

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

Tuesday 20 July 2021

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Children's Scrutiny Panel

The **Children's Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Virtual Meeting - online** at **2.15 pm** on **Wednesday 28 July 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:-

Member

Councillor Andrew Marchington
(Chair)

Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds

Councillor Joshua Sheard

Councillor Richard Smith

Councillor Paul White

Councillor Jackie Ramsay

Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)

Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee)

Linda Summers (Co-Optee)

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Committee

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

That the Panel note that Councillors Joshua Sheard, Jackie Ramsey and Elizabeth Reynolds have replaced Councillors Paul Davies, Yusra Hussain and Amanda Pinnock for the 2021/22 municipal year.

2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 6

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25th February 2021.

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.

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 Board will hear any questions from the general public. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, questions should be emailed to executive.governance@kirklees.gov.uk no later than 10am on 27th July 2021.

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: Ophelia Rix, Head of Service (Children in Care, Children Looked After and Care Leavers)

8: Youth Justice Plan

The Panel will consider a verbal update and receive a presentation on the Youth Justice Plan.

Contact Officers: Ian Mottershaw, Head of Service, Contextual Safeguarding and Y.E.S
Elaine McShane, Service Director, Family Support and Child Protection

9: Children's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2021-22

15 - 24

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

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager

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Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday 25th February 2021

Present: Councillor Andrew Marchington (Chair)
Councillor Yusra Hussain
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Paul White

Co-optees Toni Bromley
Dale O'Neill

In attendance: 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
Michelle Wheatcroft, Head of Service Early Support
CarolAnn Smith, Project Officer, Children's Services
Julie Bragg, Head of Corporate Parenting

Observers: Cllr Viv Kendrick

Apologies: Linda Summers (Co-Optee)

- 1 Membership of the Committee**
Apologies for absence were received from Linda Summers.
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
The minutes of the meetings of the Panel held on the 14th January 2021 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**
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 Julie Bragg, Head of Corporate Parenting.

Julie Bragg highlighted the following key issues:-

- The number of children in care over the last 12 months had maintained at 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;
- Ethnicity changes – there had been a relatively small change in the percentage split over the last 12 months.
- More than 72% of children in care were white and the next largest group was dual heritage;
- There were 76 children placed more than 20 miles outside Kirklees – there had been a decline in the number placed outside Kirklees since 2017; 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 18 placements to young adults over 16 who lived in supported accommodation; 11 young adults were placed outside of the Local Authority.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding the policy of contact time between infants who had been taken into care and parents, Julie Bragg responded to advise that there were different plans in place depending on the needs and requirements for individual cases; general contact was supervised visits for 1.5 – 2hrs per day, 5 days per week. Julie Bragg further explained that once the adoption process was in place the contact between parents and infants would be reduced.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding the number of children taken into care in Kirklees compared with statistical neighbours, Julie Bragg advised that a lot of different factors could have an impact on the numbers and confirmed that close scrutiny was undertaken in Kirklees of children taken into care via the Legal Gateway Panel, which was chaired by a Head of Service. The Panel was informed that parents could work with the Local Authority to make a claim for children to stay in their care and parents also had access to legal advice. Julie Bragg advised that she could confidently say that children coming into care in Kirklees was for the right reasons. Tom Brailsford advised that with regard to child protection planning, the Council was quality assuring the processes to ensure that children taken into care were regularly assessed. The Panel agreed

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 25 February 2021

to consider further information to a future meeting on the reason why Kirklees figures on the number of children in care was different to statistical neighbours.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Panel noted the report on Number of Children in Care and thanked Julie Bragg for her contributions.
2. That the Panel consider future information explaining the reasons for differences in numbers of children in care for Kirklees compared to statistical neighbours.

8 Update on Engagement of Family Hubs

The Panel considered a verbal report on the Early Help offer for children Young People and Families presented by Michelle Wheatcroft , Head of Service Early Support and CarolAnn Smith, Project officer, Children's Services. The Panel noted that a Cabinet report approved on the 15th December 2020 on Proposal for the early help offer for children, young people and families had been circulated with the agenda as background information.

Michelle Wheatcroft & CarolAnn Smith highlighted the following key issues:-

- Engagement with stakeholders had taken place for a period of 8 weeks from 4th January to the 26th February which included a generic online survey, online meetings with key partners, online public sessions, sessions with Councillors, engagement with schools and parents/carers and leaflets set to food and baby banks;
- 158 online surveys had been completed;
- 31 sessions had taken place with key partners, staff teams, third sector organisations, volunteers and foster carers had taken place;
- 250 stakeholders had engaged through online meetings;
- Online sessions had taken place with young people with an adapted survey; 72 young people completed the survey;
- 18 sessions had been held with Councillors from all 23 wards;
- The team attended Town/Parish council meetings;
- Emails were sent to all 4 MP's;
- 8 online public sessions had taken place;
- Information had been shared and promoted through social media channels;
- Leaflets were printed and shared with all main Kirklees food banks and Rainbow baby bank.

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

- How families in need would be identified and how support would be provided;
- Concerns were raised regarding the distance to the hubs for some families.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding the definition of the word 'hub' and asking if it could be renamed, Michelle Wheatcroft advised that this could be considered and that officers were open to suggestions from the Panel.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding early intervention and how families could be contacted as early as possible, Michelle Wheatcroft responded to advise that officers were working with colleagues in the voluntary sector organisations and health colleagues to raise awareness of the services and what

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 25 February 2021

was on offer to families. The Panel was informed that there was dedicated Children's Centres in place to provide the services and support to families. Michelle Wheatcroft further explained that conversations were ongoing in respect of how to start those early conversations and break down barriers.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding what was on offer for children at the Children's centres, Michelle Wheatcroft responded to advise that the centres would also be used as an admin area and other integrated services would be using the centres, such as adult learning. The Panel was advised that the Centres were not just about children but were about the whole family and that there would be services for children of all ages up to the age of 25.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding families travelling long distances to some of the Centres, Michelle Wheatcroft advised that this issue had already been raised at some of the engagement sessions and that locations for the Centres would be properly considered once all the feedback had been received from the engagement. The Panel was informed that local Councillors would be consulted as part of the engagement and that families would not be expected to travel long distances and that services needed to be accessible by all.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding prevention work with children around mental health and trauma and how this would be addressed by the family hubs, Michelle Wheatcroft advised that this was not specific in the plan and that she would take this back for further discussion.

The Panel were informed that the branding and naming of the family engagement hubs would be a key part of the work going forward.

In response to a question from the Panel asking that when the family engagement hubs were up and running could information be provided for families on how and when they could access all the services on offer, Carol-Ann Smith advised that this work would be undertaken and examples could be given of how the services could relate to families. The Panel was informed that the voice of the child would be taken into account and officers agreed to report back to the panel further on how this would be addressed.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Panel noted the verbal update on the Engagement of Family Hubs and thanked Michelle Wheatcroft and CarolAnn Smith.
2. The panel requested an update at a future meeting which would include details of the services that could be offered to a family of 4 where there were 2 workers and 2 children.
3. That the issue of prevention work around mental health and trauma experienced by children be built into the overall early help offer.
4. That information be provided for families on how and when they could access all the services on offer and that examples be given of how the services would relate to families.
5. The Panel agreed to receive a future update on how the voice of the child would be taken into account in the work of the engagement of family hubs.

9 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 a report on Educational Outcomes was scheduled for consideration at the Panel in April 2021.

The Panel considered items for consideration during the 2021/22 municipal year, as follows:-

- Educational outcomes – the Panel agreed to monitor the progress of how children in year 11 this year would be assessed or examined and how grades would be decided;
- Multi Systemic Therapies – the Panel agreed to consider a report on how many families had received treatment and how successful and cost effective it had been;
- Liquid Logic (tableau) – the Panel agreed to consider an update on how live information could be accessed on a daily basis and how this was being managed within the Children's Service;
- Visits - The Panel agreed to undertake some visits to internal and external teams and partners, including attending and observing meetings already scheduled;
- Voice of the child – the panel agreed to revisit this on an annual basis;
- SEND – the Panel agreed to consider a future report on how the recommendations of the report had been implemented including a progress update, and seek feedback from parents who had been consulted as part of the Adhoc Panel;
- Social Workers – the Panel agreed to visit Social Workers and their teams to undertake a temperature check of how they were getting on and seek feedback on whether they felt there was a professional pathway for them within the Council.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Work Programme and Agenda Plan for the 2020/21 municipal year be noted.
2. That the items for consideration during the 2021/22 municipal year be added to a draft work programme for consideration by the Panel at the Informal Meeting in June 2021.

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

Signed: Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Name of meeting: Children’s Scrutiny Panel
Date: 28 July 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 Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	NA
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	NA
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Elaine McShane 20.7.21 (on behalf of Mel Meggs) TBC
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.

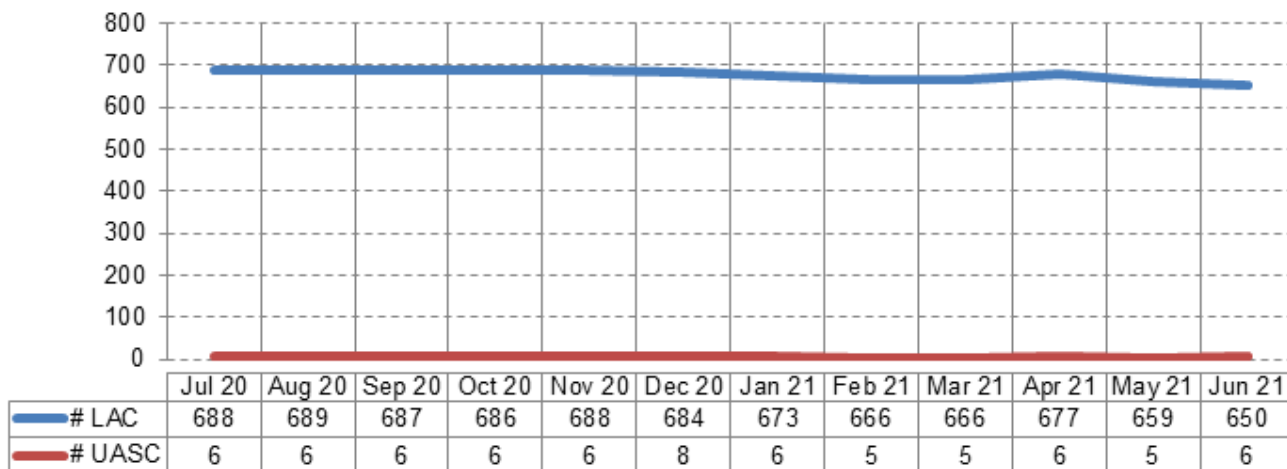
1. Summary

This graph shows the number of children in care (650 excluding any looked after children receiving only S20 short term breaks) alongside the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

The current number of CLA equates to a rate per 10,000 population aged 0-17 of 64.9. This compares to a statistical neighbour average of 92.2 and a national average of 67.0 based on published data for March 2020.

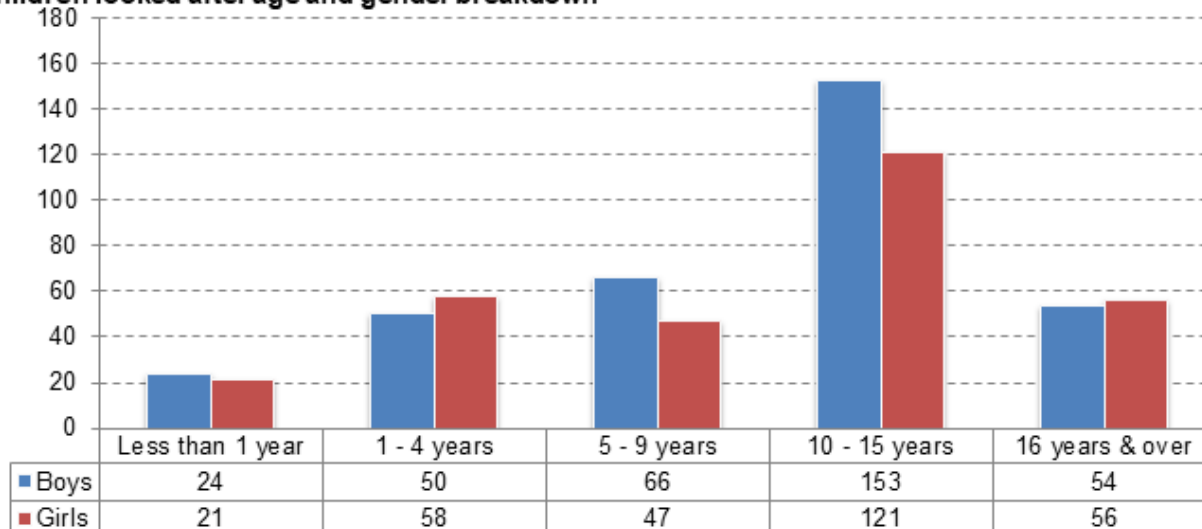
- Kirklees (Jun 21) = 64.9
- Statistical Neighbours (2020) = 92.2
- England (2020) = 67.0

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 153 children and the largest age group for girls is 10 - 15 years with 121 children.

Children looked after age and gender breakdown



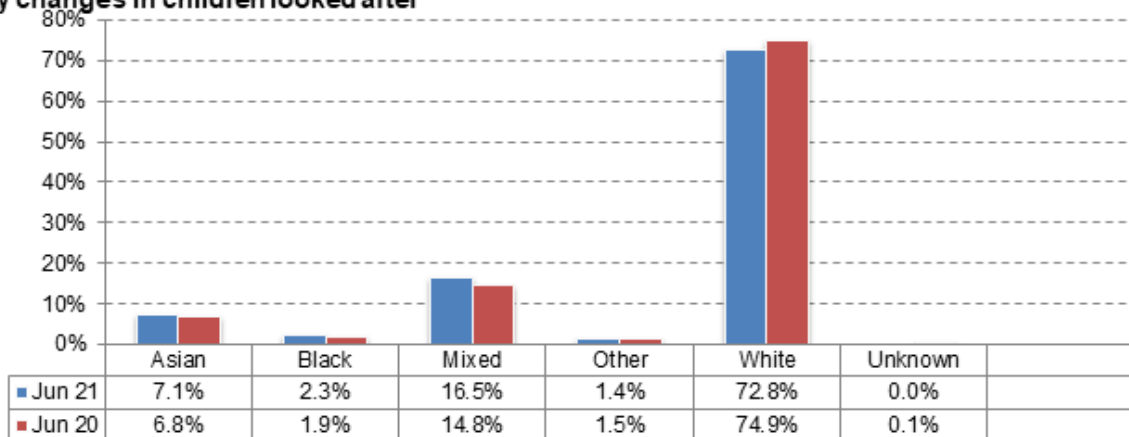
Statistical Neighbours

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

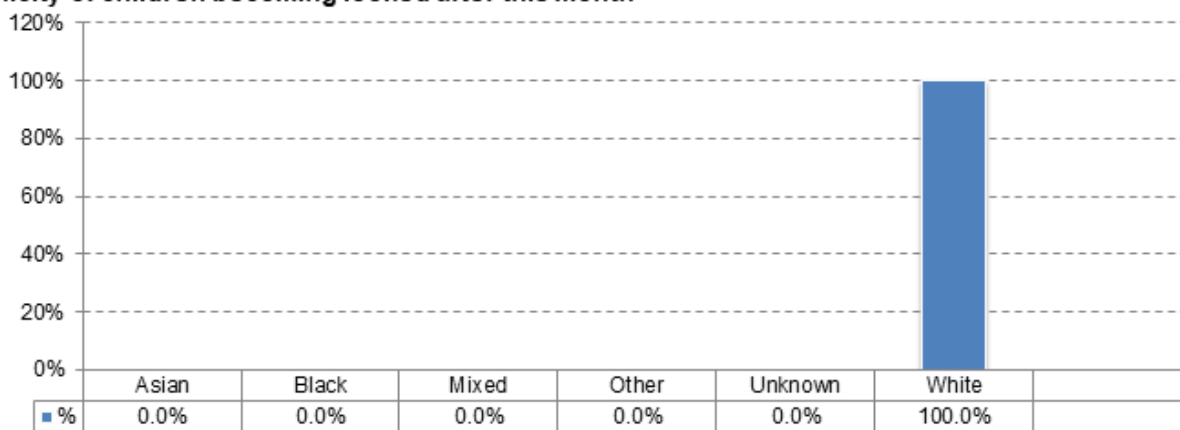
This graph shows the ethnic breakdown of the children looked after population at the end of June 2021 and the same point 12 months ago. There has been an increase in the percentage of CLA who are of Mixed ethnicity in this time period.

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 June 2021 there were 5 young people who were recorded as entering care in the month at the point of data extraction all of whom were of White 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 72 on 30/06/2021. This follows a continuum of decline from 127 in 2017. This equates to 11.1% of the total CLA 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:

	30/04/2021		31/05/2021		30/06/2021	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Placed outside Kirklees & over 20 miles from home address	73	10.8%	73	10.8%	72	11.1%

Semi Independent Accommodation aged 16 plus

On 30/06/2021 there were 22 young people accommodated in semi-independent accommodation, 16 within District and 6 of our young people placed outside of the Kirklees District as detailed in the following table:

Placements outside of Kirklees in semi-independent living accommodation (not subject to Children's Home regulations) - as at 30/06/2021			
LA of Placement	Aged 16	Aged 17	Total
Bradford		3	3
Calderdale	1	1	2
Liverpool		1	1
Total	1	5	6
Legal Status	Aged 16	Aged 17	Total
Full Care Order	1	1	2
S20 CA 1989 - Single Placement		4	4
Total	1	5	6

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

Ophelia Rix, 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)

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

MEMBERS: Cllr Andrew Marchington (Chair), Cllr Jackie Ramsay, Cllr Elizabeth Reynolds, Cllr Joshua Sheard, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Paul White, Linda Summers (Education Co-Optee), Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee), Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)

SUPPORT: Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager

<p>1. Review of the Improvement Journey</p>	<p>The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of Children's Services until they have achieved an 'excellent' Ofsted rating, including receiving regular updates on how this is being achieved.</p>	<p>(Lead Officer: Mel Meggs/Service Directors)</p>
<p>2. Educational Outcomes and Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy</p>	<p>Educational Outcomes</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the educational outcomes of looked after children and link this to the work ongoing in the Council on the Inequalities Commission; - impact of covid on educational attainment in particular on certain groups, eg gender– what can the Council do to improve this for children post pandemic and how can children be supported; - the Panel will consider a future report on Exam Results and outcomes with examples of practice and will monitor the progress of how children in year 11 would be assessed or examined in 2021 and how grades will be decided; - the longer-term effect of Covid on educational outcomes including the levels of family income and digital inclusion opportunities. <p>Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy</p> <p>The Panel were informed that a report was scheduled for Cabinet on 21st September 2021 prior to consultation with schools.</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closing the attainment gap which the Panel were informed would be a priority in the Strategy; 	<p>(Lead Officer: Jo Sanders/Emma Brayford/Chris Jessup)</p> <p>Informal Panel meeting on 28th July</p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on the Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy, focusing on the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the aims of the Strategy and how did you arrive at these? - What are you hoping to achieve? - How will you assess and measure that the aims are being/have been met? <p><u>Kirklees Futures meeting on the 29th June 2021</u> Panel Members were invited to attend and observe and will feedback to future meeting.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Panel understand that the Learning strategy will be focusing on early years groups and want to explore what difference this will make; - updates on the development of the Kirklees Council Education Futures and the proposed approach and timeline. 	
3. Wellbeing and Mental Health of Children and adolescents and multisystemic therapies (MSTs)	<p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the cost benefit of MST’s and the cost effectiveness of what has been implemented; - the prevention initiatives to solve the problems experienced by children in Kirklees with mental health; - mental health provision provided by the different teams and providers who support this work, including the links to educational outcomes and access to CAMHS; - how many families had received treatment and how successful and cost effective it had been; - The mental health of children in care in residential children’s homes. 	(Lead Officer: Tom Brailsford/Elaine McShane)
4. Number of children in care	<p>A standing item for each meeting containing details of how many children are in care, and particularly how many are placed out of area. **</p> <p>In addition to the standard reports, the Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the Lead Member would keep a watching brief on children in care under 1 year old; - information relating to the differences in the number of children in care within Kirklees compared with statistical neighbours; - The Panel will explore whether the Children’s Service have responsibility for homeless children on the register for accommodation who are at risk of malnutrition and are vulnerable 	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane/Ophelia Rix)
5. Youth Justice Panel (Services)	The Panel was informed that a report was scheduled for Cabinet on 31 st August 2021 and that comments in advance would be welcomed	(Lead Officers: Ian Mottershaw / Lisa Warnes/Elaine McShane)

<p>and Initiatives) and Anti-Social Behaviour</p>	<p>from the Panel. The Cabinet report will cover the plan for the next 12 months, the Council’s priorities on the focus of youth justice and children making their first offence.</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The effectiveness of the model following its introduction; - The key areas outlined in the Cabinet report; - 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). 	<p><u>Panel meeting on 28th July 2021</u> The Panel will consider a report on the Youth Justice Plan.</p>
<p>6. Partnership arrangements</p>	<p>The Panel will continue to scrutinise partnerships and boards during the 2021/22 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 last page)</p>	<p>(Lead Officers: Elaine McShane/Jo Sanders/Tom Brailsford)</p>
<p>7. Special Educational Needs and High Needs</p>	<p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a future report on how the recommendations of the SENDACT report has been implemented, including a progress update; - that the Panel seek feedback from parents (PECAN) who had been consulted as part of the Adhoc Panel on SENDACT. - SEND Transport – scrutiny of changes to new system (new item at request of Cllr Smaje/Cllr Mather) 	<p>(Lead Officer: Kelsey Clark-Davies/Jo-Anne Sanders)</p>
<p>8. Performance Information (Children’s Services)</p>	<p>The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support in the Informal meetings. **</p>	<p>(Lead Officers: Service Directors – reports produced by Sue Grigg and Andrew Wainwright from Performance Team)</p>
<p>9. Elective Home Education</p>	<p>The Panel was informed that a report would be considered by Cabinet on the 27th July 2021 on Elective Home Education Policy.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise –</p>	<p>(Lead Officer: Jo-Anne Sanders/Diane Yates/Kelsey Clark-Davies)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Panel noted that an increasing number of parents were opting out of mainstream education for their children and agreed to explore the reasons for this and seek feedback from the Youth Council of the views from young people who were being home educated. - The Panel will meet with parents who were involved in the Adhoc Panel on Elective Home Education to seek feedback from them on how well the Action Plan agreed at Cabinet in December 2020 has been progressed and implemented. 	
10. Fostering and Adoption	<p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise via the Corporate Parenting Board on the following and Panel Members will report back on key issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to open up fostering opportunities in terms of accommodation; - Barriers to recruitment and retention. 	
11. Voice of the Child	<p>The Panel agreed to keep a watching brief on all areas of scrutiny by the Panel and explore whether the voice of the child was being heard and lessons learned.</p>	(Lead Officers: M Meggs/J Sanders/E McShane/T Brailsford)
12. Representation by the Panel at meetings, events and visits to internal teams and external providers	<p>The Panel agreed to undertake visits to both internal teams and services and external providers as required to observe and scrutinise.</p> <p>The panel agreed to undertake visits to internal teams and external partners including attending and observing meetings already scheduled.</p>	<p>Corporate Parenting Board – Cllr Marchington (ex-officio) and Dale O’Neill would attend the meetings of the Board to provide scrutiny on behalf of the children’s scrutiny Panel and feedback to the Panel as appropriate.</p> <p>Liquid Logic/Tableau – the Panel will schedule a visit to the front door to see how the system works on a daily basis and how the data was being used to improve performance and manage services.</p> <p>Social Workers – the Panel will schedule a visit to Social Workers on the frontline to undertake a ‘temperature check’ of how they were getting on and seek feedback on whether they felt that there was a professional pathway for them within the Council.</p>

		Children's and Young People's Partnership Event on the 21st June 2021 – the Panel agreed to send representatives from the Panel to attend this event and report back to the Panel.
13. Engagement of Family Hubs	<p>The panel agreed to scrutinise/consider:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An update to include details of the services that could be offered to a family of 4 where there were 2 parents working with 2 children, along with examples from families of where this was working well. - that the issue of prevention work around mental health and trauma experienced by children be built into the overall early help offer. - that information be provided for families on how and when they could access all the services on offer and that examples be given of how the services would relate to families. - a future update on how the voice of the child would be taken into account in the work of the engagement of family hubs. 	(Lead Officers: Carol Ann Smith/Jackie Beever/ Jo Sanders)
Children in care under 1 year old	The Lead Member will keep a watching brief on children in care under 1 year old.	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)
Children transferred from Almondbury Community School	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)

Staying Put Policy	<p>The Panel were informed that a report was scheduled for Cabinet on the 27th July 2021 on the Staying Put Policy.</p> <p>The Lead Member agreed to keep a watching brief on the Staying Put Policy.</p>	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)
Petition – St John’s (CE) Junior School	<p>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.</p>	(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 to the Panel where appropriate but will act as a means of avoiding un-necessary duplication.

DRAFT

Children's Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Plan 2021/22

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
14th June 2021 Informal Meeting 11 am Virtual meeting	(with Panel and Officers) To consider main focus areas for Panel during 2021/22 municipal year.	Helen Kilroy
16th June 2021 Informal meeting 2pm Virtual meeting	(with Panel only) To agree and sign off priority areas of focus for Panel during 2021/22 municipal year.	Helen Kilroy
28 July 2021 1.15pm -2.15pm Informal meeting 2.15pm-3.45pm Public meeting Virtual Meeting Report deadline: 16th July 2021	<p style="text-align: center;">Informal items:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ambition Board Minutes (March & June 2021)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy (verbal presentation)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of Children in Care</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Youth Justice Plan (verbal presentation)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/E McShane to present</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jo Sanders/Emma Brayford/Chris Jessup</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E McShane/O Rix</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ian Mottershaw / Lisa Warnes/Elaine McShane</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>15 September 2021</p> <p>1.15pm -2.15pm Informal meeting</p> <p>2.15pm-3.45pm Public meeting</p> <p>Virtual Meeting</p> <p>Report deadline: 3rd Sept 2021</p>	<p>Informal items:</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care (to inc difference in nos of CIC compared to statistical neighbours)</p>	<p>J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>E McShane/O Rix</p>
<p>20th October 2021</p> <p>1.15pm -2.15pm Informal meeting</p> <p>2.15pm-3.45pm Public meeting</p> <p>Virtual Meeting</p> <p>Report deadline: 8th October 2021</p>	<p>Informal items:</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p>	<p>J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>E McShane</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>1st December 2021</p> <p>1.30pm -2.30pm Informal meeting 2.30pm- 3.30pm Public meeting</p> <p>Virtual Meeting</p> <p>Report deadline: 19th November 2021</p>	<p>Informal items:</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Ambition Board Minutes (Sept 21)</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p>	<p>J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>H Kilroy</p> <p>E McShane/O Rix</p>
<p>5th January 2022</p> <p>1.15pm-2.15pm Informal meeting 2.15pm-3.45pm Public meeting</p> <p>Virtual Meeting</p> <p>Report deadline: 21st December 2021</p>	<p>Informal Items</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p>	<p>J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>E McShane/O Rix</p>
<p>30th March 2022</p> <p>1.15pm-2.15pm Informal meeting 2.15pm-3.45pm Public meeting</p> <p>Virtual Meeting</p> <p>Report deadline: 18th March 2021</p>	<p>Informal Items</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Number of Children in Care</p>	<p>J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>E McShane/O Rix</p>

