

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

24 SEPTEMBER 2007

CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

- PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. The Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel is continuing its scrutiny investigation of “early years outcomes and Surestart.” Officers from Children, Families and Learning attended the panel’s last meeting (12 September August 2007) to present further information on the topic.
3. Members considered information in respect of the following:
 - Statistical information on Foundation Stage Profiles (ie the measures of attainment at foundation stage) for Middlesbrough in comparison with national data.
 - Details of joint working between the School Improvement Service and Surestart which are aimed at raising the quality of childcare across all sectors of provision.
 - Details of the “Parents as Partners in Learning” initiative - as an example of innovative ways of working that are being developed in early years service provision.

4. The panel's findings will be included in its final report on this topic, which will be submitted to OSB in due course.
5. The scrutiny panel also considered a report updating the position in respect of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and a report on the implementation of previous scrutiny recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

6. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the updated position in respect of the work of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel.

**COUNCILLOR TONY BISHOP
CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL**

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