloom.
- Supported South Bank Primary to create three outdoor learning classrooms.
- Delivered learn to ride session in all RCBC schools in the Community Focus Area.

5.15 Managing Undernutrition South Tees (MUST) Service

5.15.1 The Managing Undernutrition South Tees (MUST) Service provides nutrition and hydration training and support to 28 elderly care homes in Redcar and Cleveland. The service is commissioned, funded, and monitored through the Better Care Fund programme. The training enables care homes to achieve the Care Quality Commission (CQC) essential standards of quality and safety in nutrition and hydration and ensures resident’s nutritional requirements are being met.

The aim of the service is to:

- Provide accredited training and support to obtain timely detection and the treatment of undernutrition in vulnerable adults.
- Ensure adult patients in Redcar and Cleveland are screened using the ‘MUST’ (Malnutrition Universal Screening Tool).
- Ensure staff in all care settings recognise the importance of maintaining adequate hydration, normal fluid requirements and how to monitor intake.
- Promote the appropriate prescribing and monitoring of oral nutritional supplements to reduce cost

5.16 South Tees Specialist Stop Smoking Service

5.16.1 Service Overview

South Tees Stop Smoking service offers support to individuals (aged 12+) who reside, work or are in study across Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland. We currently support individuals using a combination of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) and provision of Vaping Products, as well as a range of other interventions used to support and maintain change. The service offers a standard 12-week support programme.

5.16.2 Staff

The team is made up of 5 x Specialist Prescribing Nurses who have a wealth of experience around addictions and behaviour change. We have a separate bank of 6 Nurse Prescribers and a Team Admin, who support the team during busy periods, annual leave, and sickness.

5.16.3 Appointments

All clients wishing to access the service are offered a choice when it comes to appointments. Currently, the most popular choice of contact is via telephone and following a telephone consultation, prescriptions and/or products are posted out directly to a patient's home address. We also offer Face to Face appointments for those that would prefer this option.

Face to Face appointments are available between 9.30am – 4.30pm, Monday to Friday, at the following sites:

- The Live Well Centre, Middlesbrough
- Belmont House, Guisborough
- Redcar Library, Redcar

In addition to these we have also added two late night telephone clinics and a Saturday clinic between 10.00am – 12.00pm to support those who may struggle to access services during Core Hours.

5.16.4 NHS Staff Offer

From September 13th, 2022, our service began to work in partnership with NHS to provide free support and no cost prescribing to all NHS employees. This is a national programme, and the cost of products and prescriptions is being met by referring NHS Trusts. This programme will help support more NHS sites to be Visibly "Smoke-Free" environments and in turn will encourage the same staff to support other patients to quit.

5.16.5 Data

The Local Authority continues to see a year on year rise in the number of people who access our services for support. 814 people had accessed the service by the end of 2021/ 2022, compared to the 640 people recorded for the previous year.

The service and all its staff are committed to continue to support our residents and we are constantly adapting our service and developing innovative new approaches to meet their needs.

5.17 Best Start in Life/ first 1001 days

5.17.1 In Redcar and Cleveland Borough, we have approximately 1,600 births per year and health inequalities for many of these children begin before they are even born. Given the level of deprivation in the area we need to develop approaches to reduce health inequalities so that our babies are born on an equal footing, get the best start in life so they are ready to start school and flourish as young adults.

5.17.2 From birth through to the teen years, foundations are laid that will influence all aspects of a child's future. Investment in this period, particularly pregnancy and the first two years or first 1001 days as it is more commonly known, is pivotal as it generates long-lasting, cumulative benefits that carry on through life. Effective support for families in the earliest years brings savings to the public purse through reduced costs for public services and increased participation in the economy in later life. Failing to invest in early development will ultimately cost the local area in the longer-term.

5.17.3 Work in R&C around 1001 days is visioned and led by a Best Start in Life Programme Board. A piece of sector led improvement work in 2020-21 identified that whilst our local service approach to supporting families in first 1001 days was working well, we needed to improve our joint strategic planning and delivery with partners. The Best Start in Life Programme Board was set up in 2020 and has membership from senior leaders in Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, Public Health South Tees, Tees Valley Integrated Care Partnership and Midwifery.

The board was set up in 2020 and is supported by the Best Start Partnership who will ensure that the vision, strategy, and objectives of the board are delivered operationally.

Key strategic aspects of the work that are presently being delivered are as follows:

- Supporting the development of a local family hubs in line with national guidance vision for the 1,001 critical days- work is underway to support colleagues in Early Help to develop local family hubs that support families with a range of public health issues.
- Appointing a provider to deliver insight work that will help us to understand parental needs in first 1001 days. The work will help us to understand our families better, which in turn should help us to change and deliver better services.
- We are working with Oxford University on an exciting piece of work that will see us embed a brain science led approach to the way maternal and early years services work. The work is based on the rationale that that baby brains are built and developed not genetically determined. The work will focus on skilling professionals to work with parents to enhance their understanding of bonding and attachment via a brain science approach. During 2022-24 we expect to brief and train professional and members of the community in this.

5.17.4 Breastfeeding Boroughs – Best Start in Life

Breastfeeding is a key area of the best start work in R&C. We continue to see improvements in the numbers of our mothers still breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks with an increase of 3.4% from 2019/20 (27.6%) to 2020/21 (31%). The rate of improvement is presently better than the national average, which is a real positive.

A part of the work to support mothers to breastfeed, the following work was carried out in 2021/22:

1. Audit of breastfeeding welcome scheme venues has been carried out to review progress post pandemic. Presently have 154 venues signed up, which is slightly lower than prior to the pandemic. Work increasing the number of venue sign-ups is

ongoing for 2022 and beyond as part of the Breastfeeding Boroughs Plan. We know that having a relaxing, welcoming place to feed really helps parents with confidence and encourages them to continue to feed their baby, so this work is vitally important.

2. Redcar and Cleveland 0-19 Healthy Child Programme and Midwifery continue to offer one-to-one support to parents which aims to support and encourage mothers to start and continue breastfeeding. Successful antenatal breastfeeding workshops ran by midwives are successful in promoting breastfeeding – 95% of mothers who attended initiated breastfeeding and 86% were exclusively breastfeeding at discharge from hospital.
3. New Public Health e-learning platform launched in March 2022 for early years settings and childminders which includes a course on the promotion of breastfeeding.
4. In early 2022 Family Hubs and 0-19 Healthy Child Programme have both had their UNICEF Breastfeeding (Baby Friendly Initiative) reaccreditation. The accreditation is a quality mark around the quality of breastfeeding support locally and is a real positive reflection in the quality of support mothers get in the borough.

A Breastfeeding Boroughs action plan has been developed had been developed by Public Health to support and enhance delivery from 2022 onwards. The plan aims to continue to improve and support existing delivery whilst also developing a focus on getting high level support and buy in from local leaders re breastfeeding.

5.17.5 Supervised Tooth Brushing Scheme

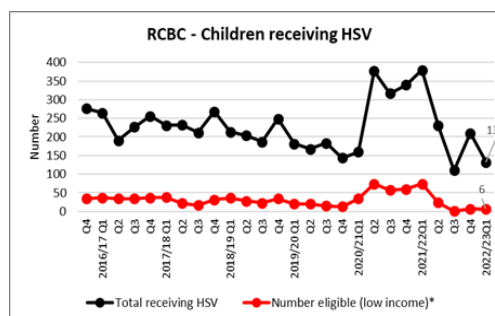
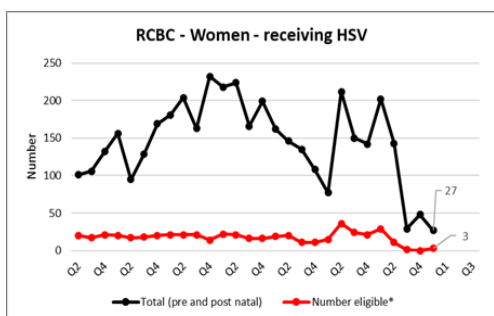
The scheme is offered to children in nurseries and school. The pandemic has increased concerns for the oral health of children aged under five, as many children only brushed their teeth in schools or nurseries, and these early years settings were closed for such a long time. However, the Oral Health Promotion Team who train school and nursery tooth brushing champions, have reported that the scheme is fully operational again, and they have new settings signed up to take part.

5.17.6 Community Reading Champion

We know that reading has lots of benefits, particularly around mental and emotional wellbeing. The early stages of family life can be quite an isolating time for families. The South Tees Community Reading Champion supports parents in Loftus to read, not only to help their child's development but also for their own pleasure and wellbeing. Since early 2022, the project has provided intensive support to around 16 families to help them build a household that reads. The champion works with family hubs and libraries to support to help the families read for their wellbeing. The champions' role is also to help to develop a wider reading culture in the area and over 40 parents have been engaged with. Redcar and Cleveland are one of five areas in the Northeast benefitting from this project that is part-funded by Author Ann Cleeves and Public Health.

5.17.7 Healthy Start Vitamins

Families in R&C continue to get access to healthy start vitamins. As the graphs below show, once postal distribution of vitamins ceased, and there was a requirement for vitamins to be collected from Family Hubs, the uptake rates reduced. To address this, arrangements are being piloted with Health Visitors carrying small amounts of vitamins to their visits with very vulnerable families, and those living in quite isolated locations. A voucher system is also about to be launched, with every new mother being discharged from James Cook Delivery Suites receiving one, which signposts them to any Family Hub to request their supply. Across Tees there are around 500 women every month, that are discharged from the Delivery Suites, so there is the potential for Family Hub staff to make contact with parents they might not otherwise.



5.18 Arts in Health

5.18.1 Following over 50 interviews with Public Health, VCS organisations, Adult Social Care, Health, and cultural staff working across South Tees it became clear that it was necessary to support training to increase the opportunities for people to access quality arts in health programmes that can deliver against a range of clinical and non-clinical health and wellbeing outcomes. We delivered training for 15 local creative facilitators, to build capacity and make sure we have local artists who can run quality creative health programmes. The evaluation of the training was very positive.

5.18.2 We have worked with the National Centre of Creative Health. They are interested in highlighting the positive developments in the South Tees and are positioning the work as part of the national recognition for more creative health initiatives. Following the recommendations from the ACE Council Commissioning Report we held a session 'Creative Conversations' to bring the Arts, Health, and VCS sectors together to begin to build new relationships and opportunities for partnership working. This work also looked to increase the understanding of the role the arts in delivering health and wellbeing outcomes and in turn to see a future increase in commissions being awarded to the sector.

We have developed and commissioned 4 pilot projects:

- Creative Writer & Visual Artist Residencies - working with staff and clients of MIND Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough & Stockton MIND to support their mental health.
- Multi-Sensory Care Home Programme - working with staff and residents of 4 care homes (2 in Middlesbrough and two in Redcar & Cleveland) to support people with dementia to have a better quality of life.
- Creative Day Service - to support the public health agenda of tackling social isolation, the service will develop a creative, multi artform offer in community venues.

- Intergenerational Dance Programme - the pilot will reduce social isolation and improve mental wellbeing, improve Physical and Mental Health, and improve relationships and break down barriers between generations.

5.18.3 All the pilots will use the 'logic' model of evaluation, as recommended by PH England in their Arts for Health & Wellbeing Evaluation framework. We have also commissioned a short film (which will be delivered in September) to highlight the benefits of creative health programmes and hear the voices of local people.

5.19 Regional Enforcement

5.19.1 The Regional Enforcement Team, hosted by Redcar & Cleveland, targets cross border consumer crime targeted against local, regional, and national businesses and consumers. The team supports local authority Trading Standards Services and deliver outcomes against regional and national trading standards control plans.

5.19.2 The team continues to assist on a regional level with cross boundary enforcement, in the last year they have successfully prosecuted 7 Fish sellers, with 3 more pleading guilty and due to be sentenced between 20th September 2022 and 6th October 2022. The prosecutions have resulted in custodial sentences ranging from 10 months to 5 years and 50 weeks, total custodial sentencing nearly 14 years to date.

5.19.3 The Team is also assisting Redcar & Cleveland's Trading Standards Team, providing financial investigation assistance under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, in relation to a doorstep crime investigation.

5.20 Trading Standards

5.20.1 Trading Standards enforce a wide range of consumer protection legislation (for the benefit of both consumers and legitimate businesses), linked to intelligence reports of issues at an individual, local, regional, and national level. The role of Trading Standards contributes to the enabling of good health and wellbeing of residents, to business growth by providing free impartial advice to businesses, which provides for more confident and active consumers in the borough.

5.20.2 In early 2022, the Team secured funding to work with OPSS (Office for Product Safety and Standards) to undertake market surveillance activities at Teesport as part of the national Ports and Borders Programme 2022/2023, this programme is a National Government Strategy aimed at assessing the product safety of goods entering the UK.

5.20.3 The Team continues to work on doorstep crime incidents and distribution of No Cold Calling Home packs, working closely with Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), Age UK and Cleveland Police.

5.20.4 Work on scam interventions continues, the Team are working with VCAS in relation to the installation of call blockers, doorbell cameras and crime prevention equipment and are supporting 160 hours of one-to-one scam awareness sessions to be delivered to the most vulnerable in communities across the Borough.

5.20.5 In recognition of the cost-of-living crisis scams awareness information has been added onto the council website, providing advice on different types of scams, and social media messages have been promoted through posts published on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Five

scam awareness talks have also been delivered at community events and at the Citizens Fair which was held in April 2022.

5.20.6 Work as part of Operation CECE (HMRC funded illicit tobacco operation) continues, to date 37,300 cigarettes, 8.5Kg of hand rolling tobacco and approximately 250 vapes (nicotine inhaling devices) have been seized, enforcement work is underway in response to these seizures.

5.21 Environmental Protection – Blue Flag Beach Status/Air Quality

5.21.1 Saltburn Beach boasts dual flag status, proudly flying Blue Flag and Seaside Award flags. Blue Flag status is one of the most iconic eco-labels awarded to beaches. In May 2022, Saltburn achieved its fourth Blue Flag and became one of the 185 beaches in the British Isles (UK and Ireland) to achieve this status, 1 of 80 in England and just 1 of 7 in the North-East demonstrating high levels of environmental and bathing water quality standards.

5.21.2 The Environmental Protection Team continue to participate in the Environment Agency Short Term Pollution (STP) prediction scheme programme in 2022, operating throughout the Bathing Water Season (15 May – 30 September). During this period, they respond promptly to bathing water quality warnings, posting advice to the public at any of our affected beaches.

5.21.3 Redcar Lifeboat achieved its third Seaside Award and due to lifeguard presence, this year they were able to raise the flag for the first time. Seaside Awards are presented to the best beaches in England to celebrate the diversity and equality of our coastline. Redcar Lifeboat is one of 138 beaches in the UK to achieve this status and 1 of 8 in the North-East.

5.21.4 These achievements continue to reflect strong partnership working in investigating localised pollution and delivering ambitious infrastructure works to improve bathing water quality. In addition, the strong focus of the Blue Flag programme and Seaside Awards, in connecting local communities with their environments, compliments other local environmental initiatives, such as community litter-picks and The Whale on the Beach.

5.21.5 The annual Air Quality status report 2022 was submitted to DEFRA in June, this has been accepted in full and positive feedback received. Air quality remains good and continues to meet government limits.

5.22 Port Health

5.22.1 The service monitors all imported food and feed that enters the port and carry out official controls as necessary and in accordance with regulatory requirements. They also respond to requests for Ship Sanitation and Water Sample Requests on ships entering the Tees.

5.22.2 PD Ports has recently completed building additional infrastructure to enable the port to bring in EU Products of Animal Origin under new controls that were due to be implemented in July 2022. The team of officers was expanded in readiness for July, however, as the new controls have been delayed, the additional officers have been reassigned elsewhere within the Local Authority.

5.22.3 While the new controls have been delayed until late 2023, The Port is continuing with its application to become a Border Control Post for Products of Animal Origin from the rest of the world – this application is ongoing.

- 5.22.4** Current import controls include High Risk Food not of Animal Origin, Organic imports from the rest of the world, processed fishery products for illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and plastic kitchenware from China and Hong Kong. The service monitors all shipping manifest and detains any unknown imports for further clarification of their contents.
- 5.22.5** Additional work provided by the Port Health Service includes jetty water quality monitoring, food hygiene and standards inspection to its registered food businesses, infectious disease controls, and environmental permitting.
- 5.23** Sports and Leisure Management Ltd (SLM)
- 5.23.1** The Council's Leisure Service provision is provided by Sports and Leisure Management Ltd (SLM). Redcar and Cleveland (RCBC) agreed a 20-year contact with SLM until 2033 to operate our five leisure centres: Eston, Redcar Leisure & Community Heart, Loftus, Guisborough and Saltburn.
- 5.23.2** The COVID-19 pandemic repercussions have influenced the operation of the Council's leisure centres in 2022. Given the aftermath of the pandemic and the economic challenges leisure provision will continue to face, some level of financial support is required with SLM receiving a fixed subsidy for the year. The financial support figure for 22/23 has been agreed at £170k subsidy plus associated business rate relief and is considerably below the estimated amount back in 2021 due to the candid, collaborative, and open relationship between RCBC and SLM.
- 5.23.3** The Council has worked with the operator to limit the financial support, whilst still offering as complete a leisure offer as is possible given the challenges. Leisure provision has continued to be delivered at Eston despite the pool being closed due to irrevocable previous flood damage being sustained on the plant room, resulting in the swimming provision closure.
- 5.23.4** The Council and SLM have agreed the interim solution to address the circumstances, involving working in partnership to ensure the commercial arrangements are agreed until April 2023. During the year, contractual governance rectification continues to take place with a plan for that to be completed in September which will then result in challenging commercial discussions with SLM, to create increased value for the citizens of RCBC going forward. One of the continuing objectives of the relationship will be to have the leisure facilities operating to the maximum capabilities, promoting the mental and physical wellbeing of all leisure centre users, and protecting the jobs of Redcar and Cleveland citizens working for the operator. SLM continue to run a very successful apprenticeship scheme with Lifetime under the governments Kickstart initiative, and this has continued to be expanded during 2022.
- 5.23.5** The service provision focuses that SLM are undertaking as agreed with RCBC are to improve the long-term physical health and mental well-being of people whilst getting young people more active, and ultimately save lives. These core provision outcomes will be achieved whilst working closely with the Local Delivery Pilot Funding released by Sport England. The achievement of these outcomes will be measured by the number of visits to leisure centres and analysing post code data which will drive targeted informed decisions on activity areas across the Borough.
- 5.23.5** The project work on Eston swimming pool continues with solid collaborative robust working with all parties, however there is no denying that the macroeconomic challenges that have occurred during the last 6 months will impact on the decisions involved within the project due to rapid increased inflationary pressures especially those concerned with the cost of utilities. Across the current leisure asset estate each centre has a documented energy action plan to highlight the short, medium, and long-term opportunities to reduce energy consumption with

each site having a 2% target of reducing the total kilo watt hours used for gas and electric. All 5 centres throughout 22/23 will complete an action plan to become ISO 14001 compliant under Environmental Management.

SLM and RCBC will have significant leisure asset challenges over the next 11 years in terms of providing modern fit for purpose leisure facilities which will need significant capital investment over the forthcoming years within the challenging circumstances society currently finds itself facing.

6.0 Recommendations

I recommend that the Borough Council notes the content of this report.



Member Report

Veritau Tees Valley Ltd – Approval to become an admitted body of the Teesside Pension Fund

Report to: Full Council

Report from: Phil Winstanley – Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)

Portfolio: Resources

Report Date: 13 October 2022

Decision Type: Full Council

Council Priority: All

HEADLINE POSITION

1.0 Summary of report

This report seeks authority for Veritau - Tees Valley Ltd to become an “Admitted Body” of the Teesside Pension Fund.

2.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- a) the Council gives its approval for Veritau – Tees Valley Ltd to become an Admitted Body of the Teesside Pension Fund with effect from 1 January 2020; and
- b) the Managing Director be authorised to execute any appropriate agreement to put this approval into effect.

DETAILED PROPOSALS

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

3.1 On 5 November 2019, Cabinet agreed to establish an Internal Audit service for the Council, in conjunction with Middlesbrough Council and the Veritau Group, through the creation of a new company, Veritau - Tees Valley Ltd (‘Veritau’).

3.2 The creation of the company resulted in five internal audit staff from the Council having their employment transferred to Veritau under legislation commonly known as the TUPE Regulations, whereby these employees were afforded protection of the employment terms and conditions under which they were employed at that time.

- 3.3** Where a transfer of staff from the Council takes place under the TUPE Regulations then, by virtue of the Best Value Authorities Staff Transfers (Pensions) Direction 2007, there is an obligation to provide those employees with either continued access to the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS') or, alternatively, a broadly comparable pension scheme. That being the case, the Cabinet report indicated that, at some point after the transfer took place, Veritau would apply to become an Admitted Body to the Teesside Pension Fund. This was primarily to protect pension entitlement for those staff, but it would also allow access to the fund by new staff joining Veritau after admission takes place.
- 3.4** The detailed provisions relating to the benefits and administration of the Local Government Pension Scheme are set out in the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013. In basic terms, Veritau is deemed to be eligible to become an Admitted Body because it operates under an outsourcing arrangement to provide services to local authorities.
- 3.5** As part of the report to Cabinet, the Managing Director was authorised to take all required steps to establish the relevant company. However, under the terms of the Council's Constitution, pension fund functions are reserved to the Full Council, hence the Cabinet report did not include authorisation for Veritau to be admitted to the pension scheme.
- 3.6** All the appropriate arrangements have now been made for Veritau to become an Admitted Body of the pension scheme, but approval of the Council is now required for the arrangements to formally take effect. The delay in resolving this final aspect of the admissions process is due to the Council not having received a request from Teesside Pension Fund, to sign and approve the agreement between the Teesside Pension Fund, Veritau and the Council to create the admitted body status until summer 2022. Full Council should be assured that employees and current pension fund members have not been disadvantaged in the meantime.

4.0 What options have been considered

The potential application for Veritau to become an Admitted Body was always envisaged as part of the original proposals. Approval for Admitted Body status will protect the pension entitlement of staff, hence no other option has been considered. If approval is not given, then arrangements would have to be made for the staff to have access to a broadly comparable scheme.

5.0 Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Legal** – Veritau is an internal audit and counter-fraud company jointly owned by the Council (25%), Middlesbrough Council (25%) and Veritau Ltd (a jointly owned subsidiary of North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council). As indicated above, providing transferring employees, from the Council to Veritau with continued access to the LGPS or a broadly comparable scheme is a legal obligation placed on the Council by the Best Value Authorities Staff Transfers (Pensions) Direction 2007.

5.2 Financial – The ongoing costs of employer pension contributions have been transferred from the Council to Veritau Tees Valley with effect from 1 January 2020. The financial impact of this decision on the pension fund itself is insignificant in the overall context of the scheme.

6.0 Implementation Plan

6.1 Timetable for Implementing Decision: Approval, if granted, will take effect immediately and will include a retrospective period as outlined above.

6.2 Lead Officer: Rob Davisworth, Chief Accountant

6.3 Reporting Progress – Not applicable

6.4 Communications Plan - Communications on the pension rights of staff have already been provided to the staff affected.

7.0 Consultation and Engagement

Affected staff have already been communicated to as part of the overall arrangements to establish Veritau as a company. Veritau and the pension fund have been liaising in terms of the Admitted Body arrangements.

8.0 Appendices and Background Papers

None

9.0 Contact Officer

9.1 Name: Rob Davisworth

9.2 Position: Chief Accountant

9.3 Email address: robert.davisworth@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk