

Public Document Pack



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

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Tuesday 7 September 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 15 September 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', on a light-colored background.

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.

2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 6

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28th July 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 14th September 2021.

7: Feedback from Panel Members on issues from Corporate Parenting Board

The Panel Members who attend Corporate Parenting Board will feedback to the rest of the panel of issues of relevance.

8: Update of Peer Review (Health Check) - Duty and Advice 9 - 12

The Panel will consider the outcome of the Kirklees Duty and Advice Service (Front Door) Peer Review for information.

Contact Officer: Elaine McShane, Service Director (Family Support and Child Protection)
Charlotte Watson, Head of Service (Children's Service)

9: Children's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2021-22 13 - 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

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday 28th July 2021

- Present: Councillor Andrew Marchington (Chair)
Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Paul White
Councillor Jackie Ramsay
- Co-optees Dale O'Neill
Linda Summers
- 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
Ophelia Rix, Head of Service (Children in Care, Children looked after and Care Leavers)
Chris Jessup, Head of Educational Outcomes
Phil Mark, Head of Post-16, Progression and Partnership
Emma Brayford, Acting Senior Kirklees Learning Partner, Learning and Early Support
- Observers: Cllr Viv Kendrick
Cllr Carol Pattison
- Apologies: Councillor Joshua Sheard
Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)

1 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Toni Bromley and Councillor Joshua Sheard.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on the 25th February 2021 were agreed as a correct record subject to the wording of paragraph 2 on page 4 which should read "The panel requested an update at a future meeting which would give a narrative to explain how and when a family of 4 (2 working parents and 2 school age

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 28 July 2021

children) on a minimum wage would be able to access help from the hubs when they needed it”.

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on the 25th February 2021 be agreed subject to the change to paragraph 2 page 4 which should read “The panel requested an update at a future meeting which would give a narrative to explain how and when a family of 4 (2 working parents and 2 school age children) on a minimum wage would be able to access help from the hubs when they needed it”.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

All items were considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were received from the public.

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

Ophelia Rix highlighted the following key issues:-

- The number of children in care since January 2020 had decreased and was now 650 (which excluded any looked after children receiving only Section 20 short term breaks) alongside the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Work had been undertaken to allow children to remain with families and there was a high number of children successfully living with connected.
- Special Guardianship Orders - there was a policy in place which provided financial support and practical support to family and friends and had a positive impact for connected families;
- The largest age group for boys in care was 10-15 years with 153 children and the largest age group for girls was 10-15 years with 121 children;
- Ethnicity changes – there had been an increase in the percentage split from June 2021 and the same point 12 months ago.
- 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;
- There were 72 children placed more than 20 miles outside Kirklees – there had been a decline in the number placed outside Kirklees since 2017; The majority of Kirklees children and young people placed out of area were placed in foster care, the remainder were placed in children’s homes, semi-

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 28 July 2021

independent homes, a small number in youth custody or other specialist settings;

- Kirklees provided 18 placements to young adults over 16 who lived in supported accommodation; 6 young adults were placed outside of the Local Authority.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding infants taken into care and how that compared with other Local Authorities, Elaine McShane, Service Director, Family Support and Child Protection advised that the information would be provided in a future meeting and that Kirklees had a 26-week decision making period which included a second review at 3 months. The decision making would comprise either the child being returned to parents, allocated with a foster carer, or put up for adoption

In response to a question from the Panel regarding the reduced number of children taken into care in Kirklees compared with statistical neighbours, Ophelia Rix advised that the offer from other Local Authorities was around financial support and did not include early support which allowed Kirklees to plan with families and parents to allow children to remain with families. Elaine McShane advised that work had been completed across West Yorkshire regarding Special Guardianship Orders which included financial and practical support.

In response to a question from the panel regarding semi independent accommodation, Tom Brailsford, Service Director (Resources, Improvement and partnerships) advised that this type of accommodation was for over 16's and if was a supportive environment where young people came for independence. The Panel was informed that semi-independent accommodation was not regulated by Ofsted. Elaine McShane further explained that whilst in semi-independent accommodation the young person was able to work with different providers to gain support and guidance, this could be a bespoke package for an individual or could be to seek help and support on housing options.

In response to a question from the panel on ethnicity changes in looked after children and if it reflected the child population in Kirklees, Ophelia Rix advised that further work would be required and could be presented at the next scrutiny panel.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report on Number of Children in Care be noted and the panel thanked Ophelia Rix 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.
3. That further information be submitted to the next scrutiny panel relating to ethnicity changes in Looked after Children and how it was reflected in the child population in Kirklees.
4. That further information be submitted to a future Panel relating to children under 1 and how that compared with other Local Authorities.

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 28 July 2021

The Panel considered a verbal update on the Youth Justice Plan presented by Ian Mottershaw, Head of Service, Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Engagement Service relating to the Youth Justice plan 2021-2025.

Ian Mottershaw outlined the following key points –

- the Youth Justice plan was currently on route to Lead Members and Cabinet which outlined the ambition and intention in taking the Youth Justice Service forward.
- The purpose of the plan was to provide an overview of the service, annual performance and priorities for the next 4 years.
- The priorities were to reduce the number of first time entrants, reduce re offending, reduce the use of custody, improve participation of Children and Families to develop approaches and desistance, tackle disproportionality and reduce serious youth violence.
- The way in which the priorities would be approached would be through People, Partners and Places. Disproportionality was a priority within the plan and tackling inequalities was a theme through the entirety of the plan.
- The plan was created and aligned with the wider council priorities and plans with reference to Vision, Approach and Values.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding how the priorities for the next 4 years were different from before and how the longer term differed, Ian Mottershaw responded to advise that this was now a long-term vision whereas before they were annual plans, the longer-term vision was less reactionary and more sustainable. The Panel was informed that the longer-term vision dovetailed with the Youth Engagement Service to work around young people that were pre and post criminal space and the principles and ambitions did not change.

In response to a question regarding one of the objective tackling disproportionalities, Ian Mottershaw responded to advise that disproportionality was the disadvantage, the inequalities, plus the ethnicity and the demographics of the community who were getting involved in criminal justice and who received the services. Tom Brailsford, Service Director, Resources, Improvement and partnerships advised there were a number of groups that were over-represented within the Youth Justice Service, for example, children and young people with learning difficulties and mental health. The Panel was informed that children and young people often had speech and language therapy needs which were occasionally overrepresented and that there were a number of inequalities which were being addressed.

RESOLVED-

1. That the Panel noted the verbal update on the Youth Justice Service and thanked Ian Mottershaw for his contributions.
2. That the Panel would revisit the Youth Offending Team to follow up on their previous visit made in 2020.

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

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

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 28 July 2021

Cllr Marchington advised that he had a meeting with Cllrs Kendrick and Pattison to consider their Cabinet priorities. A number of priorities were hi-lighted, as follows:-

- Development of Family hubs - The Panel agreed to consider information around families and children's engagement with the hubs and feedback from Councillors who were involved with the hubs;
- Multi Systemic Therapies - The Panel agreed to consider an update around the new children's home which had a link to Multi Systemic Therapies;
- 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;
- Relationship with Academies and Multi academy trusts – the Panel agreed to consider a report on relationships with Academies and Multi Academy Trusts and consider how the panel could influence the work they do to improve educational outcomes.

Cllr Marchington advised that he had attended the Futures Expert Strategy Group on the 30th June 2021 which received very positive engagement from school leaders and officers. It was confirmed at the meeting that all information had been investigated and that they had found that no children were at risk.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Work Programme and Agenda Plan for the 2021/22 municipal year be noted and updated as agreed.

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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: 15th September 2021

Title of report: Update of Peer Review (Health Check) – Duty and Advice

Purpose of report: To share for information, the outcome of the Kirklees Duty and Advice Service (Front Door) Peer Review

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?	Not Applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name	Elaine McShane on behalf of Mel Meggs 3/9/21
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	N/A
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr V Kendrick

Electoral wards affected: All
Ward councillors consulted: No
Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered?

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

1 Summary

As part of the sector led improvement Kirklees underwent a Front Door health Check in May 2021. The front door health check is a recognised contribution to the improvement through conversations, direct observation, dip sampling cases, auditing, and reviewing of performance data, to the self-assessment in relation to:

- Effectiveness of Thresholds; Consent; Step Up/ Step Down
- Effectiveness of decision making and management oversight
- The quality of assessments (screening)
- Strength of partnership contribution
- Effectiveness of Quality Assurance (through audit analysis)

Over two days the team of five reviewers met with leaders, practitioners, and partners. This was supplemented with an audit of approx. 40 cases.

The review identified areas of strength and areas for consideration

Key areas of strength identified were.

The pace of improvement, ambition for children, young people and families is shared across services.

The Team reported the practitioners they met presented as highly confident and motivated with a sense of pride about working in Kirklees Front Door.

The Reviewer Team commented upon there being great cohesion in the vision, and this is led by strategic leaders but understood by all including partners. The partner relationship is a real strength, they understand fully the governance system; partners are fully engaged and there is great trust in the partnership arrangements.

The Team observed a strong sense of team with transparent collegial leadership and social workers talked of a visible senior leadership team with excellent support.

The Team shared that they heard about and saw strong political support and investment in the Front Door and noted that it is well resourced and the range of support services sitting in the front door is impressive and further evidences the strong strategic and political support in Kirklees.

Practitioners presented as highly confident and motivated, with an evident sense of pride about working in the Kirklees “Front Door” and linked services. The confidence and enthusiasm in those practitioners shone through and they left the Review Team with a strong sense of shared vision and commitment to the children, young people and families in Kirklees.

Evidence of good morale and that staff felt supported and valued with workers reporting they felt “cared about”.

The practice model is understood and owned by practitioners and partners, there is a strong confidence in the model, the ethos is embedded of having conversations at the right time leading to the right interventions

Management oversight and challenge was evident on cases and the Managers rationale is well recorded

Good quality supervision including reflective supervision was seen on some cases

Re-referral rate has been consistently managed

Screening of information in the cases seen was of good quality and well written

There are “checks and balances” in the system through the various panel meetings exploring outcomes and appropriate interventions

The Front Door managers and staff provide training to uniform police officers, education safeguarding officers on the role of the front door and this will be rolled out to health colleagues

Key Areas for consideration were.

To ensure consent is always sought before checks are undertaken, and that professionals understand consent fully.

Check whether feedback to the referrer is consistently applied.

Consider how daily performance management is proactive in timeliness for contacts to ensure proactive oversight of contacts to prevent delay.

Ensure that fathers are consistently included in the screening stage of contacts.

Overall, the Review Team stated that they saw evidence of a strong and effective Kirklees Front Door.

2. Information required to take a decision

Not applicable – Report is for information only.

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

A strong and effective Front Door means that children, young people and families are offered help when needs and/or concerns are first identified. Professionals identify children and young people in need of help and protection which results in children and families receiving effective, proportionate, and timely interventions, which improve their situation.

3.6 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions.

Not Applicable

4 Next steps and timelines

The Front Door has a weekly Referral Review meeting and the areas for consideration will be woven into this meeting to ensure ongoing quality assurance and timeliness of contacts is improving. Additionally, practice learning days take place monthly where these areas are considered and actioned by managers and staff.

5 Officer recommendations and reasons

That the report be noted.

6 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not Applicable

7 Contact officer

Charlotte Jackson Head of Service Front Door and Assessment and Intervention

8 Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not Applicable

9 Service Director responsible

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

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

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
<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>Informal meeting on 1st September 2021 The Panel considered a copy of the Front Door Peer Review feedback letter from the ADCS for information.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 15th September 2021 The Panel will consider an update on the Peer Review – Front Door.</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/assessments and outcomes with examples of good practice and monitor the progress of how children in year 11 will be assessed in 2021 and how grades will be decided; 	<p>(Lead Officer: Jo Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford/Chris Jessup/Phil Mark)</p> <p>Futures Expert Strategy Group on 30th June 2021 Panel Members were invited to attend and observe and will feedback to future meeting. The Chair had attended the Futures Expert Strategy Group is next week on Wednesday 30th June and reported that there had been very positive engagement from school leaders and officers at the meeting. The Panel was informed that it was confirmed at the session that all information had been investigated and that they had found that no children were at risk.</p> <p>Informal Panel meeting on 28th July The Panel considered an update on the Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy, focusing on the aims of the Strategy and how these were arrived at, what will be achieved and how will the aims be met and assessed and measured. The Panel agreed to submit questions of any further information they wished to</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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; - 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; - Relationships with Academies and Multi-Academy Trusts, eg admission policies, number of school places available and how impacting maintained schools nearby. 	<p>scrutinise and the Lead Member agreed to keep a watching brief on the Learning Strategy and its development.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider Relationships with Academies and Multi-Academy Trusts to look at educational outcomes for children and young people, admission policies, number of school places available and how impacting on maintained schools.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 30th March 2022</p> <p>The Panel will consider a report on educational outcomes including information on youngsters not in education, employment or training and pathways to transition to next phase of education (KS4 and KS5)</p> <p>Chair of Panel to report back to future meetings on issues of relevance considered by the Quality Assurance Panel.</p> <p>That a representation from the Panel be invited to attend the Launch of the Learning Strategy and other relevant meetings.</p>
<p>3. Multisystemic therapies (MSTs)</p> <p>Wellbeing and Mental Health of</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise/ consider the following on MSTs –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the cost benefit of MST’s and the cost effectiveness of what has been implemented; <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider the following in relation to the wellbeing and mental health of children and young people -</p>	<p>(Lead Officer: Tom Brailsford/Elaine McShane)</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
Children and adolescents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	
4. Number of children in care	<p>The Panel will continue to scrutinise/consider via the Corporate Parenting Board and Lead Member Briefings –</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 	<p>(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane/Ophelia Rix)</p> <p>Members of the Panel who attend the Corporate Parenting Board will ask questions through the Chair of the Board in relation to performance information and report back on any issues to the Children's Scrutiny Panel.</p>
5. Youth Justice Plan (Services and Initiatives) and Anti-Social Behaviour	<p>The Panel was informed that a report was scheduled for Cabinet on 31st August 2021 and that comments in advance would be welcomed 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; 	<p>(Lead Officers: Ian Mottershaw / Lisa Warnes/Elaine McShane)</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 28th July 2021</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a verbal update on the Youth Justice Plan.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to visit the Youth Engagement Service during the 2021/22 municipal year.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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). 	
6. Partnership arrangements	<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, visits to internal teams and partners and the Panel will look at how data was collected and used to improve outcomes.</p> <p>*** (see last page)</p>	(Lead Officers: Elaine McShane/Jo Sanders/Tom Brailsford)
7. Special Educational Needs and High Needs	<p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a future report on how the recommendations of the SENDACT report to Cabinet on 25th February 2019 has been implemented, including a progress update; - that the Panel seek feedback from parents (PCAN) who had been consulted as part of the Adhoc Panel on SENDACT. - SEND Transport Scheme – Travel Assessment Unit – scrutiny of procedural changes to different ways to transport children to school (new item at request of Cllr Smaje/Cllr Mather) – Cllr Mather to explore further and confirm if wishes to raise with Scrutiny 	<p>(Lead Officer: Kelsey Clark-Davies/Paul Harris/Jo-Anne Sanders)</p> <p>Panel Meeting on 5th January 2022</p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on the SEND Peer Review.</p> <p>The Panel be invited to attend the SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group in either September or October and report back to the Panel.</p> <p>The Panel meet with the Local Offer Team to discuss the inclusive support offer for SEND professionals.</p>
8. Performance Information (Children’s Services)	<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>	(Lead Officers: Jo-Anne Sanders/Elaine McShane/Tom Brailsford – supported by Lucy Tiffany)
9. Elective Home Education	<p>The Panel was informed that a report would be considered by Cabinet in September 2021 on Elective Home Education Policy.</p>	(Lead Officer: Jo-Anne Sanders/Diane Yates/Kelsey Clark-Davies)

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise –</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. - The Panel will consider an update on progress against the recommendations in the Adhoc Panel report on Elective Home Education that was agreed by Cabinet in December 2020. 	<p>The Chair will consider the report to Cabinet in September 2021 and discuss key issues with Panel.</p>
<p>10. Fostering and Adoption</p>	<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. 	
<p>11. Voice of the Child</p>	<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>	<p>(Lead Officers: M Meggs/J Sanders/E McShane/T Brailsford)</p>
<p>12. Representation by the Panel at meetings, events</p>	<p>The Panel agreed to undertake visits to both internal teams and services and external providers as required to observe and scrutinise.</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>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
<p>and visits to internal teams and external providers</p>	<p>The panel agreed to undertake visits to internal teams and external partners including attending and observing meetings already scheduled.</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> <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.</p>
<p>13. Engagement of Family Hubs</p>	<p>The panel agreed to scrutinise/consider:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A narrative to explain how and when a family of 4 (2 working parents and 2 school age children) on a minimum wage would be able to access help from the hubs when they needed it; to include examples of where families and Councillors were engaging with the hubs and where this was working well. - An explanation of how family hubs had been modelled and framed in terms of who would access the hubs most and at what times, eg people who work during the day and how activities and services would be planned and publicised. - that the issue of prevention work around mental health and trauma experienced by children be built into the overall early help offer. 	<p>(Lead Officers: Michelle Wheatcroft/Jackie Beever/ Jo Sanders)</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 28th July 2021</u> The Panel agreed to revise the areas of focus for scrutiny as outlined in “approach/areas of focus” column.</p> <p>The Panel had asked to be invited to any sessions set up at Family Hubs for Councillors to give an update on the progress of the implementation.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 Member Briefings

(Bi-monthly LM Briefings with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children’s; and Mel Meggs/Elaine McShane, Tom Brailsford and Jo-Anne Sanders during 21/22) – Actions from these meetings will be included within the Panel’s Work Programme where appropriate

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	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	<p>(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)</p> <p>The petition did not reveal anything material that was not revealed in the non-statutory consultation which had already been undertaken in the lead up to the September 2020 cabinet report. This report made clear the right of the Governing Body of St. John’s CE(VC) Infant school, with approval from the Diocese, to publish their own statutory</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	brief with regard to the issues raised within the petition from a scrutiny perspective.	proposals. They exercised this right on 29 April 2021. This triggered an LA decision making process (as the LA remained the decision maker) which led to a cabinet decision on 27 July 2021. Link to the recent cabinet report and decision (item 14): https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MIId=6729&Ver=4 The Governing Body or Diocese now have the right to appeal the decision made by cabinet to the Schools Adjudicator, should they wish.

** 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.

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 Virtual Meeting</p> <p>Report deadline: 3rd Sept 2021</p>	<p>Informal items:</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>Update of Peer Review (Health Check) – Duty and Advice</p>	<p>T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>Charlotte Jackson</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>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>Elective Home Education – progress update on Recommendations of Adhoc Panel Action Plan (to be confirmed)</p>	<p>T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>Diane Yates/Jo Sanders</p>
<p>1st December 2021</p> <p>1.30pm -2.30pm Informal meeting</p> <p>2.30pm- 3.30pm Public meeting</p> <p>Virtual Meeting</p>	<p>Informal items:</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Ambition Board Minutes (Sept 21)</p> <p>Public Items:</p>	<p>T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
Report deadline 19.11.21	Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board	Panel Members
5th January 2022 1.15pm-2.15pm Informal meeting 2.15pm-3.15pm Public meeting Virtual Meeting Report deadline: 21 st December 2021	<p style="text-align: center;">Informal Items</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SEND Peer Review - outcome</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panel Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kelsey Clark-Davies/Paul Harris</p>
30th March 2022 1.15pm-2.15pm Informal meeting 2.15pm-3.45pm Public meeting Virtual Meeting Report deadline: 18 th March 2021	<p style="text-align: center;">Informal Items</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Educational Outcomes – update</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panel Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Emma Brayford/Phil Mark/ Chris Jessup</p>

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