



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

13 JULY 2004

### CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL – PROGRESS REPORT

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of the progress made to date by the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel.

#### 2. PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 2.1 In my role of Chair of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel, I am pleased to present the first progress report of this 2004/05 Municipal Year to this Board.
- 2.2 Since the Work Programme of this Panel was approved at the last meeting of this Board on 15 June 2004, the Panel have:-
- (a) Established a calendar of formal Panel meetings until the end of this year;
  - (b) Considered the recent performance clinic data of the Education Department, the outcome of which I will refer to later during this progress report; and
  - (c) Approved the remit and terms of reference for our first Scrutiny investigation into the Education of Children Looked After.
- 2.3 It is envisaged that our first Scrutiny investigation into the Education of Children Looked After will conclude by December 2004 and I am certain that this review will indeed be of interest to all Members.

## Executive Meeting of 6 July 2004

- 2.4 I am pleased to advise that I presented the former Education, Skills and Jobs Scrutiny Panel's Final Report into the Pupil Performance in Middlesbrough Schools to the Executive on 6 July 2004, the outcome of which I will report verbally to the Board at this meeting.

## Education's Performance Clinic Outturn for 2003/04

- 2.5 On both the 8 and 22 June 2004, Members of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel considered the Education's Performance Clinic Outturn for 2003/04.
- 2.6 Having considered Education's performance data in detail, Members were particularly concerned with regard to the high number of permanently excluded pupils.
- 2.7 It was evident that the City Academies accounted for approximately 75% of the pupils permanently excluded and that the responsibility of educating these pupils then fell to the Local Education Authority (LEA). The significant increase had resulted in the LEA unable to absorb the sudden and expected growth in number through existing arrangements and it is now understood that discussions are taking place between the LEA and City Academies.
- 2.8 Overall, the Panel felt that targets set for 2004/05 through to 2006/07 were very challenging and looked forward to monitoring their progress throughout this year.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the progress of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel.

**COUNCILLOR LINDA WILSON  
CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.