



## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**9 FEBRUARY 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 14 January 2010.
4. At that meeting, the panel continued its investigation of drugs education. Information was submitted in relation to education for young people aged 16 and 17 in further education settings. The panel also sought to assess how the effectiveness of this provision is assessed.
5. Members heard from the Council's Substance Misuse Strategy Co-ordinator and also from representatives of Platform, which is the organisation appointed to deliver Middlesbrough's Young Peoples' Drugs Service. Representatives of further education settings who are involved in this area of work were also present at the meeting. The college representatives gave their views on service delivery and training which is provided to college staff.

6. The scrutiny panel heard details of an ongoing 12 month project which is being delivered by Platform in St Mary's and Middlesbrough Colleges. This aims to deliver substance misuse courses to 200 students as well as training for 50 staff.
7. The panel has now concluded its evidence gathering on this topic and will consider a draft final report on 8 February 2010.
8. In addition to the above, on 6 January 2010 arrangements were made for Members of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel to visit the new Acklam Grange School site. This was to enable the scrutiny panel to see progress made under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme as part of its ongoing updates on this topic.

**COUNCILLOR JAVED ISMAIL**

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

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