

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

### **Strategic**

#### **1. Middlesbrough Alcohol Centre of Excellence (MACE)**

Following a successful bid to the Public Health England Capital Fund, Middlesbrough were awarded £245k to develop the Middlesbrough Alcohol Centre of Excellence (MACE). The MACE is an integrated provision that will provide a coordinated and multi-agency approach to the prevention, treatment and aftercare of those seeking support in respect of alcohol use. The service will provide a holistic approach to addressing alcohol misuse in Middlesbrough, with focus being on achieving and sustaining positive change. One of the key priorities will be to improve access to treatment for priority groups. This will include improving the appropriateness and effectiveness of treatment provided to individuals/families, BAME communities, people with child care responsibilities, and those inhibited in accessing services because of logistic restrictions and transport/mobility issues. Other key features of the MACE include:

- A minibus to provide transportation to/from the centre and to supplementary services
- Reducing barriers to alcohol users engaging with services
- Bespoke treatment packages of high level intervention specific to alcohol use
- Build on existing referral pathways and multi-agency working arrangements
- Development of a pathway from harm reduction to recovery

The MACE will be in operation this financial year.

#### **2. Commissioning Services for those with needs around Homelessness, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Substance misuse**

Middlesbrough Council commission a broad range of statutory and non-statutory interventions for people who have support needs in relation to homelessness, domestic abuse and sexual violence and abuse and substance misuse, and may also have support needs around social care, mental health, offending and risk of exploitation.

These areas of vulnerability and need are acknowledged as having significant overlap. Current support services are delivered by a wide range of providers; whilst this brings the benefits of a wide range of knowledge and expertise it creates the potential for a lack of coordination across services. Some service users will still need to access a range of different services – no one service will be able to meet needs of complex individuals. Sometimes this can lead to duplication, particularly if a person needs to work with a number of different services. Communication and oversight over the case is not always robust and currently there are not shared assessments or plans so services or the service user are not always clear around who is lead professional.

Since 2017 work has been undertaken by Middlesbrough Council with commissioned and non-commissioned services, service users and stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of homelessness, domestic abuse, sexual violence and abuse, and substance misuse in Middlesbrough. Alongside Strategic Needs Assessments for Domestic Abuse and Homelessness which were completed in 2017 and 2018 since then there have been several engagement sessions, co-design workshops and face to face discussions held, involving service providers, statutory and other interested agencies, service users and carers, young people and families, inviting them to engage with the process.

This information, in conjunction with evidence from existing provision and best practice from other local authorities has informed the design of a new approach to commissioning these services which will help form part of an Integrated Prevention and Response system in Middlesbrough. This will ensure clear pathways between providers who operate a 'no wrong door' approach to service provision so that we improve the customer journey, remove duplication and gaps and have a system that is focused on the needs of the person and not the needs of the system.

The vision for this new approach to commissioning services will:

- Create a 'whole system' approach that meets the needs of service users with a singular support need whilst also providing an improved offer to clients with more complex needs.
- Develop a more efficient system through a collaborative model of support that reduces duplication and delivers an improved service user experience with positive outcomes.
- Create a contractual environment where suppliers share responsibility for achieving outcomes and are mutually supportive, making decisions based on the best outcome for the service user.
- Develop the workforce to 'up skill' generic support staff, enabling specialist services to be more targeted whilst improving service delivery and outcomes.
- Increase capacity in the system through applications for grant funding and exploration of social capital investment programmes.

New services will be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and in the short-term (2020-23), we will review and remodel commissioned services across homelessness, domestic abuse, sexual violence and abuse and substance misuse to establish a more effective way of delivery for those individuals accessing services, whilst establishing system interfaces with Adult's and Children's Social Care Public Health and mental health services. Longer-term the project will also explore opportunities for joint-commissioning with other statutory providers and commissioning bodies so the IPR system can be further developed across a wider range of services, providing support for vulnerable adults.

## **Involvement and Promotion**

### **3. Citizenship Ceremonies**

I attended my first Citizenship Ceremony on Tuesday, 16 July 2019. Twenty five citizens (including adults and children) were invited to attend the ceremony from a variety of countries, and they in turn invited guests.

It was a real honour to welcome these new citizens to the town and witness them swearing the oaths and affirmations and signing the Citizenship register. Each person receives their naturalisation certificate and a small welcome gift from Middlesbrough Council on becoming a British citizen. The welcome pack also includes advice on how to obtain a British passport. It was a fantastic occasion and I was very proud to be a part of it.

#### **4. Recovery Connections – Peer Graduation**

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July a celebration event was held at Bar Zero to mark the achievements of individuals who have successfully completed substance misuse rehabilitation programmes. The rehabilitation programmes typically last between around 6 months and 2 years. The ceremony also acknowledges the crucial support provided by peers and volunteers who provide their time to support recovery.

Around 30 graduates, peers and volunteers received certificates of celebration and a fantastic performance was given by the recovery choir.

#### **5. UK Recovery Walk 2019**

On Saturday 7 September 2019, Middlesbrough will host the national UK Recovery Walk, after we were selected following a competitive bidding process, beating competition from around the country. The aim of the UK Recovery Walk is to help end stigma around substance misuse, and acts as a public education and outreach by offering living proof of the reality of long-term addiction recovery.

The walk will be hosted by FAVOR UK, and will be funded entirely through sponsorship, donations and small grants. The steering group responsible to help organise the walk is primarily made up of people who are in or working towards recovery themselves, as well as local organisations and representatives from Middlesbrough Council.

There will be a week of activities for people to get involved with during the week leading up to the walk, including football tournaments and conferences. Following the walk, there will be a free festival organised in Centre Square consisting of live bands, children's activities, market place, food vendors and much more. Anyone is welcome to join in the event and based on previous year's figures, it is hoped up to 10,000 people may attend.