

Public Document Pack



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

Julie Muscroft

The Democracy Service
Civic Centre 3
High Street
Huddersfield
HD1 2TG

Tel: 01484 221000

Please ask for: Helen Kilroy

Email: helen.kilroy@kirklees.gov.uk

Thursday 3 October 2019

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Children's Scrutiny Panel

The **Children's Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Meeting Room 1 - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **11.00 am** on **Friday 11 October 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 - 10

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 August 2019 and 23 September 2019.

3: Interests

11 - 12

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: Deputations/Petitions

The Committee will receive any petitions and hear any deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also hand in a petition at the meeting but that petition should relate to something on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (2), Members of the

Public should provide at least 24 hours' notice of presenting a deputation.

6: Public Question Time

The meeting will hear any questions from the general public.

7: Almondbury Community School

13 - 18

The Panel will consider a report giving an update on Almondbury Community School following the Council's decision to change the age range of the school from 1st September 2020.

Contact Officer: Martin Wilby, Senior Strategic Manager
 (Education Places and Access)
 Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director (Learning
 and Early Support)

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

19 - 30

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: Penny Bunker

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday 7th August 2019

Present: Councillor Andrew Marchington (Chair)
Councillor Aafaq Butt
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Paul White

Co-optees Linda Summers

In attendance: Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor John Lawson
Councillor Bernard McGuin
Councillor Carole Pattison
John Chapman
Mel Meggs
Jo-Anne Sanders
Martin Wilby

Apologies: Councillor Richard Smith
Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)
Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee)

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Richard Smith, Dale O'Neill (Co-optee), Toni Bromley (Co-optee)

2 Interests

No interests were declared.

3 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

4 Call-in of Cabinet Decision in relation to Almondbury Community School

The Scrutiny Panel considered the grounds of a call in request, in respect of the final decision taken by Cabinet on 16 July 2019 on future options for Almondbury Community School.

The three decision making areas which were the focus of the call in review meeting were;

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 7 August 2019

- Relevant considerations – issues connected to the capacity of secondary school places
- Openness – issues relating to the availability of information
- Lawfulness and financial propriety - clarity of the legislation relevant to the issue of the statutory notice

At the review meeting the Scrutiny Panel considered verbal submissions from councillors who were signatories to the call in and views from members of the public affected by the decision. The Panel also considered the response of the Cabinet Members and senior officers of Children's Services and Legal Services, to the areas of focus.

The panel considered everything that had been submitted in writing and orally at the hearing. This included the background reports and information that had informed the Cabinet's final decision.

The panel considered the three decision options set out on the Council's Constitution, that were available to it:

- (1) To take no further action and free the decision for implementation
- (2) To refer it back to Cabinet with recommendations for amendment
- (3) To refer it back to the next Council, if the Panel considered that the decision was not made in accordance with the budget or policy framework

The Panel had sought advice from the Assistant Director: Legal, Governance and Commissioning and was satisfied that the third option did not apply in this instance.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the decision be freed for implementation, but that Cabinet must consider the following learning points:-

Capacity

The Panel is 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.

Whilst the Panel is reassured that there is sufficient capacity in the system, they acknowledge that if Almondbury Community School closes there will be limited choice at local schools from September 2020. It is not clear about where pupils will be allocated places in September 2020.

Openness

It appears that all relevant financial information has been taken into account, but the Panel felt that this could have been more clearly stated in the Cabinet report.

It appears 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

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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 ensure that there is better explanation within reports.

Lawfulness

The Panel can understand why signatories to the call-in raised issues given the complex nature of the decision making process. The Panel accepts that the statutory notice was correctly published and acknowledges the legal advice given.

- (2) That regular updates on Almondbury Community School be considered by the Children's Scrutiny Panel.

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Contact Officer: Richard Dunne

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday 23rd September 2019

Present: Councillor Andrew Marchington (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Paul White

Co-optees Dale O'Neill
Linda Summers

In attendance: Mandy Cameron
Steve Comb
Sheila Lock
Jo-Anne Sanders
Ronnie Hartley

Observers: Councillor Viv Kendrick

Apologies: Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)
Elaine McShane

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Elaine McShane and Toni Bromley (Co-optee).

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Subject to the following amendment that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2019 be approved.

Apologies for absence were received from Linda Summers Co-optee.

3 Interests

Councillor Paul White declared an interest in item 6 (SENDACT Action Plan – Progress Report) on the grounds that his wife was chair of a multi academy trust that included Castle Hill Academy.

4 Admission of the Public

All items were taken in public session.

5 Number of Children in Care

The panel welcomed Steve Comb Head of Corporate Parenting to the meeting.

In response to a panel question regarding the trend for the numbers of children in care Mr Comb informed the panel that there were 635 children in care in August

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2019 which was similar to last year and that the current 12 month average per 10,000 population showed that Kirklees remained below its statistical neighbours.

In response to a panel question on how Kirklees compared to its statistical neighbours for children and young people placed more than 20 miles outside the district Mr Comb stated that Kirklees was slightly better.

Mr Comb explained that out of area placements was an issue that the council was continually looking at and explained the process that the service followed when considering the options to bring a young person back into the district.

Cllr Marchington outlined the work that was done by the Corporate Parenting Board in scrutinising children in care and stated that there had been a significant improvement in the scrutiny of this area.

RESOLVED - That the report outlining the number and age of children in care be received and noted.

6 **SENDACT Action Plan - Progress Report**

The panel welcomed Mandy Cameron, Head of Service Education Safeguarding and Inclusion to the meeting.

Ms Cameron informed the panel of the background to the progress report which was an update on the recommendations from a piece of focused work that scrutiny had previously undertaken on children with special educational needs.

Ms Cameron stated that the service was making good progress in the areas outlined in the recommendations and explained that the council had made an investment to increase the size of the team to better meet the increased demand and that the timescales for statutory assessment for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) had significantly improved.

Ms Cameron informed the panel of the monitoring board that looked at the work of the team and would provide help and support in order to maintain the momentum in progress that was being made.

Ms Cameron informed the panel of the work that had been done in establishing an advocate agency for parents and providing the package of support that parents required.

A question and answer session followed that covered a number of issues that included:

- The importance of the work that was being done to support parents and carers through the EHCP process.
- The complexity of understanding the criteria for getting an EHCP.
- An explanation on the process for supporting parents through the EHCP process and the focus on getting a common understanding of the criteria in schools across the district.
- An overview of the EHCP leaflet that had been co-produced with parents.

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- A question on the lack of information on the timescales set against the actions detailed in the action plan.
- The wider piece of work that was taking place on school transport.
- The council's focus on looking at a more holistic solution to home to school transport to provide a suitable package of support to young people and their families.
- A question on progress of the recruitment exercise to increase capacity in the SENDACT team.
- Details of the recruitment process and quality of applicants.
- The work that was taking place in looking at the use of interpreters.
- The need to ensure that the work that was being undertaken in the action plan had clear timelines attached to each action.
- Clarification that many of the actions had remained on the action plan because they had moved into a different phase of work.
- Confirmation that the next update report would include much clearer detail on the timescales.
- A discussion on how the panel could visit parents and front line staff in order to get assurance that the required improvements outlined in the action plan were happening.
- Details of the parent monitoring group.
- An overview of what the service had learned from the scrutiny review.
- The importance of providing support post 16 and during the transition from school to the work place.
- A concern over the length of the 20 week timescale for a statutory assessment for an ECHP.
- An explanation of the process that was followed during the 20 week ECHP assessment period.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the panel would wish to see greater clarification in the timescales outlined in the SENDACT action plan.
- (2) That the panel would wish to see that the voice of young people is captured and reflected in the work of SENDACT.

7 Kirklees Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

The panel welcomed Sheila Lock, Independent Chair Kirklees Safeguarding Children Board to the meeting.

Ms Lock outlined her role to chair the multi-agency arrangements in Kirklees which was aimed at safeguarding and protecting children.

Ms Lock explained that it took a whole system to keep children safe and outlined the critical role of partners and other agencies such as the police and health in supporting an effective system in discharging those safeguarding responsibilities.

Ms Lock outlined the work that had been undertaken in getting the basics right in partnership working and explained the development of the partnership arrangement following guidance from government.

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Ms Lock explained the process that had been followed in establishing the new Partnership arrangements that included the local authority, the police and health through the clinical commissioning groups.

Ms Lock stated that Kirklees had submitted its revised arrangements to government in May 2019 and the new arrangements were currently being implemented.

Ms Lock informed the panel that the outcome of the new arrangements was a slimmed down executive function which meant that decisions could now be discharged with pace.

Ms Lock explained that arrangements in Kirklees had retained its large partnership to ensure that there was continued engagement with local communities and organisations and charities that worked with young people.

Ms Lock informed the panel that the Board had strengthened its sight with the front line and outlined a practical example of how this was being done through discussions with multi agency practitioners.

Ms Lock stated that the Board had also strengthened its approach to learning lessons which now included a focus on things that had gone very well.

A question and answer session followed that covered a number of issues that included:

- Consideration of how scrutiny could assess the effectiveness of the Board's work.
- The importance of transparency and promoting a culture where people could speak freely.
- An overview of the process that was in place for escalation and whistleblowing.
- An outline of the government's guidance that covered the changes to safeguarding arrangements.
- The challenges of effective engagement and communication with the different communities across the district.
- An overview of who the safeguarding board was accountable to and how its performance was reviewed.
- The role of scrutiny in reviewing the effectiveness of the board.
- The process for reviewing a serious incident.
- A question on the impact of GDPR on information sharing.
- The requirement to share all information in the event of a suspected safeguarding risk.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the panel acknowledge the need to continue to focus and promote openness and transparency in safeguarding matters and will investigate the effectiveness of this approach.

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- (2) That the panel will consider further its role in supporting and challenging the work of safeguarding partnerships in helping to reduce the risks to young people.

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

Ms Sanders Service Director-Learning and Early Support presented an update on Almondbury School.

Ms Sanders outlined the work that the council was doing with the four local schools in the area and explained that the council was planning to create the right opportunities for transition for young people currently receiving secondary education at Almondbury.

Ms Sanders informed the panel of the importance of the council working alongside government agencies and explained the council had to work within the guidelines of the admissions code.

Ms Sanders stated that the council had made applications to the agencies requesting a variation to the admission arrangements as they wished for every child in the Almondbury school catchment area to have priority to attend another local school.

Ms Sanders stated that as soon as the outcome of the decision was known the council would communicate it clearly with parents.

Ms Sanders outlined the approach that the council was taking to communicating with parents and would be writing directly to the families whose children were affected by the changes.

Ms Sanders outlined details of a planned open evening which would enable families to have one to one conversations to help them make informed decisions.

Ms Sanders informed the panel of plans to engage with a small group of families and local ward councillors.

In response to a panel question Ms Sanders explained that the schools adjudicator was obliged to make a decision on the request for a variation of admission arrangements before October 31st 2019.

A question and answer session followed and covered a number of points that included:

- The importance of the council engaging with as wide a group of parents as possible to ensure that the views of as many families as possible were heard.
- A question on how well the proposed variation to admission arrangements had been communicated.
- Clarification that the details of the proposed variation had been included in the consultation information and the guide to admission arrangements.

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Cllr Marchington provided an update on the panel's work programme that included an update on the work that was being undertaken by the Ad Hoc scrutiny panel on elective home education.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the verbal update on Almondbury Community School be noted.
- (2) That progress of the work programme and agenda plan for 2019/20 be noted.

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: Children's Scrutiny Panel
Date: 11th October 2019
Title of report: Almondbury Community School

Purpose of report

To provide scrutiny with an update about Almondbury Community School following the Council's decision to change the age range of the school from 1st September 2020.

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.
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?	not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director (Finance)? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Jo-Anne Sanders (for Mel Meggs) – 3.10.19
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Carole Pattison – Learning and Aspiration Cllr Viv Kendrick – Children's Services

Electoral wards affected: Almondbury

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

On the 16th July 2019, a decision was made by Kirklees Council Cabinet about a statutory proposal to change the age range of Almondbury Community School from 3-16 years to age 3 – 11 years on 1st September 2020, thereby removing the secondary phase of the school.

At the same meeting, Kirklees Council Cabinet were advised that a 210 place mainstream primary school for the Almondbury community should be retained. In addition Kirklees Council Cabinet were reminded that as Almondbury Community School is a school with an Ofsted judgement of Special Measures, there would be a requirement for the school to become an academy, sponsored by a Multi Academy Trust.

An Academy Order was issued by the Regional School's Commissioner on the 16th May 2019 and that the retention of a Primary School as a sponsored academy would be subject to a due diligence process.

On 7th August 2019, the Children's Scrutiny Panel held a call in review meeting on aspects of the Cabinet decision of 16 July 2019 on 'Future options for Almondbury Community School – Final Decision. The scrutiny panel considered evidence from the councillors who were signatories to the Call-In, the Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities, the Cabinet Member for Children, senior officers from Children's Services, and members of the public.

The conclusion of the Children's Scrutiny Panel was that the decision should be freed for implementation but there were a number of learning points arising from the decision making process that Cabinet was asked to consider. Cabinet considered the findings at its meeting on 13 August 2019.

It was agreed that regular updates on Almondbury Community School will be considered by Children's Scrutiny Panel.

2. Key Issues/Current Position.

Working in partnership with Almondbury Community School, King James's School, Netherhall High School and Newsome High School

Officers continue to work in close partnership with King James's School, Netherhall High School and Newsome High School to develop an offer for existing secondary age pupils of Almondbury Community School. This close partnership will also support carefully planned transitional arrangements to ensure that children have access to a broad, high quality educational offer.

Applications to the Schools Adjudicator

After the decisions associated with Almondbury Community School were released for implementation the local authority applied to a national body, the Office of the School Adjudicator, for a variation to the secondary Priority Admission Areas (PAAs) of Newsome High School and Netherhall High School for 2020/21. A complementary application has also been made by King James's Academy to the Education and Skill Funding Agency (ESFA). The requirement to do this was made clear in the Cabinet Report in July.

It was not possible to make these applications prior to this time.

A third application was made by the local authority to reduce the Pupil Admission Numbers in the primary phase of Almondbury Community School to 30 places for 2020/21. A positive decision was received from the Schools Adjudicator on 30 September which stated:

'I determine that for admissions in September 2020 the published admission number for the reception year shall be 30 and that there shall be no published admission number for year 3.'

The Primary School Guide for Parents and the Kirklees Admission policy for community and controlled schools 2020/21 have been updated to reflect this determination. There will also be an update to Almondbury Community School's website and the Kirklees School Organisation and Planning web page. This brings clarity for parents and carers whom are applying for a Reception place to start in September 2020.

Information available to year 6 parents making applications for secondary school (Y7) in 2020

The following message was included in the guide for parents from 1 September and a similar message is provided on the Kirklees website when parents and carers are able to search for their priority admission area using their postcode:

***Almondbury Community School (ACS)** - Kirklees Cabinet granted approval on 16 July 2019 to a statutory proposal to change the age range of Almondbury Community School from age 3 to 16 years to age 3 to 11 years with effect from September 2020. The secondary schools priority admission areas (PAA's) are currently under review and the local authority has applied to the Office of the School Adjudicator for a variation to the PAA's in this area. We expect information about secondary schools PAA's in this area to be updated as soon as we receive the outcome of the request. If you would like to register an interest in receiving updates about this please email acsadmissions@kirklees.gov.uk before the closing date for High School Applications which is on 31 October 2019.*

In addition, the attached letter was distributed to year 6 pupils by primary schools in the areas surrounding Almondbury on 30 September at appendix A.

Information for parents of secondary age pupils currently on roll at Almondbury Community School (Y7-11)

The letter attached at Appendix B was sent by multiple methods on 27 September to parents and carers.

Clarity for parents

Bringing further clarity for parents is our absolute priority. Progress is being made towards reaching the point when a letter can be sent to the parents of all current Almondbury Community School pupils in the secondary phase of the school and parents in the wider area with children in year 6 who will be applying for a secondary school place for 2020/21.

To provide comprehensive information is dependent upon the outcome of the determination of the Schools Adjudicator and the Education and Skills Funding Agency and officers are liaising with both Government Departments. A verbal update

from Officers will be made at the Children's Scrutiny Panel meeting if further information is available at this time.

Academy conversion

Following the inspection of the school by Ofsted last December Almondbury Community School was issued with an Academy Order in May of this year. The Academy Order applies to the Primary phase of the school and since May the Regional Schools Commissioner has been considering whom would be a suitable academy sponsor. The school were informed that the sponsor will be Impact Education Multi Academy Trust and this information was communicated by Almondbury Community School to their parents and carers earlier this month.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

Carefully planned transitional arrangements are required to ensure that children have access to a broad, high quality educational offer. Working in partnership with parents and carers, schools and staff is essential in securing the very best for children both now and in the future.

3.2 Working with Partners

School leaders and staff care deeply about and are highly committed to the children and young people in the Almondbury area. Work to improve Almondbury Community School across all key stages is being overseen by the Executive Principal of a partner school Carr Manor Community School, based in Leeds. To take forward implementation the Council will work with Almondbury Community School leaders and staff, the Interim Executive Board, neighbouring secondary schools to secure pathways for secondary pupils, and the Regional Schools Commissioner and Impact Multi Academy Trust to support the transition for primary pupils as a future Primary school

3.3 Place Based Working

The assessment of the need for school places in the Almondbury area has been assessed taking into account the current and future pupil cohort sizes. The decision and future partnership working will secure now and into the future, long term sustainable, high quality educational opportunities for children locally.

3.4 Improving outcomes for children

The decision and future partnership working will improve outcomes for children. By taking a strategic approach, Kirklees Council will ensure that sufficient secondary school places are available in Huddersfield South East and South West and maximise opportunities to;

- Offer high quality and inclusive education and diversity of provision to all
- Provide a breadth of curriculum offer that enables young people to have access to the widest opportunities to fulfil their aspirations and ambitions
- Be financially viable and therefore have future security
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Strengthen community cohesion
- Use sustainable travel and transport for school

4. Consultees and their opinions

Ward councillors have been notified as information becomes available and a face to face briefing has been offered.

Regular engagement will continue throughout the next academic year.

5. Next steps and timelines

- Communication to parents and carers in order to bring certainty at the earliest opportunity
- Working with professional associations and school staff
- Project team established and workstreams in place to carefully plan and deliver all aspects required to enable the best possible arrangements for September 2020 and into the future.
- Continue to work with the partnership of local schools to plan for and manage a high quality transition of pupils

6. Contact officer

Jo-Anne Sanders – Service Director Learning and Early Support

Martin Wilby – Senior Strategic Manager – Learning Places and Access

7. Background Papers and History of Decisions

[Future Options for ACS - Cabinet Report - 19 March 2019 \(agenda item no 20\)](#)

(background and seeking permission to consult)

[Future Options for ACS - Outcome Report for Cabinet 29 May 2019 \(agenda item no 9\)](#)

(outcomes of the consultation and next steps including publication of statutory notices)

[Future Options for ACS - Final Decision report for Cabinet - 16 July 2019 \(agenda item no 8\)](#)

(final decision)

8. Service Director responsible

Jo-Anne Sanders- Service Director Learning and Early 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 considered a report giving an update on the recommendations made by Scrutiny and actions taken on the SENDACT Action Plan.</p> <p>The Panel agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That they wanted to see greater clarification in the timescales outlined in the SENDACT action plan; 2. That the panel wanted to see that the voice of young people was captured and reflected in the work of SENDACT. <p>A further update report will be considered by the Panel at a later date.</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>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>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

	<p>Future reports should provide an update on sexual harm prevention orders and what has been learned from the historic cases.</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> <p><u>Panel Meeting 17th January 2020</u> 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> The Panel considered a presentation from Sheila Lock, Chair of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children’s Board, outlining the following highlights:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - her role to Chair the multi-agency arrangements in Kirklees which was aimed at safeguarding and protecting children.; - the process that had been followed in establishing the new partnership arrangements that included Kirklees, the police and health through the clinical commissioning groups;

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

		<p>- Kirklees had submitted its revised safeguarding arrangements to Government in May 2019 and the new arrangements were currently being implemented.</p> <p>The Panel agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That they acknowledged the need to continue to focus and promote openness and transparency in safeguarding matters and would investigate the effectiveness of this approach; 2. That they would consider further the Panel’s role in supporting and challenging the work of safeguarding partnerships in helping to reduce the risks to young people.
<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> <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>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

5. Elective Home Education	<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>
6. Ofsted Inspection (Children's Services)	<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> 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><u>Panel Meeting 17 January 2019</u> The Panel will consider a report on partnership working and governance structures.</p>
7. Learning Outcomes and the Learning Support Strategy	<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> 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 practice in Kirklees and temporary exclusions.

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

	<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>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> The Panel agreed:-</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

		<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 learning points on capacity and openness.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider regular updates on Almondbury Community School.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 23rd September 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a verbal update which highlighted the following key areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planning was in place to create the right opportunities for transition for young people currently receiving secondary education at Almondbury; - the council had made applications to the agencies requesting a variation to the admission arrangements as they wished for every child in the Almondbury school catchment area had priority to attend another local school; - the council was taking to communicating with parents and would be writing directly to the families whose children were affected by the changes. <p><u>Panel Meeting 11th October 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider a more detailed update on the planned closure of Almondbury Community School to include transitional arrangements to alternative schools and support that would be put in place for children with additional needs.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

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>

Lead Member Briefings

(Bi-monthly LM Briefings arranged with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children's; and Mel Meggs/Elaine McShane and Jo-Anne Sanders during 19/20 – no issues currently identified)

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.

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

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.

Children's Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Plan 2019/20

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>19 July 2019</p> <p>9am -10am Informal meeting</p> <p>10-12 noon Public meeting</p> <p>Meeting Room 1, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline 9.7.19</p> <p>Apologies: Mel Meggs</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;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Educational Challenges ahead and progress update and action plan for attendance and exclusions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of Children in Care (to include an update on future plans for CIC outside the district)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/ E McShane to present</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(H Sohel/M Cameron)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S Comb</p>
<p>23 August 2019</p> <p>10-10.30 am Informal meeting</p> <p>10.30-12.30 pm Public meeting</p> <p>Reception Room, HTH</p> <p>Apologies: Cllr R Smith, H Brayford, T Bromley,</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Informal items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of Children in Care</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Update on Exploitation Strategy and next steps</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ofsted report (Children's Services)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/E McShane to present</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S Comb</p> <p style="text-align: center;">C Jackson/O Rix</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E McShane/S Comb</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
Cllr Kendrick, J Sanders, Cllr Pattison Report deadline 13.8.19		
23 September 2019 10.30-11 am Informal meeting 11am-1pm Public meeting Council Chamber, HTH Report deadline 11.9.19	<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;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of Children in Care</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SEND progress on recommendations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New arrangements for Children’s Safeguarding and the KSCB Business Plan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Verbal update on Almondbury Community School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/E McShane to present</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Steve Comb</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mandy Cameron/Victoria Bruce</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sheila Lock, KSCB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders</p>
11 October 2019 10-10.30 am Informal meeting 10.30-12.30 pm Public meeting Meeting Rm 1, HTH Report deadline 1.10.19	<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;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Update on Almondbury Community School – transitional arrangements and support to children with additional needs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/E McShane to present</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/M Wilby</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>8 November 2019</p> <p>10-10.30 am Informal meeting</p> <p>10.30-12.30 pm Public meeting</p> <p>Council Chamber, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline 25.10.19</p>	<p>Informal Items</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Update on repeat referrals and second time on CP plan action</p> <p>Update on Early Support Partnership</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p>	<p>J Sanders/E McShane to present</p> <p>Steve Comb</p> <p>M Wheatcroft/R Singleton</p> <p>Steve Comb</p>
<p>16 December 2019</p> <p>10.30-11 am Informal meeting</p> <p>11am-1pm Public meeting</p> <p>Council Chamber, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline 4.12.19</p>	<p>Informal Items</p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes (31.10.19)</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p> <p>Review of Improvement Journey</p>	<p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present</p> <p>Steve Comb</p> <p>M Meggs/E McShane</p>
<p>17 January 2019</p> <p>10-10.30 am Informal meeting</p> <p>10.30-12.30 pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Informal Items</p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Public Items:</p>	<p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>Meeting Rm 1, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline 17.1.20</p>	<p>Number of Children in Care</p> <p>Exploitation Strategy – follow up and findings to Dr Peels Review (to be confirmed)</p> <p>Partnership agreement and working arrangements</p>	<p>Steve Comb</p> <p>M Meggs/E McShane</p> <p>Lead officer tbc</p>
<p>13 March 2019</p> <p>10-10.30 am Informal meeting</p> <p>10.30-12.30 pm Public meeting</p> <p>Council Chamber, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline 3.3.20</p>	<p>Informal Items</p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p>	<p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present</p> <p>Steve Comb</p>
<p>17 April 2019</p> <p>10-10.30 am Informal meeting</p> <p>10.30-12.30 pm Public meeting</p> <p>Meeting Rm 1, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline 7.4.20</p>	<p>Informal Items</p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p>	<p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present</p> <p>Steve Comb</p>

Future items

- Update reports on Almondbury Community School (J Sanders/M Wilby)
- Exclusions to include particular focus on early intervention, monitoring, the practice in Kirklees and temporary exclusions (H Sohel)
- Future report outlining how the new Ofsted framework for Education was working for schools and learners within Kirklees (H Sohel)
- Visits to schools to talk to children, young people and staff about the Learning Support Strategy (H Sohel)

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