



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

12 JANUARY 2010

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 once, on 21 December 2009.
4. At that meeting, the panel continued its investigation of drugs education. Information was submitted in relation to education within schools. Members heard from the Council's Substance Misuse Strategy Co-ordinator and also from representatives of Platform, which is the organisation appointed to delivers Middlesbrough's Young Peoples' Drugs Service. The panel's next meeting is scheduled to conclude evidence gathering on this topic.
5. On 21 December, the scrutiny panel also considered the Council's draft Youth Homelessness Prevention Strategy. This is targeted at people between the ages of 16 and 25 and aims to support young people through improving housing provision and providing sustainable housing and holistic solutions to young people's housing needs.

6. The strategy aims to:

- Prevent Youth Homelessness
- Minimise the impact of homelessness on young people
- Ensure that services are accessible to all young people
- Better understand the housing needs of young people

COUNCILLOR JAVED ISMAIL

CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

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