

Public Document Pack



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

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Wednesday 23 September 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 1 October 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 Paul Davies

Councillor Yusra Hussain

Councillor Amanda Pinnock

Councillor Richard Smith

Councillor Paul White

Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)

Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee)

Linda Summers (Co-Optee)

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Committee

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

2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 4

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 August 2020

3: Interests

5 - 6

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

4: Admission of the Public

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

5: 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, questions should be submitted in writing via executive.governance@kirklees.gov.uk no later than 2pm on 30 September

7: Preparations Undertaken for the Reopening of Schools 7 - 10

The Panel will consider a report setting out an overview of the reopening of schools at the end of the first week of the autumn term.

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

8: Number and Age of Children in Care 11 - 16

The Panel will consider a report setting out the number and profile of children in care, including information related to the number placed outside of the District.

Contact: Julie Bragg – Head of Corporate Parenting.

9: Early Years and Beyond 17 - 26

The Panel will be updated on the Early Years and Beyond Summit that was held on 29th January 2020 and the next steps which include proposals to develop and implement an integrated 0-19 (25) Early Support offer (Family Hubs)

Contact: Michelle Wheatcroft – Head of Service, Early Support

10: Children's Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21 27 - 28

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

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Contact Officer: Leigh Webb

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday 13 August 2020

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

Co-optees Toni Bromley
Dale O'Neill
Linda Summers

In attendance 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
Ronnie Hartley, Head of Service - Education
Safeguarding and Inclusion

Observers:

Apologies: Councillor Amanda Pinnock and Councillor Richard Smith

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Amanda Pinnock and Cllr Richard Smith.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings of the Panel held on the 2 July 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.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were received from the public.

7 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Update

The Panel received an update report in respect of the impact on children and families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) of the Covid 19 public health pandemic. The report also provided an update on progress in relation to the SEND Improvement Plan.

The report set out the challenges faced with regard to increased demand for Education, Health and Care Plans and the subsequent rise in costs. This has led to significant pressure on the 'High Needs Block', which can only be tackled collectively across the whole SEND system. To ensure that needs, provision and spend are tightly interlinked the Council 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. It was reported that 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.

As a result of the pandemic, changes to Section 24 of the Children and Families Act had been made by Government which resulted in the Local Authority and commissioning health bodies still being 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.

Covid 19 Risk Assessments were required for all children with an EHCP and the report provided an analysis of the risk assessments returned to the Local Authority.

With regard to the SEND 10-point improvement plan which had been developed in October 2019 , it was reported that progress had been achieved across all areas. Details of key updates from the improvement plan were set out in the report.

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

- In response to a question concerning EHCA requests, Ronnie Hartley acknowledged that the initial lockdown period had allowed for more resource to be allocated to annual reviews. It was explained however that when comparing data over the years in respect of this issue, there is a pattern to how resource is utilised.
- With regard to the threshold for assessment, an undertaking was given to include an analysis of the reasons not to assess as part of a future update report.

Children's Scrutiny Panel – 13 March 2020

- With regard to the issue of children with SEND attending school, it was acknowledged that parents are anxious about the risks of sending children to school. Work is ongoing on a case by case basis with parents to re-assure parents and build confidence to support an effective transition back into a school setting.
- In response to a question about how schools will deal with risk assessments, Jo-Anne Sanders referred to recently received revised guidance which is being worked through with school staff, Corporate Health and Safety and the Trade Unions. Collaborative work with neighbouring authorities is also being undertaken in respect of this issue.
- Ronnie Hartley provided examples of improvements enacted as a result of better strategic decision making, which included sufficiency in respect of data to inform forward planning and analysis of funding bands.
- In response to a question from Linda Summers, Tom Brailsford confirmed that the voice of parents and carers was integral to the empower work being undertaken to look at outcomes and interventions.

RESOLVED –

The Panel noted the report requested that a future update report include an analysis of figures relating to assessments.

8 Exploitation Strategy

The Panel received a report providing an update in respect of the Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Strategy 2019 -2021, which was launched earlier this year. The strategy provides the strategic framework to develop and strengthen the 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.

The report set out the current picture which includes 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. It was reported that 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)

Children's Scrutiny Panel – 13 March 2020

During discussion of this item, Members of the Panel supported the development of an overarching strategy in respect of exploitation, acknowledging that the issue does not sit in isolation and overlaps into distinct areas such as Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and criminal exploitation, which require a multi agency partnership approach.

RESOLVED-

The Panel noted the report and highlighted the work of the Practice Learning Review as a means of informing the work of scrutiny in this area

10 Work Programme for 2020/21 municipal year

The Panel considered the progress on the work programme during the 2020/21 municipal year and considered issues for inclusion.

RESOLVED –

1. That the progress on the 2019/20 work programme for the Children's Scrutiny Panel be noted.
2. That following the end of the Autumn term, the Panel receive a report setting out analysis of examination results; and a report on the social and emotional wellbeing of pupils as a result of missing school.

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

Signed: Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name of meeting: Children’s Scrutiny

Date: 01/10/20

Title of report: Preparations undertaken for the reopening of Schools

Purpose of report: This report provides an overview about the re-opening of schools at the end of the first week of the Autumn term.

| | |
|--|---|
| 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 – N/A Private Report/Private Appendix – N/A |
| The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny? | N/A |
| 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? | Give name and date for Cabinet / Scrutiny reports Jo-Anne Sanders for Mel Meggs 22/09/20 |
| Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u> | Cllr Carole Pattison – Lead Members for Schools, Aspiration and Communities |

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

This report provides an update for Children's Scrutiny about the work undertaken in preparation for re-opening schools for the Autumn term, and the planning undertaken with our school colleagues to enable a positive and safe return to education for our children, young people and their families.

2. Overview of activity

Dialogue with schools about autumn term opening has taken place during the summer holiday period and builds upon the work of the Education and Learning Partnership Board, and the working groups established in May 2020 that ran weekly to the end of the school term.

During the Summer holidays, the Council has continued to meet as part of our Business Continuity planning to prepare for the return of schools, keeping in focus the Department for Education guidance as and when this has been updated.

In addition, three focussed workshops have been run with council wide representation to consider the support schools, as well as families and children may need. There is a further workshop planned to pick up any emerging issues as term gets underway.

The considerations have included;

- Physical Space (including catering and cleaning)
- Welfare support (Free School Meals and Hardship) for eligible families
- Transport
- Inclusion
- Parental Confidence, Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Public Health and Infection Prevention and Control advice, guidance and process.
- Digital/home/blended learning
- Responses to government guidance eg. face coverings, PPE, Risk Assessments

Working with our Emergency Planning colleagues, a scenario planning Business Continuity workshop took place (with a group of Heads and council staff) on prior to the start of term to work through and plan for a series of likely events.

In advance of term starting week commencing 7th September, schools were contacted by the Learning Service/HR Partners to check that plans were in place for a return for pupils, to offer support and to understand if there were any barriers to reopening.

Further contact was made during the first week of term and there was a high level of confidence that all schools were fully open for pupils by Monday 14th September (allowing for a range of usual transitioning arrangements that take place at the beginning of an academic year, including INSET days).

Weekly engagement with our representative group of Headteachers and Multi Academy Trust CEOs resumed prior to the beginning of term and feedback has been largely positive about readiness for re-opening and the opportunity to welcome children back.

Keen to support a positive return and build confidence we put in place a communication approach 'Back Together, Better Together' across Kirklees using digital and online

platforms. As an Education Partnership, we recognised that pupils would be returning to schools that may look and feel different to normal. Our approach has focused on reminding children, young people and families that we have excellent schools in Kirklees and that returning to school is a positive and special experience, especially for those who were not able to attend since March. Our aims are to support our family of schools in helping pupils and families adapt to the changes, to build their confidence and to promote good levels of attendance. This has involved promoting positive messages about returning to school as well as signposting children, young people and parents to useful online resources.

The reopening of all schools across Kirklees has been hugely positive for thousands of children and families, and overall attendance levels so far have been good, and our schools are feeding back to us that it is wonderful to have their pupils and staff back together after several months. That said, given the scale of the pandemic, many schools across the country will need to close 'bubbles' or ask certain people to self-isolate at some stage. This is already happening, including in Kirklees. There is advice and support, readily available to our schools from both a national and local level and where such actions are necessary this has been and will always be in line with national Covid-19 guidance.

The Council will continue to work in partnership with our schools as the academic year progresses.

Our schools do wonderful work in helping children and young people to enjoy the best start in life.

3. Information required to take a decision

N/A

4. Implications for the Council

4.1 Working with People

The approach that Kirklees, and our schools are taking is to work together for our children and young people and their families.

4.2 Working with Partners

The Education and Learning Partnership Board provides strategic system leadership. Representation is included from all phases and types of schools, Governors, MAT leaders, Trade Unions and Council Officers.

4.3 Place Based Working

Kirklees as a place is made up of different communities and the diversity of its communities is one of its key strengths. The Council's community response has been proactive in linking up with our schools as they re-open with support and engagement opportunities linked into the Kirklees Community Hubs.

4.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Safe travel to school has been a key consideration in Government guidance and has been an important aspect of the planning for school re-opening.

4.5 Improving outcomes for children

As schools have re-opened, there is a key focus on outcomes for children and young people in terms of their educational, emotional and physical wellbeing and safety. It will be imperative to continue to collaborate and use every opportunity available for and consider our children's outcomes, alongside wider government guidance.

5. **Officer recommendations and reasons**
This report is for information and to provide an overview of activity. No decision is required.
6. **Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**
N/A
7. **Contact officer**
Jo-Anne Sanders – Service Director for Learning and Early Support
8. **Service Director responsible**
Jo-Anne Sanders – Service Director for Learning and Early Support

Name of meeting: Children's Scrutiny Panel
Date: 1st October 2020
Title of report: Number and Age of Children in Care

Purpose of report

To provide information to the Panel 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 Strategic Director & name | 21 st September 2020 |
| 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

This graph shows the number of children in care (689 excluding any looked after children receiving only S20 short term breaks) alongside the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

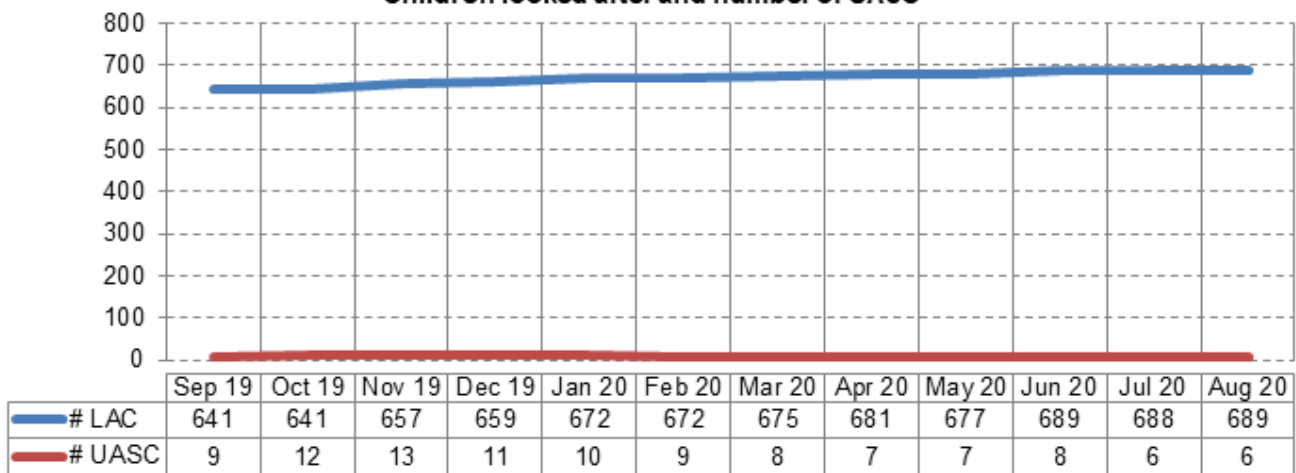
The current number of LAC equates to a rate per 10,000 population aged 0-17 of 68.8. This compares to a statistical neighbour average of 91.6 and a national average of 65.0 based on recently published data for March 2019.

Kirklees (Aug 20) = 68.8

Statistical Neighbours (2019) = 91.6

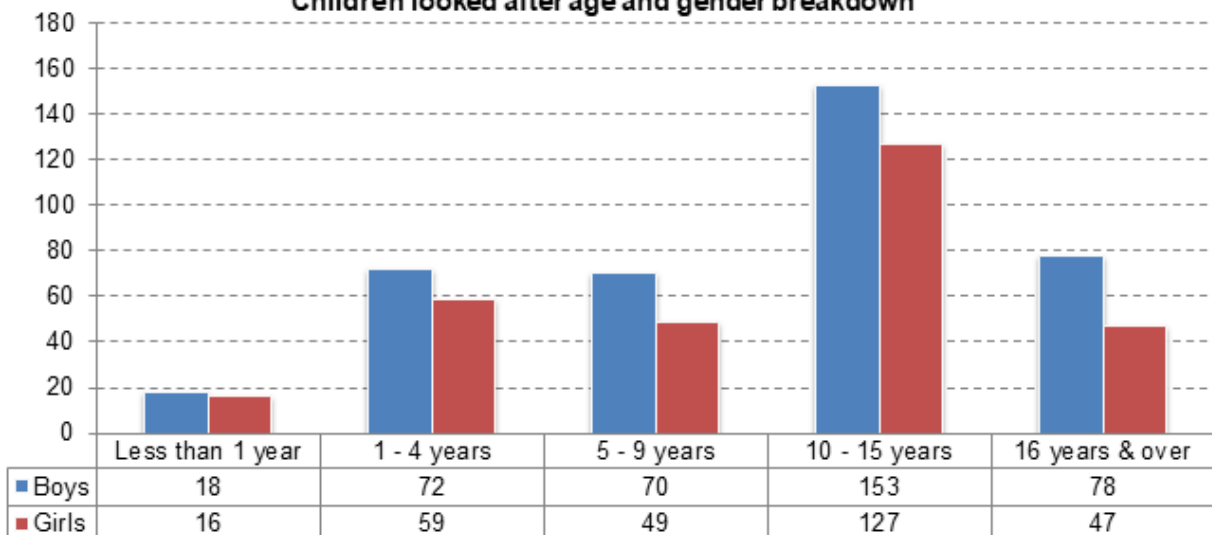
England (2019) = 65.0

Children looked after and number of UASC



This graph shows the breakdown by age and gender of the children in care. The largest age group for boys is 10 - 15 years with 153 children and the largest age group for girls is 10 - 15 years with 127 children.

Children looked after age and gender breakdown

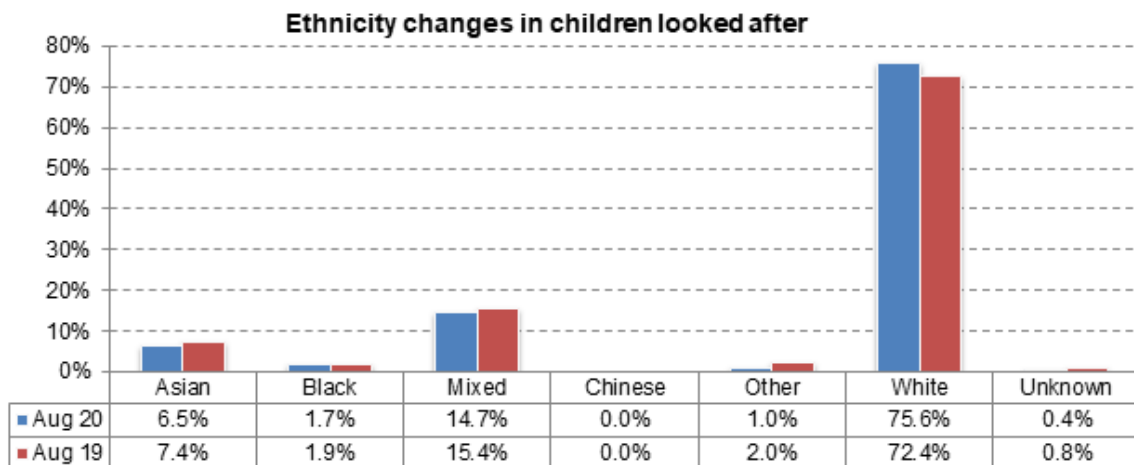


Statistical Neighbours

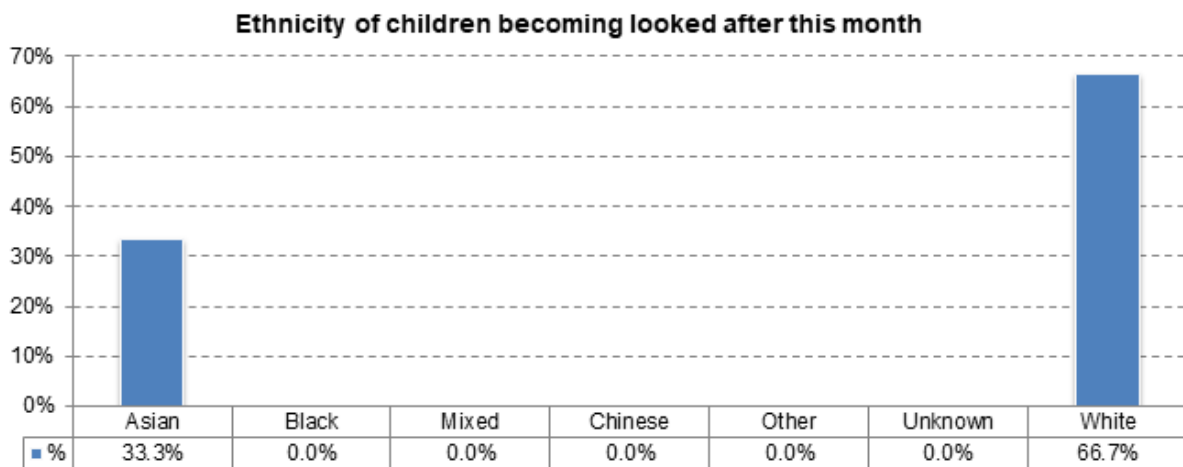
Local Authorities that the Department for Education regard as similar and close socio economically to Kirklees, not measured by population size.

| 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 August 2020 and the same point 12 months ago. There has been an increase of 3.2 percentage points in the proportion of LAC who are of White ethnicity compared to reductions in all other ethnicity groups.



This graph shows the percentage breakdown by ethnicity of children entering care this month. Note that this outcome is based on small numbers. In August 2020 there were 6 young people who were recorded as entering care at the point of data extraction in the month of whom 4 were White and 2 were of Asian ethnicity.



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

The number of looked after children placed outside Kirklees District and 20 plus miles from their home address was 81 on 31 August 2020. This follows a continuum of decline from 127 in 2017. 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.

The current Number of Children and Young People placed outside Kirklees and more than 20 miles from home is 81. This equates to 11.8% of the total LAC cohort. The recent historical position is detailed below:

| | 30/06/2020 | | 31/07/2020 | | 31/08/2020 | |
|--|------------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Number | % |
| Placed outside Kirklees & over 20 miles from home address | 83 | 12.0% | 83 | 12.1% | 81 | 11.8% |

Semi Independent Accommodation aged 16 plus

On 31st August there were 32 young people accommodated in semi-independent accommodation, 20 within District and 12 of our young people placed outside of the Kirklees District as detailed below.

| Placements outside of Kirklees in semi-independent living accommodation (not subject to Children's Home regulations) | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| As at 31/08/2020 | | | | |
| LA of Placement | Aged 15 | Aged 16 | Aged 17 | Total |
| Bradford | | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| Calderdale | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Leeds | | | 1 | 1 |
| Liverpool | | | 1 | 1 |
| Warrington | 1 | | | 1 |
| Total | 1 | 2 | 9 | 12 |
| Legal Status | | | | |
| Legal Status | Aged 15 | Aged 16 | Aged 17 | Total |
| Full Care Order | 1 | | 3 | 4 |
| S20 CA 1989 - Single Placement | | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| Total | 1 | 2 | 9 | 12 |

2. Information required to take a decision

No decision is required, this report is submitted at the request of the Board to monitor the number of children in care. This report is also shared with the Children's Scrutiny Panel on a monthly basis.

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 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable

3.5 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.

3.6 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 similar report will be presented to future meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board.
6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**
That the report be noted.
7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**
Not applicable
8. **Contact officer**
Julie Bragg, Head of Corporate Parenting
9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**
Previous reports to the Children's 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: 1st October 2020
Title of report: Early Years and Beyond

Purpose of report: To update Scrutiny on the Early Years and Beyond Summit that was held on 29th January 2020 and the next steps which include proposals to develop and implement an integrated 0-19 (25) Early Support offer (Family Hubs)

| | |
|--|---|
| Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? | N/A |
| Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u> ? | Key Decision – N/A Private Report/Private Appendix – Yes/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? | Give name and date for Cabinet / Scrutiny reports Jo-Anne Sanders for Mel Meggs 22/09/20 |
| Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u> | Councillor Viv Kendrick Councillor Carole Pattison |

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

The Early Years and Beyond summit was held on 29th January 2020 and had around 100 attendees including internal and external stakeholders. The aim of the event was to engage with partners to contribute to shaping the vision and development of a 0-19 (25) integrated Early Support Offer for children and families of Kirklees.

The event was opened by Mel Meggs, Director of Children's Services, who talked about why Early Years Matters and what good Early Years looks like along with the importance of investment to impact on society.

There were a number of speakers throughout the event which included a keynote presentation from Professor Brid Featherstone (Huddersfield University) titled 'How we can work together to ensure Early Support Services are invested in and valued by Families in Kirklees'. Presentations were also heard from Andy Petrie, Local Services to you, about joining local community work to wider systems and Allison Simpson from BBEST Community Hub presented their School Readiness Project.

In the afternoon, a draft vision was presented for a hub to hub model (Appendix 1) which was followed by circle discussions to engage partners in conversations on opportunities, risks and next steps.

The event ended with partners and individuals committing pledges to support the integrated model going forward.

Kirklees commissioned a review of the Early Support Services in 2019. This review was undertaken by a company, Peopletoo, who have extensive experience in supporting transformation projects in children's services. The recommendations from the Peopletoo work, that were outlined in the report to Scrutiny in November 2019 have been actioned, these included the development of an Early Support Task and Finish Group chaired by the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership (KSCP) which is still meeting and is supporting the developments of the service. It also included a recommendation to increase management capacity within the Early Support Service, three Service Managers were recruited into the service, which are a lead for Youth, Family Support and the Children Centre/Community Hub Offer and were all in post by 23rd March 2020. Early Support

service are also in the process of recruiting and Outcomes, Data and Performance Manager to complete the management team supporting the Head of Service.

This has added capacity into the service which has enabled the Early Support Service to develop with some pace including the proposal for an Integrated 0-19 (25) Early Support Offer, which we are proposing will be called Family Hubs.

1.1 Family Hubs

Building on the principles of the Kirklees Community Hubs, and the direction of travel for the children's centre core offer, it is proposed moving forward that a Family Hub model is developed.

The Family Hub model and the success of achieving improved longer term outcomes for Children Young people and Families, is reliant on a strong partnership approach with partner across the Kirklees district including communities. It builds on the progress already made in the community hub work with alignment to avoid duplication.

The proposal for the Family Hub model recognises the need for a whole Early Support System and is based around place and 4 areas that have 4 designated children's centre buildings Birstall, Dewsbury Moor, Slaithwaite Town Hall and Chestnut in Ashbrow

The model offers the opportunity for the Council's Early Support service to align teams and reshape its structure to enable the place based Family Hub model to consolidate and evolve in locality areas, building on community assets, delivering services locally where and when families need them.

It is anticipated that this will reduce the need to invest into higher end social care services and reduce inequalities.

The Council's Early Support offer is expanding with growth in detached youth work and play and Duke of Edinburgh moving into the Early Support service.

There are opportunities within the proposed model and lessons to be learnt from the work Early Support has done around Covid- 19.

Local inequalities have been highlighted, the Family Hub model aims to address some of the inequalities highlighted in the inequalities action plan (see diagram)in particular tackling poverty, health and wellbeing as well as 'The Best Start in Life' priorities.



The proposed Family Hub model aims to build on the community assets that already exist and brings individuals, organisations, and places, together to realise and develop their strengths. The model aims to use what is already in the community and to work together to build on the identified assets.

- What is already in the community, how do people already support each other, who is already delivering services in communities that contribute the Family Hub Offer.
- It focuses on local residents, associations, what it like is to live in the area, what is important to the people that live in the area, what are the best ways to deliver what is needed in the area.
- Builds on relationships, who can help us to work on the issue, what networks are already in place.

1.2 Invest to save

Research suggests that early help can protect children from harm, reduce the need for a referral to child protection services and improve children's long-term outcomes.

The outcomes when achieved will all realise a cost saving, to demonstrate this and build a rationale for the additional investment to provide longer term savings we have utilised the Unit Cost Data Base (V20). The development of this database was funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) Troubled Families Unit and delivered by Greater Manchester and Birmingham City Council. In identifying savings, we are clear these are savings to the partnership, in effect saving the 'Kirklees Pound' rather than the funding in a particular department of the Council or partner agency.

From the table below we have used the savings based on the reduction in children becoming looked after by the Local Authority. The average cost saving across all types of settings brings the highest reward and a reduction of 20 children would realise over £1,000,000 by the second year of operation, whereas if the savings are based on a reduction of children who are with in-house foster carers the numbers to reach over the £1,000,000 saving would be nearer to 30 children and realistically would take longer to realise. Where we have a reduction in spend this would then be able to be reinvested in Early Support Services to ensure we maintain the best possible support for the people of Kirklees provided at the earliest opportunity and in turn further reduce the spend on higher tier services.

| Outcome Detail | Cost/Saving Detail | Estimated cost saving annually / Child | Numbers anticipated in the first year. | Numbers anticipated in subsequent years | Where saving realised | Potential savings annually |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| Children looked after | Child taken into care - average fiscal cost across different types of care setting, England, per year | £58,664 | 10 | 10 + 10 | Children's Services | £586,640 Yr1 then £1,173,280 thereafter |
| Children looked after | Child into local authority foster care: overall cost (cost per week) | £38,974 | 10 | 10 + 10 + 10 | Children's Services | £1,169,220 |

This is just one example of cost re-alignment that can be realised by the development of this model of working, there are other opportunities that can be modelled which would enable better value for money across the whole of the children's partnership. Once this model is in full operation it is intended that alongside the performance indicators would be developed alongside the related cost benefits.

2 Information required to take a decision

No decision required, purpose of the paper is to provide an update for Scrutiny Panel, and encourage participation in the engagement planned for later in the year.

3 Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

With a focus on prevention and early intervention the development of Family Hubs will enable families needing help to be identified earlier and offered the right help at the right time reducing the need for higher end social care intervention. By identifying need earlier and intervening more effectively to build family resilience, we will support children to have a better start to life and to be 'school ready'.

The provision of Family Hubs will ensure that there is a network of 'go to' places, building on the work of the Community Hubs and children's centre core offer.

Assessing the need and assets in localities will help us to determine where resources need to be focused in order to address inequalities.

Family Hubs will be communicated as available for all families with children and young people aged 0-19 (25). We will ensure that any branding associated with the Family Hubs encourages families to feel welcome, whether they are experiencing difficulties or not.

3.2 Working with Partners

The Family Hub model and the success of achieving improved longer term outcomes for Children, Young People and their families, is reliant on a strong partnership approach with Kirklees internal and external partners including communities. It builds on the progress already made in the community hub work with alignment to avoid duplication. The opportunity for the approach to be further shaped by partners will be crucial to ensure that services are joined up and well understood.

3.3 Place Based Working

In moving staff closer to area based working provides an opportunity to work with communities to gain greater insight into the issues that need to be addressed to help children, young people, and their families to thrive.

3.4 Improving outcomes for children

The outcomes will become a focus for close collaboration between all the stakeholders in an area and create a sense of common purpose. The Outcomes Framework will be based on a broad core offer with asset mapping and planning in communities.

In addition to Kirklees ambitions, the Family Hub model will contribute to improved Troubled Families, wider Public Health outcomes and supports outcomes around 'The Best Start in Life'.

The model will contribute to improving outcomes around child poverty, youth outcomes and LGBT and inclusion as set out in the CYPP 3 priorities by promoting preventative strategies and approaches that reduce escalation of problems.

4 Consultees and their opinions

The Early Years and Beyond summit has shaped the direction of travel and the proposal for the Family Hub model. There is an intention for wider engagement to ensure the approach is shaped by partners to inform design of services focused on the development of four Family Hubs.

5 Next steps and timelines

The Early Years and Beyond summit has shaped the direction of travel and the proposal for Family Hubs. There is an intention for a wider engagement opportunity to ensure the approach is shaped by partners and communities to inform design of services focusing on the development of four Family Hub areas.

6 Officer recommendations and reasons

We would like to engage with Scrutiny members as part of this process, to gather views on the proposal to create Family Hubs, provide the opportunity to ask questions and seek further information. The feedback from Scrutiny members will be taken into account along with all other views received during the engagement process, and will inform the proposals which will be considered by Cabinet in November 2020.

7 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

N/A

8 Contact officer

Michelle Wheatcroft, Head of Service Early Support. michelle.wheatcroft@kirklees.gov.uk
Jackie Beever, Early Support Service Manager. jackie.beever@kirklee.gov.uk

9 Background Papers and History of Decisions

'Proposal for Early Help Offer for Children, Young People & Families', cabinet paper January 2017

<http://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s16488/e%20FINAL%20-%20Early%20Help.pdf>

10 Service Director responsible

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

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The Vision for Kirklees Integrated Services and Family Centres

DRAFT

Hub to Hub

What

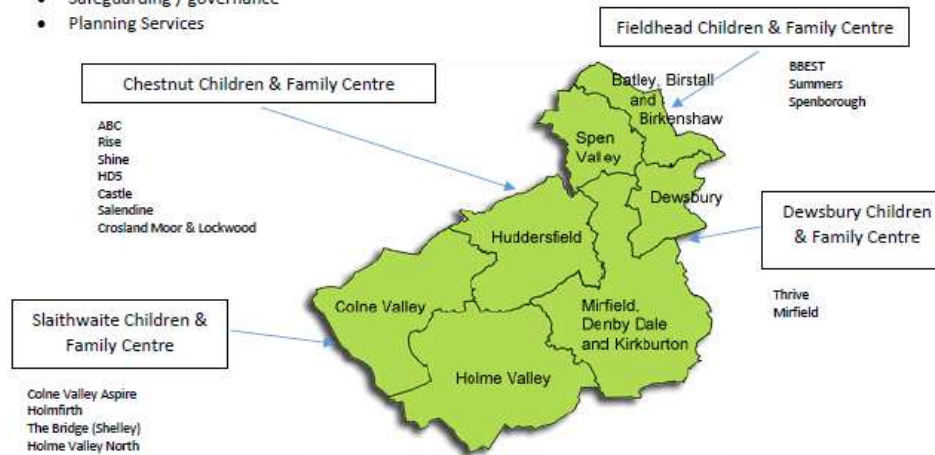
- Safe children and families
- Families and neighbours that get on well
- Free from harm and abuse
- Play, activities and enjoy
- Healthy bodies and minds

Who



How

- Early child development
- Nurturing Parents
- Early help and prevention
- Mental and emotional wellbeing
- Speech and Language development
- Early identification and assessment of need
- Community development, expertise and intelligence
- Teaching children / adults
- Enabling others /capacity building
- Safeguarding / governance
- Planning Services
- Professional supervision
- Partnership coordination
- Horizon scanning / business development
- Volunteer coordination, peer support
- Integrated teams
- Collaboratives as vehicles for delivery of a broad range of children and family services
- Early Help work to support vulnerable children and families
- Work with all community stakeholders to develop a whole week, all year round enrichment environment for children and families
- Every child to have the best start pre-birth to 5 year olds



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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.