

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**26 AUGUST 2008**

### **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.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the updated position.

#### **BACKGROUND**

3. Since the last update report to OSB, the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel has met twice, on 22 July and 13 August 2008. At those meetings, the panel firstly agreed terms of reference for its investigation of aspects of the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities in the light of the Government White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change" and began to gather information/evidence on the topic.
4. To date, information has been considered by the panel in respect of :
  - Training and support which is provided for foster carers.
  - The Council's involvement in encouraging partner organisations to promote or provide employment opportunities for those young people leaving care who are in the category of "not in employment, education or training" (NEET).

5. In addition to continuing to examine its current main scrutiny topic, at its 13 August meeting the panel also considered a report on the continued development of Sure Start Children's Centres. This report followed the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel's 2007 review of early years learning outcomes and Sure Start, which included a recommendation that monitoring reports should be submitted to the panel in respect of the planned expansion of Children's Centres.

**COUNCILLOR JAVED ISMAIL**

**CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL**

**Contact Officer:** Alan Crawford, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Telephone: 01642 729707 (direct line)  
E mail: alan\_crawford@middlesbrough.gov.uk