

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 6 (a)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

7 JANUARY 2014

CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on the work of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. The Panel is continuing with its current review of Employability Skills – From Care2Work Pathways for Children in Care.
3. The last meeting was held on 11 December 2013. At this meeting the Senior Operations and Partnerships Manager from the Department for Working Pensions (DWP) provided the Panel with an overview of how the DWP effectively supports care leavers.
4. The Panel heard how, through the Youth Contract, the DWP provides 18-24 year olds, including care leavers, with access to additional adviser support, work experience, apprenticeships and wage incentives for employers. The DWP has also recently introduced a 'marker' to routinely identify care leavers on their information database. The 'marker' enables the DWP to track both the support care leavers are receiving and how effective this is in delivering employment outcomes.
5. The next meeting is scheduled to held on 23 January 2014. At this meeting, Andy Pickering, the Senior Employability Worker for the From Care2Work initiative, will provide the Panel with an overview of the practical steps that need to be taken to engage with employers.

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER
CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

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