

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 31 October 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 **Friday 8 November 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".

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

To receive apologies for absence of Members who are unable to attend the meeting.

2: Interests

1 - 2

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.

3: 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.

4: 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.

- 5: Number and Age of Children in Care** 3 - 10
- The Panel will consider a report giving an update on the number and age of children in care.
- Contact Officer: Steve Comb, Head of Corporate Parenting (Sufficiency)
-
- 6: Update on repeat referrals and second time on Care Protection plan** 11 - 18
- The Panel will consider a report giving an update on repeat referrals and second time on Care Protection plan.
- Contact Officer: Elaine McShane, Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)
-
- 7: Early Support Partnership** 19 - 28
- The Panel will consider a report giving an update on the Early Support Partnership.
- Contact Officer: Michelle Wheatcroft, Head of Service (Early Support)
-
- 8: Almondbury Community School Update**
- The Panel will receive a verbal update on Almondbury Community School and the transitional arrangements for school places from September 2020.
- Contact Officer: Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director (Learning and Early Support)
-
- 9: Children's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme and agenda plan for 2019/20** 29 - 38
- 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
-

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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
Date: 8th November 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 relating to the number and profile of children in our care. Including information related to the number placed outside of the District.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	NA
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	NA
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	NA
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Elaine McShane (for Mel Meggs) 14.10.19
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	NA
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	NA
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr V Kendrick Childrens Portfolio

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

(Have you considered GDPR?)

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

1. Summary

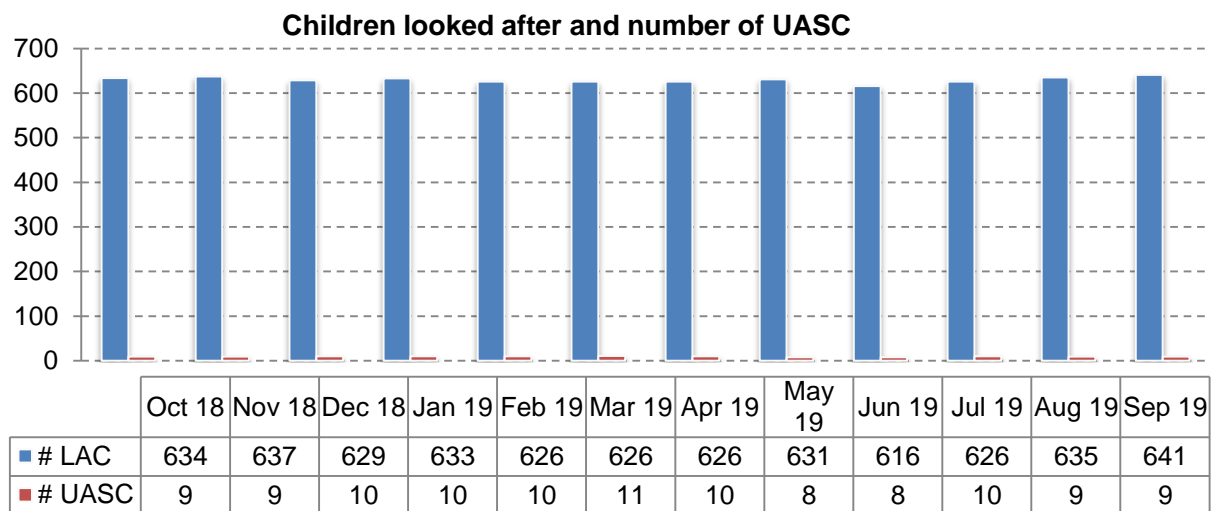
This graph shows the number of looked after children (excluding any looked after children receiving only S20 short term breaks) alongside the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).

The current number of LAC equates to a rate per 10,000 population aged 0-17 of **64.2** (63.6). This compares to a statistical neighbour average of 86.1 and a national average of 64.0 based on published data for March 2018.

Kirklees (September 19) = 64.2

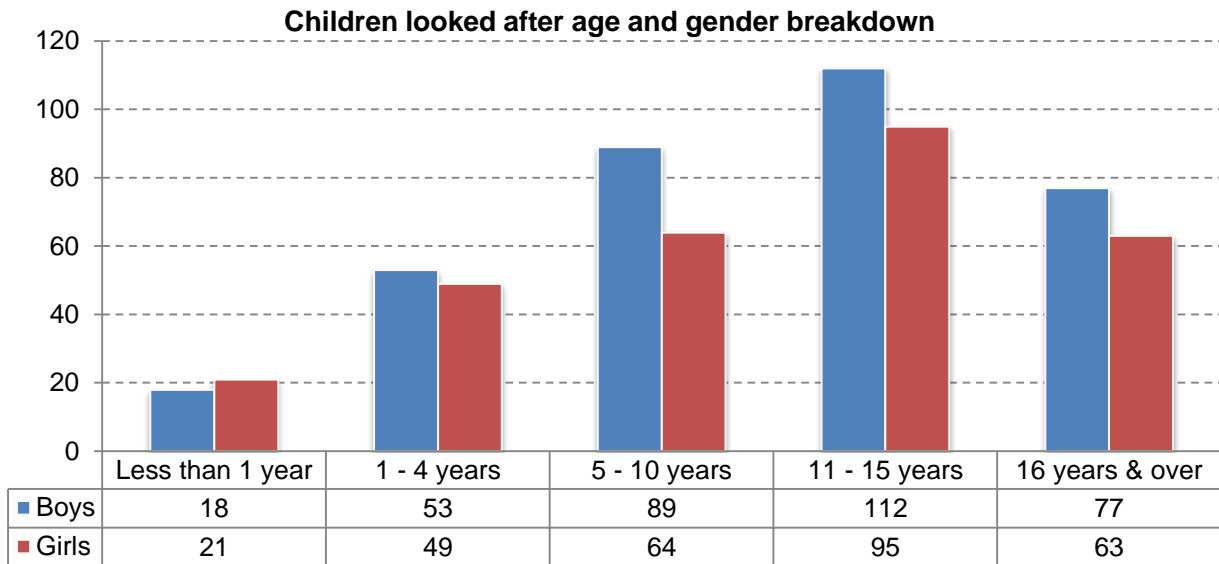
Statistical Neighbours (2018) = 86.1

England (2018) = 64.0



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

The largest age group for boys is 11 - 15 years with 112 (116) children and the largest age group for girls is 11 - 15 years with 95 (96) children.

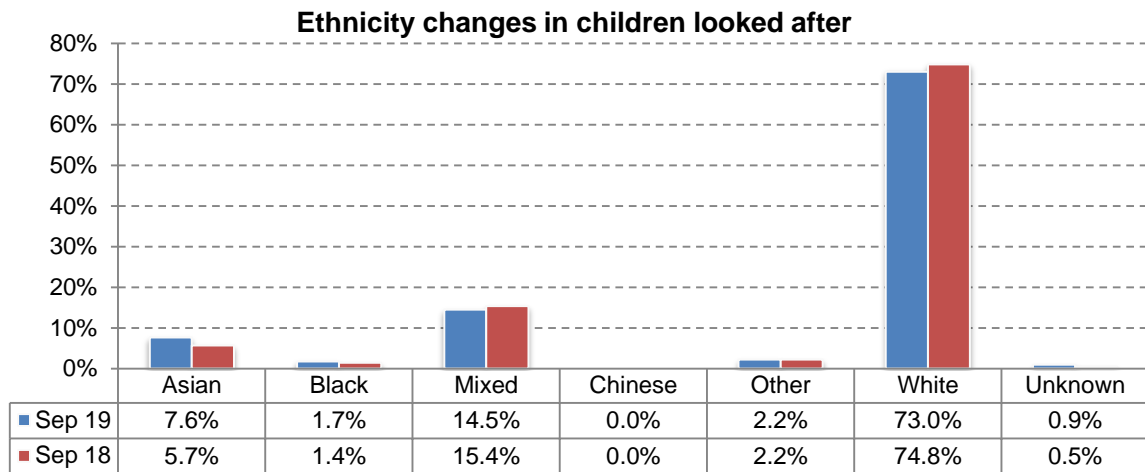


Statistical Neighbours

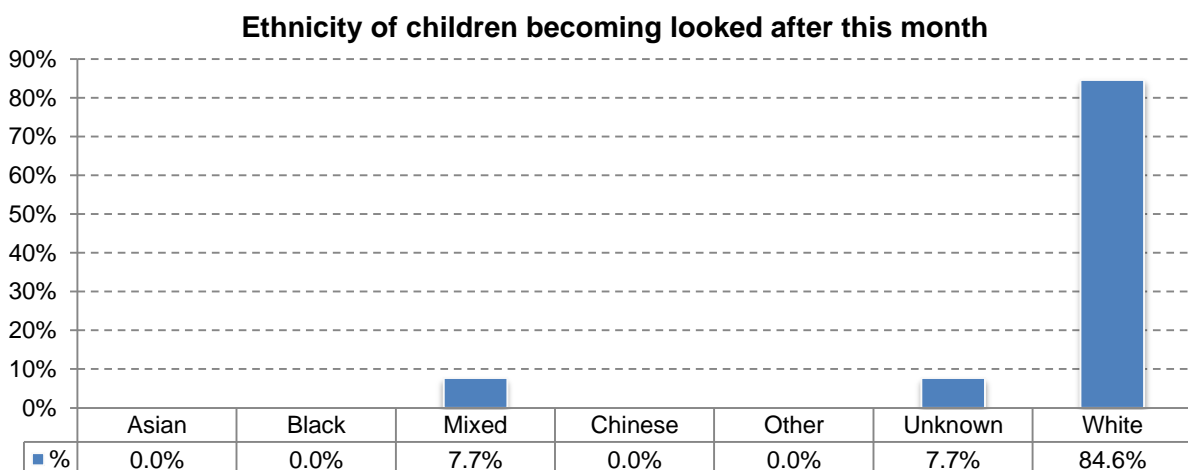
Local Authorities that the Department for Education regard as similar and close socio economically to Kirklees, not measured by population size.

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

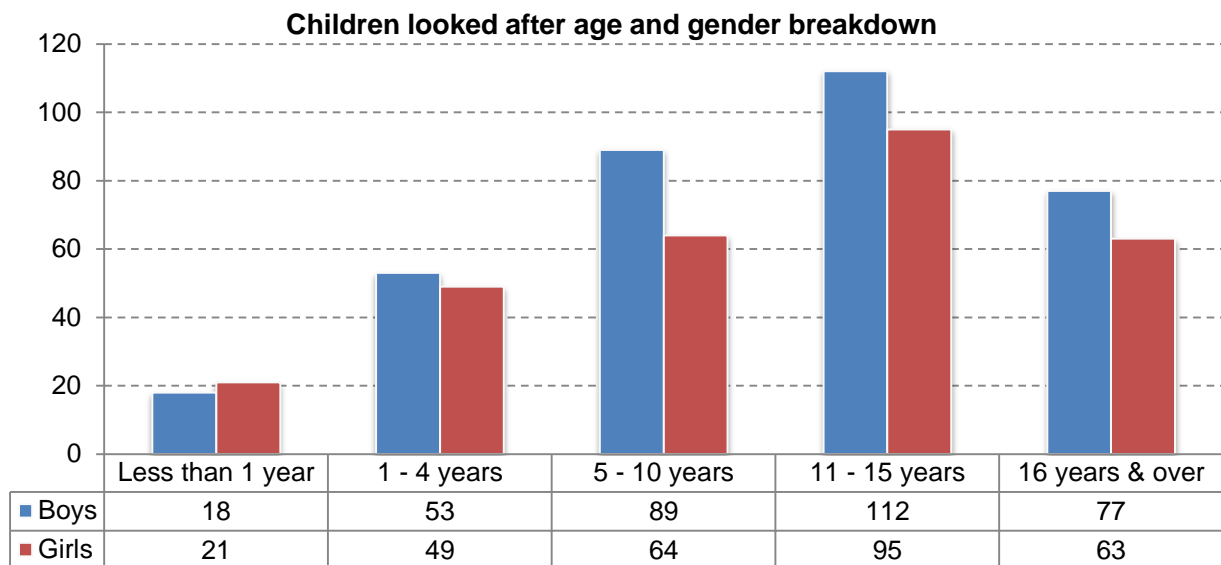
This graph shows the ethnic breakdown of the children looked after population at the end of September 2019 and the same point 12 months ago. This has been relatively stable throughout the period.



This graph shows the percentage breakdown by ethnicity of children entering care this month. Note that this outcome is based on small numbers. In September 2019 there were 13 young people who were recorded as entering care at the point of data extraction in the month of whom 11 were White, 1 was of mixed ethnicity and 1 did not yet have an ethnicity recorded.



This graph shows the breakdown by age and gender of the children in care. The largest age group for boys is 11 - 15 years with 112 (116) children and the largest age group for girls is 11 - 15 years with 95 (96) children.



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

The number of looked after children placed outside Kirklees District 20 plus miles from their home address was 78 on 30th September 2019. This follows a continuum of decline from a number of 127 in 2017, and a reduction of 17 over the last six months. The majority of our children and young people placed out of area are placed in foster care, the remainder are placed in children's homes, semi-independent homes, a small number in youth custody or other specialist settings.

	31 Mar 2019		30 Apr 2019		31 May 2019		30 Jun 2019		30 Sept 2019	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Placed outside Kirklees & over 20 miles from home address	105	16.8%	101	16.1%	103	16.3%	89	14.4%	78	12.2%

Semi Independent Accommodation aged 16 plus

There are forty three young people currently accommodated in semi-independent accommodation, thirty within District and thirteen of our young people are placed outside of the Kirklees District details below.

Placements outside of Kirklees in semi-independent living accommodation (not subject to Children's Home regulations)			
As at 30/09/2019			
LA of Placement	Aged 16	Aged 17	Total
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council		1	1
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	1	3	4
Devon County Council		1	1
Leeds City Council		7	7
Total	1	12	13
Legal Status	Aged 16	Aged 17	Total
Full Care Order	1	8	9
S20 CA 1989 - Single Placement		4	4
Total	1	12	13

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

No decision is required, this report is submitted at the request of children's scrutiny to monitor the number of children in care.

3. **Implications for the Council**

3.1 **Working with People**

Not applicable

3.2 **Working with Partners**

Not applicable

3.3 **Place Based Working**

Not applicable

3.4 **Improving Outcomes for Children**

This information is provided at the request of 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 Childrens Scrutiny.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

That the report be noted.

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

Not applicable

8. **Contact officer**

Steve Comb Corporate Parenting

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

Previous reports to the Childrens Scrutiny 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: 8th November 2019
Title of report: Re-referrals into Children’s Social Care

Purpose of report

To provide information to the Childrens Scrutiny Panel on the current re-referral rates into children social care service and offer assurances that children are receiving the right service at the right time with safeguarding at the centre of all decision making and care planning.

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?	Yes/ no or “ not applicable” No If yes give the reason why .
Key Decision - Is it in the Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Yes/ no or “not applicable” N/A If yes also give date it was registered
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes/ no or “ not applicable” N/A If no give the reason why not
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Elaine McShane N/A N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Viv Kendrick, Children’s Portfolio

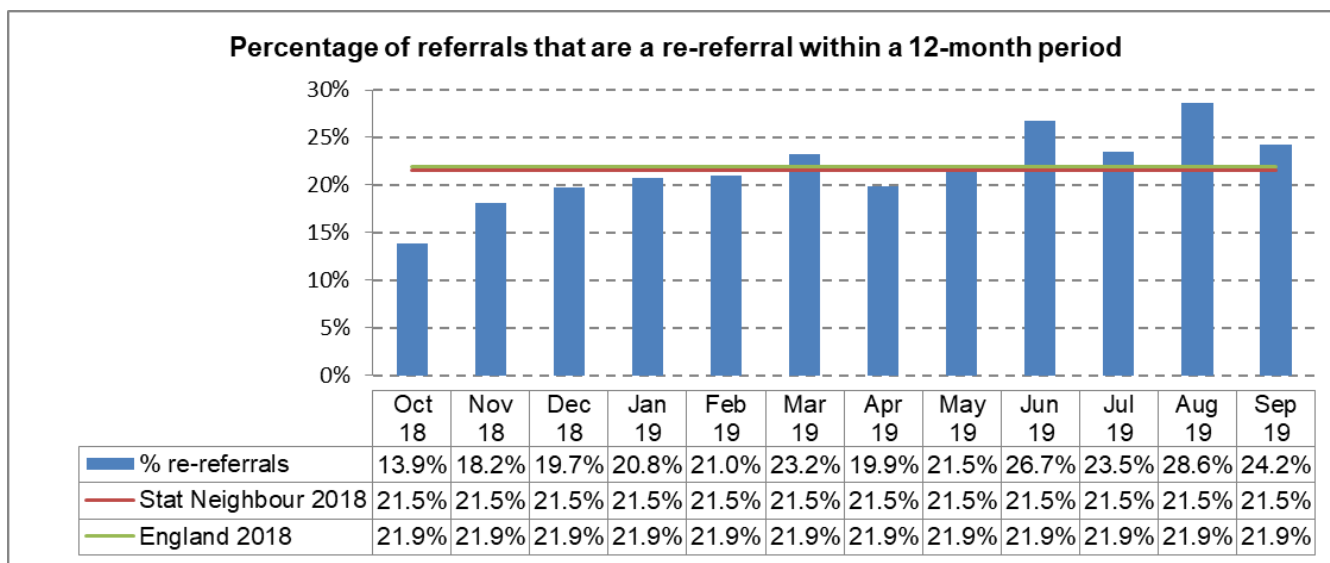
Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The table below illustrates repeat referrals to Kirklees Childrens Social Care over the last 12 months. The data shows an increasing trend over the period. In comparison to national and statistical neighbours, Kirklees has a slightly higher rate of re-referrals.



- 1.2 Children's Services has reviewed the data and cases in order to understand the reasons for re-referrals.
- 1.3 Domestic abuse and child behaviour are the main reasons recorded for re-referral, with domestic abuse accounting for the highest proportion of child re-referrals.
- 1.4 Domestic abuse referrals are broken down into a number of sub categories so that we better understand the type and impact of abuse and ensure the response is appropriate and proportionate.
- 1.5 In regards to child behaviour, the re-referral data indicates the main reason for re-referral is family breakdown where there are children aged 16- 18 year olds in the household and where interventions such as family support, family group conferences or arrangements where teenagers residing with extended family as part of preventing the need to become looked after have subsequently broken down.
- 1.6 The reasons for family breakdown are often complex with a number of differing factors, however school/college holidays often coincide with increase requests for social care intervention. This is reflected in the increase of children becoming looked after between July – September of this year. There was a similar trend in re referrals in the same months in the 2018 data, as identified below.

Presenting Issue	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Domestic Violence/Abuse	27	36	27	37	34	42	26	35	46	22	41	14	387
Sexual Abuse	7	11	7	18	14	5	3	7	24	1	7	1	105
Child Behaviour	4	5	5	12	6	7	13	4	8	7	24	5	100

How are Children Service's Responding:

- 1.7 Within the front door, multi-agency weekly review meetings take place; decision making and outcomes are reviewed as a partnership, with lessons learned used to further improve practice across the partnership ensuring re

- referrals to service are appropriate for example safeguarding and risk is correctly identified and considered and consent properly obtained.
- 1.8 Domestic violence consultants are part of the duty and advice team within the front door to offer advice and support to families where Domestic incidents occur, but immediate risk of harm to the child is not evident and no social care action is needed.
 - 1.9 Reviewing cases is one of the quality assurance methods we undertake to ensure cases have been closed appropriately and at the right time; we are focusing on the wider factors in relation to whether previous assessments covered the contextual and historical concerns and risks, which also determines whether the re referral is appropriate or whether further work should have been completed prior to case closure. Where necessary, the case is re-opened and further work with families is undertaken.
 - 1.10 Embedding and strengthening the early help offer to further support families, without the need for social care involvement is part of the improvement plan with a key focus on prevention at an earlier level and greater collaboration with the VCSE and communities.

2. **Information Required to Take a Decision**

N/A

3. **Implications for the Council**

3.1 **Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)**

See below

3.2 **Economic Resilience (ER)**

N/A

3.3 **Improving Outcomes for Children**

Work completed will ensure children and their families receive appropriate and timely services that prevent need for social care intervention

3.4 **Reducing Demand of Services**

The embedding of early support within local communities will ensure resources are targeted to meet the bespoke needs of families in the area with earlier identification of potential for family going into crisis or children at risk of coming into the care of the local authority

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

N/A

4. **Consultees and Their Opinions**

N/A

5. **Next Steps**

Professor David Thorpe commences a piece of work in November which will assess how the front door has developed and is performing including responses to child protection enquiries and referrals

Continuous development of our staff is a key strand of our overall workforce development plan, professional curiosity and roles of professionals involved in a child's life are planned areas of focus. Further development of the plan will take into account the recommendations and analysis of Professor Thorpe

Progress of the next steps outlined above will be provided to the Improvement Board as part of ongoing monitoring of performance.

6. **Officer Recommendations and Reasons**

N/A

7. **Cabinet Portfolio Holder's Recommendations**

N/A

8. **Contact Officer** - – Christine Bennett, Head of Service Assessment and Intervention

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

N/A

10. **Service Director responsible** - Elaine McShane, Service Director Family Support and Child Protection.

Name of meeting: Children's Scrutiny Panel
Date: 08 November 2019
Title of report: Repeat Child Protection Plans

Purpose of report: The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of repeat Child Protection plans, where a child or young person previously subject to a Child Protection Plan, is made subject to a second plan within two years of the previous plan ending.

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?	Yes/ no or Not Applicable No If yes give the reason why
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision – Yes/No Not applicable Private Report/Private Appendix – Yes/No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes/No or Not Applicable Not applicable If no give the reason why not
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	Tom Brailsford, Service Director for Resources, Improvement and Partnerships. N/A N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Viv Kendrick, Children's Portfolio

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes; the data in this report relates to a relative small number of children, consequently only headline data has been included.

1. Summary

The number of the repeat Child Protection Plans observed within a Local Authority area is often used as an indicator of safeguarding effectiveness. However, for a number of children who experience complex and fluctuating family circumstances and /or new contextual risks, a repeat Child Protection Plan is an appropriate safeguarding response.

The reasons to why children are made subject a repeat Child Protection Plan are varied. Increased risk and vulnerability factors for a child can include a change in family life circumstances, parent relationship breakdowns, new or resumed adult relationships, parental substance misuse, new or increased concern relating to adult mental health problems / domestic abuse, and /or contextual factors from outside the home, such as a child being assessed to be at risk of significant harm from exploitation.

Data identifies that currently there are 70 children in Kirklees who have been made subject to a repeat Child Protection plan within two years of their previous Child Protection plan ending. The ethnicity for the majority of these children is White British, with gender and age range, between 0 to 15 years old evenly represented in the cohort. A large percentage of repeat Child Protection Plans made in the last twelve months were in relation to the risk of significant harm category of Neglect, with the categories of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, less represented.

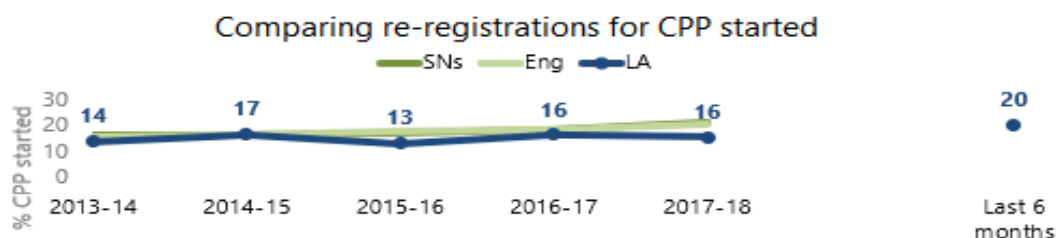
Of these 70 repeat Child Protection plans, a number ended after a relatively short period of time, either due to children becoming looked after, or professional decision making assessing that the identified concerns had reduced sufficiently enough to enable children and families to receive support and intervention via a Child In Need plan.

Of the 70 children identified as having a repeat Child protection plan, 45 remain subject to one. The gender split for these children is slightly more for boys and young men (24). The ethnicity of the majority of the children is White British, with the Pakistani being the second largest cohort. The age range of the current cohort subject to a repeat Child Protection plan is between 1 to 17 years old, with children aged between 1 to 4 years old, and 10 and 15 years old, accounting for the largest cohorts.

For the half of the children made subject to a repeat plan, the second plan commenced over a year after the previous plan ended.

Neglect was the overriding initial significant risk of harm category for the repeat plans; in the last twelve months no children had a repeat initial significant risk of harm category of physical abuse, and less children were made subject to a plan under the category of emotional abuse.

When comparing re-registrations for Child Protection plan's for children who have previously been subject to a previous plan during their life time, the number of repeat Child Protection plans in Kirklees has historically been below our statistical neighbours and the national figure. However, it is recognised that our figures have been increasingly in-line with these comparators over the past six months.



	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Last 6 months
Kirklees	13.7	16.7	13.1	16.4	15.6	20.3
Statistical Neighbours	16.5	16.7	17.3	18.8	21.2	-
England	15.8	16.6	17.9	18.7	20.2	-

2. Information required to take a decision

No decision is required: this report has been submitted at the request of the Children's Scrutiny Board to gain an increased understanding of the context relating to repeat Child Protection plans

3. Implications for the Council

- **Working with People:** Not applicable
- **Working with Partners:** Not applicable
- **Place Based Working:** Not applicable
- **Improving outcomes for children**

Once a Child Protection plan has ended there can be, in some circumstances, a tendency for families to 'disengage' with professional support. The Children's Social Care Improvement plan, and the cross directorate work being undertaken to embed Early Support within local communities, will strengthen the current offer available to children and families who require access to support and intervention to sustain change, and help to avoid circumstances escalating to a point where a repeat Child Protection plan is required.

A repeat Child Protection plan should prompt all professionals /agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of previous and any current intervention with a child and their family, in order to help identify any opportunities for agency /professional development, and improve outcomes for children and their families. However, this activity should also give full consideration to the fact that a repeat Child Protection plan may be the result of significant and /or unpredictable changes of a child's family circumstances /situation, and therefore is an appropriate safeguarding response.

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

4. Consultees and their opinions

5. Next steps and timelines

Through Quality Assurance activity, Children's Social Care and the Child Protection Review Unit will continue to monitor the professional response for children and families subject to Child Protection plans. The Child Protection and Review Unit (CPRU) has recently introduced a new process to review all requests for Initial Child Protection Case Conferences (ICPCC's) and to strengthen discussions between the CPRU and Children's Social Care, to help ensure that all requests for ICPCC's are appropriate.

The Children's Services Quality Assurance Framework is currently under review. The review will include revisiting the current structure and implementation of thematic and interactive audits for Children's Social Care. Forward planning for audit activity will include a detailed focus on repeat Child Protection Plans, to help identify any areas for multi-agency professional development that could reduce the likelihood of children being made subject to repeat Child Protection Plans.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations N/A

8. Contact officer

Sara Miles, Interim Head of Quality Assurance and Safeguarding, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships.

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

10. Service Director responsible

Tom Brailsford, Service Director for Resources, Improvements and Partnerships.

Name of meeting: Children's Scrutiny Panel
Date: 8th November 2019
Title of report: Early Support Partnership

Purpose of report:

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

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	N/A
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	N/A
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director?	Jo-Anne Sanders – Service Director Learning & Early Support
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	
Cabinet member portfolio	Councillor Viv Kendrick Councillor Carole Pattison

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

(Have you considered GDPR?) Yes

1. Summary/Background

The new Early Support Service was established in April 2018. The service offers non statutory services to children, young people and their families in line with the Kirklees Early Support Strategy. The service has developed considerably and now includes Family Support, Parenting and Group Work, Family Group Conferencing, Multi Systemic Therapy Family Mental Health Service, Stronger Families, Early Years and Children's Centres/Kirklees Community Hubs. A Youth Offer will be developed as part of the service.

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

The August 2019 Ofsted inspection report stated the 'Kirklees early help strategy has recently been refreshed, but is not fully embedded. There are examples of good and impactful work with families through community hubs, and appropriate signposting to services. However, the local authority is not evaluating the impact of early help provision, limiting its understanding of what is effective and why. The new multi-systemic therapy service provides edge-of-care provision. The service is still in its infancy and it is too soon to evaluate its effectiveness'.

It was identified that it was important to undertake a review of the Early Support Partnership following the publication and launch of the Kirklees Early Support Strategy and therefore Peopletoo were commissioned at the beginning of the year to evaluate Early Support Services which included Local Authority and external partner delivery. A report was published in May with a number of recommendation:

- Develop a vehicle to oversee and drive the Early Support Partnership; Board, Task and Finish groups.
- Develop a clear multi-agency pathway with panel process, aligned to the hubs.
- Agree two high level administrative areas – suggest North and South.
- Adopt 4 localities based around the 4 designated Children's Centres.
- Increase the management capacity and reorganise around the multi-agency, early support partnership approach.

With the agreement of Children's Services Senior Leadership Team the recommendations are currently been implemented.

2. Key issues/current position section

Family Support Service

Family Support remains a stable team with any staff movement being internal promotion and opportunities including successful applicants to the Kirklees Step-up to Social Work programme. The response to recent recruitment was positive and a large number of applications were received indicating that this is a service that people are now wanting to work in which continues to be a positive step.

Up to the end of March 2019 the Council commissioned two services as part of the Early Support Offer which were delivered by Action for Children and Humankind. A decision was made by Cabinet for the services to be managed in house and be delivered as one entity to allow for consolidation of services and alignment to the Early Support Strategy. The services delivered under the contracts were subject to the implications of the Transfer Undertaking (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("TUPE") and staff successfully transferred to the Council on 1st April 2019 and integrated into the Family Support Service. The majority of these staff have now transferred to Kirklees Council terms and conditions.

Action for Children were commissioned to deliver the Children's Centre Core offer in the Dewsbury East and Dewsbury West areas which includes universal and targeted services and Family Support and Humankind (formerly known as DISC) were commissioned to deliver the Family Intervention Project (FIP) which was set up to provide intensive Family Support.

Family Support are currently supporting 670 children (16.10.19) at Early Support status which does not include cases supported that are open to Social Care. These cases represent 32% of Family Support's current work and the total equating to the region of 985 children being supported by 43.5 FTE Family Support workers.

The area with the highest number of referrals to Family Support is Dewsbury and Mirfield at 108 (average of 18 per month) followed by Spen and Cleckheaton with 111 (average 11 per month) and Ashbrow, Greenhead and Lindley with 100 referrals, average 10 per month. The lowest number of referral was received in Colne Valley and Golcar with 63 referral (average 6.3 per month) and Holmfirth, Denby Dale and Kirkburton with 65 referrals (average 6.5 per month).

The service receives an average of 90 referrals per month with the highest number being received from schools closely followed by childrens social care.

The Family Support offer is continuing to develop and is currently embedding a local offer based around 4 geographical areas underpinned with teams working in the children's and families areas linked to the community hubs. This is developing a unifying but not uniform offer, reflecting the needs of young people, families and the communities.

Parenting Team

The dedicated parenting team within the Family Support offer a number of evidence based programmes to meet the needs of Kirklees parents which range from Early Parenting to support with the impacts on children subject to domestic abuse. *Please see Appendix 1*

The team has recently started some improvements to the parenting offer following identifying some issues with recruitment and retention of parents on the groups. These included availability of venues suitable to run the programmes in the 'right place' for parents, lack of local venues was further compounded by a reduction in support with transport to get to these venues. A further issue was identified as inappropriate referrals being made when no assessment had been made of the parents readiness to be able to undertake a programme, parents with mental health, drug or alcohol problems who are already struggling with appointments etc. are being set up to fail when expected to attend up to 12 weekly 3 hour sessions with a group of strangers in an often unfamiliar venue.

The team have started to address these issues by allocating members of the team to each community hub area to build relationships with schools and other professionals; this has led

to some good work in some areas where group work is thriving and support is been received in finding venues in these hub areas. A good example of this is in the Thrive hub; close links have been built with the community centre and Orchard Primary Academy and are running three different programmes a week at the school and community centre with further proposals currently on the table with the community centre and the school. The team continue to develop the offer in the community hub areas and have flexibility to shape the offer to the local needs

A further development has been to offer parents a home visit prior to them joining the programme to assess if they are aware of the programme content and outcomes and to explore whether the programme is in the right place and at the right time. These visits have proved successful in establishing a relationship with the programme facilitator before walking through the door on day one of a programme. Steps can also be put in place to address any anxiety problems of attending a programme e.g. asking the worker to accompany to the first session.

Next steps for the parenting team is to explore running some sessions during each school holiday to bring families together in the learning environment and to capture the impact on the children of parents attending the programmes.

Family Group Conferences (FGC's)

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

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

FGC now has a stable workforce, with a staff team of 2 team leaders and 10 coordinators all on substantive contracts. This will allow for the further development of the service and embedding of the entitlement at the earliest opportunity to prevent children and families rising through the social care system.

Since the start of the expanded FGC offer in April 2018 the team had received a total of 365 referrals up to 20th September 2019, of which 318 were received from children's social care and the others from schools and Family Support Workers. 114 of the referrals had outcomes met where there was a successful FGC i.e. there is a safety plan around the child, appropriate contact arranged or the child is kept within a safety network.

59% of the referrals were from North Kirklees with the majority of the families living in the the 0-30% most deprived areas of Kirklees.

The main referral points for Kirklees families for an FGC are currently Children in Need (CiN), Child Protection (CP) or when a Public Law Order (PLO) is initiated when children are most at risk of becoming looked after, however it is still recognised that the service needs to engage with families at the earliest opportunity.

The next steps for FGC is to further develop the service and embed the entitlement at the earliest opportunity to prevent children and families rising through the social care system.

Multi Systemic Therapy (MST)

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

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

The newly initiated team quickly developed to learn the MST model; there has been stability in all clinical positions with no movement out of the team. All clinical staff including therapists, supervisor and back up supervisor have attended initial orientation and relevant supervisor and booster training.

Since the team began seeing families in February 2019 they have had a highly successful period with excellent individual, team and family outcomes, especially for a new team. There has also been suitable referrals to the service which have been high and consistent throughout the period.

It is particularly impressive that all therapists are above target for adherence to the MST model, as reported by all families. Beyond the data reports there have been some very successful individual cases that have resonated and have been celebrated with local stakeholders, who have recognised the role MST has played in reducing the risks of care and custody for some of the children identified as being at most risk, and in turn the financial and resource savings to the local authority and partners.

- **100%** of young people are living at home at the end of the MST intervention (target = **90%**).
- **92%** are in school at the end of the MST intervention (target = 90%).
- **92%** of young people have had no new arrests during MST (target = 90%).

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

In the next period it is planned that the MST service in Kirklees will expand to develop two additional teams, one to focus on young people at risk of exploitation (MST-E) and one to develop services for children with a plan to return home from the looked after services (MST-FIT). This is an exciting time for MST in Kirklees but will lead to changes in staffing for the MST standard team, including transitions of therapists and recruitment of additional supervisors. The impact on the team will be planned and phased to ensure minimal disruption to development of staff and outcomes for families.

Kirklees MST has made a successful bid to the national Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) which means more investment will be made in protecting children who are at risk. The exact amount is still to be confirmed, but four organisations including Kirklees Council will receive a share of more than £2million which will fund the new MST-E service in Kirklees.

The YEF is a new initiative to tackle youth offending by intervening early. Its goal is to focus on those who are most at risk of involvement in youth violence, diverting them away from becoming serious offenders.

Mental Health in Families Team (MHF)

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

The team continues to work with professionals who are case holding from both adult mental health and children's social care regularly using them for case consultation in order to better understand and analyse the impact of parental mental health upon children. The team are facilitating greater collaboration between workers from the two services, which is resulting in improved assessments and plans for families with improved outcomes. They are using reflective supervision to identify how they have made a difference to the way cases are worked by professionals from each service, developing their approach from an individual focus to a whole family understanding. The team are also developing links with The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and have worked with their team successfully on several cases to collaborate more effectively with professionals from children's social care.

Alongside case discussions for specific families, MHF run bitesize sessions for children's social workers in order for them to better understand mental health services, the role of workers in the service, basic diagnosis information, legal frameworks, responsibilities and processes.

Next steps for MHF is to develop the support to duty and advice, in order to better inform decision making with regard to parental mental health and risk, along with increasing the support provided to assessment and intervention and increase links with the looked after and connected persons part of the service, as well as with colleagues from early support services.

Community Hubs

There are 17 Community Hubs across Kirklees with a defined partnership of schools bringing together Early Years, Primary and Secondary partnerships with each having named leadership. The hubs are at varying stages of maturity and act as a vehicle for a broad range of services to come together at a local level. Hubs are also a way of working that is designed to contribute to and support development of place based working arrangements.

There is a Kirklees Community Hub leader's network which provides a forum for all hubs to share good practice, work on common enablers and blockages, engage with partners and provide peer support and expertise.

The council provides strategic support for the development of the hubs employing a small project team and more recently agreed to resource coordination of the hubs and subsequently 9 FTEs Community Hub Coordinators were employed. There has been positive feedback on the value of the coordinators and options are currently being explored to how the roles can be sustained.

Family Support are now linked to the Community Hubs, with the Casework Consultants been the primary contact. The consultant's role is to embed 'whole family' working through relationships with critical partners including schools to provide seamless Early Support services. The support they provide includes guidance to key workers and lead professionals, supporting allocations, assessments and effective caseload management.

The casework consultants are funded through the Stronger (Troubled) Families and some from the wider Early Support Budget. The Troubled Families programme was due to end in March 2020, but the Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government has announced that it will continue for a further year, however it is unclear what the extended programme will look like, but further announcements are due in November.

Youth Offer

A Youth Summit was held in May with 150 attendees with the Children's Commissioner for England and the West Yorkshire Police Crime Commissioner as key note speakers. The aim of the event was a call for action to develop a new Youth Offer for the Young People of Kirklees.

A detached Youth Offer has been implemented over the summer holidays and will continue to the end of the year. Over the six week period we deployed and delivered 5 Detached Youth Work teams working across areas of Huddersfield, Batley and Dewsbury. These areas were identified using data from anti-social behaviour (ASB) and gang referral reports.

The programme involved 13 Kirklees Council employees from across Communities Service and Early Support, as well as 5 youth workers from local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) youth providers. The majority of sessions were delivered late afternoon, typically 14:30 to 17:30 when young people were out, but some sessions were delivered later in the evening.

Youth workers engaged groups of young people in informal settings including the street, parks, open spaces, industrial estates and housing estates. The approach was based on the following key principles:

- Young people's voluntary engagement
- Informal education
- Community development
- Community safety

52 sessions were successfully delivering totalling 156 hours of Detached Youth Work.

Youth workers reported good engagement across all areas and a total of 878 contacts were made with young people, including 553 individual young people. Young people discussed a wide range of issues with youth workers including conversations on their community, health and well-being and local provision for young people.

Next steps are to continue delivering the detached youth sessions until the end of the year whilst a permanent Youth offer is developed and integrated into the Early Support Service. A Youth Programme Development Board has been established, with work streams which will inform the new Youth Offer across Kirklees.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

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

3.2 Working with Partners

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

3.3 Place Based Working

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

3.4 Improving outcomes for children

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

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

The Early Support Budget continues to have increased budget pressures due to the development of the service and sustainability of some roles and teams that were previously grant funded.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The Kirklees Children's 10 Point Improvement plan identifies the need to rebalance the safeguarding system through redeveloping better early support and preventative services.

5. Next steps

- Work with partners to embed the Early Support Strategy through the Early Support Task & Finish group chaired by the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership.
- Implement the agreed recommendations from the Peopletoo report.
- Coproduce and implement a Kirklees Youth Offer.
- Coproduce and implement a Children's Centre Core offer
- Support place based working
- Continue to work with the Performance Information Unit to develop data to evidence the impact of Early Support.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

n/a

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

n/a

8. Contact officer

Michelle Wheatcroft, Head of Early Support,

michelle.wheatcroft@kirklees.gov.uk

07813 104646 or 01484 221000

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

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

10. Service Director responsible

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

Appendix 1

Parenting Team Current offer (September 2019)

- Liberty – *(recognise the tactics and beliefs used by abusive partners, and the effects of domestic abuse on children. This knowledge empowers them to avoid future abusers, keep their children safe and make positive choice. We are running 5 Liberty with 49 parents out of 65 accepting a place attending. We also have a waiting list for a men's groups which we hope to get running shortly*
- SEN Family Links- *(for parents to understand the importance of their own well-being and recognise that children with additional needs still require boundaries and routines. Looking at child development to recognise that parents often expect too much or too little of their child with additional needs). We are running 3 programmes with 26 parents out of 32 accepting a place attending*
- Steps- *(techniques to develop confidence, self-esteem, positive self-talk and set goals for the future often a natural progression from Liberty). - 3 programmes running with 28 parents out of 31 who accepted a place attending, with one further programme due to start after October half term*
- PX2- *(A programme for Young people 13 – 19yrs to develop self-esteem and confidence). 2 programmes at BJ College with 15 accessing the programme. These groups are small due to the nature of the young people's needs and are run as a 45 minute lesson with support from the college support staff*
- Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities – *(Identify factors that impact on the parent child relationship such as Domestic Abuse. Build resilience, recognise the importance of parent role modelling and community support to have a violence free lifestyle) - 2 programmes running with 15 parents attending out of 22 who accepted a place.*
- Early Parenting- *(a 6 week hands on programme based on the child's journey messages to help parents to understand the importance of a positive attachment, child development, communicating effectively, and the importance of play) - programme 12 parents completed the first programme, with 2 more programmes due to start shortly*
- Safer Healthier Homes *(for parents who are struggling with keeping their home conditions at an acceptable level to understand the impact this has on their children) cohort 24 currently running with 8 parents and facilitated by Paddock Trust- putting a member of the parenting team into these sessions this cohort has improved retention by building a positive relationship with the participants and supporting in the session as required.*
- For Community Hubs we have a policy of being able to tailor programmes to meet the needs of their families e.g. taster sessions, and are having a more visible presence at school hub events to build positive relationships with schools and families

Appendix 2

Case work consultant case study

Family made up of Mum, partner, and four children.

Family were discussed with me at Primary School as a family that might need support but who historically had been reluctant to engage. Mum approached school as her youngest son was due to start school in the September and she thought he may find it hard due to some additional health needs he had. Head teacher met with Mum and discussed options of support and Mum decided she would also like to see me.

I supported school to complete an Early Support Assessment and initiated a Team around the Family (TAF) meeting. Concerns were around school attendance and exclusions, health of various family members including Mums Mental Health, risk of eldest being involved with gangs/drugs, none of the family were working and finances were challenging.

We worked together and put a plan in place to address all the education concerns, engaged Mum in school and with me, supported her to attend GP and support around her health, eldest child received support from the Base around Cannabis use, attendance and behaviour improved massively and once mum addressed long standing problems which impacted on her mental health she felt well enough and was very keen to find employment, which she has now achieved with support through my role as a consultant linked with the community hubs and the stronger families network links with the Job Centre. Mum is working for the first time ever and loving it.

The family remain engaged with school and other services and the TAF should close although Mum isn't quite ready for that yet and wants the TAF to remain involved for a little longer, school are happy to do this as they have seen the benefit for the whole family.

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
1. Special Educational Needs	<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></p> <p>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>
2. Exploitation Strategy	<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</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</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	cases.	<p>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; - Kirklees had submitted its revised safeguarding arrangements to Government in May 2019 and the new arrangements were currently being implemented. <p>The Panel agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That they acknowledged the need to continue to focus and promote

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
		<p>openness and transparency in safeguarding matters and would investigate the effectiveness of this approach;</p> <p>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> <p>The Panel will attend and observe a Multi-Agency meeting to scrutinise partnership working.</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise the process for developing the Children and Young People's Plan which outlines the services priorities.</p>
<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 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 	<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</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>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. Review of the Improvement Journey</p>	<p>The Panel considered the Ofsted report following the inspection of Children's Services in June 2019 and will receive future updates as appropriate.</p> <p>The Panel will review the improvement journey of Children's Services and gather evidence as part of holding the service to account.</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 a Panel session regarding improving partnership working and governance structures. <p><u>Panel Meeting 17 January 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider a report on partnership working and governance structures.</p> <p>The Panel will attend and observe the following meetings to scrutinise and gather evidence:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficiency Placement meetings - Multi-Agency meetings; - Early Years Event in January 2020 and consider a formal report at a future meeting giving feedback and next steps; - Practice Progress meetings; - Visits to key health partners <p><u>Panel Meeting 13 March 2020</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider a report following the Early Years Event in March</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
		<p>2020 which will outline feedback from the event and next steps.</p> <p>The Panel will consider the Children and Young People's 10 Point Plan outlining the Service's priorities – date to be determined.</p>
<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; 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><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"> 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. That the Panel consider a future report outlining how the new Ofsted framework for Education was working for schools and learners within Kirklees. <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>The Panel will consider whether to scrutinise Secure and Sufficient School places – provisionally for the 2020/21 municipal year.</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</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
		Transformation Plan as soon as it is available.
9. Number of children in care	<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> <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.
10. Future Options for Almondbury Community School	<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 to consider regular updates on Almondbury Community School and the transitional arrangements for Children on roll at the school for the school year 2020/21.</p>	<p><u>Panel Meeting 7th August 2019 – Call-in Hearing</u> 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. The Panel agreed to consider regular updates on Almondbury Community School.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 23rd September 2019</u> 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;

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 approach 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> The Panel considered an update regarding Almondbury Community School, following the Council's decision to change the age range of the school from 1st September 2020.</p> <p>The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to consider an update report to the November meeting outlining next steps and progress and which would include an outline of the transitional arrangements for children years 7 to 10. 2. to consider a future report on the success rating of the Academy Trust that was sponsoring Newsome High School and that the report should include an update on the management arrangements for the school, which had received an Ofsted judgement of special measures. 3. to attend meetings with parents regarding the transitional arrangements for children from Almondbury Community School for the school year 2020/21. <p>Panel to be invited to Opening Evening at Almondbury Community School in October 2019.</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. <u>Panel Meeting 13 March 2020</u> The Panel will consider information on data and performance, including

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

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		<p>feedback from the Director of Children’s Services Regional meeting to be held in January 2020.</p> <p>The Panel will consider whether to attend training on how to better understand data sets and performance information for the Children’s Service.</p>
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) – Actions from these meetings are included within the Panel’s Work Programme where appropriate

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

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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	<p>The Panel on the 19th July 2019 agreed to consider educational outcomes for looked after children.</p> <p>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.</p>	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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