

# Public Document Pack



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

**Julie Muscroft**

The Democracy Service

Civic Centre 3

High Street

Huddersfield

HD1 2TG

**Tel:** 01484 221000

Please ask for: Helen Kilroy

Email: [helen.kilroy@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:helen.kilroy@kirklees.gov.uk)

Wednesday 17 February 2021

## Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

### Children's Scrutiny Panel

The **Children's Scrutiny Panel** will meet in a **Virtual Meeting - online** at **2.00 pm** on **Thursday 25 February 2021**.

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:-**

**Councillor Andrew Marchington  
(Chair)**

**Councillor Yusra Hussain**

**Councillor Amanda Pinnock**

**Councillor Richard Smith**

**Councillor Paul White**

**Vacancy**

**Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)**

**Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee)**

**Linda Summers (Co-Optee)**

# Agenda

## Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

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### Pages

**1: Membership of the Committee**

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

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**2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

1 - 6

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

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**3: Interests**

7 - 8

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.

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**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.

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**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.

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## **6: Public Question Time**

The Board will hear any questions from the general public. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, questions should be emailed to [executive.governance@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:executive.governance@kirklees.gov.uk) no later than 10am on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

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## **7: Number and age of children in care** 9 - 14

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

Contact Officer: Julie Bragg, Head of Corporate Parenting (Children in Care and Care Leavers)

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## **8: Update on Engagement of Family Hubs** 15 - 26

The Panel will consider a verbal update on the Engagement of Family Hubs. Attached as background information is the Cabinet report approved on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 on Proposal for the early help offer for children, young people and families.

Contact Officers: Jackie Beever, Service Manager Early Support and Michelle Wheatcroft, Head of Service Early Support

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## **9: Children's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2020/21** 27 - 34

Members of the Panel will consider the work programme and agenda plan for the 2020/21 municipal year and will consider issues for inclusion during the 2021/22 municipal year.

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager

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Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

**Thursday 14th January 2021**

- Present: Councillor Andrew Marchington (Chair)  
Councillor Richard Smith  
Councillor Paul White
- Co-optees Dale O'Neill  
Linda Summers
- In attendance: Mel Meggs, Director for Children's Services  
Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director, Learning and Early Support  
Tom Brailsford, Service Director, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships  
Elaine McShane, Service Director, Family Support and Child Protection
- Observers: Cllr Carole Pattison
- Apologies: Councillor Yusra Hussain  
Councillor Amanda Pinnock

**1 Membership of the Committee**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Yusra Hussain and Cllr Amanda Pinnock. The Chair advised that there was currently a vacancy on the Panel due to the resignation by Councillor Paul Davies who was now a Cabinet Member. The Chair placed on record thanks to Cllr Paul Davies for his valuable contributions to the Panel.

**2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meetings of the Panel held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 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 petitions or deputations were received.

**6 Public Question Time**

## Children's Scrutiny Panel - 14 January 2021

No questions were received from the public.

### 7 **Number and age of children in care**

The Panel considered a report providing an update relating to the number and profile of children in our care, including information related to the number placed outside of the District. The report also set out comparative data with statistical neighbours and was presented by Elaine McShane, Service Director for Family Support and Child Protection.

Elaine McShane highlighted the following key issues:-

- Number of children in care in November 2020 was 688 (which excluded any looked after children receiving only Section 20 short term breaks) alongside the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children;
- The largest age group for boys in care was 10-15 years with 150 children and the largest age group for girls was 10-15 years with 131 children;
- Children in care less than 1 year or 1-4 years might not need to stay in care for long and might return to the parent, relative or be adopted;
- Ethnicity changes – there had been a relatively small change in the percentage split over the last 12 months and there had been a slight increase in May to June 2020 which had stabilised;
- More than 50% of children in care were white and the next largest group was dual heritage;
- Children placed more than 2 miles outside Kirklees – there had been a decline in the number placed outside Kirklees; officers look to carers first and foremost and also try and maintain the young person's educational provision due to the support the child would get from stability and consistency and that all these issues were seriously considered before placements were approved;
- Seen a further reduction in the number of children in children's homes outside the district;
- Kirklees provided 13 placements to children in semi-independent living accommodation from other local authority areas.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding the length of time young people stayed in semi-independent living accommodation, Elaine McShane responded to advise that some young people presented themselves as homeless and could live in semi-independent living accommodation or on their own without support. Elaine McShane further explained that Section 20 was necessary as the Council could not seek care orders post 16 years of age and that young people would come to the Council as they did not want to go into foster care. The Panel was informed that Section 20 was always explained to the young person.

#### **RESOLVED –**

1. That the Panel noted the report on Number of Children in Care and thanked Elaine McShane for her contributions.

### 8 **Emotional Wellbeing of Students**

## Children's Scrutiny Panel - 14 January 2021

The Panel considered a verbal report on the Emotional Wellbeing of Students presented by Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director for Learning and Early Support. This report had been requested by the Panel.

Jo-Anne Sanders highlighted the following key issues:-

- Support would be put in place for young people as they returned to school post third lockdown as schools agreed it was critical to the emotional wellbeing of students;
- In May 2020 the Education and Psychology Team had worked hard to develop an offer of targeted support to help youngsters during the pandemic;
- Staff in schools had also been provided with guidance and support so they could in turn help children, complemented by the Education Health and Care Plan offer;
- A training package on emotional coaching had been sent to all school's prior to September 2020 with lesson plans which included direct resources that children could participate in;
- Further training for key staff in schools was available through the United Kingdom and was being developed for wider use;
- The Government had introduced a grant of £63,609 to support the wellbeing for educational return in September 2020; Education Leads were liaising with Public Health colleagues regarding the best use of the grant;
- A programme of resilience would be in place for children from March 2021;
- Help was in place for college staff to support the health and emotional wellbeing of their students;
- Training was available for key staff on how best to respond to young people who were anxious about school;
- Opportunities were being offered for additional SENCO support;
- More schools would be participating from February half term this year in the Alex Timpson Trauma in Schools Programme which had been underpinned by Oxford University, and would provide the best strategies to address the needs of vulnerable children who had been through trauma; positive feedback had been received from schools involved in the first waive of the roll out of this programme;
- The Mental Health Trailblazing programme was a national initiative and the Council had been successful in 2 bidding rounds and as a result 80 Kirklees schools had access to the additional support; The Council would like to sustain and widen funding opportunities already in place so these could be made available for all schools in Kirklees;
- A children and young people survey had been carried out by the Learning Service in May 2020 and another had been undertaken in December 2020 with public health colleagues and the results were currently being analysed;
- Schools had been very pro-active in working with early support colleagues to make resources available to support the health and wellbeing of youngsters.

A number of comments were made by members of the Panel, as follows:-

- The mental health of students was vitally important and concerns were raised relating to the high number of children currently attending school as their parents were classed as critical workers and whether everyone was following the rules relating to critical workers;

## Children's Scrutiny Panel - 14 January 2021

- Concerns were raised regarding the number of children of critical workers who had to remain at home as their schools were currently closed and that greater consideration needed to be given to ensure these families received the support they required.

The Panel acknowledged the high level of work that had been undertaken by the Learning Service to provide schools with the funding, tools and training they needed to support children's health and emotional wellbeing during the pandemic. The Panel also noted that staff had been under huge pressures and were concerned that this could take its toll.

Jo-Anne Sanders advised the Panel that School Leaders were under a lot of pressure and that their work with school governors was important as the governing body had a role to play in supporting teachers. School Leaders had valued the support they had received from governors and teacher peer support was also very important. The Panel was informed that there were some strong Head Teachers in Secondary and Primary schools in Kirklees and good networks and peer support were in place.

The Panel was informed that there was a Head Teacher Wellbeing service in place in Kirklees which offered free coaching and support to our school leaders.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding whether attendance at school by children who had not returned following the lockdowns was in place, Jo-Anne Sanders advised that all attendance was tracked before, during and after COVID and that robust systems were in place for children missing in education. The Panel was informed that some children may have moved out of the area or parents had chosen to home educate.

In response to a question from the Panel asking if emotional coaching was tailored for children of all ages, Jo-Anne Sanders advised that emotional coaching was tailored to the age and stage of the young person and was research based.

In response to a question from the Panel asking if some things would continue in the future after COVID, Jo-Anne Sanders responded to advise that there were some challenges and opportunities being looked at by Senior colleagues in Learning with participation by School Leaders and was being led by Cllr Pattison, Cabinet Member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities.

In response to a question from the Panel asking if schools could access additional funding support during the pandemic, Jo-Anne Sanders advised that schools could put in a funding bid which enabled officers to work with schools that complimented the work ongoing within community hubs.

In response to a question from the Panel asking if schools would continue with some processes introduced during the pandemic, Jo-Anne Sanders advised that there had been challenges and opportunities as a result of COVID, and senior colleagues in Children's Services were working with school leaders to look at this and this work had been led by Cllr Pattison as Lead Cabinet Member.



**RESOLVED –**

1. That the Panel noted the verbal update on the Emotional Wellbeing of Children and thanked Jo-Anne Sanders for her contributions.

**9 COVID Catch up Fund - update**

The Panel considered a verbal update on the COVID Catch up fund, presented by Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director for Learning and Early Support.

Jo-Anne Sanders highlighted the following key points:-

- the Government had announced that for the academic year 2020/21 (September to August) they would be supporting all schools with £80 per pupil from Reception to Year 11 with additional premium to support catch up funding and special schools and pupil referral units were entitled to £240 per pupil; across the year that would equate to approximately £5m;
- the first grant received across the authority had been for £1.3m and since the census took place in October that would be the basis on which the allocation of funding would be passported out to schools and they know that they could plan on the basis of the allocation that they would be receiving;
- it was down to individual schools to determine how best to spend the additional resource to meet the needs of the youngsters in their schools;
- helpful information had been published for schools on the education endowment fund in terms of research-based opportunities that might support their thinking about how best to spend the funds;
- there was a National Tutoring Programme which would be able to complement what schools were able to do in terms of the catch up fund;
- the DfE had published a COVID-19 support guide for schools;
- Governors would be wanting to work with school leaders on how best to use this additional funding and school colleagues had attended the Governor Briefing early on in the autumn term as it was important that schools could articulate how they were going to be spending the money and the rationale underpinning that;
- the Council had been undertaking virtual visits to schools to talk to learning partners and asking how that funding was being spent and it had been a varied picture but was quite early days; schools had been asked to confirm how they had been spending catch up funding and they would have to articulate the rationale, what the implication was and the impact and Kirklees Officers would continue to review this but there was not a uniform approach and spending would be based on what was best for youngsters in individual schools.

Jo-Anne Sanders advised that it was too early to measure the impact in schools of the COVID-19 Catch up Fund and the Panel agreed to revisit this matter later in the academic year for 2021/22. The Panel was informed that were the Council had seen good practice they were encouraging collaboration and sharing of good practice.

The Panel acknowledged that significant pressure had been placed on school Leaders for the extra work undertaken during COVID and agreed to monitor how

## Children's Scrutiny Panel - 14 January 2021

school's had been utilising funding, impact of COVID catch up funding, sharing good practice and learning points.

The Panel was informed that Ofsted was currently not inspecting schools but they were undertaking some assurance visits and looking at best practice and to support schools the DfE were putting together case studies and good practice guides available for school leaders.

Cllr Marchington, Chair of the Panel, advised that Educational Outcomes were a key area of focus for the Panel and looking at the longer-term impact of COVID. The Panel agreed that catch up funding needed to be in place to help the children of Kirklees and also look at how this complemented the pupil premium and SEND. The Panel agreed to focus on this area in their work programme and that a longer-term view was needed on the impacts of COVID for schools and the children of Kirklees.

### **RESOLVED –**

1. That the Panel noted the verbal report on COVID Catch up Fund and thanked Jo-Anne Sanders for her contributions.
2. The Panel agreed that as part of the Educational Outcomes they would consider an update report later in the academic year covering the longer-term impact of Covid for schools and how long the Covid catch up funding needed to be in place to help children in Kirklees and how it complemented pupil premium and SEND. The Panel also agreed that it would be useful to look at how the schools had used the funding, how this was measured, the sharing of good practice and any learning points.

### **10 Children's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2020-21**

The Panel considered the Working Programme and Agenda Plan for the 2020/21 municipal year.

Cllr Marchington advised that he had been contacted by the Lead Petitioner of the St John's Petition and confirmed that he would be responding shortly.

The Panel was informed that the final report on Elective Home Education had been considered and agreed by Cabinet on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and that the recommendations had been accepted.

The Panel expressed their thanks and appreciation for staff working in Children's Services and Schools during the pandemic for their commitment and dedication to educating and supporting the children of Kirklees.

### **RESOLVED –**

1. That the Work Programme and Agenda Plan for the 2020/21 municipal year be noted.

<b>KIRKLEES COUNCIL</b>			
<b>COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC</b>			
<b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b>			
Childrens Scrutiny Panel			
<b>Name of Councillor</b>			
<b>Item in which you have an interest</b>	<b>Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")</b>	<b>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]</b>	<b>Brief description of your interest</b>

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

## NOTES

### Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Name of meeting:** Children’s Scrutiny Panel  
**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
**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 <a href="#">Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</a>	NA
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	NA
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Elaine McShane for Mel Meggs (11.2.21)
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 <a href="#">portfolio</a>	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.

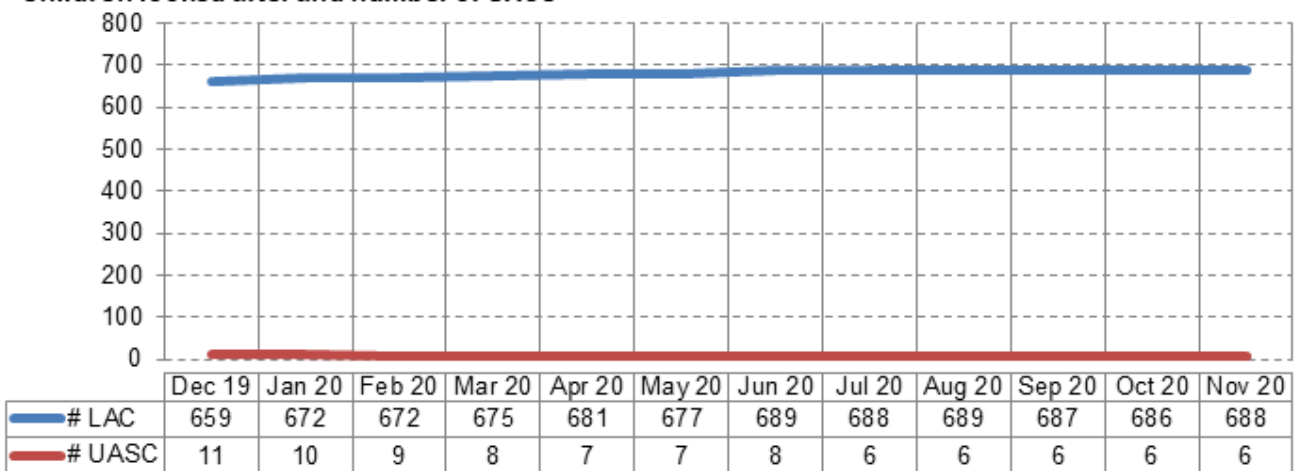
## 1. Summary

This graph shows the number of children in care (688 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 68.6. This compares to a statistical neighbour average of 92.2 and a national average of 67.0 based on recently published data for March 2020.

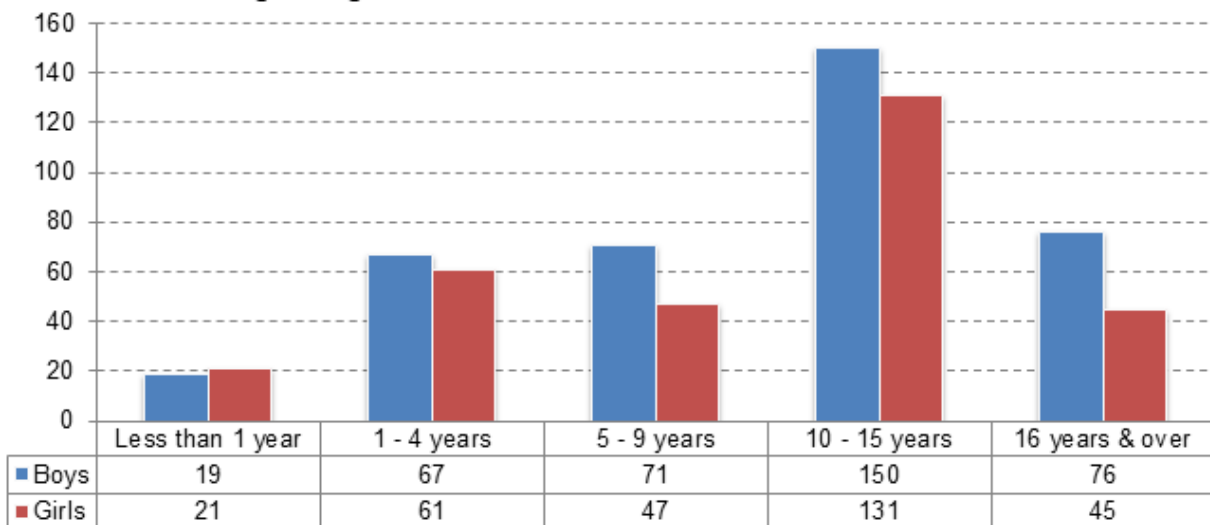
- Kirklees (Nov 20) = 68.7
- Statistical Neighbours (2020) = 92.2
- England (2020) = 67.0

**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 150 children and the largest age group for girls is 10 - 15 years with 131 children.

**Children looked after age and gender breakdown**



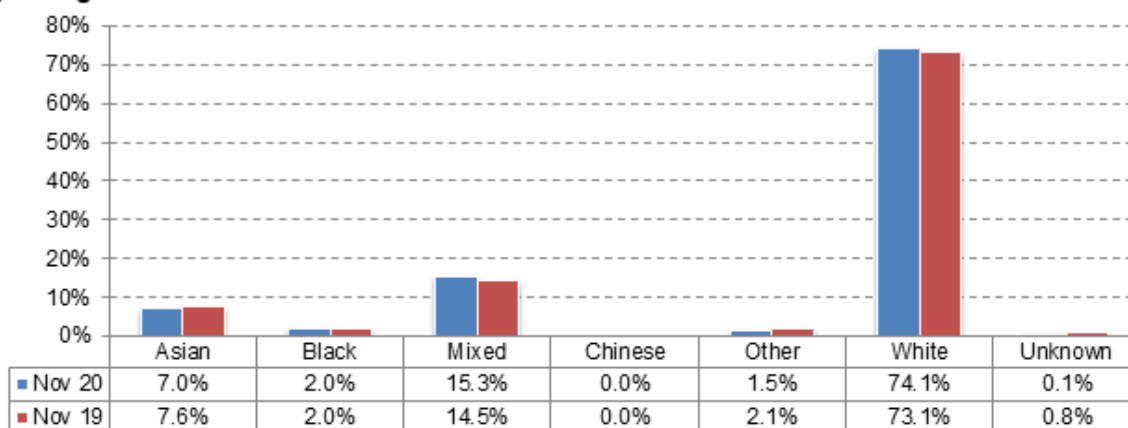
## Statistical Neighbours

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

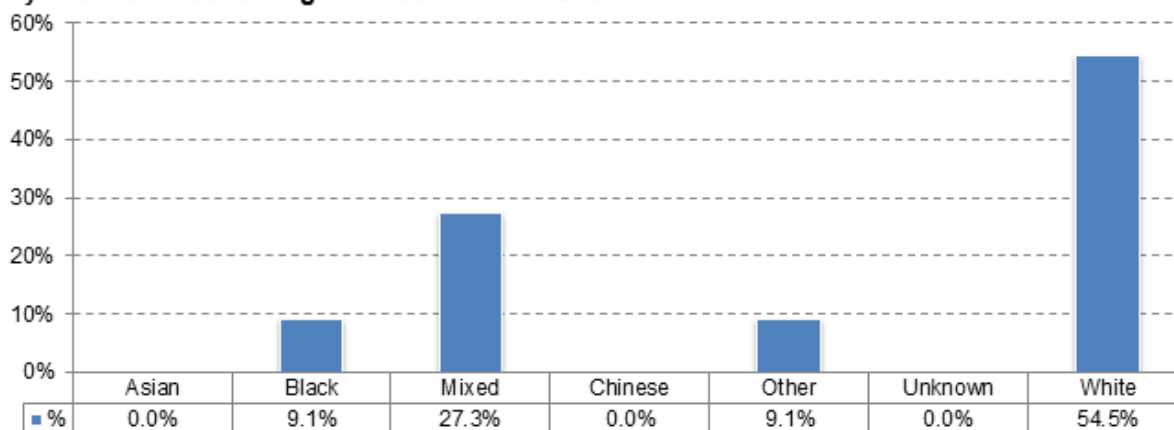
This graph shows the ethnic breakdown of the children looked after population at the end of November 2020 and the same point 12 months ago. There has been a relatively small change in the percentage split over the last 12 months.

**Ethnicity changes in children looked after**



This graph shows the percentage breakdown by ethnicity of children entering care this month. Note that this outcome is based on small numbers. In November 2020 there were 11 young people who were recorded as entering care at the point of data extraction in the month of whom 6 were White, 3 were or Mixed ethnicity, 1 was Black and 1 was of "Other" ethnicity.

### Ethnicity of children becoming looked after this month



### 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 80 on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. This follows a continuum of decline from 127 in 2017. This equates to 11.6% of the total LAC cohort. 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 recent historical position is detailed below:

	30/09/2020		31/10/2020		30/11/2020	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Placed outside Kirklees &amp; over 20 miles from home address</b>	84	12.2%	79	11.5%	80	11.6%

### Semi Independent Accommodation aged 16 plus

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 there were 33 young people accommodated in semi-independent accommodation, 19 within District and 14 of our young people placed outside of the Kirklees District as detailed in the following table:



<b>Placements outside of Kirklees in semi-independent living accommodation (not subject to Children's Home regulations)</b>				
As at 30/11/2020				
<b>LA of Placement</b>	<b>Aged 15</b>	<b>Aged 16</b>	<b>Aged 17</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bradford			7	7
Calderdale		1	3	4
Leeds			1	1
Lancashire			1	1
Liverpool			1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Legal Status</b>	<b>Aged 15</b>	<b>Aged 16</b>	<b>Aged 17</b>	<b>Total</b>
Full Care Order		1	3	4
S20 CA 1989 - Single Placement			10	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>

## 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:** Cabinet

**Date:** 15.12.20

**Title of report:** Proposal for the Early Help offer for Children Young People and Families.

**Purpose of report:** For Information

This paper follows on from the 2017 cabinet paper; ‘Proposal for Early Help Offer for Children, Young People & Families’, the recommendations made within and the ‘Early Years and Beyond Summit’ January 2020 next steps. The paper aims to provide information on the proposed future design of an integrated 0-19 (25) Early Support offer (Family Hubs).

*N.B. For the purpose of the proposals the model is called ‘Family Hubs’, however it is the intention to consider an appropriate name for the model, for example ‘Thrive hub Slaithwaite, or ‘Chestnut Thrive Centre’. This will form part of the engagement activity asking the view of children, young people, families and communities.*

<b>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?</b>	<b>Yes – All wards</b>
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u></b>	<b>Key Decision – For Information</b>  <b>Private Report/Private Appendix – No</b>
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	<b>Give name and date for Cabinet / Scrutiny reports</b> Mel Meggs – Strategic Director – Children’s Services - 13.10.20
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	<b>Give name and date for Cabinet reports</b> Eamonn Croston – 04.12.20
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	<b>Give name and date for Cabinet reports</b> Julie Muscroft – 04.12.20
<b>Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u></b>	Cllr Viv Kendrick – Cabinet member for Children Cllr Carole Pattison – Cabinet member for Learning, Aspiration and Communities

**Electoral wards affected:** All wards are affected

**Ward councillors consulted:** All

**Public or private:** Public report

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes

## **Summary**

This report aims to give an update on the journey so far following the decision that was approved in the 2017 cabinet paper '*Proposal for Early Help Offer for Children, Young People & Families*' to re design the way that Early Support Services are delivered in Kirklees and the 'Early Years and beyond' summit that was held with partners in January 2020.

This paper is being presented for information and to engage with cabinet members to gain their views on the next phase of development and future proposals around the Family Hub model: a place based integrated Early Support Offer.

The paper summarises the journey so far and sets out the proposals and the planned next steps.

## **1. Background**

The recommendations within the '*Proposal for Early Help Offer for Children, Young People & Families* paper that was approved by cabinet in 2017 were:

- *To have four Central 'hub' sites across the authority, one in each Early Help area.*
- *To have four 'designated' Children's Centres, one in each Early Help area.*
- *That delivery of the Council's new targeted Early Help offer moves towards a model that increases the use of space in community buildings to enable more flexible, needs led approach to service delivery and one that is not focused on buildings.*
- *It is recognised that a phased approach will be required and that a small portfolio of council buildings will continue to be used in the short term to support the transition to the new model*
- *Further reports will be brought back to Cabinet (as appropriate) in relation to assets and asset strategy'.*

The aim of the Early Years and Beyond summit that was held in January 2020 was to engage with partners to contribute to shaping the vision and development of a 0-19 (25 for a young person with a disability) integrated Early Support offer for the children and families of Kirklees.

A draft vision for a hub to hub model was presented which was followed by circle discussions to engage partners in conversations on opportunities, risks and next steps.

Attendees of the event committed pledges to support the integrated model going forward.

### **1.1 Where are we now?**

The demand for services continues to rise with increasingly complex family situations, with presentation of need in younger children as well as teenagers and parents. Social and economic strains mean we need to be innovative in how we engage with families, so they are supported in their communities and supported to overcome difficult times. We want to make sure we give each child the opportunity to have the best possible start to their lives, with support being available for the family in the right place and at the right time, with the right people. This vision is set out in the Kirklees 2020- 2023 Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP):

*'All children and young people in Kirklees have the best start in life and are nurtured and supported to achieve their potential.*

Along with the ambitions that will provide the right conditions for children to thrive and to grow up with the best possibility of a good life:

- *To be healthy and valued in our community*

- *To aspire, to achieve and to enjoy childhood*
- *To feel safe – in a loving, secure family and a strong, cohesive community*
- *To live in a decent home, with enough money.*

The proposals for the Family Hubs model aims to deliver on the approach outlined in Kirklees Early Support Partnership Strategy 2018:

*‘Our approach is based on building communities, developing resilience and establishing networks. As well as developing a place-based offer around 4 geographical and diverse areas, we recognise that some services work best across the authority as a whole. We want to develop a unifying but not uniform offer, reflecting the needs and strengths of young people, families and communities’.*

In Kirklees there is a clear recognition of the importance of early support and there has been significant investment to develop the current offer. We have a range of Early Support services which support children and their families; some are delivered by the Local Authority, some are provided by the voluntary and community sector and some are delivered by commissioned services. We know that these services are already embedded in communities and that they have an in depth understanding of local need and are trusted by families.

## **2. The proposed Family Hub Model ([see diagram 1, page 6](#))**

The proposed Family Hub model aims to build on existing place and community assets and brings individuals, organisations, places and connections together to realise and develop their strengths. The model aims to:

- Build on 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?
- Focuses on local residents and what it is like to live in their 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?

In keeping with the place-based planning for Kirklees we need to make the most of our positive partnerships to develop a better integrated system for children young people and families. 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 across the Kirklees district including with communities. It builds on the progress already made in the Community Hub work with alignment to avoid duplication.

It is recognised within the Family Hub proposals that children and families may have different needs at different times, and the need for seamless transitions between universal services to Early Support Services to Statutory Services and vice versa. There will be occasions when it is not possible to respond to the child’s needs through Early support services and there will be the need to receive statutory services, this is called ‘Step Up’. Conversely there will be times when intervention through statutory services is no longer considered necessary, however, support to address a child’s needs may still be required and this is best achieved through Early Support, this is called ‘Step Down’. The proposed Family Hub model moves closer to a ‘one team’ approach with clear ‘Step up / Step down process.

The proposal for the Family Hub model recognises the need for a whole Early Support System and is based around place and local geography with 4 areas; Dewsbury & Mirfield, Batley & Spen, Huddersfield and Kirklees Rural that each have a designated children’s centre building: Dewsbury Moor, Birstall & Birkenshaw, Chestnut Centre (Ashbrow – Hudds) and Slaithwaite Town Hall.

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 and delivering services which are sensitive to local need.

These Family Hubs will provide both universal and targeted provision and will not be dependent on having fixed assets in every area; instead utilising community buildings and working with our partners to ensure that services are available and accessible to local people when they are needed.

The model presents many new opportunities, these include identifying families with multiple needs as early as possible, no matter what service they first come into contact with. The aim is to make sure that any contact with a practitioner will lead to the right intervention at the right time, with greater accountability across all agencies for identifying need earlier. This offers the best route to families understanding and making changes that improve their coping skills and life chances. The Family Hub model provides opportunities to bring together or link more closely with services including (but not limited to) those detailed below in section (2.1.) Some will be provided by key commissioned partners, some by the Early Support Service and some by voluntary and community organisations.

There are opportunities within the proposed model and lessons to be learnt from the work Early Support has done in response to Covid-19 that has evidenced place-based working in action. In response to Covid -19 Early Support has changed the way that some of the services are delivered, for example, Triple P online Positive Parenting Programme is now offered, with wrap around support to parents from parenting practitioners, WhatsApp is used to hold virtual visits with families. The use of various digital platforms has been utilised to deliver Family Group Conferencing. Our community coordinators have been supporting the community protection response out in areas and the development of mutual aid groups. This collaboration and new ways of working provides the foundation for more joined up prevention led approaches within the Family Hub model.

The Family Hub model aims to address some of the inequalities in particular tackling poverty & health and wellbeing as well as 'The Best Start in Life' priorities. To mitigate the impact of poverty on families the Early Support Partnership deliver the uniform exchange programme, families are supported to access food banks, to access the right benefits, supported with housing applications and are helped to access training and entry to work programmes.

There is also an opportunity to consider the 'Thriving Kirklees' commission and how it can be consolidated with the Family hub model moving forward. The intention is to develop Family Hubs as part of an integrated service with the Public Health 0-19 years' service.

Better Births, the [national maternity review](#), ***A Five Year Forward View for Maternity Care*** published in 2016 introduced the concept of "maternity hubs", stating that these should be established where maternity services, particularly ante- and postnatal, are provided alongside other family-orientated health and social services. Given the similarities in intention, ethos and outcomes it has been proposed to all those involved in the "maternity hubs" work that this becomes part of the developing Family Hub proposals

The Family Hub model is well placed to develop parent participation in local areas so that the resulting local offer better meets the needs of local families, it is proposed that each area hub will have area parent forums to develop participation activity, co-design, co-production and consultation activity.

The proposed model offers opportunity for children and young people to be involved in their community, helping them to grow their skills, confidence and connections. Giving opportunity for children to express their wishes and feelings through a number of channels to include participation activity, co –production and consultation children's forums, working groups etc.

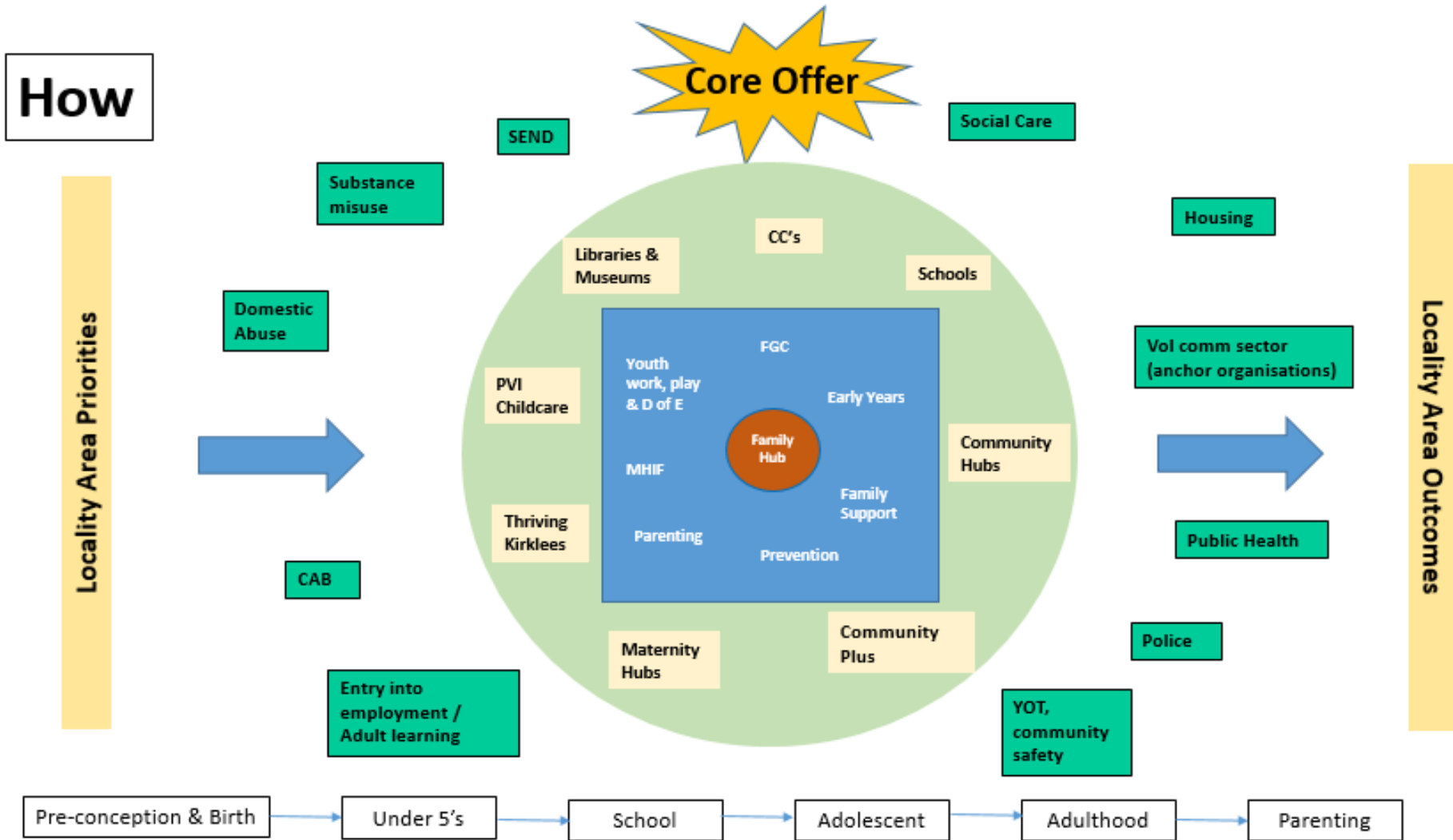
The proposals offer opportunity for Family Hubs to raise the profile of Early Support to develop and design Kirklees branding, information and routes for communication with parents and children with an affiliation with partners. It offers opportunity to connect with communities drawing families to access trusted services through buildings face to face or online via social media, and websites. There is opportunity to involve parents and children in shaping what this would look like.

## **2.1 The Family Hub offer**

It is proposed the Family hubs can help with:

- Support for the parenting journey from getting ready to be a parent and giving birth to the child's toddler years, Healthy Child Programme, health visiting clinics, infant feeding, sleeping, teething, oral health and toilet training. Support for physical and emotional health and wellbeing.
- Providing early learning opportunities such as play and stay groups, transition to nursery and school support and support for school readiness.
- Supporting children and young people to attend school. Activities for children under five and older children and young people, work with schools and the community to support children young people and their parents / carer's offering support and advice about healthy living.
- Targeted groups for example young parents, or support for families with children with SEND, dad's groups, Family Group conferencing.
- Family Support, key worker 1-1 support in the home for families.
- Parenting interventions including relationship support, parenting workshops and parenting programmes for parents/ carers who need support.
- Activity and play opportunities for young people, detached youth outreach programme addressing issues such as gangs, county lines, anti-social behaviours, Child Sexual Exploitation.
- Information 'advice and support for employment, housing, benefits, adult learning, food and energy poverty.
- Support programmes including domestic abuse, alcohol and substance misuse.

Diagram 1





### **3 Implications for the Council**

#### **a. 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 locally when and where they need it. 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 all families to feel welcome, whether they are experiencing difficulties or not.

#### **b. 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.

#### **c. 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.

### **4. Climate Change and Air Quality**

By having services more local / accessible to where people live in communities, this could have an impact on their mode of travel. The aim is that we have a network of community-based provision which enables people to be able to walk, therefore reducing impact on the environmental. Services will be encouraging environmental consideration through the use of sustainable resources, curriculum/activities in sessions, health messaging, so families will have more exposure to messaging such as recycling, travel etc.

### **5. Improving outcomes for children**

We will measure outcomes using a set of agreed key indicators taking into account professional insights from front-line workers as well as the background statistical data and intelligence but are driven by the priorities of the community. It is proposed an Outcomes Framework based on a broad core offer with asset mapping and planning in communities and will bring together key partners in each of the four Family Hub areas forming area partnership boards. The partnership board will be made up of key people, including young people, who live, work with or have a key interest in the Family Hub area for example, health, social care, voluntary sector, education, police, housing, faith organisations and others. In addition to Kirklees ambitions, the Family hub model will contribute to improved Troubled Families, wider Public Health outcomes and support 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.

## 5.1 Quality Assurance

In line with the draft 'Children's Services Quality Assurance Framework 2020- 2022' Early Support practice, policy and procedures will be monitored and evaluated with quality assurance becoming an integral part of everyday practice to support the drive to improve outcomes for children, young people, their families and communities.

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

### 6.1 Legal

Legal advice has been sought relating to our statutory duties around Children Centres. An integral part of implementation plan will be ensuring that we are statutorily compliant with all legislation and government guidance.

### 6.2 Finance

The current Early Support service budget including the Troubled Families grant is £7,524,405.

There are currently 110,300 children and young people in Kirklees (age 0 – 19) which results in a spend of £68.22 per child/young person on council Early Support services across the authority.

### Funding Available

#### Early Support Budget

Employees	142.9	5,361,542
Other	-	588,063
	142.9	5,949,605

#### Troubled Families Grant

Transformation	-	700,000
Attachment	-	374,000
Payment by Results	-	500,800
	-	1,574,800

<b>Total</b>	142.9	7,524,405
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Costings have been produced for the proposed Family Hubs model, The costings show an over commitment of £630,830k which includes an increase of 11.2 fte's across the whole service. The service is committing to fund some of this through a savings target and staff turnover which means that the ask for additional funding is reduced to £230,241k. This is an increase of £2.09 per child on existing spend on early support services across the Authority.

This current budget includes the Troubled Families grant which is currently time limited and therefore there is a risk relating to mainstream funding of the model in the longer term.

Consideration will also be given to the premises costs of the Children Centres buildings that we wish to retain as part of the model. We plan to work with all stakeholders including schools as well as internal services to look at the impact retaining these assets has on budgets and options for ensuring that they can be sustainable in the longer term.

### 6.3 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. From the [table \(1\) 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.

**Table 1**

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
<b>Children looked after</b>	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 Yr. 1 then £1,173,280 thereafter
<b>Children looked after</b>	Child into local authority foster care: overall cost (cost per week)	£38,974	10	10 + 10 + 10	Children's Services	£1,169,220

## **6.4 HR implications**

It is proposed that the Early Support service re align current structures from eleven family support teams to four Family Hub placed based area teams to include Early Years, Mental Health in Families, Family Group Conferences, Youth, and parenting.

Each Family Hub area will have an area placed based team who will work with families, communities and organisations to bring about change to improve outcomes.

To achieve this there is the need to realign some of the current roles into new proposed roles and to create additional positions within the structure; further detail of this will be provided within a cabinet paper in April 2021, along with the results of the findings following the period of engagement.

## **6.5 Integrated Impact Assessment**

An integrated equality impact assessment has been completed and can be viewed in appendix one. We plan to use this to target some of our engagement activity to ensure that we are obtaining the views of people who fall within the protected characteristic group and that we are able to mitigate against any potential negative impact on these groups. We will complete a further integrated impact assessment following the engagement activity and this will form part of the April 2021 cabinet paper.

## **6.6 Corporate Landlord & Capital**

Work has been carried out previously looking at the Children Centre buildings that we would like to retain as a service; to deliver for the Family Hub model and to ensure that we are fulfilling our statutory duties and those buildings that we would no longer require going forward.

There will be a dedicated workstream as part of the implementation for this work which will consider all options for future use of buildings, working with internal partners as well as looking at possibilities for community use in the future. This work will look at the level of clawback risk associated with each building and look at how we can mitigate against and reduce any financial liability to the council.

## **7. Consultees and their opinions**

A detailed communications and engagement plan has been developed (see appendix two - Engagement plan). This is a working document that will be updated throughout the entire project.

It is our intention to carry out a series of engagement activities with all stakeholders as detailed in the plan. Consideration will be given to Covid-19 when planning engagement activity and ensuring that we are able to reach as many of stakeholders as possible but still keeping people safe. The findings will be included in the report to be scheduled for cabinet in April 2021.

## **8. Next steps and timelines**

We are planning to begin a series of engagement activities in January 2021 through to mid-February 2021, with a view to collating the findings and presenting a report back to cabinet in April 2021.

It is anticipated that the implementation of the model will begin April/May 2021.

## **9. Officer recommendations and reasons**

The paper is being presented for information and to engage with cabinet members to gain their views on the proposals. A further paper will be brought to Cabinet in April 2021 with the findings from the engagement and requesting approval for the final proposals of the Family Hubs model.

## **10. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

Cabinet portfolio holders support the proposal and recommend that the service proceed to the next stage of stakeholder engagement before returning to Cabinet with the findings and the final proposals for a final cabinet decision.

## **11. Contact officer**

Jackie Beever, Service Manager Early Support – [Jackie.beever@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.beever@kirklees.gov.uk)  
Michelle Wheatcroft, Head of Service Early Support – [Michelle.wheatcroft@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:Michelle.wheatcroft@kirklees.gov.uk)

## **12. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

September 2016 cabinet paper -

<https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/s13942/AA%20UPDATED%20FINAL%20REPORT%20EarlyHelp%20v3.0%20CABINET%2020160920%20FINAL.pdf>

January 2017 cabinet papers -

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

## **13. Service Director responsible**

Jo-Anne Sanders – Service Director for Learning and Early Support  
[jo-anne.sanders@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:jo-anne.sanders@kirklees.gov.uk)

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## Children's Scrutiny Panel

### Agenda Plan 2020/21

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p><b>13 August 2020</b></p> <p><b>1.30pm -2pm</b> <b>Informal meeting</b></p> <p><b>2pm-4pm</b> <b>Public meeting</b></p> <p><b>Virtual Meeting</b></p> <p>Report deadline: 03.08.20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Informal items:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance report</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Items:</b></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) <b>Deferred</b></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 Soheli/J Sanders</p>
<p><b>1 October 2020</b></p> <p><b>1.30pm -2pm</b> <b>Informal meeting</b></p> <p><b>2pm- 4pm</b> <b>Public meeting</b></p> <p><b>Virtual Meeting</b></p> <p>Report deadline: 21.09.20</p> <p>Apols:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Informal items:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Items:</b></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 <b>deferred</b></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><b>9 November 2020</b></p> <p><b>1.30pm-2pm Informal meeting</b></p> <p><b>2pm-4pm Public meeting</b></p> <p><b>Virtual Meeting</b></p> <p>Report deadline: 28.10.20</p>	<p><b>Informal Items</b></p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p><b>Public Items:</b></p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p> <p>Learning Strategy</p>	<p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>J Bragg</p> <p>Jo-Anne Sanders</p>
<p><b>14 January 2021</b></p> <p><b>1.30pm-2pm Informal meeting</b></p> <p><b>2pm-4pm Public meeting</b></p> <p><b>Virtual</b></p> <p>Report deadline: 04.01.21</p> <p>Apols:</p>	<p><b>Informal Items</b></p> <p>Improvement Board Minutes</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p><b>Public Items:</b></p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p> <p>Exam Results <b>deferred</b></p> <p>Emotional Wellbeing of Students (verbal)</p> <p>Covid Catch Up Fund Update (verbal)</p>	<p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>J Bragg</p> <p>Jo-Anne Sanders</p> <p>Jo-Anne Sanders</p> <p>Jo-Anne Sanders</p>
<p><b>25 February 2021</b></p> <p><b>1.30pm-2pm Informal meeting</b></p> <p><b>2pm-4pm</b></p>	<p><b>Informal Items</b></p> <p>Performance report</p> <p><b>Public Items:</b></p>	<p>J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p>



Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<b>Public meeting</b>  Report deadline: 12.02.21	Number of Children in Care  Engagement of Family Hubs	J Bragg  J Sanders/M Wheatcroft
<b>9<sup>th</sup> April 2021</b>  <b>10-10.30 am</b> <b>Informal meeting</b>  <b>10.30 am-12 noon</b> <b>Public meeting</b>  Report deadline: 29.3.21	<b>Informal Items</b>  Performance report  <b>Public Items:</b>  <b>Educational Outcomes – Exam Results</b>	J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)  J Sanders/E Brayford

**Future items (date to Panel to be agreed)**

COVID 19 Virus - effectiveness and robustness of the Children’s Service response and to identify lessons learned

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## CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

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

**SUPPORT:** Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager

<b>FULL PANEL DISCUSSION</b>		
<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>
<b>1. Review of the Improvement Journey</b>	The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of Children's Services.	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)
<b>2. Educational Outcomes</b>	<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. Input and monitoring of the draft Learning Strategy.</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><u>Panel Meeting 14.1.01</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a verbal update on the Covid Catch up fund and agreed that this was a key priority on educational outcomes. The Panel agreed to consider an update report later in the academic year covering the longer-term impact of Covid on schools and how long the Covid catch up funding needed to be in place to help children in Kirklees and how it complemented pupil premium and SEND. The Panel also agreed that it would be useful to look at how the schools had used the funding, how this was measured and any learning points.</p> <p>(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on Exam Results with examples of practice.</p>
<b>3. Number of children in care</b>	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)

## FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
<b>4. Youth Services and Initiatives</b>	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)
<b>5. Partnership arrangements</b>	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 will look at how data was collected and used to improve outcomes. * (see note below)	(Lead Officers: Elaine McShane/Jo Sanders/Tom Brailsford)
<b>6. Special Educational Needs and High Needs</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Panel will keep a watching brief on the longer-term effect of Covid on educational outcomes including the levels of family income and digital inclusion opportunities.</p>	<p>(Lead Officer: Ronnie Hartley/Jo-Anne Sanders)</p> <p><u>Panel 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020</u> 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 Panel noted the report requested that a future update report include an analysis of figures relating to assessments.</p> <p><u>Panel 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020</u> The Panel received a report providing an update about the work undertaken in preparation for re-opening schools for the Autumn term, and the planning undertaken with school colleagues to enable a positive and safe return to education for children, young people and their families. The Panel agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted and acknowledged the good work undertaken, in partnership with schools, to re-open safely.</li> <li>2. That an update on the partnership work with Colleges and the University, to support pupils and assist business continuity, be submitted to a future Panel meeting.</li> </ol>

## FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
		3. That the Panel keep a watching brief on the longer-term effect of Covid on educational outcomes including levels of family income and digital inclusion opportunities.
<b>7. Performance Information (Children's Services)</b>	The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support in the Informal meetings. * (see note below)	(Lead Officer: Steve Comb/Julie Bragg – reports produced by Sue Grigg and Andrew Wainwright from Performance Team)
<b>8. Learning Strategy</b>	The Panel will consider updates on the development of the Kirklees Council Learning Strategy and the proposed approach and timeline.	<u>Panel 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020</u> The Panel considered a report providing an update on progress and next steps for developing a Learning Strategy. The Panel agreed that future reports be submitted to the Panel as the draft Strategy develops.
<b>9. Elective Home Education</b>	The Panel will monitor implementation of the Action Plan agreed by Cabinet on the 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2020.	A final report on Elective Home Education by the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel was approved by Cabinet on the 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 and Cabinet agreed that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel, and the responses as set out in the Action Plan, be noted.  (Lead Officer: Jo-Anne Sanders)
<b>Lead Member Briefings</b> (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		
<b>Exploitation Strategy</b>	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)  <u>Panel 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020</u> 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 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.

## FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
<b>Children transferred from Almondbury Community School</b>	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.	(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)
<b>Petition – St John’s (CE) Junior School</b>	The Council received a petition objecting to the council’s decision at Cabinet in September 2020 not to allow St John’s Infant school to be made available for junior places in September 2021. The Lead Member will keep a watching brief with regard to the issues raised within the petition from a scrutiny perspective.	(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)

\*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.