

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 7 (b)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

21 APRIL 2016

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. Since the last report to OSB, the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel have met on one occasion on the 11 April 2016.
3. At that meeting, the Council's Risk and Reduction Manager was in attendance to provide a 'setting the scene' presentation on the topic of Sexting. Sexting is defined as images or videos generated by children under the age of 18 or of children under the age of 18 that are of a sexual nature or are indecent. These images are shared between young people and/or adults via a mobile phone, handheld device or website with people they may not even know.
4. It was advised that in 2014/15 22.5 per cent of Year 9 girls (in Middlesbrough schools) had sexted a rude image of themselves, as had 14 per cent of boys. The prevalence of sexting is increasing and self-generated images are posing a big risk to children in relation to CSE. 10 cases have been found to date where sexting is the main reason for the involvement of stronger families.
5. The panel was of the view that this is an emerging issue in Middlesbrough and that the topic should be included in the panel's work programme for 2016/17 as a priority, with the Board's approval.

RECOMMENDATION

6. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report and the updated position.

**COUNCILLOR FRANCES MCINTYRE
CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

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