

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 13 (b)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

28 April 2015

<p>COMMUNITY SAFETY & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL - PROGRESS REPORT</p>

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. The panel met on 12 March to receive an update on the implementation of recommendations following the panel's review of Preventing Child Sexual Exploitation. The panel was reassured that a significant amount of work is being undertaken in Middlesbrough and across Teesside to address the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation. However, there is no room for complacency and more work needs to be undertaken by all agencies.
3. Reference was made to the recently published government report entitled 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation - March 2013', which sets out how the government is dealing with child sexual exploitation and responding to the failures at a national level. It was suggested that the panel's future work programme should consider how the Council and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board is responding to the actions detailed in this report in addition to the recommendations put forward by the panel.
4. The Chair of the Local Safeguarding Board acknowledged that the scrutiny panel has taken a very pro-active approach to the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation and that Middlesbrough is recognised nationally as developing good practice in this area. The panel was reassured that there will continue to be a relentless focus in Teesside on supporting victims and identifying perpetrators, suspects and locations. The panel is fully committed to ensuring that this topic continues to remain top of its agenda and a further update will be received by the panel in September 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

5. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report and the updated position.

**COUNCILLOR FRANCES MCINTRYE
CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

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