

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: 7(a)

CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

5 JANUARY 2016

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 scrutiny panel continues to gather evidence in respect of its current review of Safeguarding and Children in Care.
3. At the next meeting, scheduled to be held on 13 January 2016, the scrutiny panel will consider evidence in respect of:
 - The quality and standard of residential care provided/used by the Local Authority.
 - The range of support that the Local Authority provides to assist young people leaving care with the transition to independent living.
4. The appropriate officers from the Department of Wellbeing, Care and Learning will be in attendance at the meeting.
5. In respect of residential care, the scrutiny panel will receive information on:
 - The profile of children placed in residential care.
 - The residential placements used by the Local Authority, their Ofsted ratings and the findings/outcomes of Local Authority inspections.
 - The number of children currently placed in residential care, where they've been placed and the associated costs.
 - The outcomes of children in residential care compared to the rest of the Local Authority's children in care.
 - How the Local Authority's use of residential care compares to other similar authorities.
 - How the experiences of children and young people, in residential care, are monitored and managed.
 - The views and experiences of children and young people living in residential care.
 - How complaints about the standards of care in residential homes are dealt with and the issues that have been raised.

6. In respect of support for young people leaving care, Members will receive information on:
 - The number of care leavers who remain in touch with the Local Authority.
 - The outcomes of children who were formerly in the Local Authority's care.
 - The support that care leavers receive.
 - The information available for young people leaving care.
 - What care leavers say about their experience of leaving care and the support that is/was provided.
 - The assessments and support available for disabled young people - to ensure a successful transition to adult services.

7. At the meeting, the scrutiny panel will also consider evidence in respect of Middlesbrough's secondary schools and the support provided to raise the aspirations and educational outcomes of children in care.

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

Contact Officer:

Georgina Moore (Scrutiny Support Officer)
Democratic Services
Telephone: 01642 729711(direct line)
e-mail: georgina_moore@middlesbrough.gov.uk