

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**13 JANUARY 2009**

**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 once, on 17 December 2008.
4. At that meeting, the panel continued its investigation of Middlesbrough Youth Service and Connexions by examining information on measures taken to address levels of those young people who are 'not in employment, education or training' (NEET).
5. Information was submitted on:
  - The content of the NEETs reduction strategy.
  - The reduction in the level of NEETs achieved to date.
  - A breakdown of the current NEETs profile, based on age, gender and ethnicity.
  - Future targets.
  - Work involving Middlesbrough College and Cleveland College of Art and Design.

6. The scrutiny panel also considered reports on the following:

- An update following the scrutiny panel's 2007 review of early years learning and Sure Start. Information was submitted in respect of progress made in implementing the panel's recommendations and the continued development of Children's Centres.
- Progress on implementing revised post-16 education arrangements in Middlesbrough. This follows the transfer of funding and commissioning arrangements from the Learning and Skills Council to local authorities.

**COUNCILLOR JAVED ISMAIL**

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

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