

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

AGENDA ITEM 8(a)

<p>CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT</p>

3 February 2015

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

Early Help – Improving Outcomes for Children, Young People and Families

2. At the meeting that took place on 10 December 2014, the scrutiny panel approved the content of the final report and discussed, determined and agreed conclusions and recommendations. On 6 January 2015, the report was endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and it has now been referred to the Executive.

Work Schedule and Progress Update

3. The last meeting was held on 14 January 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to provide the scrutiny panel with the opportunity to plan and prioritise its work for the remainder of the municipal year.
4. At the meeting it was agreed that the following topics will be added to the work programme:
 - The impact of the universal infant free school meals on the Pupil Premium.
 - Primary school roll projections.
 - Academies.
 - An update from the Pathways Team in respect of care leavers.

Safeguarding and Looked After Children

5. The Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Children's Care has been invited to attend the meeting scheduled to be held on 4 February 2015.
6. On 4 February, the scrutiny panel will receive:
 - Data and information, including comparisons with neighbouring authorities and statistical neighbours, pertaining to the number of:
 - Looked after children.

- Children requiring protection plans.
- An outline of how the Local Authority supports looked after children and children requiring protection plans.
- An overview of the actions in place to reduce the number of looked after children and children requiring protection plans.
- An outline of the implications if the number of looked after children continues to increase.
- Details of the measures in place to ensure there is adequate budget provision, to support looked after children and those children requiring protection plans, without resorting to contingencies.

RECOMMENDATION

7. 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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