

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 6

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

15 JANUARY 2013

CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX NEEDS – EVIDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF CARE, WELLBEING & LEARNING

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce representation from the Department of Care, Wellbeing & Learning, in attendance to provide evidence on the educational needs, and existing educational provision, for Children with Complex Needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Panel notes the evidence submitted by the Department of Care, Wellbeing & Learning and incorporates it into the overall review.

Consideration

3. The Panel will recall that it has received a large quantity of information regarding Children with Complex Needs in Middlesbrough. That information has so far centred on issues such as the services provided for Children with Complex Needs, how those services are managed and the population projections relating to the numbers of Children with Complex Needs.
4. In considering Children with Complex Needs, the Panel has identified that it would like to place a particular emphasis on how maternal and infant health can be improved, to ensure that as many children are born without complex needs as possible. As such, a significant part of that work centres on children that are yet to be born.
5. Nonetheless, the Panel has received sufficient evidence to indicate that advances in medical technology and knowledge dictate that more children with complex needs are being delivered successfully and living longer. As such, an important question for the Panel to consider is how their educational needs are met and the nature of the educational services available to them. Specific attention should also be paid to the extent to which current services are configured to be able to accommodate rising numbers of Children with Complex Needs.

6. To ensure that the Panel has the opportunity to consider information on such important questions, senior representatives from the Department of Wellbeing, Care & Learning will be in attendance at the meeting today, to provide a briefing to the Panel and address questions. As a starting point, senior representatives of the Department of Care, Wellbeing & Learning have been asked to address the following questions in the attached briefing paper.
 - 6.1 Could you provide the Health Scrutiny Panel with a brief synopsis on the key points of the SEN White Paper, currently going through Parliament?
 - 6.2 What will the major impact of the SEN White Paper be on Middlesbrough?
 - 6.3 Could you please provide some detail on current provision for SEN in Middlesbrough? E.g. How many facilities does Middlesbrough have and what type of Special Educational Needs does each facility meet?
 - 6.4 How would a child find their way to one of those specialist facilities? Is there a typical referral process?
 - 6.5 In the view of Middlesbrough Council, does the capacity of SEN provision match demand?
 - 6.6 Could you please provide some detail on the aims and aspirations of the SEN review, that has previously been referred to? Are there any early findings from that, which could be shared with the Panel?
 - 6.7 Does the Dept have any views on what impact demographic changes will have on demand for future SEN provision?
7. It is anticipated that the Department representatives will initially speak to the attached paper, ahead of dealing with questions from the Panel. It is suggested that the Panel notes the information presented today and incorporates it into overall review.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. Please see attached paper from Department of Care, Wellbeing & Learning.

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