

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: 10(a)

CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

8 December 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. On Wednesday 4 November 2015, the scrutiny panel's sub-group visited Kings Academy, Trinity Catholic College and Macmillan Academy. The purpose of the visits was to examine the support that each school provides to raise the aspirations and educational outcomes of children in care.
3. The last meeting of the scrutiny panel was held on 11 November 2015. At the meeting, Members received evidence in respect of the Local Authority's adoption processes and fostering arrangements, including:
 - Information on the local support and arrangements in place to ensure the adoption process is a success.
 - An overview of how the Local Authority promotes an effective fostering service, covering the recruitment strategies, supervision and support in place.
4. The next meeting of the scrutiny panel is scheduled to be held on 16 December 2015. At this meeting, Members will receive information on the range of support that the Local Authority provides to assist young people leaving care with the transition to independent living. This meeting will also provide Members with the opportunity to consider evidence received from schools in respect of the support provided to promote the educational achievement of children in care and the good practice identified.

RECOMMENDATION

5. 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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