



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

16 NOVEMBER 2004

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL –
PROGRESS REPORT**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

3. PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

4. Since my last progress report to this Board on 21 September 2004, the Panel have:-
- (a) Received evidence from representatives from the DfES and the Education Protects lead for the North East on both a regional and national perspective;
 - (b) Considered the views of Headteachers, Governors, Designated Teachers, Designated Social Workers and officers from the Education of Children Looked After Team in relation to the Authority's service provision;
 - (c) Received a presentation from Sunderland City Council with regard to their Education Attainment of Children Looked service provision;
 - (d) Considered the Authority's allocation of the Vulnerable Children and Choice Protects Grants/overall budgetary provision; and

- (e) Considered the recent integrated performance and budget clinic data of the Education Department, the outcome of which I will report verbally at this meeting; and
5. In my role of Chair of this Panel, I am also pleased to advise that the Panel recently concluded its first investigation into the education attainment of Children Looked After within Middlesbrough when consideration was given to the Draft Final Report at our last meeting on 10 November 2004. It is envisaged that our Final Report will be considered by this Board on 30 November 2004 and the Executive thereon.
 6. As per the agreed Work Programme of this Panel, our next investigation is to review Middlesbrough's Youth Service. Given this is an area that will be subject to a formal inspection in the very near future, discussions are to be held with key officers to consider the timing/appropriateness of carrying out this review.
 7. **RECOMMENDATION**
 8. 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.