



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

15 NOVEMBER 2011

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 report to OSB, the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel has met once, on 26 October 2011.
4. The panel's investigation of the 14-19 Reform Agenda (which is primarily aimed at ensuring that all young people, irrespective of academic ability, are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed and progress in education and employment) was concluded at the above meeting.
5. To date, information has been submitted on how the most recent national reforms and proposals might be implemented in Middlesbrough. The panel has heard information from the Principal of Middlesbrough College about that organisation's involvement in the subject, including proposals being developed by the college in respect of 14-19 provision in Middlesbrough.

6. Members have also heard from the Councillor M Carr, the Council's Executive Member for Children, Families and Learning, regarding the authority's involvement in this topic and how it hopes to be involved in developing collaborative working arrangements locally. Information has also been submitted regarding Children, Families and Learning's involvement in promoting and developing local apprenticeships.
7. At the 26 October meeting, the panel considered information from the Council's Regeneration Department on its involvement in promoting apprenticeships. Regeneration is currently developing proposals to enhance advice and information that is available to businesses to assist them in providing apprenticeship opportunities. This will involve:
 - Signposting available support.
 - Ensuring that all Council staff who interact with businesses are aware of how they can promote the development of apprenticeships.
 - Supporting and training these staff.
 - Identifying high profile business contacts to promote apprenticeships.
 - Developing a co-ordinated approach to marketing and promoting apprenticeship opportunities.
 - Working closely with all Council departments to take these proposals forward.
8. The panel has now completed its evidence gathering on the topic of the 14-19 Reform Agenda. A draft final report outlining the panel's findings will be considered at its next meeting, on 16 November 2011.

COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER

CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

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