

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 11a

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

28 MAY 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 7 May 2013. The scrutiny panel's investigation of the topic of deprivation and attainment is ongoing.
4. The agreed terms of reference for the panel's investigation focus on:
 - Measures of deprivation.
 - Deprivation in Middlesbrough.
 - Trends on attainment in deprived areas of Middlesbrough.
 - The role and involvement of the local authority and other agencies in this issue, including intervention projects and programmes.
 - How progress is monitored/measured.
 - Relevant guidance.

5. At the 7 May meeting, the panel examined the impact of action taken to date on attainment levels. Information was considered in respect of:
 - How deprivation is measured.
 - Correlation between affluence and attainment.
 - How statistical information on deprivation/attainment is then used to target resources.
 - The use and impact of the Pupil Premium.
 - The future role of local authorities in challenging schools on performance.
 - The link between poverty and other challenging family issues.

6. At the panel's next meeting, it is hoped to speak to local organisations involved in child poverty, such as the William Sutton Trust and/or Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER

CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

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