

Public Document Pack



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

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Friday 13 September 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 **11.00 am** on **Monday 23 September 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 Andrew Marchington (Chair)

Councillor Aafaq Butt

Councillor Paul Davies

Councillor Amanda Pinnock

Councillor Richard Smith

Councillor Paul White

Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)

Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee)

Linda Summers (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 - 4

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2019.

3: Interests

5 - 6

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

7 - 12

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

Contact Officer: Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting

6: SENDACT Action Plan - Progress Report

13 - 20

The report will provide the Panel with a further update in relation to the recommendations made by Scrutiny in relation to SENDACT.

Contact Officer: Mandy Cameron – Head of Service (Education, Safeguarding and Inclusion))

7: Kirklees Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

A presentation will be given to the Panel in respect of Kirklees Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

Contact: Sheila Lock – Independent Chair, Children and Families

8: Children's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme and agenda plan for 2019/20

21 - 28

Members of the panel will consider the work programme and agenda plan for the 2019/20 and will consider issues for inclusion.

Officer: Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

Contact Officer: Andrea Woodside

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Friday 23rd August 2019

Present: Councillor Andrew Marchington (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Paul White

Co-optees Dale O'Neill

Apologies: Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Richard Smith

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R Smith and A U Pinnock.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

That the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 19 July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

It was noted that all agenda items would be considered in public session.

5 Number of Children in Care

Ophelia Rix, Children's Services, presented a report which provided the latest statistics regarding the number and profile of children in care. The report advised that there had been an increase of 10 children in care between the months of June and July 2019 and that overall, between the period of August 2018 and July 2019 there had been a reduction of 21. The Panel were advised that the current number of children in care equated to a rate of 62.7 per 10,000 population (aged 0-17 years). Ophelia advised the Panel that the steady decline had been due to robust planning measures having been put in place to meet the needs of children and to ensure that interventions were timely.

With regards to the number of children placed at a distance of more than 20 miles from their home address, the report advised that as at 1 July 2019, the total was 89 children, which represented a reduction of 18 children over the past 6 months. The Panel were advised that 62 of the children placed out of the area were currently in foster care.

The Panel noted the update report, and asked questions in regards to ensuring safeguarding in cases where special guardianship orders are put in place and how the views of the child are taken into consideration in such instances. Discussion took place with regards to the out of area placements and it was noted that some

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 23 August 2019

children had chosen to remain out of area, having settled within their new locality. The Panel were advised that a further 7 out of area children were expected to return to care within Kirklees within the next few months.

The Panel noted and welcomed the update report, which reflected the successful work undertaken by the service to reduce the number children placed into care.

RESOLVED - That the report be received and noted.

6 **Update on Exploitation Strategy and next steps**

Ophelia Rix presented a report which provided an update on the Exploitation Strategy and set out progress made regarding arrangements to safeguard vulnerable children and young people living in Kirklees. Ophelia advised the Panel that the strategy recognised various contributory factors to exploitation including county lines, safeguarding, gang culture and a number of issues impacting upon vulnerability.

The Panel were advised of the contextual safeguarding approach, as adopted by the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership (KSCP) and operational groups to develop and inform practice. The report explained that both the exploitation strategy and operational plan focussed on a model of 4 P's; Prevent, Prepare, Protect and Pursue, and outlined the strategic aims to develop multi-agency response to (i) enhance early identification and support for children and young people and communities (ii) protect young people and children (iii) enable early identification of locations of concern where exploitation and abuse is perpetrated and (iv) pursue the diversion and prosecution of individuals or groups who seek to facilitate, exploit, abuse or harm children and young people. Ophelia informed the Panel that Ofsted had recognised the complexity of issues within the Kirklees area and had complimented the approach being taken.

The Panel were informed of the work of the Multi Agency Child Exploitation pathway (MACE), which met monthly to provide multi-agency oversight of child exploitation cases and ensure appropriate responses. It was noted that the MACE process was designed to capture concerns of the public and partners regarding risk of exploitation, and to enable referral to be made through a single point. Information was also provided regarding the development of a transition pathway and service to support vulnerable young people approaching the age of 18, with a view to providing a seamless service up until the age of 25 by considering the transitional needs of the young person and recognising the impact that childhood trauma may have upon progression into adulthood.

The Panel noted the update report, and asked questions in regards the application of safeguarding for children who may have elected home education, or following an exclusion from mainstream schooling. The Panel welcomed the proposal of the seamless service and the opportunity to monitor its progress.

The Chair of the Panel advised that he would feedback from Officers on how the role of the Panel could support the service in achieving its outcomes, and also sought further information on regards to (i) para 1.6 – the impact of crime upon community safety (ii) para 1.8 – the information sourced to allow risk and vulnerability to be better understood and (iii) para 2.3 – the context of 'better links

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 23 August 2019

with local communities' particularly the strength of links with more rural areas and contact with organisations.

RESOLVED - That the report be received and noted.

7 **Ofsted Report**

Elaine McShane presented key highlights of the Ofsted report, following the inspection that had taken place during June 2019.

The Panel were advised that the inspection had been undertaken over a period of three weeks, which had included intelligence gathering, and that the findings had reflected that the service had achieved steady progress, with increased workforce stability and engagement, and an increased corporate commitment. It was noted that the service was no longer considered to be inadequate and was now providing much improved services for children, and that the inspection had not identified any widespread or service failures.

In terms of next steps, the Panel were advised that the improvement journey would be continued to create conditions for further greater success in service position, aiming to achieve an outstanding status and aiming to increase the amount of time that social workers can dedicate to families, by reducing their caseloads.

The Panel welcomed the report and asked a number of questions regarding social worker time management, the effectiveness of the liquid logic management system, potential progress within the next 12 month and monitoring arrangements, improving partnership working and governance structures.

Councillor Marchington, in his capacity as Chair, advised that he would be attending meetings of the Improvement Board as an observer and advised any that any Panel Members also wishing to attend would be welcome to do so.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection regarding Children's Social Care Services be received and noted.
- (2) That the continuing work and actions to be taken to achieve improved outcomes as the next stage of the improvement journey, and the role of the Panel in supporting this, be noted.
- (3) That arrangements be put in place to arrange an informal Panel session regarding improving partnership working and governance structures.

8 **Children's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme and agenda plan for 2019/20**

RESOLVED - The Panel received and noted the latest version of the work programme and agenda plan for the remainder of the 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: 23 September 2019
Title of report: Number and Age of Children in Care

Purpose of report

To provide information to Childrens Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis related to the number, age, and ethnicity of children in our care. The chair of the committee has also requested that committee is updated on a regular basis regarding the number of children and young people in Kirklees Council care placed outside of the Kirklees District, this is also provided within this 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?	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	Give name and date for Cabinet reports
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.

Summary

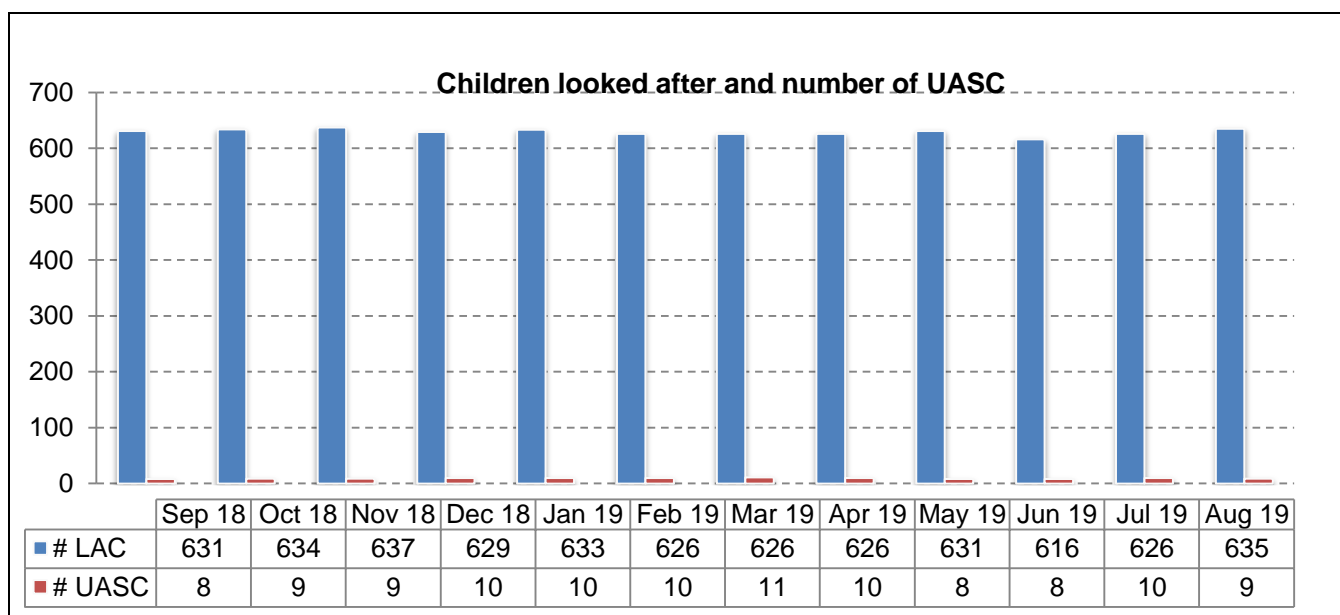
The number of children in our care on August 31st 2019 was 635 and increase of 9 compared to the previous month. Over the last eighteen months we have seen a decrease in the number of children in care from a 12 month high of 68.0 per 10,000 children (668 children) in May 2018 to 635 children (63.6 per 10.000 population) in August 2019. The current 12-month average for Kirklees is 65.3 per 10.000 population we have remained below our 31 March 2018 published rate of 68.0 per 10.000 population and below our Statistical Neighbours 2018 rate of 86.1 and the England 2018 rate of 64.0.

Kirklees (Aug 19) = 63.6

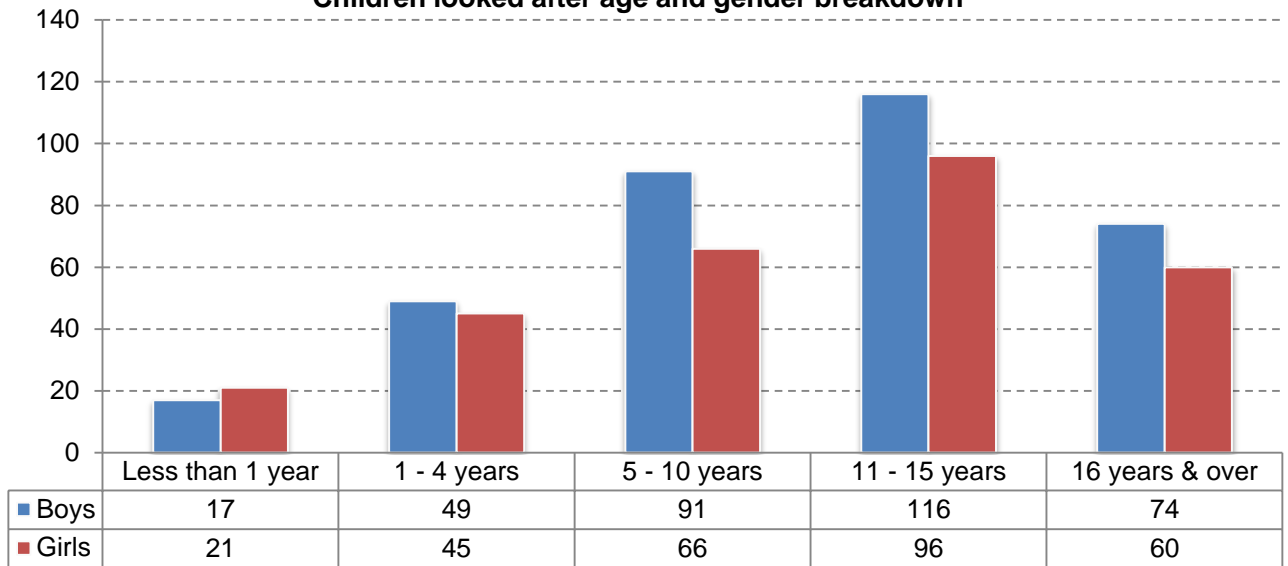
Statistical Neighbours (2018) = 86.1

England (2018) = 64.0

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).



Children looked after age and gender breakdown

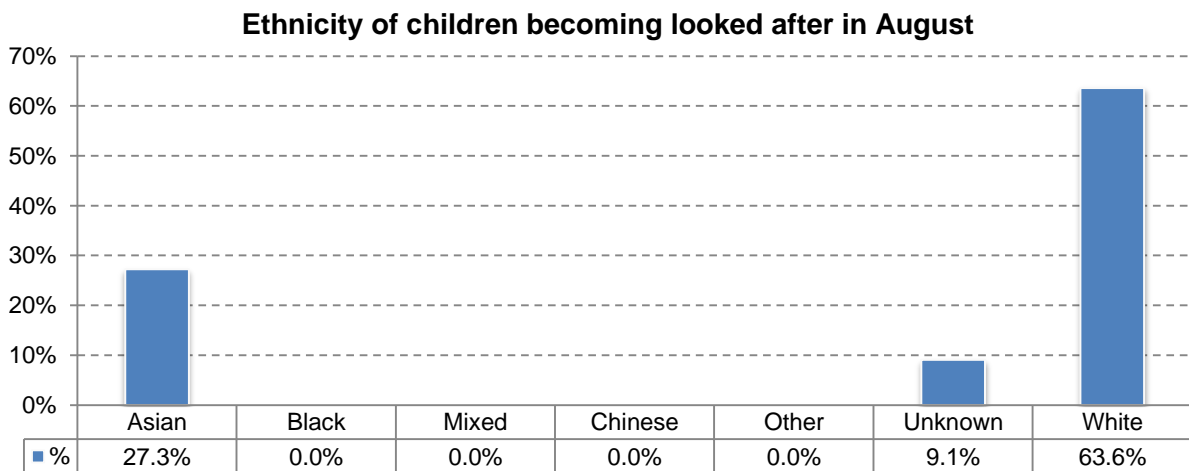
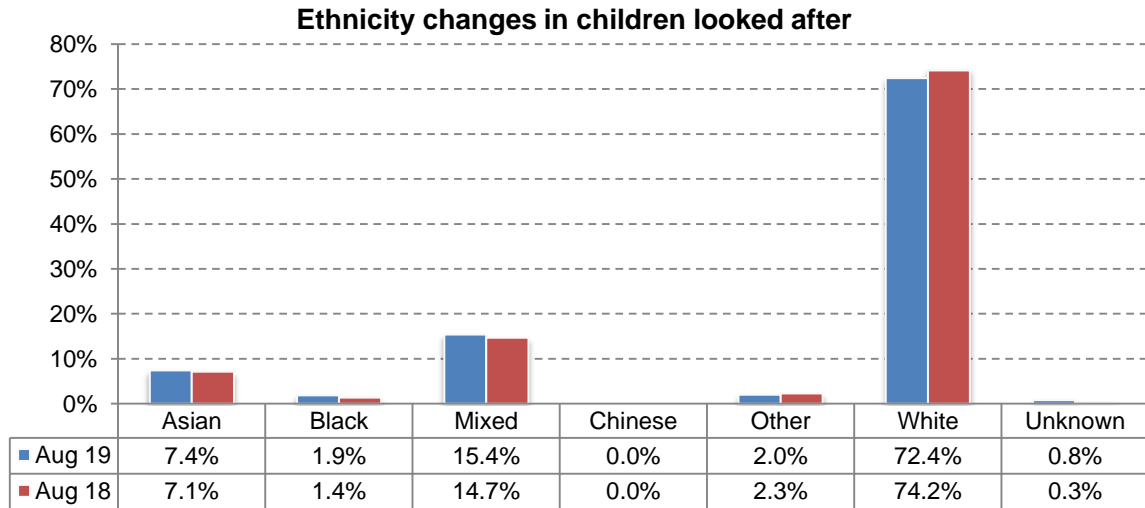


Statistical Neighbours

(Authorities regarded as similar not by population but by a range of socio economic factors)

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

This graph shows the ethnic breakdown of the children looked after population at the end of August 2019 and the same point 12 months ago. The ethnic mix of the children in care cohort has remained relatively stable throughout the period.



This graph shows the percentage breakdown by ethnicity of children entering care this month.

Note that this outcome is based on small numbers. In August 2019 there were 11 young people who were recorded as entering care in the month of whom 7 were White, 3 were Asian and 1 did not yet have an ethnicity recorded.

Children and Young People placed more than 20 miles outside of Kirklees

The current number of looked after children placed outside Kirklees 20+ miles from the home address is 85 as at 31/08/2019. This is a an increase on the previous month but looking back longer term follows a continuum of decline from a number of 101 in April 2019, and a total of 127 in 2017. Director and Heads of Service continue to monitor placement requests for out of area placements in particular those more than 20 miles.

	30 Apr 2019		31 May 2019		30 Jun 2019		31 Jul 2019		31 Aug 2019	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Placed outside Kirklees & over 20 miles from home address	101	16.1%	103	16.3%	89	14.4%	81	12.9%	85	13.4%

1. **Information required to take a decision**

No decision is required.

2. **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 Corporate Parenting Board 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 Corporate Parenting Board.

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 Corporate Parenting Board on number and age of children in care.

10. Service Director responsible

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

Name of meeting: Children's Scrutiny Panel
Date: 23rd September 2019
Title of report: Update to SENDACT action plan

Purpose of report: To provide the Panel with a further update to the recommendations made by Scrutiny and actions taken.

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?	not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Jo-Anne Sanders for Mel Meggs
Is it also signed off by the Service Director (Finance)?	No
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	No
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Pattison, Learning Aspiration and Communities

Electoral wards affected: all

Ward councillors consulted: no

Public or private: private

(Have you considered GDPR?)

Yes GDPR considered - no service users identified

1. Summary

Further to the Briefing Paper (4.2.19), SENDACT continue to work towards the required improvements as detailed in the Scrutiny Report.

There has been further contact with the Parent Monitoring Group and another meeting took place in June.

Expectations of the team have been clearly articulated, with plans put in place on an individual and team basis. As a result there have been some changes in staffing where officers have moved on to other roles or have taken advantage of the opportunities presented through the review. This has meant that, as yet, the team has not operated at full capacity. There will be another recruitment round in September after which we hope to have a full team in place.

A SENDACT Improvement Board, chaired by the Service Director for Learning and Early Support, has been established to offer support and challenge to the team as they implement all aspects of the improvement plan.

Information required to take a decision

Recommendations and Further Responses.

Service Standards

- i. Develop a minimum level of service standards for communications (emails, telephone calls), regularly updated information. All parents know the name of their caseworker.

Timescales for response have been set and these are monitored through individual supervision. We continue to pick up some concerns about timeliness of communication, and these are challenged robustly. There are still some issues with the telephone system and the rotation for answering calls, and the SENDACT Manager is in discussions with Corporate IT to improve this. In addition, business support expertise will support the service in exploring a holistic approach.

Timescale: December 2018 with a half termly review.

- ii. **All notes relating to individual children, casework, and decisions made are detailed, accurate and can be understood by all.**

There has been a significant improvement in the quality of reporting and record keeping, with only rare occasions where this is not the case. Managers sample case notes as part of supervision, but there is further work to be done in the development of a wider audit process that incorporates the quality of casework in general through a set of Service Standards. This is a priority action that is being commissioned by the Improvement Board.

Timescale: January 2019 reviewed through supervision (case notes) and after each SEND Panel (Panel notes)

- iii. **Review the format and length of letters to parents to ensure that language is accessible, with a clear rationale for decisions made. Develop a fact sheet or FAQ sheet to explain the more formal, complex legal information.**

Letters have been reviewed and are being embedded in team practice now. The FAQ sheet, produced in partnership with PCAN, is on the Kirklees Local Offer

Timescale: April 2019 – this action is complete and the Service will review impact by April 2020.

Effective Participation

- iv. **Ensure that a Person Centred Approach is adopted and embedded by all professionals working with children with SEND and their families, so that their views are incorporated into the EHCP process, and an explanation is given where parental requests are not implemented. The Panel recommends that the EHCP records any disparity between decision made and parental requests. Where a meeting is held for professionals only, a reason should be given for this and minutes shared.**

The principles of a Person Centred Approach have been embedded into team practice, and were identified as a strength during the recent SEND Peer Review. In order to ensure that this approach is embedded in practice, there has been an audit of the 20 week assessment to identify where person-centred tools can be used as part of the assessment and review process. This work has begun with colleagues in health, and has been discussed at the Workforce Development meetings in order to incorporate social care.

Timescale: September 2019 (engagement with wider services through the Workforce Development Plan) but this will be an ongoing focus and will be incorporated into the oversight of the SENDACT Improvement Board.

- v. **SENDACT to review its use of interpreters to ensure that they are independent of the family.**

There are resource implications, and the current budget does not take this into account. Further discussions are needed. A review of practice across the Yorkshire and Humber region revealed no use of interpreters, and so a proposal is being developed to ensure that this and other barriers are removed.

Timescale: April 2019

- vi. **Consideration to be given to the provision of advocate agencies for parents and carers as part of a package of support through the EHCP process. Additional training provided to caseworkers to better communicate with parents and carers with learning disabilities.**

This is provided through the Kirklees Independent Advice Service (KIAS, also known as SENDIASS) and is funded through the Council budget. All parents can ask for access to these services.

Restorative Practice training is to be undertaken with all the team and will be built into induction training in the future.

Timescale: April 2019

- vii. **The School Transport Team will review its processes to ensure that children with SEND are not disadvantaged.**

There are opportunities to be more holistic in terms of accessing school places, and work has begun to develop relationships in order to improve the Council's approach.

Timescale: September 2019

Parenting Courses

- viii. **Revise the parenting support offer to take into account feedback from parents about the specific difficulties they face as parents of a child with SEND, e.g. adolescent to parent violence. Develop the Children's Service Workforce Development Plan to incorporate attitudes and behaviour – to remove judgement of parenting ability and to develop an understanding of the pressures families face.**

The current offer is being evaluated by PCAN in order to provide us with information about gaps. The Additional Needs Register evaluation of responses has highlighted this as the major concern for parents with children of every age. PCAN are working with the Council in the development of the Domestic Violence Strategy to ensure that this is included. PCAN have now won the three year contract and the SEND Strategy Group is working with them to identify what type of support might be required, and how we might commission this.

Timescale: December 2019

Timescales and Content

- ix. **Improve timescales for EHCPs by ensuring that the statutory process and responsibilities within this are understood by all agencies. If timescales are not met, a letter of apology to be issued stating the reasons for the delay.**

The statutory process has been reviewed and hotspots for delay have been identified. Refreshed guidelines have been issued and are being worked through with partners currently. Current statistics are as follows:

- a) Change of phase, where children move from one school/placement to another at the end of a key stage –
- Pre 16: 95% compliance
 - Post 16: 85% compliance
- b) 20 week timescale for statutory assessment for an EHCP -
- January 2019 – 45%
 - May 2019 – 62%
 - The DfE writes to any LA with compliance of less than 30%

Timescale: September 2019

- x. **Review the SEND Panel to ensure timely decision making regarding school allocations. Consideration to be given to a summer panel to prevent delay over the long school holiday.**

There has been a significant improvement to the SEND Panel. Detailed case notes (see above) are helping to ensure that decision making is well informed, and the quality of recording of decisions is a lot better. We have received many favourable comments and feedback about the improvements to the panel, and this was recognised in the Peer Review. There are still some issues over colleague attendance and these are being challenged robustly at Head of Service level. School allocations are managed tightly. The reviewed process takes into account the school holidays, and schools have been made aware of the plans put in place to ensure that this does not cause any delay.

Timescale: January 2019

- xi. Quality of EHCPs to be developed in partnership with agencies with specific attention to measurable, achievable and child-specific outcomes and interim steps, with consideration of impact and success of these built into the annual review process.**

This was raised through the Peer Review where a sample of EHCPs was provided across the range of quality. Reviewers could see the improvements made, and were complimentary about the education element to the plans. They were less confident about the health and social care elements and this feedback is being addressed. This is a key focus for the improvement plan.

Timescale: March 2020

- xii. Develop and review the offer for those children who cannot attend school so that they remain engaged through the potential commissioning of other services. Consideration to be given to the use of flexi-schooling.**

We have now trialled a successful pilot for a flexi-schooled placement in partnership with the family and school. We are also trialling with another parent a bespoke package for a young person for whom a school place that can meet his very specific needs has not been identified. In both cases, a high degree of flexibility has been employed in order to achieve a successful outcome. There are plans to share this practise across the team and consider where appropriate. In addition we are working with ETHOS Academy Trust to strengthen our arrangements for tuition for those CYP who are out of school. It should be acknowledged that this places financial demands on the High Needs Block, and therefore evaluation of impact will be important in the coming months.

Timescale: July 2020

- xiii. Revise the post 16 provision offer for young people with SEND to enable them to continue with full-time education and achieve stronger outcomes.**

We continue to work with Kirklees College to develop their offer. However it is apparent that we must broaden the number of providers in the area in order to provide greater choice for young people and their families, but also to work with the college in managing their capacity. We have been working with Castle Hill and Ravenshall Special Schools to open an additional post 16 provision at the old Thornhill Lees Children's Centre and this will be fully functioning by September 2020. We must explore further ways in which we can develop this more bespoke provision that encourages independence and working within the community.

Timescale: September 2020

- xiv. Allocate a senior specialist caseworker to those children with long term, complex conditions, to remain with the child and plan in advance for transitions.**

This will be developed in conjunction with the parent monitoring group. It is our aim that, wherever possible, case workers remain with the family in order to develop relationships, and to ensure continuity for the family. All caseworkers are organised into geographical areas, where they manage caseloads as a small team, in order to ensure that they can be familiar with children outside of their own immediate caseload, in order to ensure consistency should absences occur, and plan for succession.

Timescale: August 2019

2. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The action plan is addressing the need to work with families in a timely fashion to ensure that their children's SEND are met appropriately.

3.2 Working with Partners

SENDACT works with health and social care in the development of provision for our children and young people. Children and their families are at the heart of decision making.

3.3 Place Based Working

We endeavour to work with parents/carers and their children at a time and place that is convenient to them and takes account of their busy lives

3.4 Improving outcomes for children

Our drive to improve the quality of Education Health and Care Plans includes a focus on outcomes for our children and young people with SEND.

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

SENDACT follow the Code of Practice (Children and Families Act 2014). There Are pressures on the High Needs Block as a result of the increase in the Number of children and young people with an EHCP.

3. Consultees and their opinions

The parent monitoring group continues to meet termly to review progress and input their ideas.

5. Next steps and timelines

Please see section 2 which set out the timelines and actions still to be completed.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

SENDACT continues to improve and there have been significant changes in some regards, with slower progress in others. There are no quick fixes and the demand for SEND support and provision continues to grow. Alongside the culture change, a number of process and ways of working must be properly embedded if they are to be sustained, and there are further developments that we must consider alongside these recommendations, e.g. the quality of annual review meetings with parents and relevant agencies. The newly configured team is not yet established sufficiently well and there have been staff changes since the review, which has further slowed progress. We continue to monitor parental complaints and have seen a reduction in complaints about service received from officers in the team (timeliness, communication, etc.) The SENDACT Improvement Board is meeting each month to review all aspects of the improvement plan.

We would be keen to provide an update to Scrutiny about our improvements in six months time.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Not applicable

8. Contact officer

Mandy Cameron, Head of Service (Education, Safeguarding and Inclusion)

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Report to Executive Team – Challenges within SENDACT

Scrutiny Report into findings – Children's Scrutiny Panel (Informal meeting) 24.2.19

10. Service Director responsible

Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director (Learning and Support)

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CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

MEMBERS: Cllr Andrew Marchington (Chair), Cllr Paul White, Cllr Amanda Pinnock, Cllr Aafaq Butt, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Paul Davies, Linda Summers (Education Co-Optee), Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee), Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)

SUPPORT: Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
<p>1. Special Educational Needs</p>	<p>Monitor the progress of the recommendations from the Panel made to Cabinet 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 which was approved by Cabinet in March 2019.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider progress updates during the 2019/20 municipal year.</p>	<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><u>Panel Meeting on 23 September 2019</u> The Panel will receive a report giving progress on the Recommendations within the SEND report.</p>
<p>2. Exploitation Strategy</p>	<p>The Panel considered a joint presentation by West Yorkshire Police and Senior Officers from Kirklees on CSE, Safeguarding and Licensing in March 2019 and agreed to be kept informed and to be able to contribute to the future work on the Exploitation Strategy and consider the findings of the Dr Peel Review in the new 2019/20 municipal year.</p> <p>Future reports should provide an update on sexual harm prevention orders and what has been learned from the historic cases.</p>	<p>That the Panel is assured that lessons had been learned from previous cases of CSE.</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> <p>That as many takeaways and accommodation providers as possible receive exploitation safeguarding 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 23rd August 2019</u> The Panel considered and noted an overview of the work that had been undertaken in response to improving the quality of practice and to prevent children being at risk and vulnerable to harm and abuse from Exploitation and or from going missing from home or care.</p>

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		<p><u>Panel Meeting 17th January 2020</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider a follow up report on Dr Peel's practice findings and an update on the Exploitation Strategy.</p>
<p>3. Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board (KSCB)</p>	<p>Review the improvements of the KSCB.</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> <p>Future reports to the Panel should advise how Kirklees will implement the new national strategies on children's safeguarding.</p> <p>The Panel will consider the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board Business Plan.</p>	<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> <p><u>Panel Meeting 23 September 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a future report outlining how Kirklees will implement the new arrangements for Children's Safeguarding and the Business Plan; and - the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board Business Plan
<p>4. Early Support Partnership (Edge of Care)</p>	<p>To maintain an overview of the work done to improve the Edge of Care in Kirklees.</p> <p>In April 2019, the Panel considered an update on the development on the three programmes funded through the Department for Education (DFE) Innovation Funding and agreed to consider an update in the 2019/20 municipal year giving data and statistics on the Early Support Partnership following development of the practices.</p>	<p>The Panel is assured that the Early Support Strategy in Kirklees is clarified and enhanced, and should include consideration of whether good practice from other areas might be effectively adapted for use in Kirklees.</p> <p>That as part of clarifying the Early Support approach, the role of Schools is considered and schools have the opportunity to be part of the approach.</p> <p>The Panel will consider arranging a visit to the Early Support Teams to gain a better understanding of the work that was being undertaken and the impact it was having and that this be considered as part the Panel's work programme for the 2019/20 municipal year.</p>

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		<p><u>Panel Meeting 8th November 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on the Early Support Partnership in October/November to consider data and statistics on the Early Support Partnership following development of the practices.</p>
<p>5. Elective Home Education</p>	<p>The next steps from the Ad-Hoc Panel will be to gather further evidence which will be sought from:-</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) 	<p>The Panel is assured 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>The EHE Ad-Hoc Panel will commence its work and produce a final report on its findings early in the 2019/20 municipal year.</p>
<p>6. Ofsted Inspection (Children's Services)</p>	<p>The Panel will consider the Ofsted report following the inspection of Children's Services in June 2019.</p>	<p>That the Panel is confident Children's Services is continuing to improve and protect the vulnerable children and young people of Kirklees.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 23rd August 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel considered and noted the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection regarding Children's Social Care Services and agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the continuing work and actions to be taken to achieve improved outcomes as the next stage of the improvement journey, and the role of the Panel in supporting this, be noted. 2) That arrangements be put in place to arrange an informal Panel session regarding improving partnership working and governance structures.
<p>7. Learning Outcomes and the Learning Support Strategy</p>	<p>The Panel agreed to consider –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Draft Learning Support Strategy early in the 2019/20 municipal year; • what alternative provisions were available for children with different needs and abilities who are not able to attend mainstream education; 	<p><u>Panel Meeting on 19th July 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a report outlining the educational landscape in Kirklees and agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That further information on exclusions be considered by the Panel to include particular focus on early intervention, monitoring, the

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how isolations within secondary schools were being managed and what the planned approach was for the future; • a progress update on the educational challenges ahead, attendance and exclusions – July 2019. 	<p>practice in Kirklees and temporary exclusions.</p> <p>2. That the Panel consider a future report outlining how the new Ofsted framework for Education was working for schools and learners within Kirklees.</p> <p>The Panel agreed as part of their work programme for 2019/20 to visit schools to talk to children, young people and staff about the Learning Support Strategy.</p>
<p>8. CAMHS Transformation Plan</p>	<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> <p>The Panel will consider an update report in the 2019/20 municipal year giving a summary of the CAMHS Local Transformation Plan and outlining what is available digitally when making a request for an assessment and an outline of what support and help was available for families whilst awaiting an assessment – date to be confirmed.</p> <p>The Panel would also like to receive a summarised version of the CAMHS Transformation Plan as soon as it is available.</p>
<p>9. Number of children in care</p>	<p>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> <p>The Panel agreed to consider a more detailed report on children in care living outside Kirklees with some case studies showing the case history, challenges involved including financial demand on Kirklees and different types of placements. The report should also include the number of children who cannot be placed in Kirklees and the reasons why.</p>	<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 19th July 2019</u></p>

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		<p>The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the figures for data for children looked after age and gender breakdown be checked for accuracy and an update be provided at the next meeting of the Panel in August 2019. 2. That the Panel consider educational outcomes and stability for looked after children as part of the work programme for 2019/20.
<p>10. Future Options for Almondbury Community School</p>	<p>The Children's Scrutiny Panel on the 7th August 2019 considered a Call-in request in respect of the decision made by Cabinet on the 16th July 2019 on Future Options for Almondbury Community School.</p>	<p>The Panel agreed that the Decision by Cabinet taken on the 16th July 2019 could be freed for implementation, however, recommended that Cabinet consider the following learning points:-</p> <p>Capacity The Panel was satisfied that all relevant factors were taken into account including the Local Plan, however, this was not explained as clearly as it could have been in the Cabinet reports or the Consultation documentation.</p> <p>Whilst the Panel was reassured that there was sufficient capacity in the system, but acknowledged that if Almondbury Community School closes there would be limited choice at local schools from September 2020. It was not clear about where pupils would be allocated places in September 2020.</p> <p>Openness It appears that all relevant financial information had been taken into account, but the Panel felt that this could have been more clearly stated in the Cabinet report. It appeared that an assumption was made at the outset that the school was not viable and would fail a due diligence test for academisation. Whilst that might be right, the rationale for making that assumption was not fully explained in the Cabinet reports, for example, the fact of the school operating a £500k deficit budget only became apparent at the July Cabinet meeting. In future the Panel would like Cabinet to</p>

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		<p>ensure that there was better explained within reports.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider regular updates on Almondbury Community School – dates to Panel to be confirmed.</p>
11. Performance Information (Children's Services)	The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support.	The latest performance reports will be considered informally by the Panel as a standing item.
12. 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.
13. 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>The Panel agreed to visit the Fostering Team early in the 2019/20 municipal year.</p>
14. 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>
CAMHS Transformation Plan	The Panel agreed on the 19 th July 2019 that the Lead Member would keep a watching briefing on the CAMHS Transformation Plan	
Educational outcomes for Looked after children	The Panel on the 19 th July 2019 agreed to consider educational outcomes for looked after children.	The Lead Member for Children's Scrutiny Panel will keep a watching briefing on this matter and ask the Corporate Parenting Board to report back to the Panel with their findings.

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	The Corporate Parenting Board is looking at the issue of educational outcomes for looked after children and specifically the number of placement moves taking place which impact on the educational outcomes for looked after children.	

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