

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 6 (b)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

4th FEBRUARY 2014

COMMUNITY SAFETY and LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To inform Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of the progress made to date by the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the actions of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel since the last update.

PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 3 The Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny panel met on the 22nd January 2014. The following outlines the progress and intention of that meeting.

Exploitation of Children

Background

- 4 The Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panels work programme identified the subject of "Exploitation of Children" and it was apparent through the BBC News that unfortunately it is a growing problem. The BBC had reported that helplines have seen a noticeable increase in calls from young people with thousands being reported to Police.
- 5 Against this background the panel wanted to know how significant this problem is in Middlesbrough and what can be done to arrest the problem and identify gaps where the Council and/or its partners could contribute to resolving this issue. Consequently at the panel meeting of 18th December Members met with representatives of Barnardo's in Middlesbrough which has a SECOS project to enable young people to exit and recover from sexual exploitation. Members also engaged with representatives of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. (LSCB's) and Middlesbrough Council's Children Social Care.

22nd January Meeting

- 6 Members considered it beneficial to have more background information regarding the depth and extent of the problem of Physical, Emotional and Sexual exploitation of Children. Consequently the panel requested the attendance of the Chair of Licencing and licencing officer to attend this meeting. Members also requested the attendance of the Youth Service to outline their involvement in tackling exploitation of Children.
- 7 Members received information regarding the Controls applied through Licensing. The panel also found that there are some positive facilities provided presently by partners and the Council's Youth Service to approach and safeguard children found wandering the streets in the very late or early hours of the day.
- 8 Members have asked that a brief overview report be compiled which reflects the findings of the panel and presented to a future meeting.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9 No background paper was used in the preparation of this report: -

COUNCILLOR FRANCES McINTYRE

**CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE
SCRUTINY PANEL**

24th January 2014

Contact: Peter Clark
Senior Scrutiny Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.
Telephone: 01642 729 708 (direct line)