

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: 10 (a)

CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

1 March 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

The Local Authority's Arrangements to Support School Improvement - Post Ofsted Action Plan Update

2. A meeting of the scrutiny panel was held on 3 February 2016. At the meeting, the Head of Achievement presented an overview of the progress made so far with implementing the Middlesbrough Post Ofsted Action Plan (POAP) and the impact of the plan to date.
3. Members were advised that the plan has been successfully implemented, however, the full impact of the plan is unlikely to be realised before 2017. The scrutiny panel heard that significant improvements have taken place in the last year and there is a strong commitment from all types of schools to work with the Local Authority and collaborate together. It was highlighted that the sense of partnership and communication between schools and the Local Authority has improved and there is evidence of reciprocal challenge. It was explained that schools are positive about the work done by the Local Authority and they judge support to be effective. OfSTED are also positive about the support that the Local Authority provides to schools they inspect or monitor.
4. The Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel noted the progress made against the action plan and agreed to receive a further update in the autumn.

Safeguarding and Children in Care

5. The scrutiny panel continues to gather evidence in respect of its current review of Safeguarding and Children in Care.
6. At the time of writing, the next meeting of the scrutiny panel is scheduled to take place on 24 February 2016. At this meeting, the scrutiny panel will consider evidence in respect of Terms of Reference i) and j):
 - To examine the profile of the professional workforce of social workers and the effectiveness of care planning across the Local Authority.

- To determine the responsibilities of corporate parents and how this role can be enhanced.
7. Richenda Broad (Director of Wellbeing, Care and Learning), Neil Pocklington (Assistant Director for Safeguarding and Children's Care) and Councillor Mike Carr (Lead Executive Member for Children's Services) will be in attendance to provide the scrutiny panel with information.

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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