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**Service Director – Legal, Governance and
Commissioning**

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Friday 22 March 2019

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Children's Scrutiny Panel

The **Children's Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **10.00 am** on **Monday 1 April 2019**.

This meeting will be webcast live and will be available to view via the Council's website.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Muscroft', on a light-colored background.

Julie Muscroft

Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

The Children's Scrutiny Panel members are:-

Member

Councillor Cahal Burke (Chair)

Councillor Donna Bellamy

Councillor Lisa Holmes

Councillor Darren O'Donovan

Councillor Sheikh Ullah

Councillor Edgar Holroyd-Doveton

Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee)

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Committee

This is where Councillors who are attending as substitutes will say for whom they are attending.

2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 8

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2019.

3: Interests

9 - 10

The Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have disclosable pecuniary interests, which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items, or any other interests.

4: Admission of the Public

Most debates take place in public. This only changes when there is a need to consider certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual. You will be told at this point whether there are any items on the Agenda which are to be discussed in private.

5: Number of Children in Care

11 - 16

The Panel will consider the latest data showing the number of children in care.

Contact Officer: Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting

6: Kirklees Learning Strategy 17 - 20

The Panel will consider a report providing an outline of key areas of the Kirklees Learning Strategy, which is borne out of the latest educational outcomes report.

Contact Officer: Harkireet Sohel, Head of Educational Outcomes for Young People

7: Early Support Partnership 21 - 28

The Panel will consider an update on the development on the three programmes funded through the Department for Education (DFE) Innovation Funding.

Contact Officer: Michelle Wheatcroft, Head of Service (Early Support)

8: Review of the 2018/19 work programme and consider items for 2019/20 29 - 42

Members of the panel will consider the progress on the work programme during the 2018/19 municipal year and consider issues for inclusion in the Panel's work programme during the 2019/20 municipal year.

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday 25th February 2019

Present: Councillor Cahal Burke (Chair)
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Lisa Holmes
Councillor Darren O'Donovan
Councillor Sheikh Ullah

Co-optees Dale O'Neill

In attendance: Mel Meggs
Jo-Anne Sanders
Elaine McShane
Harkireet Sohel
Emma Brayford
Janet Tolley
Martin Green
Michelle Wheatcroft
Mandy Cameron
Steve Comb
Tracy Bodle

Observers: Cllr J Stewart-Turner, Cllr M Ahmed

1 Membership of the Committee

No apologies for absence were received.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th January 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

5 Introduction to Mel Meggs, Director of Children's Services

Members of the Panel welcomed Mel Meggs, the new Director for Children's Services.

Mel Meggs advised the Panel that she had started at Kirklees Council in December 2018 and had worked within Children Services in a number of local authorities for a total of 34 years. Mel Meggs acknowledged the significant progress made by

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 25 February 2019

Children's Services on their improvement journey, but advised that the Service needed to continue on its path of improvement.

Mel Meggs advised the Panel that her key areas of focus as Director of Children's Services were as follows:-

- Continuation of improvements and progress on improvement journey;
- Work needed with schools around achieving the very best learning outcomes for children and young people in Kirklees;
- Take the early help offer forward and the vision for young people;
- Support the next stage for the SEND transformation which would provide the right support at the right time.

RESOLVED - The Panel welcomed Mel Meggs, new Director for Children's Services, to the meeting and thanked her for the update and introduction.

6 Number of Children in care

The Panel considered the latest data showing the number of children in care presented by Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting.

The Panel welcomed the information within the report on statistical neighbours, which had previously been requested by the Panel.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding what work was taking place to support children in care living outside of the District, Steve Comb explained that there were a number of ongoing work streams, such as External Placement Panel and Quality and Permanence Panels. The Panel was advised that there was a review system in place to look at cases where a child had been in a placement for some time. Steve Comb further explained that if a placement was not going well outside of the district, all efforts would be taken to try and place the child closer to home. The Board was informed that in December 2018, two children had been placed outside the district for safeguarding reasons.

Steve Comb advised the Panel that Kirklees was looking to build its local capacity in terms of fostering resources locally, but was also reviewing whether the child had to stay in care for the whole of their childhood or whether the service could begin to help to rebuild connections for the child with their families.

The Panel requested that they be kept up to date with future plans around the number of children placed in care outside of the district.

RESOLVED -

- 1) The Panel noted the report on numbers of children in care and thanked Steve Comb for his contributions.
- 2) The Board agreed to be kept up to date on the future plans around the number of children placed in care out of the district.

7 Virtual School

The Panel considered a report providing an update on the role of the Virtual School in Kirklees, its statutory responsibilities and some case study examples presented by Janet Tolley, Virtual School Head Teacher (Children and Young People in Care).

Janet Tolley highlighted the following key facts regarding the Virtual School:

- The virtual school was currently working with 535 youngsters aged between 3 and 18 years old and the team worked with the school and carers to improve education, attainment and attendance for children in care;
- Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and processes were in place to focus on individual young people and how to enhance their educational attainment;
- A new part of the Virtual School Head Teacher's role was to provide advice and guidance relating to previously looked after children regarding issues such as choice of school, access to services or if the child had been excluded;
- The Virtual Team worked similar to a school and received data on attainment and attendance each term for all the children they were working with;
- There were currently 15 staff in total in the Virtual School, including a Data Analyst and IT support and that the cohort of children and young people could vary, for example in primary there could be between 60 to 70 young people and in secondary schools the cohort tended to be smaller and the cases usually required more intensive support from year 9 through to age 18.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding whether there were adequate resources within the Virtual School Team to support all the youngsters with special needs within Kirklees, Janet Tolley explained that the National Association of Head Teachers were currently undertaking a survey of Virtual School teams to see what ratio of support staff there was against the ratio of number of children in care. Janet Tolley further explained that her team were not able to attend every PEP meeting with the social workers and schools as there was not the capacity, but that the team did undertake to carry out pre-PEP preparation to try and ascertain what questions might be asked at the meeting and if the support currently in place for the child was having an impact.

In response to a question from the Panel asking if Kirklees was able to make a genuine difference to children in care with special needs, given the cohort numbers and the demand on resources within the team, Janet Tolley advised that the case studies attached to the report demonstrated that a difference could be made by the Team's ability to work across services and enable the youngster to get onto the right trajectory. The Panel was informed that it was difficult in terms of data to be able to demonstrate what a difference had been made to a child due to any trauma and life experiences that had taken place pre-care. The Panel was informed that consideration should be given to how well the youngster was engaging and settling into their school.

In response to a question from the Panel asking if all schools were using the funding allocated to them each year, how it was allocated, and what would the funding be used for, Janet Tolley advised that the pupil premium plus funding requests would go to the Virtual School Head Teacher for approval and when the Team felt that

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targets were not being set they would contact the school and work with them to ensure that the right support was put in place for the child. The Panel was informed that it was the role of the Virtual School Head Teacher to challenge how Pupil Premium funding was being spent for previously looked after children. Janet Tolley further explained that the most popular requests from schools were that the funding be used for one to one tuition within schools or Kip McGrath (specialised tutoring) for example, but the school and the social worker would identify exactly what support the youngster needed.

In response to a question from the Panel asking if parents were involved in any of the SEND processes, Janet Tolley responded to advise that it would depend on the individual case and the Team would be led by the Social Worker.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding whether the pupil premium was being utilised in the best way within schools, Janet Tolley advised that the Team would not be informed of this but that in terms of pupil premium plus, the schools were using the funding effectively for children in care that schools were usually positive about how funding was allocated and the support that was provided by the Virtual School.

The Panel agreed that the information contained within the report had raised their awareness of the Virtual School and recognised the positive and continuous improvements being made to achieve better educational outcomes for children in care.

RESOLVED -

- 1) The Panel noted the report on the role of the Virtual School in Kirklees, its statutory responsibilities and case studies and thanked Janet Tolley for her contributions.
- 2) The Panel agreed that the information contained within the report had raised the Panel's awareness of the Virtual School and recognised the positive and continuous improvements being made to achieve better educational outcomes for looked after children.

8 Kirklees Annual Educational Standards and Quality Report 2017/18

The Panel considered a report to the Kirklees Annual Educational Standards and Quality Report for 2017/18 – key stage educational achievement outcomes for Kirklees schools academic year presented by Harkireet Sohel (Head of Service for Outcomes for Children) and Emma Brayford, Kirklees Learning Partner (Data and Assessment).

Harkireet Sohel and Emma Brayford highlighted a number of key facts, as follows:

- New curriculum for learning came into force for first teaching in September 2014 for year 1 to year 9; the first assessment took place in the summer of 2016 for the new curriculum in KS1 (age 7) and year KS2 (age 11);
- New grading system for KS4 (GCSE's) assessments had been changed to the new grade 1 to 9;

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- In 2014 match funding ceased to be offered to the Local Authority and since 2015 Early Years had been below national levels; the match funding had provided resources and expert training to early years practitioners and this had contributed to a drop in standard for Early Years teachers;
- In 12 of the 17 curriculum areas, children in early years were achieving at least a grade 2;
- Teachers were working hard to look at the gaps for learning in KS1 and aligning them with early years, particularly for communication and phonics;
- Kirklees was currently 2% behind the national average for phonics, which meant that some children could not access the full curriculum as they were struggling with their reading; the Learning Service and Schools were working together to focus on reading and had put additional funding into this area;
- KS4 mathematics was above national average for Kirklees, but the Council had higher aspirations for children to be able to achieve grade 5 or above;
- KS4 figures have been above national average since 2012, but there were huge differences between boys and girls in that there was nearly half a grade difference, girls were achieving better grades than boys in 8 of the subject areas;
- Mathematics, phonics and reading was a key area of focus for KS1 and KS2 and faster progress was needed for those with special needs and disadvantaged children; Leadership and management both within Kirklees and Schools was critical in making this a sustainable and effective piece of work;
- Kirklees needed to reduce the rates of exclusions and look at how the process within schools could be strengthened to achieve this.

The Board requested a future report outlining progress and aspirations for reducing the number of exclusions within schools.

In response to a question from the Panel asking how the involvement of parents in their child's education could be increased, Harkireet Sohel advised that engagement with parents was part of the national standards for leadership and whilst some schools were doing this successfully, the good practice needed to be shared with other schools. Mel Meggs advised the Panel that the Learning Strategy would focus on engaging with parents in the education of their children and the Learning Service recognised that parents could be the biggest influence on their children's learning.

In response to a question from the Panel asking for more information regarding the match funding that was withdrawn in 2014, Emma Brayford advised that when phonics was first introduced in 2012 the DFE offered match funding to Local Authorities to fund training and resources to support the implementation of the phonics. The Panel was informed that match funding ceased after approximately 24 months and was never intended as long term funding, but had still had an impact on schools. Emma Brayford advised that Kirklees was still providing phonics training to schools, but that the funding was not available to support some of the schools in Kirklees.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding how many hours of learning were lost through exclusions and children being put into isolation, Harkireet Sohel explained that whilst recognising that exclusions in Kirklees was high, it was

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important that the Learning Service looked to other Local Authorities to learn from what they were doing to reduce the number of exclusions and think more creatively about how this could be managed in a more effective way.

The Board agreed to consider a future report giving a progress update on the educational challenges ahead, attendance and exclusions.

RESOLVED –

- 1) The Panel noted the report on the Kirklees Annual Educational Standards and Quality report for 2017/18 and thanked Harkireet Sohel and Emma Brayford for their contributions.
- 2) The Panel agreed to consider a future report giving a progress update on the educational challenges ahead, attendance and exclusions – date to be determined.

9 Kirklees Community Hubs

The Panel considered a report on the development of Kirklees Community Hubs and the accountability arrangements established for activity taking place within the hubs and across Council and partner agencies presented by Martin Green (Head of Localities Officer for Children and Families) and Michelle Wheatcroft (Head of Service for Early Support).

Martin Green advised the Panel that schools and partners were looking to engage with communities outside of the school gates to improve outcomes for children and highlighted the following key facts:

- There were currently 17 community hubs across the Kirklees District which defined the Council's partnership with schools at primary and early years;
- Not all schools were active within the community hubs and there were varying degrees of engagement by schools;
- The Kirklees Healthy child Programme was specified and commissioned with Hub Leaders and was delivered through Hub infrastructure;
- A team of consultants drawn from the Council's Early Support Service had been appointed and aligned to each Community Hub.

Michelle Wheatcroft informed the Panel that the Early Support and Partnership had been launched at the end of January and had been well attended. New and revised services had been launched including the Multi-Systemic Therapy, Family Group Conferencing, Family Mental Health Service, Family Support Service and Parenting and Group work.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding data that showed the Learning Support Strategy was being effective, Michelle Wheatcroft advised that it was early days and that the Learning Service were looking at data sets and that this information would be brought to a future meeting of the Panel for consideration.

The Panel advised that engagement with elected members by some of the Community Hubs had not always been satisfactory or effective and Councillors had

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on occasion not been invited to events and meetings. Martin Green agreed that he was aware that there had been occasions when Councillors had been discouraged to be involved in Community Hubs work and that this was not acceptable. Martin Green further explained that going forward Community Hubs would be clearly briefed on the essential engagement with Councillors. The Panel was informed that some community hubs were more developed than others and that work over the next 12 months would achieve more of a shared understanding. The Panel agreed that regular engagement with Ward Councillors should be undertaken by Community Hubs in the future.

RESOLVED –

- 1) The Panel noted the report on Kirklees Community Hubs and thanked Michelle Wheatcroft and Martin Green for their contributions.
- 2) The Panel agreed to consider a future report showing data which demonstrated that the Early Support Strategy was being affective – date to be determined.
- 3) The Panel requested that regular engagement with Ward Councillors be undertaken within the Kirklees Community Hubs and that they be invited to events and meetings as appropriate within their ward areas.

- 10 Children's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme and agenda plan for 2019/19**
Members of the Panel considered the work programme and agenda plan for the 2018/19 municipal year.

RESOLVED -

- 1) That the 2018/19 Agenda Plan for the Children's Scrutiny Panel be noted.
- 2) That the Governance Officer be authorised to liaise with officers on agreed actions.

- 11 Future Meeting Dates**
The Panel noted the dates of the meetings of the Children's Scrutiny Panel for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year.

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL			
COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC			
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS			
Childrens Scrutiny Panel			
Name of Councillor			
Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed: Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

- (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
- (b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Name of meeting: Childrens Scrutiny Committee
Date: 1st April 2019
Title of report: Number and Age of Children in Care

Purpose of report

To provide information to Childrens Scrutiny on a regular basis relating to the number and profile of children in our care. Including information related to the number placed outside of the District.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	NA
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	NA
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	NA
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Elaine McShane
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	NA
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	NA
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr V Kendrick Childrens Portfolio

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

(Have you considered GDPR?)

Yes GDPR has been considered. The information in this report does not identify any individuals.

1. Summary

This graph shows the number of looked after children (excluding any looked after children receiving only S20 short term breaks) alongside the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).

The current number of LAC equates to a rate per 10,000 population aged 0-17 of **63.0** (63.8). This compares to a statistical neighbour average of 86.1 and a national average of 64.0 based on national published data for March 2018 (NB: The number of children in Kirklees aged 0-17 has been revised for the calculation from 99,192 to 99,815 as per the data published by DfE in October 2018)

Kirklees (Jan 18) = 63.0

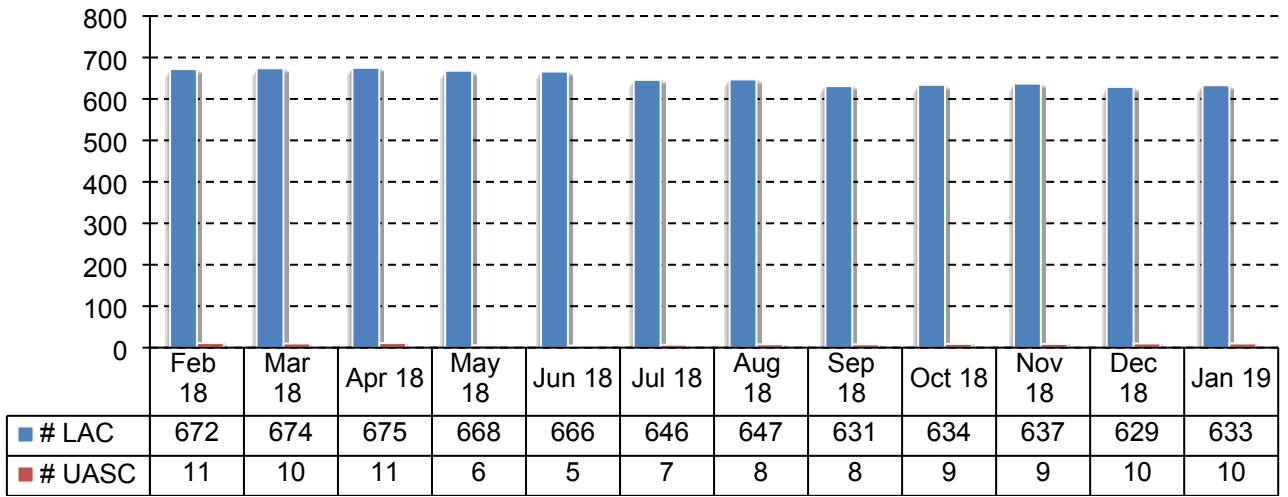
Statistical Neighbours (2018) = 86.1

England (2018) = 64.0

Statistical Neighbours

Local Authorities "Very Close"* to Kirklees (* Source LAIT)
Kirklees Council
Rochdale Borough Council
Bolton Council
Calderdale Council
Bury Borough Council
Dudley MBC
Derby City
Lancashire Council
Stockton-on Tees Borough Council
Leeds City Council
Telford & Wrekin Council

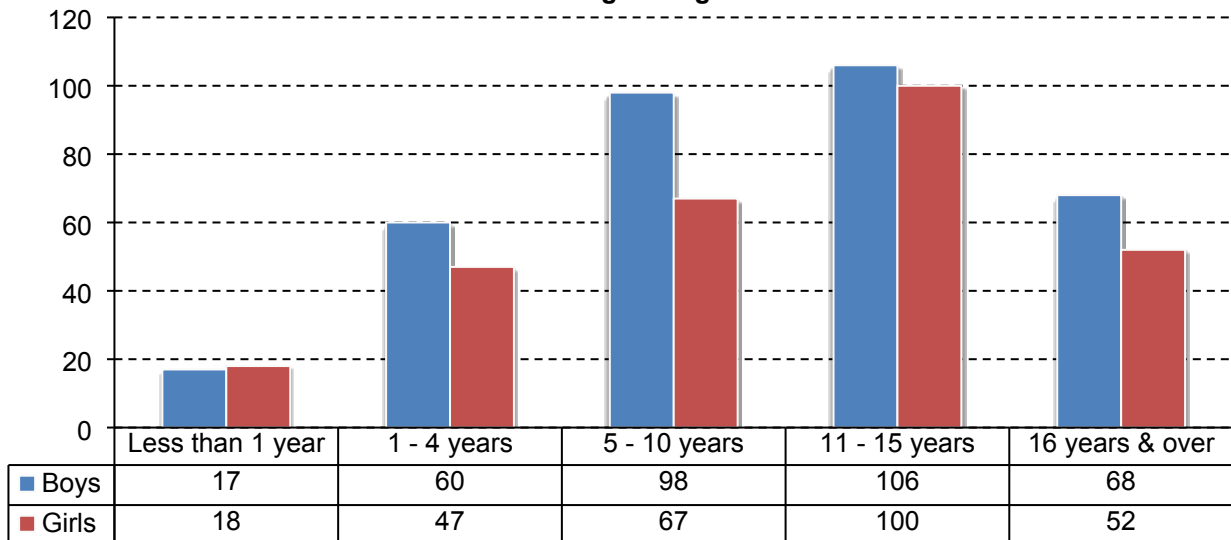
Children looked after and number of UASC



This graph shows the breakdown by age and gender of the children in care.

The largest age group for boys is 11 - 15 years with **106** children and the largest age group for girls is 11 - 15 years with **99** children.

Children looked after age and gender breakdown

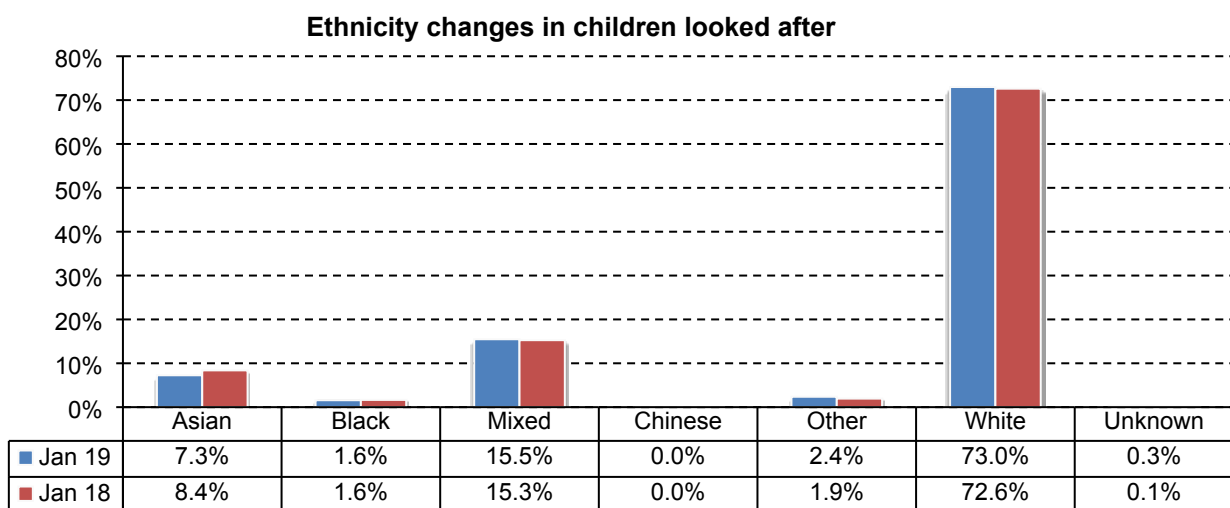


Children placed more than 20 miles outside of Kirklees

This graph shows a slight increase in children placed outside of Kirklees District, we continue to be proactive in recruiting new foster carers for our children within district.

	31 Jul 2018		31 Aug 2018		30 Sep 2018		31 Oct 2018		30 Nov 2018		31 Dec 2018		31 Jan 2019		28 Feb 2019	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Placed outside Kirklees & over 20 miles from home address	110	17.0%	112	17.3%	107	16.6%	107	16.9%	103	16.2%	106	16.9%	107	16.9%	104	16.6%

This graph shows the ethnic breakdown of the children looked after population at the end of January 2019 and the same point 12 months ago. This has been relatively stable throughout the period.



2. Information required to take a decision

No decision is required.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

Not applicable

3.2 Working with Partners

Not applicable

3.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable

3.4 Improving Outcomes for Children

This information is provided at the request of Childrens Scrutiny Committee to monitor the number of children in care their age and location of placements.

3.5 Reducing demand of services

Not applicable

3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Not applicable

4. Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable

5. Next steps

A similar report will be presented at a future Children's Scrutiny Committee.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That the report be noted.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Not applicable

8. Contact officer

Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Previous reports to the Childrens Scrutiny Committee on number and age of children in care.

10. Service Director responsible

Elaine McShane, Service Director (Child Protection and Family Support)

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Name of meeting: Children's Scrutiny Panel
Date: 1st April 2019
Title of report: Kirklees Learning Strategy

Purpose of report

To provide scrutiny with an outline key areas of the Kirklees Learning Strategy which is borne out of the latest outcomes report.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/A
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	N/A
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	N/A
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Jo-Anne Sanders (for Mel Meggs) 22.3.19
Is it also signed off by the Service Director (Finance)?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Viv Kendrick (Children)

Electoral wards affected:

Ward councillors consulted:

Public or private:

(Have you considered GDPR?)

Yes GDPR has been considered. The information in this report does not identify any individuals.

1. Summary/Background

The education landscape is forever changing and the latest Kirklees outcomes report highlighted the need create a strategy that is sustainable and will lead to much improved outcomes for all young people.

This is critical if the local authority is to ensure with its partners:-

- People in Kirklees have aspiration to achieve their ambition through education, training, employment and life long learning
- Children have the best start in life
- Kirklees has sustainable economic growth and provides good employment for and with communities and businesses

The 2018/19 outcomes report highlighted that whilst there are strengths in areas such as Key Stage 4 attainment, Key Stage 1 writing and an improving picture in phonics, reading and writing, Kirklees lags behind the national averages in too many indicators. Arguably, if the young people of Kirklees are to lead fulfilling lives, these outcomes must improve.

There has been an overwhelming desire from all stakeholders that the learning strategy must take this data from 2018 as a baseline. The Kirklees Learning and Education Partnership Board has been instrumental in supporting this process. Officers from the local authority have been and continue to engage in dialogue with a range of partners so that the strategy has its roots in a shared understanding. Colleagues in all school sectors, governors and trustees have contributed to the fundamental strands.

Kirklees is home a range of educational settings, including maintained, academy, grammar, special, middle, all-through, and alternative provision. The Learning Strategy aims to encompass the range of providers because it is focused on Kirklees children and young people, regardless of where they learn.

The 2018 Outcomes report highlighted several key areas of concern:-

- The inconsistent performance of Kirklees children across the key stages, where it is marked in Early Years, Key Stage 1 and 2.
- The underachievement of those who are disadvantaged (Pupil Premium, Free School Meals, SEND) in many indicators
- The gap between boys and girls at several stages in education, marked particularly in outcomes at Key Stage 4
- Where Kirklees children are improving their performance (phonics, reading), they are still below the national average.
- With some outcomes such as Attainment 8 at Key Stage 4, Kirklees ranks 90th out of 152 local authorities which is an accurate assessment taking into account socio-economic factors.
- However, in 6 out of 8 attainment figures, Kirklees ranks in the bottom quartile (D) with rankings at 120 on average out of 152.
- A closer analysis of recent Ofsted reports highlights the inconsistent performance of school leaders and governors.
- Separate analysis of exclusions data, shows that Kirklees has high rates of disengagement, particularly from disadvantaged learners.

2. Key Issues/Current Position.

With a full complement of staff in post now, the Learning and Early Support team has collaborated with senior Kirklees Learning Partners to draw up some significant areas to form the strategy. The following areas were identified:-

- Phonics, language and communication
- Numeracy
- Exclusions and attendance
- Progress of disadvantaged groups
- Leadership and governance

It was also agreed that two principles would form the foundations for the strategy. They are:-

1. The learning strategy must be led by research, best practice and measured actions
2. The learning strategy must be collaborative, value-driven and sustainable.

There are 5 key strands of the strategy.

- **Phonics, communication and reading**

- That phonics and reading across the school system improves so that all learners, particularly the disadvantaged can access more challenging learning
- Immersion in language at the earliest possible stage is critical.
- Working with the PVI sector is vital if all learners can access high quality language provision
- The community hub and adult education sectors have a key role in supporting families
- There are current authority-led reading strategies that need to run to evaluate their effectiveness first.
- Research schools in Bradford and York, Teaching Schools, libraries and national partners will be key.

- **Numeracy**

- This area is need of further investigation and plans are in place to consult with local practitioners
- Working with the PVI sector is vital if all learners can access high quality numeracy provision
- Maths subject knowledge is critical for all practitioners
- The leadership of maths in a range of settings is in need of strengthening.
- Drawing upon research from the EEF, Maths Hubs, the Sutton Trust is vital
- Lack of question level data at Key Stage 1.

- **Improve attainment for all, but fastest for disadvantaged learners**

- Further analysis of data will reveal trends in disadvantaged performance
- The need to work with social care across the range of learners (CIN,LAC etc) and Hubs to create holistic packages of support
- Research from Teaching Schools, Research Schools, EEF, ST to inform best practice
- A drive with school leaders to take advantage of the new 2019 Ofsted framework which emphasises inclusion and curriculum.

- **Reduce exclusions and improve attendance**

- Further data analysis will create a fuller picture of the patterns and impact of exclusions
- The High Needs review and outcomes of the SEND peer review will inform planning.
- The network of local authority children's services is a source of best practice
- A range of local authority services (KLPs, SENDACT, Inclusion and special schools) are working collaboratively with secondary headteachers on an action research project to review curriculum, behaviour management and Pupil Placement protocols. By June 2019, this will inform aspects of the strategy.
- Similar activities in the primary sector are in the planning stage

- Essential for the breadth of specialists in managing behaviour, speech and language therapists, CAMHs, police, YOT, social workers and early support be enabled to engage with schools.
- **Improve leadership and management**
- Ensure recruitment and retention and training of school staff meets local need
- Develop with local and national partners such as Ambition Institute and MATs, middle leadership coaching, mentoring and training to meet the new landscape
- Develop a peer review system across Kirklees that puts schools on the front foot and not looking over their shoulders
- Develop specific leadership programmes to ensure schools reflect the diversity of Kirklees in leadership roles
- Evaluate and improve governance, including training, recruitment and championing excellence.
- Develop a strong young people's voice strategy.

3. **Implications for the Council**

3.1 **Working with People**

The range of services and partners involved in the learning strategy will demand high levels of co-operation if impact is to be positive.

3.2 **Working with Partners**

The Learning Strategy, borne out of the Kirklees Education and Learning Partnership Board places collaboration at its heart. The range of local and national partners will add to this.

3.3 **Place Based Working**

Not applicable

3.4 **Improving outcomes for children**

Not applicable

3.5 **Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Not applicable

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable

5. **Next steps and timelines**

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report be noted.

7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

8. **Contact officer**

Harkireet Sohel, Head of Educational Outcomes for Young People

9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

N/A

10. **Service Director responsible**

Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director Learning and Early Support

Name of meeting: Children's Scrutiny Panel
Date: 1st April 2019
Title of report: Early Support Partnership

Purpose of report:

To update Scrutiny on development of the Early Support Partnership, the Family Support service and to provide information on the three programmes (Family Group Conference, Multi Systemic Therapy and the Family Mental Health Service) funded through the Department for Education Innovation funding, in order to generate discussion and help Councillors decide whether to investigate and debate issues and hold the executive to account.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No The programmes are DfE funded to March 2019, but are being built into the base budget for the next financial year.
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	n/a
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	n/a
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name	Jo-Anne Sanders (for Mel Meggs) 22.3.19
Is it also signed off by the Service Director?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Councillor Viv Kendrick Councillor Masood Ahmed

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: n/a

Public or private: Public

(Have you considered GDPR?)

Yes GDPR has been considered. The information in this report does not identify any individuals.

1. Summary/Background

The new Early Support Service was implemented from April 2018 with the Head of Service in post from July 2018. The service offers non statutory services to children, young people and their families in line with the Kirklees Early Support Strategy. The entitlement includes Family Support, Parenting and Group Work, Family Group Conferencing, Multi Systemic Therapy and the Family Mental Health Service.

Early Support for children and families is more effective and less expensive than intervening when problems become entrenched. Even if early support cannot stop problems escalating, targeted and evidence based interventions for those at most risk can still make a difference and reduce the need for the high costs of social care involvement and taking children into care. These kinds of services are better for children and families but are also important to ensure that the local safeguarding system is sustainable. Without enough early and targeted support pressures on social work can become too high, reducing the quality of decision making and practice and raising costs. Thus, in summary, effective early support is better for children, better for the local safeguarding system and better for the public purse.

The 2016 Ofsted inspection highlighted that Kirklees needed to develop edge of care services and ensure that timely support is available in a crisis.

Many of the issues raised by Ofsted and the problems identified in Kirklees have related to the effectiveness of partnership working in recent years. There is a strong commitment by partners and a key aim of the Improvement Plan is to make best use of this to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Success and change in children's services relies on strong and effective partnership working and this has been the primary focus of work around early support in Kirklees.

Partnership engagement

The primary focus of the work on early support has been around strengthening the early support partnership through a number of engagement events. These events included discussing and agreeing values and principles around early support and the shared understanding that early support is not a single council service but that it is everyone's responsibility. The engagement events discussed the importance of shared language and as part of this it was agreed that the partnership preferred the use of the work 'support' rather than 'help' as it was felt to be more positive and restorative, this was reflected in the strategy document and the approach is now to be referred to as 'Early Support'.

The Early Support Partnership was launched in January 2019 with an event that had a clear purpose to showcase the partnerships and services across the district that work together in a restorative, shared approach to deliver and respond to the early support needs of children, young people and families in Kirklees. Around 200 partner delegates including local authority services, Locala, Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board, schools, voluntary/community sector, faith organisations and health agencies came together to demonstrate their commitment to the Kirklees' vision - that all children, young people and vulnerable learners regardless of gender, race, religion or social status - should have the opportunity to reach their full potential and to achieve their ambitions.

2. Key issues/current position section

Kirklees Early Support Strategy

The Kirklees Early Support Strategy and Partnership has been launched along with the new Framework for Decision Making and a new Early Support Assessment providing a

collaborative approach to identifying and meeting the needs of families before they require intervention by colleagues in social care. The strategy and assessment was developed working with partners and has ownership across the whole partnership rather than being council led or including a small number of agencies. It outlines the approach to be taken which is relationship based and emphasises the importance of conversations and working together to achieve positive outcomes for children, young people and families in Kirklees. The strategy reinforces that early support is everyone's responsibility and therefore the best person to be 'lead professional' is often the person who has built up the relationship with the family and not always a council officer, it has been recognised that additional support is required to build this capacity across the partnership and this has been reflected in recent recruitment to roles within the family support service.

The strategy has been developed with strong links to the restorative practice approach developing a focus on "Working with...." Regular partner engagement and listening to has resulted in an increased understanding of shared responsibility and appetite to work together to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people.

The approach outlined in the strategy is based on building communities, developing resilience and establishing networks. As well as developing a place based offer around four geographical and diverse areas, it is recognised that some services work best across the authority as a whole. We are developing a unifying but not uniform offer that will reflect the needs and strengths of children, young people, families and communities.

Family Support Service

At the beginning of the Kirklees and Leeds partnership it was identified that there were issues within the existing 'Early Intervention and Targeted Support service' and a service review took place.

Regular staff engagement sessions took place to listen to their concerns and suggestions for the service going forward. The Key Worker role was reviewed and listening to feedback from staff was renamed as 'Family Support Worker' the post was also regraded to a more appropriate pay grade to reflect the level of skill required to carry out the role.

There was a strong feeling from staff that the service name should be changed to the 'Family Support Service' as they felt that this accurately reflected what they offer and makes clear to families they are working with what they offer. The change of name also distinguishes them from Early Support which is the partnership approach and not a single council service.

Stability in the service led to recruitment to additional posts to increase capacity in the service. Response to the recruitment was positive and a large number of applications was received indicating that this is a service that people are now wanting to work in which is a positive step going forward.

Stability in the service has led to a significant amount of investment being made into the workforce in order to improve practice. This has included the development of a bespoke learning and development pathway which covers every role within the service and clearly sets out the training and support that is available for both new and existing members of staff. All staff in Early Support have been given the opportunity to attend training on restorative practice which is about the building, maintaining and repairing of relationships. It is based on those in authority doing things 'with people' rather than 'to them' which is a fundamental principle within the early support strategy. The training gives staff a comprehensive

introduction to the theory and practice of restorative approaches whilst also being supported to implement a restorative approach in their own work situations.

Early Support Commissioned Services

The Council currently commission two services as part of the Early Support Offer which are delivered by Action for Children and Human Kind. A decision was made by Cabinet for the services to be managed in house and be delivered as one entity which will allow for consolidation of services and alignment to the Early Support Strategy. The services delivered under the existing contracts are subject to the implications of the Transfer Undertaking (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("TUPE") and staff will transfer to the Council on 1st April 2019.

Action for Children were commissioned to deliver the Children's Centre Core offer in the Dewsbury East and Dewsbury West areas which includes universal and targeted services and Family Support.

Humankind (formerly known as DISC) were commissioned to deliver the Family Intervention Project (FIP) which was set up to provide intensive Family Support.

We recognise the importance of continuity of services for families whilst working towards consolidating these contracts to ensure that they are in line with the agreed early support model.

Development of new teams

Ofsted recommendations 17 states that Kirklees should:

'Develop edge of care services and ensure that timely support is available in a crisis'

In response to this Kirklees received Department for Education (DfE) Innovation Funding to April 2019 for improvement and innovation to invest and adapt programmes for edge of care and early support. This was to develop and deliver Family Group Conferences, Multi Systemic Therapy and a Family Mental Health Service.

Family Group Conferences (FGC's)

Family Group Conferences (FGC's) originally emerged from New Zealand and are voluntary decision making meetings to help families find their own solutions to problems.

FGC is a restorative approach and the process empowers a family and their wider family network to draw on their strengths and resources to make a safe plan for their children. FGC's ensure the family network have a chance to hear and discuss the concerns. They also give an opportunity for everyone to be listened to including the child and young person(s). It can be an opportunity to be informed of any resources that could help them improve family life. Further information about FGCs can be found on the [Family Rights Group website](#).

Kirklees has previously been offering FGCs to a low number of families in both early support services and children's social care, however with the investment of the innovation funding the team has expanded from two coordinators and one team leader to 10 coordinators and 2 team leaders, which will allow for between 240 to 320 FGCs to be coordinated in each 12 month period.

The main referral point for Kirklees families for an FGC is currently when a PLO (Public Law Order) is initiated when children are most at risk of becoming looked after, however it is recognised that the service needs to engage with families at the earliest opportunity.

There has been some key successes since the expansion of the team which have included developing the skills, expertise and confidence of the team and developing relationships with colleagues in children's social care and early support. The service has also contributed to the reduction of children being becoming looked after.

The next steps for FGC are to have a stable workforce, which will allow for the further development of the service and embedding of the entitlement at the earliest opportunity to prevent children and families rising through the social care system.

Multi Systemic Therapy (MST)

Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) is an intensive family and community based intervention for children and young people aged 11-17, where young people are at risk of out of home placement in either care or custody due to their offending or having severe behaviour problems.

The key goals of MST are to break the cycle of anti-social behaviours by keeping young people safely at home, in school, and out of trouble. Further information on MST can be found on their website <http://www.mstuk.org/>.

It was identified that Kirklees did not have any family and evidence-based preventative services seeking to cumulatively address the risks of young people entering the care and custody systems. There is a large population of young people in Kirklees and this linked with the statistics show a relatively high proportion of those young people entering the care and criminal justice systems. The current lack of evidence-based programmes seeking to specifically target these areas highlights a significant need for Kirklees to invest in preventative interventions such as MST.

Coupled with the need to reduce the numbers of looked after children as a key priority for Kirklees, there is clear alignment between the desired outcomes of MST and the local authority. A decision was made to launch MST in Kirklees, initially with the provision of one MST standard team.

MST launched in Kirklees Council in January 2019, following a year of project planning involving colleagues and services from across Kirklees; with the support of MST-UK and Leeds City Council (a Partner in Practice authority with an established multi-team MST service).

The team of a Programme Manager/Supervisor and four full time therapists have been recruited and following completion of MST orientation training went live serving cases on 6th February. A back up supervisor has also been employed and trained.

Significant number of referrals already been received, from a range of sources including social care, youth offending, schools and health; with a waiting list of around 20 cases currently. Therapists are currently building up caseloads to a capacity of 5 cases each.

One of the key successes for MST has been the establishment of a steering group which has wide representation from across stakeholders who have contributed to the development of the service.

Next steps for the MST team will be in the first year to mainly focus on the development of the staff to provide targeted outcomes for families using the MST model, developing relationships with key stakeholders and ensuring long term sustainability and funding.

Family Mental Health Service (FMH)

The Family Mental Health service coordinate appropriate early support for parents who have mental health difficulties and share information relevant to the welfare of their children, with a focus on managing risk, increasing resilience, building strength and encouraging independence and reducing long term need for services. The service works restoratively and use a whole family approach to identify and explore the impact of parental mental health upon families, lifespan and intergenerational issues.

The focus has been working across Children's Social Care and Adult Mental Health to reduce the barriers between services and enhance practice in order to improve direct work with families. The results of this have been positive but additional resources were identified to be required to expand the service to support significant improvements in front line practice.

Kirklees FMH team was established in 2011 and with the investment of the innovation funding has expanded from three workers to a team consisting of a Team Manager, a social worker and 5 consultants.

One of the key successes has been the case discussions with social workers that has influenced their practice when they are working with parents with poor mental health. This has in turn reduced fear and anxiety for the social workers and reduced stigma and discrimination and crucially led to appropriate assessment of risk.

The next steps for the FMH team are to continue to increase links with key stakeholders and have a consolidated and sustainable team.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

Effective Early Support services working together reduces the number of children requiring social care and becoming looked after and therefore children staying within their family.

3.2 Working with Partners

Working closely with communities and our partners enables integrated services to identify local need and ensures the right support at the right time for children and their families. In order to continue to build and strengthen the partnership with schools the Community Hubs programme is now under the leadership of Early Support.

3.3 Place Based Working

The Early Support Partnership approach is based on building communities, developing resilience and establishing networks. As well as developing a place based offer around 4 geographical and diverse areas, it is recognised that some services work best across the authority as a whole.

3.4 Improving outcomes for children

The Early Support Partnership vision is that every child and young person should have the opportunity to reach their full potential and that they are best supported to grow and achieve within their own families and communities.

3.5 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

The projects are funded through the DfE innovation funding until the end of March 2019 and it then proposed that the services will be mainstreamed; however this will require financial investment of **£1,166,283** to sustain the services.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The Kirklees Children's 10 Point Improvement plan identifies the need to rebalance the safeguarding system through redeveloping better early support and preventative services by creating an improvement and innovation fund for edge of care and early support initiatives. This also includes the Kirklees partnership to develop and agree priorities, financing and an investment plan for MST, FGC and FMH.

5. Next steps

- Continue ongoing dialogue to embed 4 distinct but consistent/tailored offers across the four areas (unified not uniform).
- Implement outcome measures and identify demands & pressures within each local area
- Embed the 'early support' approach across the partnership, promoting the concept of 'working with...'
- Work with partners to embed the new Early Support Assessment.
- Consolidate and embed an effective partnership approach to providing early support across the four localities.
- Ensuring that there is a joined up and well defined local offer for families which includes Health, Community Hubs and the council's Family Support Service
- Parents and agencies have a clear understanding of how to access support & advice as part of the local offer
- Improve links with the Social Work teams now they are based in localities
- Implement agreed recommendations from the outcome of the external commission with Peopletoo.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That the report be noted.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

n/a

8. Contact officer

Michelle Wheatcroft, Head of Early Support,
michelle.wheatcroft@kirklees.gov.uk
07813 104646 or 01484 221000

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

The three programmes are identified in the Kirklees Children's 10 Point Improvement Plan as part of Priority 3: Early Support and Edge of Care and will also support the outcomes in the Kirklees Council's Corporate Plan 2018/20 and the Kirklees Partners and Early Support Strategy as outlined in 2.5 of this report.

10. Service Director responsible

Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director: Learning and Early Support
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01484 221000

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CHILDREN’S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

MEMBERS: Cllr Cahal Burke, Cllr Lisa Holmes, Cllr Donna Bellamy, Cllr Sheikh Ullah, Cllr Darren O’Donovan, Fatima Khan-Shah (Education Co-Optee), Dale O’Neill (Co-Optee)

SUPPORT: Yolande Myers, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
1. Improvement Journey.	<p>Maintain a focus of the improvement journey in Kirklees to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the letters sent to the Director of Children’s Services following each Ofsted Visit • Considering the implementation of the improvement journey, and how this aligns with the recommendations of the Children’s Ad-hoc Scrutiny Panel. • To consider the Sufficiency Strategy of local placements to ensure that children are not placed outside of the area 	<p>That the Panel are confident that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That children in Kirklees are safe. • The service is one that is considered good by Ofsted. <p><u>Panel meeting 11 June 2018</u> The Panel considered the draft strategy and action plan on the sufficiency of placements until the end of the calendar year 2019. The Panel agreed :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That a table with statistics relating to the numbers of children in Local Authority in care should be brought to each Children’s Scrutiny Panel. 2. That the Panel support the principles contained within the draft Sufficiency Strategy. <p><u>Panel meeting 14th January 2019</u> The Panel considered the letter sent to the Director for Children’s Services following the monitoring visit on the 4th and 5th December 2018. The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Panel welcomed the progress made so far within Children’s Services and thanked officers for their hard work and commitment but acknowledged that there was still further work and improvements to be made. 2. The Panel agreed to consider sickness absence data for Agency staff working within the Children’s Service at a future meeting – date to be determined.

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
2. Special Educational Needs (to include Home to School Transport)	<p>Monitor the Self Evaluation Form for SEND, in preparation for an Ofsted Inspection to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. key indicators to ascertain progress, plus an action plan to show where progress is being made 2. Engagement with parents – initially the focus could support their engagement with services. The Panel will support SENDACT with this. <p>The SEND report will be considered by the Panel and implementation of the recommendations will be reviewed on a regular basis. Six-monthly progress report to the Panel in August 2019 – to be confirmed.</p> <p>Monitor the implementation of the Home to School Transport Policy to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requesting that the final draft version of the policy be shared with the panel. 	<p>That the Panel are confident that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with SEND are receiving the appropriate support. • That SENDACT are fully prepared for the Ofsted Inspection. • That SENDACT is a service that is regarded as ‘good’, with partners working alongside to ensure there is no delay for children. <p>That the School Transport policies offer the best outcomes to ensure children can attend school, with the finite resources available to the Council.</p> <p><u>Informal Panel meeting on 25th February 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel considered the final report outlining the findings and recommendations following an investigation by the Panel into how SENDACT interacted and worked with parents and carers. The report contained the response of the Cabinet Portfolio Holders to the investigation findings.</p> <p>The Panel approved the draft findings report and revised recommendations appended to the report and noted the Cabinet response. The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report and recommendations be forwarded to parents and carers who contributed to the work of the Panel for information. 2. That the report be submitted to Cabinet on the 19th March 2019 for consideration. 3. That progress updates to the Panel be provided in the 2019/20 municipal year.
3. CSE and Safeguarding	<p>Monitor issues relating to CSE and Safeguarding following the disbanding of the CSE Panel. The Panel would like to consider the following areas:-</p>	<p>That the Panel is assured that lessons had been learned from previous cases of CSE.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection on lessons learned from historic cases • Details of Joint working and collaboration with partners • Transition work – where we were to where we are now • Anonymised narrative examples of good practice OR illustrative narratives of good practice • Communication / engagement with ward councillors when incidents occur within their ward – what is the current practice and how can information be shared appropriately? • Looking ahead – what is on the horizon? • The Panel would like to know what work is being done with the night time economy, eg takeaways and accommodation providers in training and raising awareness of CSE and safeguarding; • What awareness training has taken place with taxi drivers on CSE and safeguarding and what are future plans? • Joint working between Kirklees and the Police on the risk and vulnerabilities agenda; • How can Scrutiny continue to be engaged on this matter and kept up to date? 	<p>That the Panel is convinced that the best practices identified following the review by Dr Peel are being implemented in Kirklees, and ensure good outcomes for vulnerable children.</p> <p>That as many takeaways and accommodation providers as possible receive CSE training. That these providers begin to feel more comfortable and better informed as to how and when to report potential safeguarding issues.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 10th September 2018</u> An initial discussion took place at the Panel meeting on Monday 10th September 2018. However the issue will be considered further at a future additional Panel meeting – date to be confirmed.</p> <p><u>Lead Member Briefing on 28th January 2019</u> The Chair of the Panel met with senior officers in the Children’s Service and agreed that the Panel would like to consider a presentation on CSE, Safeguarding and Licensing which covered the areas outlined under “areas of focus”.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 18th March 2018</u> The Panel will consider a presentation on CSE, Safeguarding and Licensing. A representative from the Police has been invited to attend along with key officers from Children’s Service and Licensing.</p>
4. KSCB	Review the improvements of the KSCB.	<p>That the Board is considered as ‘good’ and that the Panel is satisfied that it is effective and accountable.</p> <p>That the Panel is convinced that the best practices identified following the review by Dr Peel are being implemented in Kirklees, and ensure good outcomes for vulnerable children.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
		<p><u>Panel Meeting on 9th November 2018</u></p> <p>The Panel considered the draft KSCB annual report.</p> <p>The Panel will consider an update report on KSCB at a future meeting of the Panel in the 2019/20 municipal year.</p>
5. Children and Young People’s Plan	To receive the final draft plan once completed.	That the Panel is assured that the voice of the child is heard in Kirklees and that they have the ability to influence process and policy where appropriate.
6. Visit to Duty & Advice	The Panel will visit staff at Duty & Advice to seek feedback on service changes and working arrangements	<p>The Panel is assured that staff are well supported to do their job and that retention rates improve to those seen in other ‘good’ Local Authority areas.</p> <p>The Panel is clear that staff have been trained on the chosen Social Work Model and the newly implemented IT system.</p> <p>Visit to Duty and Advice Team to be arranged in 2019/20 municipal year.</p>
7. Front Door Policy	<p>Review progress of the Kirklees Front Door Policy to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting a head teacher’s forum to obtain feedback on their experiences of the front door policy. • To seek the experience of social work staff at the visit to Duty and & Advice. 	That the Panel is assured that head teachers feel confident in the front door policy, and have seen a positive change.
8. Early Support Strategy (Edge of Care)	<p>Maintain an overview of the work done to improve the Edge of Care in Kirklees to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for Partnership working - Early Help • Multi Systemic Therapy • Family Mental Health Service • Family Conferencing 	The Panel is ensured that the Edge of Care model in Kirklees is clarified and enhanced, and should including consideration of whether good practice from other areas might be effectively adapted for use in Kirklees.

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To seek the experiences of head teachers on the visit to the HT forum Examples of how the interventions are working Issue of future funding 	<p>That as part of clarifying the Edge of Care approach, the role of Schools is considered and schools have the opportunity to be part of the approach</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 10th September 2018</u> The Panel considered a report on the development of the Early Support Strategy, the Family Support Service and provide information on the 3 programmes (Family Group Conferences, Multi Systemic Therapy and the Family Mental Health Service) funded through the Department for Education Innovation Fund. The Panel agreed the following actions:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Members of the Panel be invited to attend the information event on the 2nd October 2018. 2. That a report be brought to the Panel on the development of schools as community hubs – date to be determined. 3. That a report on the success of the early support strategy, to include details of the partnership working arrangements be considered by the Panel early in 2019 – date to be determined. <p>The Panel were invited to attend the Early Support Launch on the 30th January 2019 – Cllr Lisa Holmes and Cllr Donna Bellamy attended.</p> <p>The Panel will consider a future report providing data which demonstrates the success and effectiveness of the Early Support Strategy, which will include details of the partnership working arrangements, specific examples of how the interventions are working in practice and funding moving forward – date to be determined.</p> <p><u>Informal Panel meeting on 1st April 2019</u> The Panel will consider a report on the Early Support Partnership, following the launch on the 30th January 2019.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
9. Elective Home Education	<p>The ad-hoc EHE Scrutiny Panel continues and has received receive evidence from witnesses and visits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting parents who currently EHE their children <p>Further evidence will be sought from:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C & K Careers • Visiting Leeds to see their approach • Considering policies and procedures in other areas of the county. 	<p>The Panel is ensured that that children who are home educated receive the best offer from Kirklees council.</p> <p>That the Panel is content that any new Elective Home Educating policy is updated and fit for purpose.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 14th January 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel considered an update report outlining the progress of the work of the Ad-Hoc Panel on Elective Home Education. The Panel agreed the next steps for the Ad-Hoc Panel and agreed that they will meet a number of other witnesses to gather information including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A leading elective home education expert • Other local authorities in the area, to consider their offer for elective home educators • Parents of those local authorities mentioned above to explore their experiences • Head Teachers forums (primary, secondary and special schools)
10. Learning Outcomes (Kirklees Annual Educational Standards and Quality Report) and Learning Support Strategy	<p>The Panel will consider the Educational Learning Outcomes and the Learning Support Strategy</p>	<p><u>Panel meeting on 25th February 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a report on the Kirklees Annual Educational Standards and Quality report for 2017/18 and the Panel agreed to consider a future report giving a progress update on the educational challenges ahead, attendance and exclusions – date to be determined.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 1st April 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider the Kirklees Learning Strategy.</p>
11. CAMHS Transformation Plan	<p>To maintain an overview of the work of CAMHS in Kirklees, particularly to update on the autism assessment waiting list.</p>	<p>That the Panel is satisfied that CAMHS continue to improve the service offer, and that the waiting lists for autism assessments continue to reduce.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
		<p><u>Panel Meeting on 14th January 2019</u> The Panel considered the CAMHS local transformation plan which included an update on Autism assessments and the current position in Kirklees.</p> <p>The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To receive a summarised version of the CAMHS Local Transformation Plan when available. 2. To consider a future report outlining what was available digitally when making a request for an assessment and also what support and help was available for families whilst awaiting an assessment.
12. Number of children in care	A standing item for each meeting containing details of how many children are in care, and particularly how many are placed out of area.	<p>The Panel is satisfied that the Early Help initiatives are having an impact on the number of children in care.</p> <p>That children are placed in foster care as near to home as possible, unless they are placed with family connected persons which may be a further distance.</p> <p>The latest reports showing number of children in care will be considered by the Panel as a standing item.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 14th January 2019</u> The Panel considered the latest report outlining the number of children in care and agreed to receive details of comparative data and statistical neighbours in future reports.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 25th February 2019</u> The Panel considered the latest report outlining the number of children in care, which outlined details of the statistical neighbours. The Panel agreed to be kept up to date on the future plans around the number of children placed in care out of the district.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
13. Virtual School	<p>The Panel would like to see some case studies of children who have been supported by the Virtual School and an update on the work of the Virtual School and an explanation of its statutory responsibilities – report to Panel on 22nd February 2019.</p> <p>That foster carers be invited to attend a Panel meeting, to outline their experiences of the Virtual School.</p>	<p>That the Panel has a clear understanding of how the virtual school works, and is content with the progress of children that the virtual school supports.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on the 25th February 2019</u> The Panel considered a report on the role of the virtual school in Kirklees and some case study examples. The Panel agreed that the information contained within the report had raised the Panel’s awareness of the Virtual School and recognised the positive and continuous improvements being made to achieve better educational outcomes for looked after children.</p> <p>Representatives from the Kirklees Fostering Network will be invited to attend a Panel meeting to outline their experiences of the Virtual School – date to be determined.</p>
14. Development of Kirklees Community Hubs	<p>The Panel would like to monitor how Kirklees Community Hubs are working, how they were coping with any pressures as a result of the new early help initiatives and see examples of good practice.</p> <p>The Panel would also like to speak to a number of schools to ensure that they are receiving the correct support for the additional responsibilities that they have taken on and be satisfied that the best outcomes for children were being achieved.</p>	<p>That schools are supported in the additional responsibilities and that the best outcomes for children are achieved.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 25th February 2019</u> The Panel considered a report on the development of Kirklees Community Hubs and the accountability arrangements established for activity taking place within the hubs and across the Council and partner agencies. The Panel agreed to consider a future report giving a progress update on the educational challenges ahead, attendance and exclusions – date to be determined.</p>
15. Performance Information (Children’s Services)	<p>The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support.</p>	<p>The latest performance reports will be considered informally by the Panel as a standing item.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
16. Visit to Copthorne Children's Home	Members of the Panel will visit Copthorne House. The date has yet to be confirmed.	Visit to Copthorne House to be arranged in the 2019/20 municipal year – date to be determined.
17. Visit to Fostering Team	Members of the Panel will visit the Fostering Team and the different elements of the service.	<p>That the Panel Members learn about and understand the different elements of foster caring.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on the 14th January 2019</u> The Panel considered a report on the number of children in care and agreed that they needed to understand more about the different elements of foster caring.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to visit the Fostering Team on the 25th March 2019.</p>

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Children's Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Plan 2019/20

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
July 2019	<p align="center">Public Items:</p> <p>Educational Challenges ahead and progress update and action plan for attendance and exclusions</p> <p>Cabinet Members (Children's) to give an update on priorities for next 12 months</p> <p align="center">Number of Children in Care (to include an update on future plans for CIC outside the district)</p> <p align="center">Informal items:</p> <p align="center">Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p align="center">Performance report</p>	<p align="center">(H Sohel/M Cameron)</p> <p align="center">Cabinet Members (Helen to organise)</p> <p align="center">S Comb</p> <p align="center">H Kilroy</p> <p align="center">J Sanders/ E McShane to present</p>
August 2019	<p align="center">Public Items:</p> <p align="center">Number of Children in Care</p> <p align="center">Informal items:</p> <p align="center">Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p align="center">Performance report</p>	<p align="center">S Comb</p> <p align="center">H Kilroy</p> <p align="center">J Sanders/E McShane to present</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
September 2019	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of Children in Care</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Informal Items</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Steve Comb</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/E McShane to present</p>
October 2019	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of Children in Care</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Informal Items</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Steve Comb</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/E McShane to present</p>
November 2019	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of Children in Care</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Informal Items</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Steve Comb</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/E McShane to present</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
December 2019	<p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p> <p>Informal Items</p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p>Performance report</p>	<p>Steve Comb</p> <p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present</p>
January 2019	<p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p> <p>Informal Items</p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p>Performance report</p>	<p>Steve Comb</p> <p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present</p>
February 2019	<p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p> <p>Informal Items</p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p>Performance report</p>	<p>Steve Comb</p> <p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>March 2019</p>	<p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p> <p>Informal Items</p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p>Performance report</p>	<p>Steve Comb</p> <p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present</p>
<p>April 2019</p>	<p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p> <p>Informal Items</p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p>Performance report</p>	<p>Steve Comb</p> <p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present</p>
<p>Potential future items - To be arranged</p>	<p>Sickness Absence data of Agency staff in Children's Service</p> <p>CAMHS – info on what available digitally and support whilst waiting for assessment</p> <p>Visit to Copthorne Children's Home</p> <p>Visit to Duty and Advice Team</p>	<p>Elaine McShane</p> <p>Tom Brailsford</p> <p>Paul Lancaster (H Kilroy organising)</p> <p>C Jackson (H Kilroy to arrange)</p>