

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 4

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

5 JANUARY 2016

<h3>ATTENDANCE OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AT THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD</h3>
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#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide information in respect of the scheduled attendance of Members of the Executive at the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is **RECOMMENDED** as follows:
  1. That Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are appraised of the work of the Lead Executive Member for Children's Services.
  2. That Board Members question the Executive Member in respect of his portfolio and any issues which arise at the meeting.

#### BACKGROUND

3. Arrangements are in place in the Council to ensure that potential issues for consideration via the scrutiny process (i.e. by the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the relevant scrutiny panel) are highlighted and brought forward as necessary.
4. Overview and Scrutiny also has a responsibility to "hold the Executive to account." This can happen in a number of different ways and at different stages in the decision-making process, for example
  - Before decisions are made - such as by examining policy options or considering issues included in the Council's forward work programme.
  - Immediately after decisions are made, but prior to their implementation, through the call-in process; and

- After decisions are implemented, through monitoring and evaluation of their effects.
5. Overview and Scrutiny can be involved in holding the Executive to account as a whole, by using the methods outlined in the preceding paragraph, or on an individual basis. OSB's role in this area has been strengthened in recent years, with arrangements having been made for individual Members of the Executive to attend the Board.
  6. This has given OSB Members the opportunity to hear directly from each Executive Member on matters such as their aims and aspirations, progress made, objectives and priorities and also any emerging issues or pressure areas relating to their portfolio. The process has also presented an opportunity for OSB to highlight and question any issues of concern or difficulty (for example in respect of service areas where targets have not been reached or where objectives have not been achieved) and to question what action will be taken to address such issues.
  7. Arrangements have been made for Councillor M Carr, Lead Executive Member for Children's Services, to attend the meeting. Details of the relevant Executive portfolio are attached at **Appendix 1**.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8. There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

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EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO	SCOPE OF PORTFOLIO
<p><b>Lead Executive Member for Children's Services</b></p> <p>(Lead AD: Assistant Director, Safeguarding &amp; Children's Care)</p>	<p><b>Scope</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The provision of statutory services to address the needs of all children and young people including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable and their families and carers who are in need of services to safeguard their welfare and wherever possible, seek to enable or provide a safe environment that reduces dependency on services</li> <li>▪ Safeguarding of children and adults</li> <li>▪ Health care of vulnerable children</li> <li>▪ Looked after children</li> <li>▪ Youth offending.</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy Framework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Corporate Parenting Strategy</li> <li>▪ Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Board Business Plan</li> <li>▪ Looked After Children Strategy</li> <li>▪ Safeguarding</li> <li>▪ Mental Health Champion</li> <li>▪ General principles of UN convention on the rights of the child</li> <li>▪ Children Act 1989</li> <li>▪ Children Act 2004 (relevant to portfolio)</li> <li>▪ National Standards for Youth Justice Services</li> <li>▪ MSCB Business Plan</li> <li>▪ UN Convention on the Rights of the Child</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Plans and Strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Healthy Child Programme (5-19) (Inc. School nursing service)</li> <li>▪ Children's Services Partnership</li> </ul> <p><b>Service Functions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Children's assessment and care planning teams</li> <li>▪ Fostering services</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Adoption services</li><li>▪ Review and development team</li><li>▪ Leaving care services</li><li>▪ South Tees Youth Offending Service</li><li>▪ Risk Reduction services</li><li>▪ Children’s homes</li><li>▪ Front of House response</li></ul> <p>In circumstances where it is considered that the Executive Member would have a prejudicial interest or by virtue of the fact that they are a member of the Thirteen Housing Group, the matter will be referred to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Member for Regeneration.</p>
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