

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 8a

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

24 JULY 2012

### 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 report to OSB, the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel has concluded its investigation and produced a final report on the topic of substance misuse by parents and carers. The report is to be submitted to The Executive on 17 July 2012.
4. The panel has agreed its work programme for 2012, with the next meeting (25 July 2012) scheduled to begin examining the topic of future local authority involvement in academies.
5. The panel has previously received updates on the local and national position concerning conversion of schools to academy status and has heard that Government proposals to create academies, at both primary and secondary levels, are now well advanced. In this context, the panel's investigation is not intended to look at the conversion process but at the associated issues for Middlesbrough Council.

6. As schools move to academy status, the role of local authorities changes fundamentally. However, authorities will continue to have a number of statutory duties - for example ensuring that every child has a school place, responsibility for excluded pupils and responsibility for vulnerable pupils. Clarification is also awaited on the issue of future local authority involvement in monitoring and addressing underperformance.
7. The above are the type of issues that will be examined by the scrutiny panel.

**COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER**

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

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