

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 6 (b)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

29 APRIL 2014

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL – UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview & Scrutiny Board of the progress made to date by the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Board notes the progress of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny function.

CONSIDERATION

Current Review

3. The panel are continuing their review of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and as a result met on 9 April and held a 'round table' discussion with a number of representatives which included
 - Barnardo's SECOS Project
 - Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Board
 - Cleveland Police
 - Integrated Youth Support Service
 - Community Safety
4. The debate was very useful and received some press attention. Amongst the information the panel received were the following key issues
 - The focus of work for the Vulnerable and Exploited, Missing and Trafficked Group (VEMT) was to publicise the issue of CSE amongst businesses in the town such as guest houses, hotels and taxis to try and prevent and spot incidences.
 - Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) would be working with hospital staff to share intelligence.

- That MSCB and Barnardos had provided training events for front line professionals, parents and pupils to raise awareness of CSE.
- That the key to tackling the issue of CSE was that all agencies work together and that the safeguarding agenda was a top priority for everyone.

The Panel's Next Meeting

5. The panel's next meeting is scheduled for 30 April. All the secondary schools have been invited to attend to discuss how schools are tackling the issue of CSE, specifically around the following areas:
 - What is being done in schools to raise awareness of the issue of CSE amongst parents and pupils?
 - Staff Training - are staff trained to recognise the signs of CSE and if so are they confident in knowing how to deal with such issues.
 - Do schools require any more support in helping them to deal with this issue?
6. It is anticipated that a final report will be produced following that meeting.

Councillor Frances McIntyre
Chair, Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used to prepare this briefing paper.

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