

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 9 (a)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

5 FEBRUARY 2013

<p>CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL</p> <p>- PROGRESS REPORT</p>
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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 10 January 2013.
4. At that meeting, the panel considered further information in respect of the future involvement of local authorities in academies. The meeting was updated on the new funding formula relating to academies and the possible implications for the local authority. The following points were highlighted:
 - The Government's Department for Education (Dfe) aims to simplify the funding regime and move towards a greater emphasis on a funding per-pupil basis. This will discount a number of factors currently used for funding, including deprivation factors such as number of pupils in receipt of free school meals.
 - Initial modelling illustrates that, in general, smaller schools could be penalised as funding is directed towards larger schools.
 - Academies will receive funding directly from the DfE and will be free to purchase support services from wherever they choose.

- This will have implications for service areas such as the Achievement Service in Wellbeing Care and Learning, as well as services such as building cleaning and grounds maintenance. Services from the local authority will need to be provided on a competitive, market-led basis.
5. The Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel has now concluded its evidence and information gathering on this topic, The panel's draft final report will be considered on 29 January 2013.

COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER

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