

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 9 (a)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

5 MARCH 2013

<p>CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL</p> <p>- PROGRESS REPORT</p>
--

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 twice, on 29 January and 20 February 2013.
4. At those meetings, the following matters were discussed:

29 January 2013

5. The scrutiny panel's draft final report on the future involvement of local authorities in academies was considered. The report was approved for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Board and is included earlier on the current agenda.

20 February 2013

6. The scrutiny panel considered information in respect of the following two matters from its 2012-13 work programme:

- a) Deprivation and attainment: An overview of the new topic area was considered. It was agreed that draft terms of reference for the panel's investigation will be considered at the next meeting. These will focus on:
- Measures of deprivation.
 - Deprivation in Middlesbrough.
 - Trends on attainment in deprived areas of Middlesbrough.
 - The role and involvement of the local authority in this issue, including intervention projects and programmes.
 - How progress is monitored/measured.
 - Relevant guidance.
- b) Government Green Paper - Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Children With Disabilities: Information was submitted to the meeting in respect of the definition of SEN; types of SEN; the associated assessment process; provisions for SEN; and the Green Paper's proposals. The panel heard that a report on SEN provision is to be submitted by the Department of Wellbeing, Care and Learning to a forthcoming meeting of the Council's Health Scrutiny Panel, which is currently examining the topic of health provision for children with complex needs. It was agreed to note the current position in respect of the Green Paper proposals and also to make available the Health Scrutiny Panel report to Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel Members.
- c) Substance Misuse Among Parents and Carers - The panel received an update on its 2012 report on this topic. Members were advised that a joint protocol, covering local authority services and nine external treatment agencies, has now been developed and put in place. It is hoped that this will make a positive difference in Middlesbrough. It has been acknowledged by those involved in developing the protocol that the work of the scrutiny panel has helped to highlight the importance of this issue and influence relevant agencies to commit to a joint approach through the protocol.

COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER

CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

Contact Officer: Alan Crawford
Scrutiny Support Officer
Legal & Democratic Services
Telephone: 01642 729707 (direct line)
e-mail: alan_crawford@middlesbrough.gov.uk