



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

1 JUNE 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 not met, although the scrutiny panel has continued its investigation of support for young carers.
4. Two visits (on 21 April and 20 May 2010) were arranged for scrutiny panel members to speak to young carers at local support groups run by the ¹Junction Project. These were:
 - a. At Thorntree Youth Centre for younger carers (aged between 5 and 10).
 - b. At the Compass Centre in Redcar for older carers (aged from 11 upwards). This group caters for young carers from Middlesbrough as well as Redcar and Cleveland.

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.

5. The panel spoke to young carers and staff about their experiences. A number of issues were highlighted in the discussions, when it was found that the young people were very positive about the Junction Project and the support which it offers them.
6. The scrutiny panel's next meeting is scheduled for 14 June 2010, when further information will be submitted on the topic of young carers. The scrutiny panel will also consider its work programme for 2010/11.

COUNCILLOR JAVED ISMAIL

CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

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