



AGENDA ITEM: 4

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

18 FEBRUARY 2011

CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS – REGISTRY OFFICE PERSPECTIVE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce the Registration Services Manager from Middlesbrough Council, in attendance to provide a registration perspective on the supply of birth data to Children's Centres, to enable better targeting of services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Health Scrutiny Panel notes the content of the briefing received today.
3. That the Health Scrutiny Panel considers whether any other perspectives are required on this topic before the Panel finalises its position on this topic.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

4. The Health Scrutiny Panel will recall that earlier in the municipal year, it identified that it would like to study the topic of Children's Centres, their level of intelligence about births in their area of responsibility and how well services are targeted to communities most in need of them.
5. At a Panel meeting on 7 January 2011, the Panel sought information from the Head of Midwifery at James Cook University Hospital and senior officers from Children, Families and Learning, regarding current arrangements for information sharing about births in the town.
6. A number of questions were posed at that meeting and a detailed record of that discussion is attached at Appendix 1. Following that discussion, the Panel expressed a strong interest in speaking to representatives of Registration services about whether they could assist Children's Centres in accessing better intelligence about births in

their areas of responsibility. To that end, the Registration Services Manager from Middlesbrough Council will be in attendance at the Panel meeting today to provide their perspective on the issue.

7. On behalf of the Panel, the Registration Services Manager has been asked to attend and be prepared to speak about the legal provision for the sharing of births information. Further, how registrars could assist in ensuring that Children's Centres are better informed about the births in their area, whilst operating within necessary legal parameters.
8. It is anticipated that the Registration Services Manager will initially outline their views on the issues raised above, ahead of dealing with any questions from the Panel.
9. Following the discussion today, the Panel is asked to consider whether it would like to seek any further information on this topic, ahead of producing a final report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. Please see Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Panel on 7 January, detailing the debate with officers from Children, Families & Learning.

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