

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 13a

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

13 NOVEMBER 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 met once, on 24 October 2012. At that meeting, the panel considered further information in respect of the future involvement of local authorities in academies, in particular the updated funding position.
4. The Panel considered information on the implications of changes to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), in particular its composition, which covers Local Authority, Special Education Needs and Schools blocks. Members were advised that, as part of the transition to academies, the Government plan to implement a more simplified approach to school funding.
5. Confirmed details of revised arrangements are awaited, although it likely that changes to funding will be likely to involve limits for certain categories of pupils, e.g. special educational needs. Any shortfall would then be supplemented from funding provided directly to the Local Authority. It is envisaged that this system will involve a series of funding bands to cover pupils with differing needs.

6. The panel heard that clarification is awaited in respect of the implications for local authority services and staff of the change to academy status. This issue will be further explored at the panel's next meeting, on 14 November 2012.

COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER

CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

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