

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: 13 (a)

<p>CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT</p>

2 August 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

Early Help – An Update

2. The last meeting of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel was held on 5 July 2016. At the meeting, the scrutiny panel received information on its 2015 review of Early Help – Improving Outcomes for Children, Young People and Families. The Assistant Director for Supporting Communities was in attendance to provide an update on the progress made with the implementation of agreed actions, since the panel's report was submitted to the Executive on 17 March 2015.
3. In respect of the update, the panel was advised that:
 - An Incremental School Readiness Model has been developed, which sets out Middlesbrough's approach to school readiness and details the wider influences that impact on a child being ready for school. The development of a shared pathway provides the overarching framework that underpins the school readiness model. The model will provide the facility to monitor and track data in respect of school readiness.
 - A School Readiness Team was established in 2015 and is being expanded in October 2016 to include early years provision.
 - Further investment in early 2016 to improve family practice and casework management will generate improved outcomes from October 2016 onwards and enable Troubled Families funding to be maximised.
 - Information sharing protocols are in place between named partners.
 - Breastfeeding initiatives have been embedded in the children's centres in recent months.
 - Each children's centre is going through a six month improvement plan. This will ensure both outreach and on-site activities are better targeted and achieve greater impact.
 - The workforce development framework includes support around engaging with parents and language development.
 - An early help offer has been developed, which details the roles of individual agencies.

- Operation Encompass has been adopted in Middlesbrough and has had a significant impact on the early sharing of information with schools to enable the provision of timely care and support for the innocent and often silent victims of domestic abuse - the children.
- A major data system has been purchased, which will provide detailed analytical information on a family by family basis.

4. The scrutiny panel has requested a further update in a year's time.

Work Programme 2016/17

5. On 5 July, the scrutiny panel also identified the topics it would like to include in its work programme for 2016/17, for consideration/approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

RECOMMENDATION

6. 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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