

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 8(a)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

17 SEPTEMBER 2013

<p style="text-align: center;">CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL – 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.

BACKGROUND

2. At the last meeting, which was held on 3 September 2013, the Scrutiny Panel received information on the new topic of Employability Skills – From Care2Work Pathways for Children in Care.
3. The officers, detailed below, attended the meeting to provide the Scrutiny Panel with a general overview of the range of services the Local Authority provides to support the employability needs of young people leaving care:
 - Neil Pocklington, Deputy Director for Safeguarding and Specialist Services
 - Jane Wilson, Service Manager for Specialist Services
 - John Keelty, Integrated Youth Support Services Manager
 - Denise Poskett, Housing and Supported Lodgings Manager, Pathways Leaving Care Team
4. In light of the information received, the Scrutiny Panel then considered, discussed and agreed the terms of reference for the review:
 - a) To examine how the Local Authority develops employability opportunities for young people, for example – how current funding is utilised.
 - b) To determine how the Local Authority identifies the advice, skills, training, knowledge and expertise required by young people leaving care.
 - c) To establish how the Local Authority works with external partners and organisations to create awareness of the employability needs of care leavers.
 - d) To determine measures and strategies that could be implemented in order to improve the employability support currently offered, and develop the delivery of quality employability opportunities for care leavers, for example – shaping services and monitoring outcomes.

e) To examine relevant guidance.

RECOMMENDATION

5. That the Overview & Scrutiny Board notes the progress of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel.

COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER

CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

Contact Officer:

Georgina Brown

Scrutiny Support Officer

Legal & Democratic Services

Telephone: 01642 729711(direct line)

e mail: georgina_brown@middlesbrough.gov.uk