

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: 8 (a)

CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

9 NOVEMBER 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

Safeguarding and Children in Care

2. The last meeting of the scrutiny panel was held on 21 October 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to consider evidence in respect of how the Local Authority:
 - Promotes the physical, emotional and mental health of children in care.
 - Acts on any early signs of health issues.
3. The meeting was scheduled to facilitate a roundtable discussion with various representatives from the Local Authority, the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group.
4. At the meeting, the scrutiny panel considered evidence on the systems and processes which track and focus on meeting each child's physical, emotional and mental health needs. Members also received information on the support, universal services and targeted/specialist services that can be accessed by children in care.
5. In advance of the meeting, the Chair of the Children in Care Council (CICC) provided positive feedback on the support available for children in care, especially that which is provided by the Specialist Nurse for Looked After Children. The Chair of the CICC conveyed that this support is fundamental and crucial in promoting the health and wellbeing of children in care.
6. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 11 November 2015. At this meeting the scrutiny panel will receive evidence in respect of the Local Authority's adoption processes and fostering arrangements.

School Visits

7. At the time of writing – On Wednesday 4 November, the scrutiny panel's sub-group is scheduled to visit Outwood Academy Ormesby, Kings Academy, Trinity Catholic College and Macmillan Academy. The purpose of the visits will

be to examine the support that each school provides to raise the aspirations and educational outcomes of children in care. The findings of the sub-group will be reported to the scrutiny panel in due course.

RECOMMENDATION

8. 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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