

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

25 AUGUST 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 to OSB, the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel has met twice, on 20 July and 13 August 2009. On 20 July, information was considered on Aiming High funding. Aiming High is the national transformation programme for disabled children's services.
4. The Government has identified children with disabilities as a priority and is to provide new funding and measures "to make the system work better." Funding is to be provided via grants and the scrutiny panel also heard how the Council currently assists groups and organisations in applying for funding from other various sources.
5. On 4 August 2009 panel members visited Beverley School to speak to parents and staff in respect of its summer playscheme. The school is Middlesbrough's Specialist Technology School for pupils with Autism.

6. Following the visit to Beverley School, its head teacher attended the 13 August meeting of the scrutiny panel to provide further information in respect of the playscheme's operation, its organisation, costs, funding and the number of places that are made available to parents.

COUNCILLOR JAVED ISMAIL

CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

17 August 2009

Contact Officer: Alan Crawford, Scrutiny Support Officer
Legal & Democratic Services
Telephone: 01642 729707 (direct line)
e-mail: alan_crawford@middlesbrough.gov.uk