

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: Leigh Webb

Email: leigh.webb@kirklees.gov.uk

Wednesday 5 August 2020

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Children's Scrutiny Panel

The **Children's Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Virtual Meeting - online** at **2.00 pm** on **Thursday 13 August 2020**.

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

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

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: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

3 - 8

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 July 2020

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. Due to Covid-19 restrictions any questions should be emailed to executive.governance@kirklees.gov.uk no later than 2pm on 12 August.

7: SEND Update

9 - 20

To provide Scrutiny Panel Members with an update on progress for Children with SEND during the Covid outbreak and the SEND Improvement Plan.

Contact Officer: Ronnie Hartley – Head of Educational Safeguarding and Inclusion.

8: Exploitation Strategy Update

21 - 26

To provide Children's Scrutiny Panel with an update of the work of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership relating to the Child Exploitation Strategy.

Contact Officer: Sara Miles – Head of Quality Assurance and Safeguarding.

9: Children's Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

27 - 32

Members of the panel will consider the work programme and agenda plan for the 2020/21 and will consider issues for inclusion.

Officer: Leigh Webb, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

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.

Contact Officer: Leigh Webb

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday 2 July 2020

- Present: Councillor Andrew Marchington (Chair)
Councillor Paul Davies
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Paul White
- Co-optees Toni Bromley
Dale O'Neill
Linda Summers
- In attendance Julie Bragg, Service Manager (Children and Families)
Tom Brailsford, Service Director (Resources, Improvement and Partnerships)
Elaine McShane, Service Director - Family Support and Child Protection
Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director - Learning & Early Support
Natalie McSheffrey, Head of Education Relationships and Business
Martin Wilby, Acting Deputy Assistant Director, LA Statutory Duties Learning and Skills
- Observers: Councillors Viv Kendrick and Carole Pattison
- Apologies: Councillor Amanda Pinnock

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Amanda Pinnock.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings of the Panel held on the 13 March 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session, with the exception of Item 12, Improvement Journey Update

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were received from the public.

7 Impact Of Lockdown And What Has Been Done To Keep Children Safe

The Panel received a Service Update report with regards to the provision of services to vulnerable Children, Young People, their families and their carers During COVID 19. The report also provided a wider overview of the actions and steps taken to ensure that children in Kirklees are safe and contact is maintained during the current emergency.

The report outlined a range of measures that had been undertaken to support the workforce across a range of services including managerial support, check-ins, prioritisation clarity and advice on dealing with Covid-19 presenting clients. Information was also set out in respect of front door access for social care services and the work of the Assessment and Intervention Teams.

With regard to the numbers of looked after children it was reported that at the start of lockdown was 675 there was a slight increase by the end of May 2020 to 677. On the 19th June 2020 the numbers of children in care were 691 this increase is due to two sibling groups.

During discussion of the report the following key areas were highlighted:-

- Risk assessments had taken place at the start of the Covid epidemic and keep in touch co-ordinators were following up contacts with all looked after children and care leavers
- Social Workers have continued to undertake statutory visits to children who are in the care of the Local Authority.
- With regard to residential and foster care it was reported that all settings have been risk assessed, which had resulted in the suspension of respite provision at Orchard View and the Young Persons Activity offer. With regard to capacity alternative temporary settings have had to be registered. Work has been ongoing with KFN to help with the stability of placements with a new payment system being introduced

In response to a question from Councillor Davies concerning respite care, Tom Brailsford explained that the service was managing to provide a flexible service with staff being re-deployed to assist foster carers where appropriate. It was reported that there are concerns about the need for respite for children with additional needs and the use of bubbles was being engaged.

In response to concerns raised by Linda Summers relating to pressures on school staff in respect of looked after children, Elaine McShane and Jo-Anne Sanders highlighted the positive collaborative work between the social care and education sectors.

Councillor Davies enquired as to any concerns regarding decision making for social workers as a result of them not being office based. Elaine McShane explained that more social workers were returning to the office where possible.

Children's Scrutiny Panel – 13 March 2020

With regard to support around decision making, Elaine explained that social workers were empowered to make decisions, with support available from more experienced staff and Team Managers where appropriate.

RESOLVED –

1. The Panel noted the report on Number and Age of Children in Care and thanked Elaine McShane for her contributions.
2. The Panel thanked social care staff for the dedicated work done during the pandemic.

8 Update on the wider opening of schools and planning for the next academic year

The Panel received a report providing an overview in relation to schools since the outbreak of Covid-19 and explaining the engagement, collaboration and planning in place that has supported a wider opening for children and young people. Alongside this, and where there are specific characteristics in relation to the type of setting, the report set out the work being undertaken for Special Schools, the Early Years and Childcare sector, Post 16 settings and Alternative Provision.

The report included details of the latest government guidance relating to the re-opening of schools. Statistical information in respect of attendance levels was appended to the report.

During discussion of this item, Jo-Anne Sanders highlighted the following engagement and actions that had been put in place as part of the education planning process in Kirklees:

- School Headteachers representing the system from the Education and Learning Partnership Board (Secondary/Special/Primary) - originally daily, now twice a week.
- CEOs of Multi Academy Trusts – weekly
- Civil Servants from the DfE – originally daily, now twice a week.
- Kirklees Learning Partner 1:1 engagement with Headteachers
- Community Planning Hub strategic leads (building on the 17 Kirklees Community Hubs to support locally planned arrangements, plus 1 specific hub for Special Schools given the bespoke nature of their offer and cohort).
- Trade Union liaison via corporate Business Continuity (as well as now a Schools specific weekly meeting led by the Service Director for Learning and Early Support)
- A schools Covid dedicated telephone line and email address to funnel in questions/queries.
- Regular comms/FAQs/Guidance issued to the system via 'Heads Up' our electronic communication system to schools from Learning Services (attendance, admissions etc. as well as all corporate services including Infection Prevention Control, Catering, Cleaning, Risk Assessments, HR, Emergency Planning as well as sign posting to the regularly updated Government Guidance. This has been particularly key in terms of supporting Free School Meals entitlements and challenges with the Government system/the Council's support for children and families over the holiday periods.

Children's Scrutiny Panel – 13 March 2020

- Liaison and contribution to regional and national strategic groups via the Association of Directors of Children's Services.

Questions and comments were invited from the Panel and the following issues were raised:

- Councillor Smith suggested that a gap analysis be provided to parents to highlight the effect of lost teaching time as a result of the pandemic. Jo-Anne Sanders stressed the importance of getting all children back into schools to enable staff to analyse where children were up to.
- With regard to Catch Up packages, exact details are awaited in relation to how they are to be delivered and the funding packages associated with them. Linda Summers highlighted the fact that currently catch up packages were not available for post 16 education within colleges.
- In response to a question concerning the wider opening of schools and whether the test, track and trace programme was effective and fully operational, it was explained that clear guidance had been provided to schools on how to respond to outbreaks.
- In response to a question from Toni Bromley concerning specific risk assessments for BAME staff and pupils, Jo-Anne Sanders confirmed that risk assessments did cover all BAME staff and undertook to take away the issue of how applied to BAME children going forward.
- With regard to the issue of innovation and the increased use of digital technology, Panel Members recognised the creative opportunities but stressed the need to ensure inclusiveness and recognise the real issues of digital poverty in relation to both hardware and broadband connectivity.

RESOLVED-

The Panel noted the report and the update on the ongoing work to re-open schools within Kirklees.

9. Almondbury Community School update

The Panel considered an update on the implementation of the Council's decision to change the age range of Almondbury Community School (ACS) from the 1st September 2020 presented by Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director (Learning and Early Support) and Martin Wilby, Senior Strategic Manager (Education and Access).

Martin Wilby highlighted the following key points:-

- Strong partnership working has continued with all parties committed to achieving the best outcomes for children affected by the closure
- Despite the challenges faced due to Covid-19 significant progress has continued to be made and planned pupil transitions are still on track for September 2020.
- With regard to Academy conversion, the Trust have been engaging stakeholders about a new identity for the school and as a result have announced their intention to change the name to Hill View Academy.
- Vouchers will be issued to parents of pupils currently at Almondbury Community School to allow them to purchase branded items of uniform required for their new school in September.

Children's Scrutiny Panel – 13 March 2020

- The staffing review has been completed with no need for any compulsory redundancies.

In response to a question from Cllr Munro concerning vacancies, Martin Wilby confirmed that the staff vacancies were within the primary phase and explained that the HR process did separate primary from secondary. It was reported that the process had been undertaken positively in collaboration with the Trade Unions.

RESOLVED –

1. The Panel noted the update on Almondbury Community School and thanked Jo-Anne Sanders and Martin Wilby for their contributions.
2. The Panel look to monitor the effect of stresses on staff in respect of educational outcomes for children across Kirklees.

10 Work Programme for 2020/21 municipal year

The Panel considered the progress on the work programme during the 2019/20 municipal year and considered issues for inclusion in the Panel's work programme during the 2020/21 municipal year.

RESOLVED –

1. That the progress on the 2019/20 work programme for the Children's Scrutiny Panel be noted.
2. That the items be noted for inclusion in the Panel's work programme during the 2020/21 municipal year
3. Panel Members agreed to forward any further items for inclusion in the 2020/21 work programme to the Governance Officer.
4. That opportunities be explored for virtual visits to observe the good work being undertaken in education and partner organisations

11. Improvement Journey

The Panel received an update in respect of the improvement journey. Through the Improvement Board have continued to work toward having imp notice lifted. Evidence is to be provided to Secretary of State in relation to the 6 tests that had been set.

Further evidence has been provide to Department for Education on the 10 Ofsted recommendations. It was reported that Focus Groups are being set up to examine and monitor the ongoing work

Going forward evidence and learning will be shared to explore the role of scrutiny as a means of offering challenge going forward.

In response to question from Linda Summers concerning the level of confidence if currently assessed, Elaine McShane outlined the continued positive work with partners and recognised that staff had gone above and beyond during the Covid -19 pandemic.

RESOLVED-

That the Panel notes the progress made to date in respect of the improvement journey

12 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED – That acting under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as specifically stated in the undermentioned Minute.

13 Improvement Journey

(Exempt information within Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006, namely that the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption, which would protect the interests of the Council and the company concerned, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness in the Council's decision making.)

The Panel received a copy of the update report which had been submitted to the June meeting of the Improvement Board

RESOLVED –

That the Improvement Board update report be noted

Name of meeting: Children’s Scrutiny
Date: 13th August 2020
Title of report: SEND progress report

Purpose of report: To provide Scrutiny Panel Members with an update on progress for Children with SEND during the Covid outbreak and the SEND Improvement Plan.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision – Not Applicable Private Report/Private Appendix – No
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 for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Jo-Anne Sanders for Mel Meggs 03/08/20
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Carole Pattison – Schools, Aspiration and Communities and Cllr Viv Kendrick – Children’s Services

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: NA

Public or private: public

Has GDPR been considered? yes

1. Summary

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) improvement journey in Kirklees has developed at pace over the last year this report updates Children's Scrutiny on the progress that we have made together on achieving our shared ambition for children and young people with SEND in Kirklees which is that:

- All children and young people 0-25 with SEND live and are educated in Kirklees.
- All children and young people should have the best start in life.
- Children and young people with SEND make good educational progress and have high aspirations and good life opportunities.

Similar to other local areas, we know that we have faced challenges in increased demand for Education, Health and Care Plans and subsequent rise in costs. This has led to significant pressure on our 'High Needs Block', which we can only tackle collectively across the whole SEND system. To ensure that needs, provision and spend are tightly interlinked we need to ensure the SEND system is joined up and easier to navigate for everyone. Kirklees is fully committed to implementing the SEND Reforms and has support from Kirklees Council Cabinet and all partners in the SEND system. Kirklees has also invested in the right support to progress the improvement journey at pace, this has included commissioning Impower as an improvement partner to support us in clarifying our collective ambition for children and young people with SEND and appointing a range of professionals who bring a wealth of experience and skills in improving the SEND system and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

This report captures the impact on children and families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) of the Covid 19 public health pandemic and provides an update on progress in relation to the SEND Improvement Plan.

Section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014

As part of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Government legislated on SEND to strike the right balance between:

- The needs of children and young people with SEND to be protected and receive the right support in a timely way; and
- Managing the demands on local authorities (LAs) and health bodies to respond during the Covid 19 outbreak.

Two things were amended:

1. Section 42 of the Children and Families Act 2014 (duty to secure special educational provision and health care provision in accordance with an EHC plan): the duty on LAs or commissioning health bodies to secure or arrange the provision was temporarily modified to a duty to use 'reasonable endeavours' to do so. This temporary modification was removed at the end of July 2020 so the full statutory duty to provide what is specified in the EHCP has now been reinstated this applies to Local Authorities and health commissioning bodies.
2. The SEND (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 amend regulations that specify timescales that principally relate to EHC needs assessments and plans. Where it is not reasonably practicable, or is impractical, to meet that time limit for a reason relating to

the incidence or transmission of coronavirus, the specific time limit will not apply - the process must be completed as soon as reasonably practicable. This amendment remains in place until 25th September 2020.

The DfE has committed to keep under review whether there needs to be any flexibility locally to respond to outbreaks.

In summary the Local Authority and commissioning health bodies are still required to carry out Education Health and Care Assessments, undertake Annual Reviews and finalise plans, however if the statutory process takes longer as a direct result of Covid 19, the statutory timescales can be extended to take this into account, but this must be actioned as soon as reasonably practical.

Department for Education Monthly SEND Survey

The DfE will be conducting a monthly SEND survey starting in July with the aim of tracking current and forthcoming pressures in the Local Authority SEND teams, to provide informed judgements about temporary legislative changes, and to provide support where needed. This will include information about current casework, Educational Psychology capacity, level of new referrals and application of Covid exceptions to assessment timescales.

Area SEND Inspections

During the Autumn Term Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will not be carrying out Area Inspections but will undertake joint Ofsted CQC visits to support the SEND system following Covid 19 disruption. The visits are not inspections and will give insights into how the SEND system is working. Once the current cycle of inspections is completed, there will be a new inspection framework with:

- a continuous cycle of inspections
- sharper inspection focus on the experience of CYP with SEND and their families
- greater prominence of the quality, integration and commissioning of education, health and care services for CYP with SEND.

Covid 19 EHCP Risk Assessments

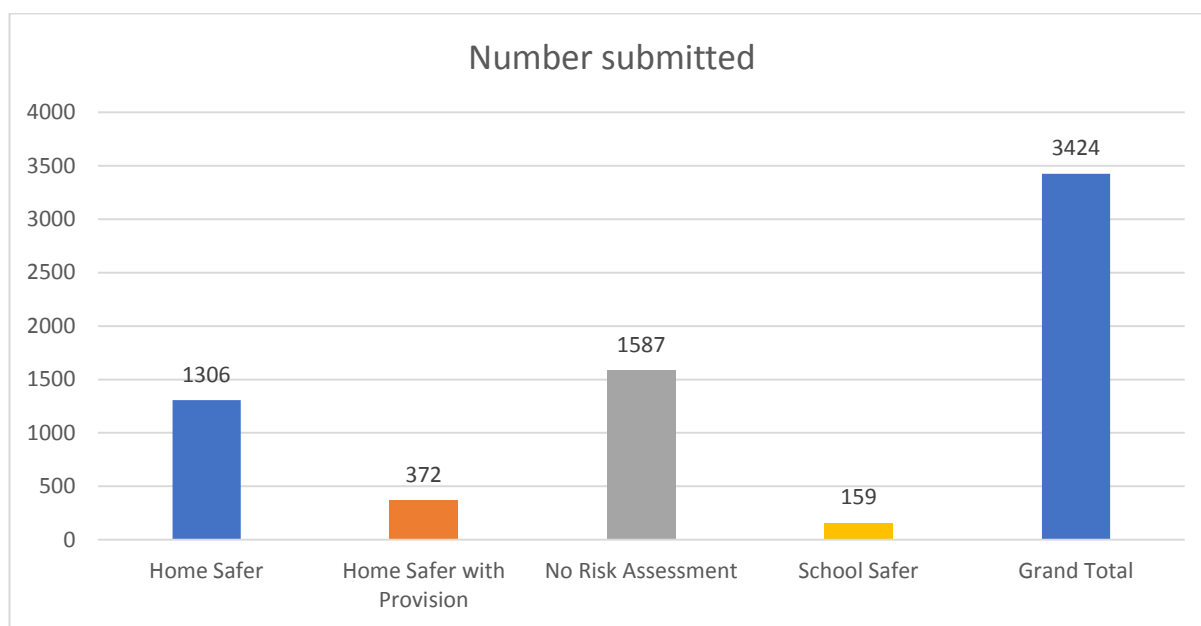
In line with [DfE guidance](#), Schools were asked on the 24 March 2020 to undertake a Risk Assessment for all Children and Young People with an EHCP, with a deadline of 6th May 2020. There was some individual revision to the deadline where schools negotiated this with community hub leads, schools are highly likely to have an undertaken an assessment of risk but not submitted it to the Local Authority in every case. Significant work was undertaken to increase returns to the Local Authority with follow up calls to schools by Kirklees Learning Partners and by Community Hub Leads. The reasons for not returning to the Local Authority focussed around risk levels changing on an almost daily basis, in some cases as soon as they were returned they were out of date. The Risk Assessments were to determine whether:

- The child or young person will be able to have their needs met at home and be safer there than attending an educational setting.
- With additional provision, the child or young person will be able to have their needs met at home and be safer there than attending an educational setting
- The child or young person will be as safe, or safer, at an education setting

The Risk Assessments were supported through the Community Hub model. With additional teams overseeing Children and Young People outside the model.

- SENDACT – Out of Local Authority and CYP without a named school
- Early Years – Children below statutory school age at home or in a private, voluntary and independent (PVI) setting
- Educational Safeguarding Service (ESS) – Electively Home educated CYP
- Colleges – CYP in Further Education

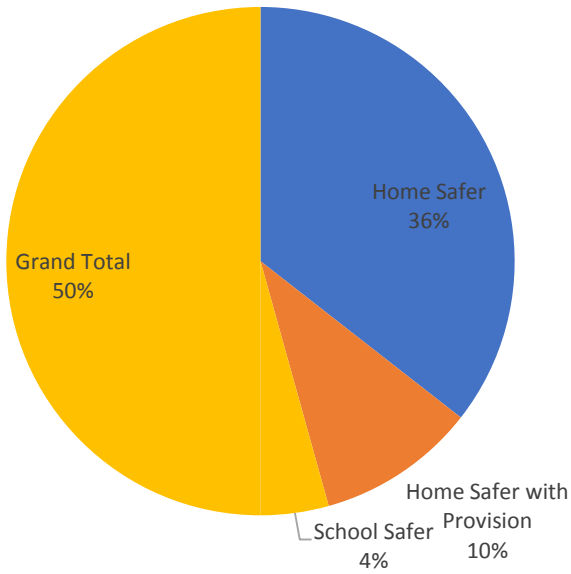
There are 3424 CYP with an EHCP maintained by Kirklees Local Authority. Analysis of Risk Assessments returned to the LA.



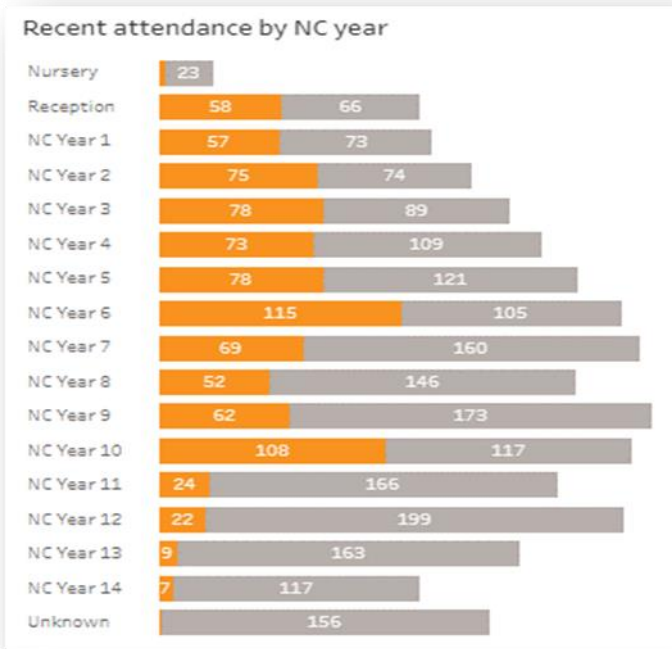
The risk assessments which were returned were analysed and determined that 71% of pupils with an EHCP (were at the time) safer at home than in a school or post 16 provision. 20% safer at home with some form of educational outreach offer in place and welfare call and checks in place and 9% of pupils with an EHCP were safer at school.

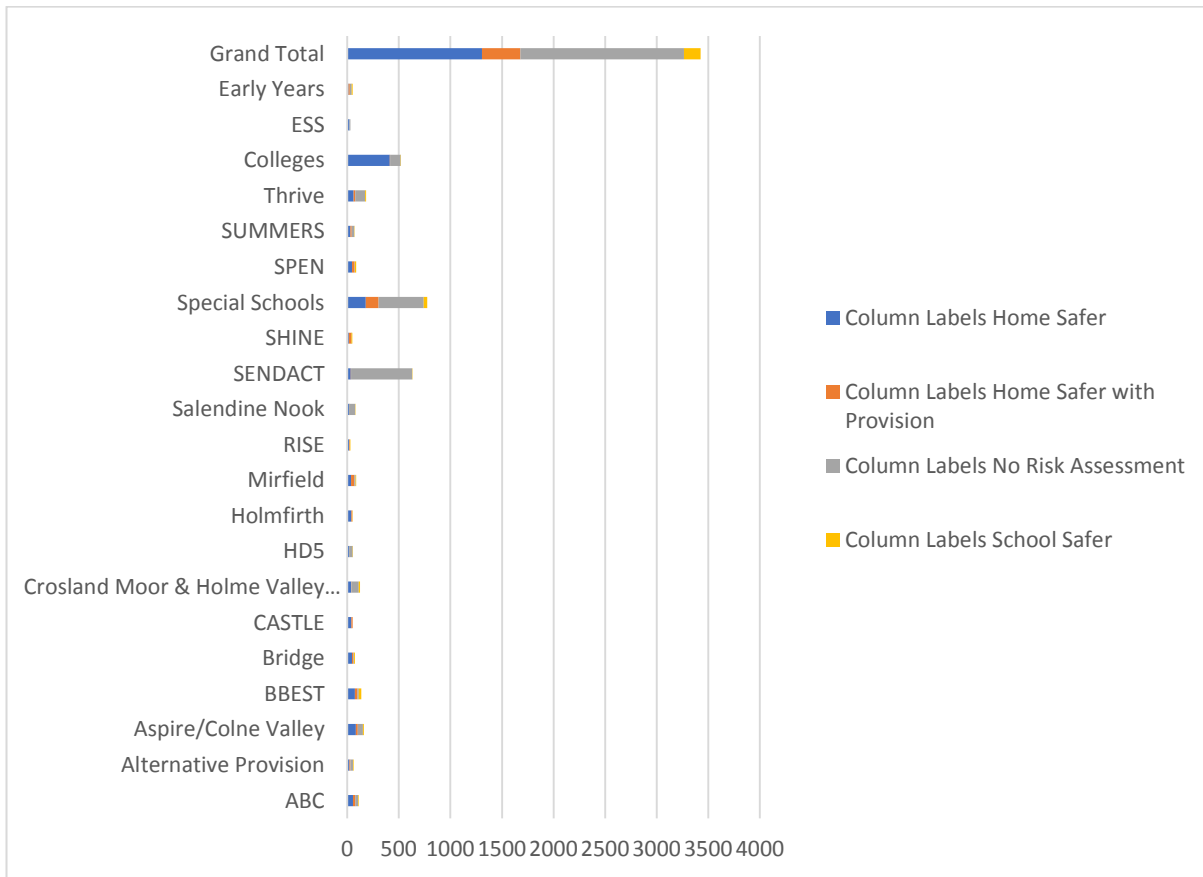
From July schools may find it useful to complete a risk assessments but there is no requirement for it to be returned to the LA as the clear message is that all CYP should return to school.

Risk Assessments submitted = 1837, of which...



School attendance for vulnerable CYP was monitored by NCY and by community Hub

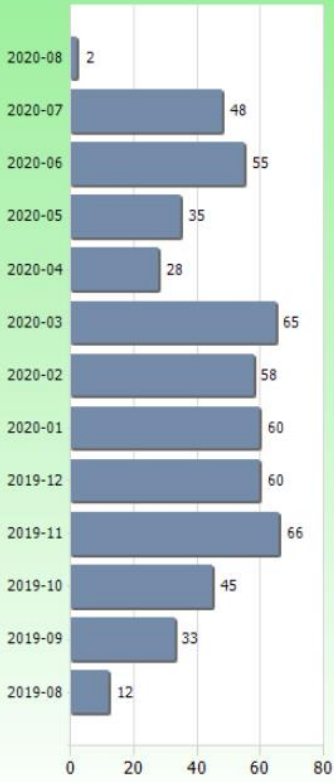




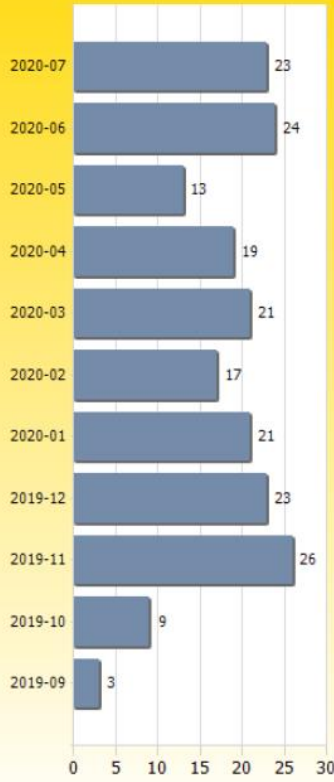
New EHC Assessments

The number of new EHCA requests that have been coming into the Local Authority has seen a decline during the Covid 19 lockdown which is reflective of the regional and national picture which is to be expected given the significantly reduced numbers of children and young people in school. This is likely to increase significantly as schools open to increasing numbers of children and young people. The SEN Panel process has continued virtually on a weekly basis to enable timely processing of all new requests.

EHCA requests - 567



EHCA Dec NOT to Assess - 199

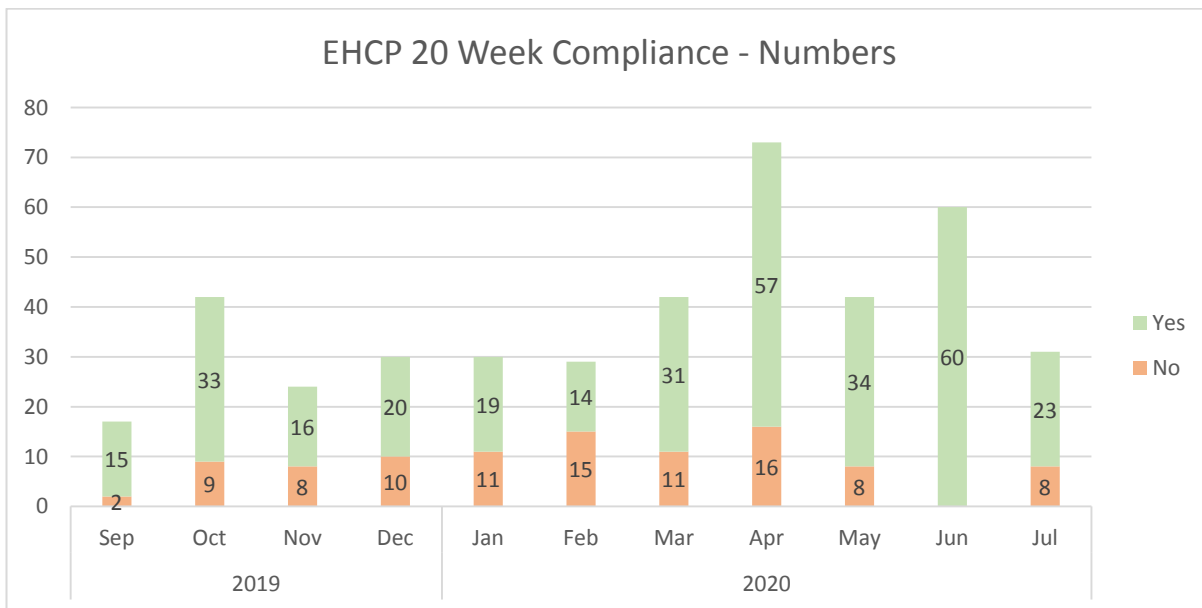
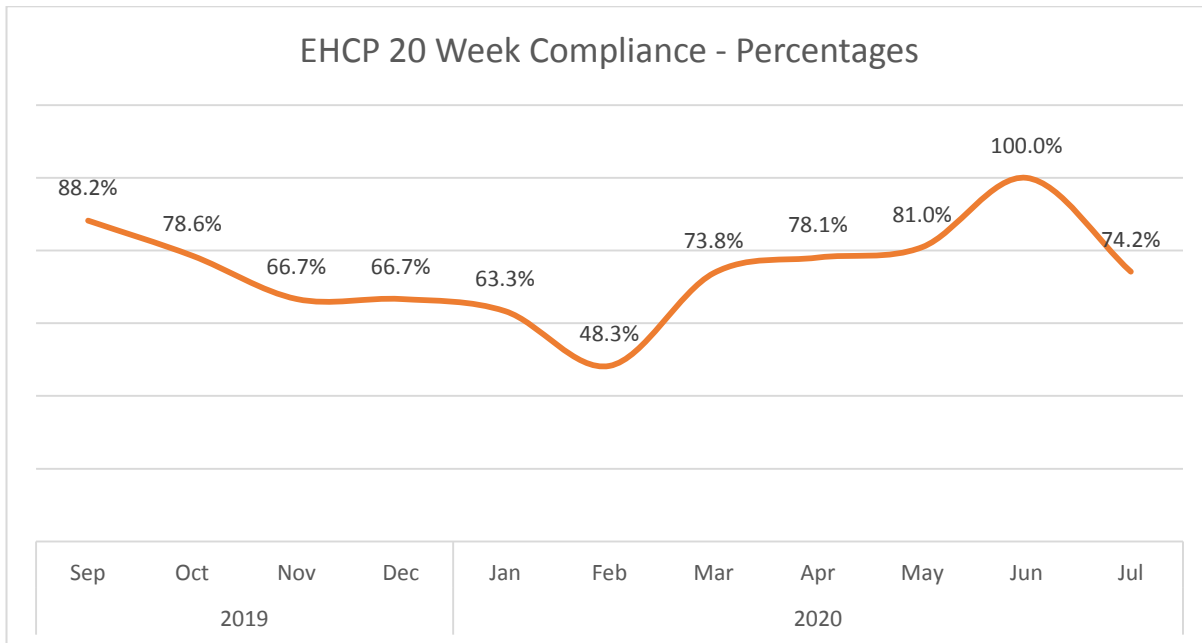


EHCA Dec to Assess - 491



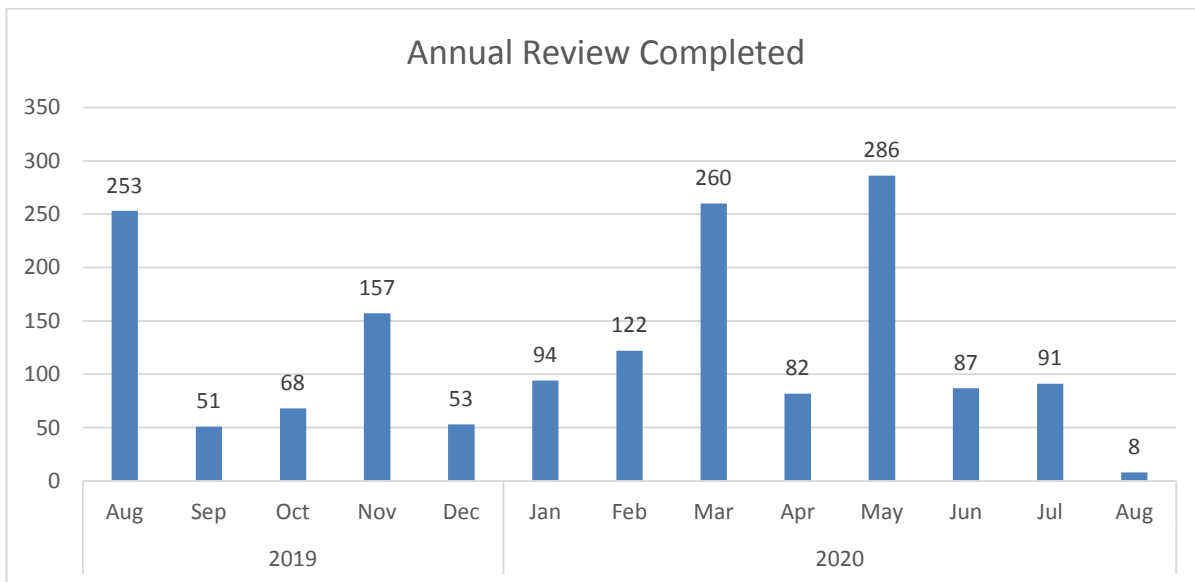
Statutory Compliance

The SENDACT Team in partnership with families, schools, health and social care has maintained compliance as an average at 70.6% across the year, this is coupled with an increase in new requests to carry out EHC assessments. This compares positively with regional and statistical neighbours, however, further work is being undertaken to improve this further.



Annual Reviews

The Local Authority is still required to undertake Annual Reviews as part of the Section 42 modifications. Schools have been doing these remotely since lockdown with parents and CYP as appropriate participating electronically or submitting their comments on paper.



Children and Young People and Families' Confidence

The Covid 19 crisis has significantly impacted on us all but has been acutely felt by some of our most vulnerable learners and their families. Several updates and links to key educational resources, activities to keep children occupied and advice and guidance on mental health have been provided to families of children and young people with an EHCP through the Kirklees Council and Local Offer websites as well as updates for Head teachers and SENCOs through Heads Up. A letter went out to all parents and carers of children with an EHCP to offer support during Covid, also a newsletter with FAQs co-produced with PCAN (our parent and carer forum) went out to families.

Educational Psychology have produced a number of social stories to support children in making sense of the Covid 19 and key documents for supporting the transition back into school for children and young people, support for families and staff.

Supporting and building families confidence that it is safe for them to send their children back to school will take time and needs not to be rushed. Similarly, for some children, they are in a new at home routine and it will take time to get them back into school.

School Attendance Penalty Notices during Coronavirus Covid 19

All Penalty Notices and Prosecutions have been suspended for non-school attendance as of the 1st March 2020 until further notice. Any unpaid Penalty Notices issued from 1 January 2020 will not result in prosecution. The Local Authority has taken this decision as in these uncertain times we want to ensure we are supporting families and feel it would be beneficial if parents did not face this additional pressure at this time.

The decision to reinstate Penalty Notices and Prosecutions will be reviewed in line with government advice when social distancing measures are relaxed/removed.

The SEND 10-point Improvement Plan

In October 2019 we developed a clear SEND 10-point improvement plan which consolidated the areas for development identified through our High Needs Review and Peer Review.

SEND Technical Capacity

Additional SEND capacity has been secured in two ways, through the commission with Impower who are working with us to clarify the shared ambition for CYP with SEND in Kirklees and ensuring that the pressures on our 'High Needs Block' is tackled collectively across the whole SEND system. Impower's work was paused during Covid 19 but was restarted in July.

Also following an extensive national search, two professionals have been secured to enable us to implement the SEND Improvement plan at pace: Jane Friswell who will be leading on two critical reviews in the Autumn Term on Specialist Provision and Alternative provision including the exclusions trail and Simon Ramsden who will be working with SENDACT on Quality Assurance of EHCPs and building capacity in the decision-making process.

Progress has been achieved across all areas, but some key updates include:

1. Data baselining and Systems Management:

SEND data dashboard has been established, is wide in scope and supports operational and strategic decision making. Further work is required to embed and extend this approach, e.g.

- Further migrate reporting to build on connectivity and ensure business continuity.
- Widen scope of reporting, e.g. annual reviews, projections and planning tools.
- Utilise operational reporting to undertake data cleansing; initial cleansing and ensuring sustainability.

2. Governance arrangements:

The governance arrangements for SEND are now clear. The Improvement Board has oversight of the implementation of the SEND Improvement Plan. The Health and Well Being Board has strategic oversight of SEND.

3. Development of a sustainable financial strategy for SEND:

Extensive work has been undertaken to look at high needs spending in Kirklees and to establish whether we are proportionally spending our resources on early intervention and prevention. Impower are working with us on establishing a sustainable high needs approach. Schools Forum have led on looking at the funding band model in mainstream schools and a consultation paper will be coming out to all schools in the Autumn term, regarding proposals moving forward.

4. Sufficiency of places across the SEND system:

Bond Byram a Sheffield based architectural company have been commissioned to work with us on sufficiency of special school places particularly for our Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and Autism population and have undertaken initial feasibility of sites across Kirklees. The next phase of this work will be commissioned later this year. Jane Friswell will be joining us in September to lead on a review of our specialist provision (resourced places in mainstream school) and Alternative Provision (AP), including the exclusions trail.

5. Joint commissioning arrangements:

Work is underway to review our current commissioning arrangements, this is supported by Impower and an analysis of current Education, Health and Care Plans to determine how and what we commission jointly across education, health and care.

6. Transition arrangements:

Good practice guidance has been developed to support effective transitions for children and young people with SEND. Work is underway with Kirklees College and adult services looking at post 16 and preparation for adulthood.

7. Performance management and Quality Assurance:

Quality Assurance framework for EHCPs is in place and this will be further embedded across the next 12 months. We have revised the role of one of our Kirklees Learning Partners to have a specific focus on special schools and educational outcomes for children and young people with SEND from September. There will be additional support for SENDACT to further improve the decision- making process in relation to SEND panels and the quality of EHCPs. Impower are also supporting this area of work.

8. Workforce Development:

Workforce development and the universal, targeted and specialist offer is being developed, including looking at the effectiveness of our current outreach offer. Impower have been trialling the 'Valuing SEND' tool with schools which will also inform workforce development.

9. Parent/carer and children and young people's voice:

Public Consulting Group (PCG) has been procured to develop a new Local Offer platform which has been coproduced with PCAN. We have appointed a Local Offer and Engagement Lead, with some additional resource to support with this work over the next 12 months.

10. Communication and Engagement:

Regular updates at Special School Heads, Primary and Secondary Heads meetings, SENCO Networks will continue alongside updates on Heads Up, through the Local Offer and the production of newsletters for parents and carers. Further work is being undertaken to ensure that children and young people's engagement is developed fully through existing services such as the Kirklees Youth Alliance.

2. Information required to take a decision

N/A

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

See main report

3.2 Working with Partners

See main report

3.3 Place Based Working

See main report

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Sufficiency of specialist places and the ambition that CYP with SEND live and are educated in Kirklees will reduce travel which will reduce the impact on climate change and the clean air agenda.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

Improving outcomes for Children and Young People have been the focus of all of our work during Covid and as part of the wider improvement plan.

4. Consultees and their opinions

All partners are aware of the SEND Improvement plan, this has been presented at the Children's Improvement Board.

5. Next steps and timelines

A further update is planned to be reported upon in October 2020

6. Contact officer

Ronnie Hartley Head of Educational Safeguarding and Inclusion: Ronnie.hartley@kirklees.gov.uk
07817 949344

7. Background Papers and History of Decisions

N/A

8. Service Director responsible

Jo-Anne Sanders – Service Director for Learning and Early Support

Name of meeting: Children's Scrutiny Panel
Date: 13th August 2020
Title of report: Exploitation Strategy Update

Purpose of report

The purpose of the Report is to provide Childrens Scrutiny Panel with an update of the work of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership relating to the Child Exploitation Strategy.

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	Mel Meggs
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	NA
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	NA
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr V Kendrick Children's 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

Child Exploitation partnership work, development and progress is overseen by the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership Exploitation Strategic and Operational groups. Early in 2020 the terms of reference and membership for both groups were reviewed. The review of the Operational group identified a lead person for each of the 4 strands of the operational action plan; these are Prevent, Prepare, Protect, and Pursue.

The Safeguarding Partnership Operational group action plan was revised in March to enable the Strategic group to be better informed and identify the most effective routes to resolving any identified problems. Covid-19 has impacted on the Operational group having in depth understanding of the more recent work and progress achieved across the whole of the partnership; however as services resume the ability to capture and coordinate the work, and share information across the partnership will recover.

The Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Strategy 2019 -2021 was launched earlier this year; it provides the strategic framework to develop and strengthen our response in the identification, assessment and intervention with children, and young people, through the implementation of a contextual safeguarding approach. The approach provides an understanding of, and response to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It extends the focus of support and intervention from the individual child and their family to their wider social context; working with young people, families, organisations, services, communities and others to increase the ability of parents, carers, communities and services to prevent and protect.

<http://www.kirkleessafeguardingchildren.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/v17-2020-07-02-Kirklees-Exploitation-Strategy.pdf>

The approach has been adopted by the Children's Services Risk and Vulnerabilities team and is central to the Youth Engagement Service which is currently being developed. A Youth Engagement Service Partnership Event was held on 22nd July, in which progress achieved to date with regards to development of the service was shared. The central focus of the strategy and the Youth Engagement service is to ensure that children and young people receive meaningful, trusted adult the support, at the right time, available to them from a wide range of individuals and services in a variety of contexts, to ensure young people are able to engage with services when they need them.

Current Picture and Next Steps

The development of the Children's Services Risk and Vulnerabilities team, which operates with partnership involvement in the Front door of Children's Social Care has enabled a more coordinated approach and delivery of services to children vulnerable to, at risk of exploitation and their families. All child exploitation and children missing from home or care cases are discussed daily in the multi-agency meetings and further explored and actioned at weekly Exploitation Screening Panels. Alongside these MACE meetings (multi agency Child Exploitation Meetings are embedded) and work is ongoing to further develop partnership information sharing pathways. The multi-agency approach to safeguarding children vulnerable to, at risk of exploitation will be further strengthened through the implementation of the Youth Engagement Service (YES)

The Youth Engagement Service (YES) is currently in development; the service will involve the co-location of the Risk and Vulnerabilities team, the Youth Intervention

team and the Youth Offending team; along with partner agencies. The aim of the delivery model is to enhance the recognition of vulnerability and risk, the allocation of resources and coordinate support and intervention in timely and effective way, by adopting the principle of identifying the right person/agency/service and the 'right person' with the skills and ability, to make a significant difference to the lives of children and young person vulnerable to, at risk of exploitation.

The relevant services (including Early Support and Youth work) are currently developing the associated policy and procedures; during Covid-19 lockdown period the Risk and Vulnerabilities team and the Youth Intervention team resources have been pooled to provide combined support around Exploitation which has enabled services to pilot a version of Youth Engagement Service.

Kirklees has a significant number of non-recent CSE enquiries and there is an active commitment to support survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation. Individual survivors identified through Police enquiries are offered support via appointed specific workers within Children and Adult services. Multi agency Survivor Pathway Bespoke meetings are held on a regular basis weekly basis, with attendance adapted to the specific support required by survivor; commissioning for Therapeutic counselling has been approved.

The Survivor's pathway has been informed by recent Children's Social Care Child Sexual Exploitation audit activity which has highlighted the requirement to develop clear transition pathways for older children who require support and intervention from adult services beyond the age of 18. To explore this further, the Children's Safeguarding Partnership is proposing to undertake a Thematic review of Child Sexual Exploitation. The purpose of the Thematic Review will be to determine whether there are any patterns in the lived experiences of the children who were sexually exploited and in their adulthoods, with the aim to learn from children's experiences and the impact on them as adults; to inform service provision, further our knowledge of child sexual exploitation, the local context and to shape cross partnership collaboration, in order to improve services for young people and survivors. The proposal is for the review to commence in September 2020. The learning will be disseminated across the partnership.

The Kirklees Children Missing from Home or Care procedures have been recently been reviewed and updated; and are with the Partnership for consultation. These have been developed in line with national work relating to Reporting a Child in Care Missing/ Levels of Intervention Model initiative which Kirklees is actively involved with. Additionally, the West Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Consortium Child Exploitation Protocol has been revised and is out for consultation; Kirklees has been instrumental in this work.

As of 14th July 2020, there were 47 children and young people known to the Children's Social Care Risk and Vulnerabilities team identified as vulnerable to, or at risk of Child Criminal Exploitation (assessed as low, medium or high risk), 40 children or young people vulnerable to, or at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation and 9 identified as risk of, vulnerable to, both.

Intelligence and information relating to Child Exploitation is submitted via the partnership portal to West Yorkshire Police, with Kirklees partners actively sharing information. In addition, a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) quarterly document is produced by Police which focuses on Victim, Location, Subject and shared with partners; this is being developed to incorporate Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and wider child exploitation and vulnerability. Work to develop a West Yorkshire Problem

Profile is being coordinated by the Police Crime Commissioner's office and the West Yorkshire Children's Safeguarding Partnership Risk and Vulnerabilities group.

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

To consider information provided and progress against the Exploitation Strategy

3. **Implications for the Council**

3.1 **Working with People**

Not applicable

3.2 **Working with Partners**

The following areas are highlighted areas of challenge in the KSCP Operational Exploitation action plan.

- Development and implementation of a coordinated partnership engagement programme with businesses and communities to identify locations of concern, effectively safeguard children, and prevent, divert or prosecute those who seek to facilitate and /or perpetrate exploitation. Whilst work is undoubtedly ongoing, coordination, reporting and coordination of activity is a challenge, which limits broad understanding of the impact of activity.
- Capturing the progress and challenges of the breadth of the work which sits under the umbrella of the Child Exploitation, together with the links to other areas of vulnerability and risk, i.e. Child Modern Day Slavery. To improve multi-agency partnership oversight and grip there is a proposal to form additional partnership subgroups under the current KSCP Exploitation Operational and Strategic groups. This will require active contribution from across the partnership at an increased number of subgroups.
- Achieving assurance that practitioner knowledge and understanding of the complexities of Child Exploitation and the contextual safeguarding approach. During 'living with Covid' how best to deliver learning and development opportunities and achieve the required assurance will require a robust and coordinated partnership approach; to provide assurance that children and young people vulnerable to, at risk of exploitation are being identified, and the partnership has an informed understanding of the problem profile, to enable the effective targeting of resources and service delivery.
- The advancement of a robust partnership analytical product is recognised as required to strengthen an intelligence led engagement plan and inform service delivery and development.

3.3 **Place Based Working**

Not applicable

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable

3.5 Improving Outcomes for Children

This information is provided at the request of Children Scrutiny Panel to monitor the progress of the Strategy relating to children and young people at risk of Exploitation.

3.6 Reducing demand of services

Not applicable

3.7 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

Not applicable

4. Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable

5. Next steps

A report will be presented to future meetings of the Children's Scrutiny Panel.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That the report be noted.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Not applicable

8. Contact officer

Sara Miles, Head of Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Previous reports to the Children's Scrutiny Panel.

10. Service Director responsible

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

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CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

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. Review of the Improvement Journey	The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of Children's Services.	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)
2. Educational Outcomes	<p>The Panel will consider the impact of children being out of school during the current pandemic and the measures in place to mitigate the impact, recognising the different experiences in respect of home schooling and digital inclusion/engagement.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to link in and scrutinise the work being undertaken by the Learning Partnership on this issue.</p> <p>The Lead Member agreed to keep a watching brief with regard to what the educational impact had been for the children who had transferred from Almondbury Community School to alternate schools and to ensure that the children were getting the right amount of results and opportunities.</p>	<p>(Lead Officer: Jo Sanders)</p> <p>(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)</p>
3. Number of children in care	A standing item for each meeting containing details of how many children are in care, and particularly how many are placed out of area. *	(Lead Officer: Julie Bragg)
4. Youth Services and Initiatives	The Panel agreed to look at the Youth Practice Model, providing input into the development of the model with a view to scrutinising the effectiveness of the model following its introduction (based on data/evidence).	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)
5. Partnership Arrangements	The Panel will continue to scrutinise partnerships and boards during the 2020/21 municipal year, for example, Corporate Parenting Board and Health and Wellbeing Board and the Panel	(Lead Officers: Elaine McShane/Jo Sanders/Tom Brailsford)

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	will look at how data was collected and used to improve outcomes. *	
6. Special Educational Needs and High Needs	6 monthly reports to be considered by the Panel and visits to be arranged to some of the SEN Teams to corroborate the information in the presentations provided to Panel Meetings. Arrangements to be made for virtual visits, where appropriate, during the current pandemic.	(Lead Officer: Ronnie Hartley/Jo-Anne Sanders)
7. Performance Information (Children's Services)	The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support in the Informal meetings. *	(Lead Officer: Steve Comb/Julie Bragg – reports produced by Sue Grigg and Andrew Wainwright from Performance Team)
Lead Member Briefings		
(Bi-monthly LM Briefings to be arranged with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children's; and Mel Meggs/Elaine McShane and Jo-Anne Sanders during 20/21) – Actions from these meetings will be included within the Panel's Work Programme where appropriate		
Exploitation Strategy	The Lead Member agreed to keep a watching brief to monitor the impact on children and young people in the borough.	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)

*It is suggested that arrangements be made for representatives from the Panel to attend relevant meetings of Partnership bodies to ensure relevant scrutiny of performance data and information is being effectively scrutinised "upstream". This will not prevent onward referral the Panel where appropriate but will act as a means of avoiding un-necessary duplication.

Children's Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Plan 2020/21

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>13 August 2020</p> <p>1.30pm -2pm Informal meeting</p> <p>2pm-4pm Public meeting</p> <p>Virtual Meeting</p> <p>Report deadline: 03.08.20</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;">Number of Children in Care</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SEND Progress update</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Exploitation Strategy Update</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Learning Strategy (to be confirmed)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Bragg</p> <p style="text-align: center;">R Hartley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E McShane</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H Sohel/J Sanders</p>
<p>1 October 2020</p> <p>1.30pm -2pm Informal meeting</p> <p>2pm- 4pm Public meeting</p> <p>Virtual Meeting</p> <p>Report deadline: 21.09.20</p> <p>Apols:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Informal items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improvement Board Minutes</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;">Early Years Event (Jan 2020) – feedback and next steps</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COVID 19 Virus - effectiveness and robustness of the Children's Service response and to identify lessons learned</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Bragg</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Michelle Wheatcroft</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To be agreed/confirmed</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>12 November 2020</p> <p>1.30pm-2pm Informal meeting</p> <p>2pm-4pm Public meeting</p> <p>Virtual Meeting</p> <p>Report deadline: 02.11.20</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 (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>J Bragg</p>
<p>14 January 2021</p> <p>1.30pm-2pm Informal meeting</p> <p>2pm-4pm Public meeting</p> <p>Council Chamber, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 04.01.21</p> <p>Apols:</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 (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>J Bragg</p>
<p>25 February 2021</p> <p>1.30pm-2pm Informal meeting</p> <p>2pm-4pm</p>	<p>Informal Items</p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p>Performance report</p>	<p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
Public meeting Report deadline: 15.02.21	Public Items: Number of Children in Care	J Bragg

Future items (date to Panel to be agreed)

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