



AGENDA ITEM 10(a)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

4 MAY 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

Support for Young Carers

3. Since the last update to OSB, the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel has met once on 14 April 2010. At that meeting, the scrutiny panel continued its investigation of support for young carers.
4. Information was submitted in respect of the involvement of the Economic Wellbeing Theme Group of the Children's Trust in this issue. The Chair of the theme group was present at the meeting and explained the role of the Children's Trust, which recently considered a report of the Junction Project¹ on young carers.
5. The main issue highlighted in the Junction Project's report was that of identifying young carers so that appropriate support and intervention can be provided.

¹ The Junction Project is a local external organisation which provides support, in a number of areas, for young people. The organisation is currently commissioned by the Council to deliver a support service to young carers in Middlesbrough.

6. The scrutiny panel was advised that, in order to address this, the issue of information sharing between all relevant agencies is being explored, together with the possibility of developing a protocol to strengthen this area. In addition, reference was made to the need to strengthen links between children's and adult social care and raising awareness of the issue of young carers, especially in schools.
7. At future meetings the panel will pursue further the issues that have been raised. Arrangements are also being made for the scrutiny panel to meet some young carers at a local support meeting to discuss the issues that they face.

Substance Misuse Education

8. Members will recall that the previous topic investigated by the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel was substance misuse education, with OSB having previously approved the panel's final report on the topic. The panel's report and recommendations are scheduled for consideration by The Executive on 27 April 2010.

2010/11 Strategic Plan

9. At the 4 May 2010 meeting the scrutiny panel also considered and made comment on the 'Supporting Children and Young People' sub-section of the Council's 2010/11 Strategic Plan.

COUNCILLOR JAVED ISMAIL

CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

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