

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 11(f)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

30 APRIL 2013

<p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL – 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 Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. The Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel continues with its investigation into BME communities: access to social care services. Since the last report to OSB, the panel has met three occasions, on 28 February, 12 March and 4 April 2013. At those meetings, the following matters were discussed:

28 February 2013

3. As part of its review into BME communities: access to social care services the panel received evidence from the Council's Head of Assessment and Care Management on the provision of social care services for people aged 18-64 from Middlesbrough's BME community. Information was also provided on the specialist BME services that are available in Middlesbrough including those provided by the Tees Valley Asian Welfare Forum, the Milan Group and Aapna Carers Support Group.
4. Statistical information relating to Middlesbrough's population based on the 2011 census was also provided. The panel heard that the latest population figures show that 11.8% of Middlesbrough's population is from the BME community, a total of 16,357 people. This represents a significant increase on the 2001 census, which evidenced a BME population of 6.3%.
5. It was also noted that within the Tees Valley Middlesbrough has seen the greatest change in the non-white population since the 2001 census was undertaken and the growth of the Asian group has been the most significant. Middlesbrough now has a higher proportion of Muslims than the England / Wales average. Changes in Middlesbrough's demographics indicate that the Council will need to give even greater consideration to the needs of the BME community in the town when planning and commissioning services.

12 March 2013

6. Following information received at the panel's previous meeting evidence was sought from the Tees Valley Asian Welfare Forum and Aapna Services Ltd on the services their organisations provide to the BME community. The views of both organisations were also received on the impact that the 'personalisation' agenda has had on the uptake of services by the BME community, the support available to BME carers and the barriers experienced by the BME community in accessing mainstream services.
7. In line with the panel's request a number of BME Councillors had were also contacted to ascertain their views in respect of the above issues. The BME Councillors raised a number of concerns and these were reported as follows:
 - The lack of services available for BME elders in Middlesbrough
 - The cultural and language barriers preventing people in the BME community accessing mainstream services
 - The myth that "BME communities tend to look after their own" being given as a reason as to why BME communities do not access certain types of services
 - The use of external interpreters in the delivery of mental health services when they have no experience of mental health issues

4 April 2013

8. The purpose of the panel's most recent meeting was to examine whether the Council is providing the same level of support to carers in Middlesbrough's BME community as the non-BME community. From the evidence presented it is apparent that there is a notable difference in the take up of carer support services by Middlesbrough's BME community when compared with the town's non-BME community. The number of BME carers benefiting from the support services currently on offer is extremely low.
9. It was acknowledged that a specific piece of work needs to be undertaken by the Council to gain a greater understanding of the needs of BME carers and the type of support that BME carers would find beneficial and particularly in relation to respite provision. Information was also provided in respect of the Sahara Spotlight Group's Project on the Mental Health Service Needs of Asian Women in Middlesbrough.

RECOMMENDATION

10. That the Overview & Scrutiny Board notes the progress of the Social Care & Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

COUNCILLOR J SHARROCKS

CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

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