

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

MEMBERS: Cllr Andrew Cooper, Cllr Eric Firth, Cllr John Lawson, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Paul Moore, Oliver Gibson (Co-Optee)

SUPPORT: Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager

Agenda item/area of focus	Lead Officer	Areas of Scrutiny carried forward from 22-23	Comments
<p>Standard items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-decision scrutiny (decisions by Cabinet) • Performance Information (Children's Service) – Informal meeting • Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board • Ambition Board Minutes 	<p>Cabinet Members/Senior Officers (Children's Service)</p> <p>Presented by Service Directors (produced by Lucy Tiffany)</p> <p>Panel Members who attend Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>Senior Officers and Cabinet Members</p>	<p>Panel will check at each meeting with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers from Children's Service if there are any potential areas of pre-decision scrutiny they need to consider at future meetings.</p> <p>The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support (written report in informal session and verbal update on key issues in public meeting). Panel will be asked for questions prior to the Panel meeting so that these can be shared with Senior Officers and Cabinet Members in advance of the Informal meeting.</p> <p>Members of the Panel who attend the Corporate Parenting Board will feedback on key issues to the Scrutiny Panel as appropriate.</p> <p>The Panel will receive for information the minutes from the Ambition Board meetings which are held quarterly.</p>	<p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Quarterly</p>
<p>Review of the Improvement Journey – ILACs Inspection</p>	<p>Tom Brailsford/Vicky Metherringham</p>	<p>The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of Children's Service and receive regular updates of the ILACs Inspection and the outcome when it has been undertaken.</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p>

		<p>The ILACS Self Evaluation May 2023 and Self Evaluation Summary was circulated to the Panel for consideration in June 2023. The Panel will consider the ILACS Self Evaluation (SEF) and agree what elements may be relevant to this work. The latest version of the Children’s Services Self Evaluation for January 2024 was shared with the Panel for information.</p> <p>The Chair of the Panel attended a Webinar on ILACS preparation.</p> <p>The Panel will consider the Front Door Health Check in July 2024.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 26th January 2024 – Working Together to Safeguard Children</p> <p>The Panel considered a report on Working Together to Safeguard Children, advising that in December 2023, the Department for Education published new statutory guidance on multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children and the report will give a summary of the changes made. The Panel agreed to invite Julie Sykes, Independent Scrutineer, to a future meeting during the 2024-25 municipal year to discuss and reflect on the new arrangements and changes and how the service has acted as a safeguarding multi-agency partnership. The Panel also agreed to receive a copy of the latest Annual Report currently produced by Kirklees Safeguarding Partnership Board, so that they could see the work that is undertaken.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to attend appropriate meetings and undertake observation to see the key elements of the multi-agency safeguarding changes and new arrangements on working together with a particular focus on implementation of the new service and good practice.</p>	<p>Carry forward to 2024-25 - new municipal year - July 2024</p> <p>26.1.24</p> <p>Carry forward to 2024-25 – new municipal year</p>
<p>Review of Children’s Residential Homes and functions</p>	<p>Kieran Lord</p>	<p>The Panel will review the Children’s Residential Homes and functions and officers will update the Panel on visits to the Homes as appropriate.</p>	

		<p>Panel meeting on 26th March 2024</p> <p>In March 2024, the Panel will receive a verbal update in relation to a report considered by the Corporate Parenting Board on the 5th March 2024 on the developments within the Kirklees Children’s Residential homes. The key messages outlined in the report were as follows -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All five of the residential homes in Kirklees were open and providing homes to children in care; • In the final stages of registering a new home to provide additional capacity for up to four children and young people in need of small group living within our authority and had also begun the process of purchasing an additional “small home” to add to the options in Kirklees; • Working closely with Ofsted to improve the residential homes and planned to have all homes in Kirklees rated as Good or Outstanding within the next inspection cycle; • Revised the staffing structures and job roles for the residential estate and currently rolling out staff training on the core model of care, working in conjunction with emotional wellbeing service, specifically including Dialectical Behavioural Therapy (DBT) 	
<p>Quality Assurance – impact of auditing the Children’s Service</p>	<p>Vicky Metherringham/Robert Fordyce/Service Directors in Children’s</p>	<p>The Panel will consider the Quality Assurance impact of auditing the Children’s Service, what difference it was making to children’s lives.</p> <p>Informal Panel meeting on 1st December 2023</p> <p>The Panel considered a Quarterly Overview report on Quality Assurance and the impact of auditing the Children’s Service. The report covered the 31 Learning Conversations and Practice Learning Days which had taken place during May, June, and July 2023. These conversations covered engagement with children, management oversight and supervision, partnership working, assessments and feedback from parents and carers.</p>	<p>In next 6 months</p> <p>1st December 2023</p>

		<p>include a plan to address challenges in this area. The panel would undertake a series of supported visits to schools to look at a range of good practice examples in this area, including inclusive approaches. The visits will be arranged to take place after the October 2023 half term. Visits will also be undertaken to the Education Learning Partnership Board and other multi-agency meetings where the level of suspensions and exclusions are discussed and addressed.</p> <p>Informal Panel meeting on 22 Sept 2023 Panel The Panel considered a report for information, giving an overview of the statutory outcomes achieved by learners in Kirklees during the academic year 2022-2023. The report covered outcomes at the end of the Foundation Stage, Phonics (Year 1), Key Stage 1 (Year 2), Key Stage 2 (Year 6), Key Stage 4 (GCSE) and Key Stage 5.</p> <p>The Panel have been informed that a report for decision by cabinet regarding the SEND Transformation plan and sufficiency regarding alternative provision would be available for them to consider at a future meeting.</p> <p>Visit to Education and Learning Partnership Board (ELPB) on 27th September 2023 The Chair of the Panel attended the Education Learning and Partnership Board (ELPB) on the 27th September 2023 as part of the Panel’s focus on exclusions and suspensions in Kirklees’ schools. The following key areas were considered –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exclusions and suspensions including data taken from 2022/23 - Support approach in place, including new DfE guidance published in May 22 	<p>22.9.23 Panel</p> <p>27th September 2023</p>
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<p>Sufficiency for Children’s Service (places/staffing resources)</p>	<p>Tom Brailsford and Service Directors</p>	<p>The Panel will consider future updates on vacancies and staff shortages within the Children’s Service and the approaches being taken by the service to bring professionals back into the workforce, eg retention packages. The Panel will also monitor this during visits to the Social Care Teams.</p> <p>Areas to be looked at by Panel (suggested by Service Directors) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children’s Social Care (Social Workers) - Foster carers - Residential Homes staff - Over provision of primary places <p>Panel meeting on 28th July 2023 The Panel agreed to consider future data which would provide information relating to safeguarding training of frontline staff from the Housing Solutions Team Members who visit private homes and may become aware of safeguarding issues. Homes and Neighbourhoods have arranged with Children’s Services (via Children’s Services Duty and Advice) that they will deliver bespoke training on front door/children’s safeguarding issues direct to Housing Solutions team members. The training session took place in October 2023 and more dates would be arranged to take place in the</p>	<p>Within next 6 months</p> <p>28th July 2023</p>

		<p>future to pick up any other team members who could not attend. In addition, all staff in the Housing Solutions Team have been asked to refresh the basic safeguarding MI pod case and some bespoke training has been arranged on children’s safeguarding for all staff.</p> <p>Lead Member Briefing on 12th January 2024 The School Place Panning Document 2023 has been recently published and was shared with the Panel in January 2024 – the link to the main document: https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/schools/pdf/securing-sufficient-school-places23.pdf The local school place planning area profiles can be found on this link - https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/schools/school-organisation-and-planning.aspx</p>	
<p>Potential changes to Young People’s Activity Team (YPAT) provision - Provides after school activities for C&YP with the most complex disabilities and needs</p>	Kieran Lord/ Sara Miles	Panel to agree on areas of scrutiny.	
<p>Partnership Arrangements</p>	Vicky Metherington/Jo-Anne Sanders/Kieran Lord	<p>The Panel will continue to scrutinise partnerships and boards during the 2023/24 municipal year, for example, Corporate Parenting Board and Health and Wellbeing Board, visits to internal teams and partners and the Panel can look at how data was collected and used to improve outcomes. The Panel can be represented at meetings, events and visits to internal teams and external providers and agree to focus on the following areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection • Partnership working • Is the voice of the young person being heard? (as below) • Good practice • Delivery of quality service 	

Voice of the Young Person	Tom Brailsford/Service Directors (Children’s Service)	The Panel will keep a watching brief on all areas of scrutiny by the Panel and explore whether the voice of the child was being heard, whether they are empowered to speak up and ensure that lessons have and are being learned.	
Special Educational Needs and High Needs (SEND)	Jo-Anne Sanders/Kieran Lord/Adrian Wisniewski	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the following areas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in special school places by the rebuild of Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College - SEND Transformation Plan - the role of the voluntary sector partnerships, third/private sector - New provision – schools and additional resources - Sufficiency of SEND, foster care and residential care – key challenges - High Needs block funding (quarterly reports – Jo Sanders to confirm dates) - Visits to PCAN drop-in sessions to engage with parents of children with SEND and get their views and experiences on accessing the services. - Post 16 Home to School Transport for SEND Young People <p>Informal meeting on 22nd September 2023 The Panel considered a verbal update regarding Post 16 Home to School Transport to include costs, action plans to address and manage the current challenges and a position statement.</p> <p>Informal Panel Meeting on 1st December 2023 The Panel considered a briefing note giving an update on Post 16 Home to School Travel outlining the current arrangements, future plans for proposed changes and next steps. The Panel agreed to consider a further update in January giving an update on the outcome of the consultation which was due to finish on the 31st December 2023. The Panel noted that following the consultation, responses would be taken into account on the final Statement and a decision made by Cabinet in March 2024.</p>	<p>(ongoing)</p> <p>22nd September 2023</p> <p>1st December 2023</p>

		<p>Visit to Education and Learning Partnership Board (ELPB) on 27th September 2023</p> <p>The Chair of the Panel attended the Education Learning and Partnership Board (ELPB) on the 27th September 2023 as part of the Panel’s focus on SEND. The Board considered SEND data, SEND Transformation Plan and challenges. The ELPB also received an update on the Kirklees SEND Partnership WSoA whose meetings had been attended by representatives from the DfE, PCAN, Headteachers and health and care professionals.</p>	27 th September 2023
Special Guardianship Orders (SGO’s)	Kieran Lord/Joel Hanna	The Panel will scrutinise the support given to Special Guardianship Orders, not just financial but also to check they are getting the support they need.	Within next 6 months
<p>Mental Health in Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of service - Waiting lists <p>Emotional Wellbeing Provision in Kirklees</p>	Kieran Lord/Stewart Horn	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the experience verses the provision of service and seek feedback from service users on their perception on using the service. The Panel will also consider the fluctuation in the waiting times and trends for children’s emotional health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 26th January 2024</p> <p>The Panel considered performance data in relation to the waiting lists for assessment of children with ADHD and Autism and agreed to receive a future update on the new triage system for the support being put in place to meet the needs of the young person to ensure they were keeping well whilst they waited for their assessment.</p> <p>Emotional Wellbeing Provision in Kirklees – “Keeping Kirklees in Mind”</p> <p>The Panel noted that the new Kirklees Keep in Mind service will launch on the 1st April 2024 and agreed to consider a future update on the implementation of the new service and how it is working in practice, which will include a visit to the service or attendance at an appropriate meeting to understand how it is being implemented.</p>	<p>Review post xmas 23 and agree approach to scrutiny</p> <p>New municipal year 2024/25</p>

Lead Member Briefings

(Bi-monthly LM Briefings with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children's; and Strategic Director/Service Directors in Children's Services during 23/24) –
Actions from these meetings will be included within the Panel's Work Programme where appropriate

Elective Home Education	Jo-Anne Sanders	The Lead Member will keep a watching brief on any issues relating to Elective Home Education and consider updates regarding the overview of statistical neighbours.	Within next 12 months
Structure Review of multi-disciplinary teams	Vicky Metheringham	The Lead Member will receive updates on the structure review of multi-disciplinary teams where services are being brought together.	Sept 24 (23/24 municipal year)
School Improvement Offer	Jo-Anne Sanders	The Lead Member will receive regular updates regarding the following areas:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and Learning Board - Early Years Development Board 	
Kirklees Support Offer to Schools	Jo-Anne Sanders/Isabel Brittain	The Lead Member will receive updates on the issues around budget management for schools, what role the local authority is taking in supporting schools and are multi academy schools included in this work.	
Redesign of short break, respite and support provision for disabled children, young people and their families	Kieran Lord/Tom Brailsford/Joel Hanna	The Chair received a briefing on the 15 th September 2023 to update that a report will be considered by Cabinet on the 26th September 2023 asking for the consultation process to start on the Redesign of short break, respite and support provision for disabled children, young people and their families. No decisions will be taken at this stage until consultation has taken place, as part of this consultation the Children's Scrutiny Panel will be given the opportunity to have a view on the results of the consultation and any subsequent proposals.	LM Briefing on 15.9.23 and Cabinet on 26.9.23