

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 23 November 2021

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Children's Scrutiny Panel

The **Children's Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **2.30 pm** on **Wednesday 1 December 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 - 4

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th October 2021.

3: Interests

5 - 6

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

4: Admission of the Public

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

5: Deputations/Petitions

The Committee will receive any petitions and hear any deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also hand in a petition at the meeting but that petition should relate to something on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10 (2), Members of the Public should provide at least 24 hours' notice of presenting a deputation.

6: Public Question Time

The Board will hear any questions from the general public.

7: Elective Home Education - progress update on Recommendations of Ad Hoc Panel Action Plan 7 - 14

The Panel will consider a progress update on the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel's Action Plan recommendations for Elective Home Education.

Contact: Diane Yates, Acting Portfolio Manager (Education Safeguarding Service)

8: Outcome of Ofsted inspection of Children's Services 15 - 18

The Panel will consider an update on the Outcome of the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services undertaken in October 2021.

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

9: Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board

Panel Members who attend Corporate Parenting Board will feedback on issues considered by the Board.

10: Children's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2021-22 19 - 38

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

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager

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Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday 20th October 2021

- Present: Councillor Andrew Marchington (Chair)
Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Paul White
Councillor Jackie Ramsay
- Co-optees Toni Bromley
Dale O'Neill
Linda Summers
- In attendance: Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director, Learning and Early Support
Elaine McShane, Service Director, Family Support and Child Protection
Diane Yates, Elective Home Education Lead
- Observers: Cllr Viv Kendrick
Cllr Carol Pattison
- Apologies: Councillor Joshua Sheard

- 1 Membership of the Committee**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Joshua Sheard.
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
The minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on the 15th September 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 **New Elective Home Education Policy**

The Panel considered a Cabinet report proposing the adoption of a New Elective Home Education Policy presented by Diane Yates, Acting Portfolio Manager (Education Safeguarding Service, Learning and Early Support). Following findings from the Ad Hoc Scrutiny review in March 2020, the Children's Scrutiny Panel had made several recommendations including the need for a new Kirklees Elective Home Education Policy, rather than a refresh of the existing policy.

Diane Yates, Elective Home Education Lead, highlighted that the new policy was approved by Cabinet on 5th October 2021 which included the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Scrutiny review and was compatible with April 2019, Department for Education, Elective Home Education guidance for Local Authorities. In addition to the new policy an 'Informed for Parents' guide and 'Flexi-Schooling' guidance had been produced.

In response to a question from the Panel on the percentage of children who chose to be electively home educated, how many were using the flexi-school option and if there was a difference in percentage that had special educational needs and disabilities, Jo-Anne Sanders advised that analysis data had not been provided and would like to be given the opportunity to provide the analysis at a future meeting.

In response to a question regarding mental health and assessment of education Diane Yates responded to advise that all children were treated individually with their needs taken into consideration. Diane Yates explained that there were some children that had been taken out of school due to Mental Health and for some children it had reduced anxiety. There were families where their children had suffered with mental health difficulties and whilst being at home their anxieties had reduced, they would like to consider returning to education in the future.

In response to a question regarding availability of Exam Centres, Diane Yates responded to advise that it was difficult for parents to access a local provision to sit exams. There was a variety of considerations to be looked at around accessibility and different exam boards for different schools. The Panel was informed that Kirklees Council were in negotiations with a Kirklees provider and anticipated an offer being in place by the end of the year.

In response to a question regarding parent's legal responsibilities and how the Authority ensured that parental responsibilities were being met, Diane Yates responded to advise that the Local Authority's legal duties were to act as if it appeared an elective home provision was not suitable and the Local Authority had a duty to maintain contact with families, which was minimally once a year.

Resolved:

- That the Panel noted the report on Elective Home Education and thanked Diane Yates for her contributions.
- That an update on the Elective Home Education Policy and analysis on percentages of families who had chosen to Elective Home Educate be brought back to the Panel in December 2021.

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

The Panel received an update from the last Corporate Parenting Board from members of the Panel who had attended the last meeting. It was noted that compared with statistical neighbours, Kirklees had significantly fewer looked after children. Work had taken place around what Kirklees had done differently and it had been highlighted that Special Guardianship Orders were being utilised and worked effectively. Feedback was also provided on fostering and adoption around recruitment and retention of foster carers. Kirklees has good foster care placements locally for children's stability.

The Panel received an update on face-to-face visits that had taken place at the Valleys Social Work Cluster, Front Door team in Civic Centre 3 and the virtual Front Door weekly referral meeting. The Panel received good examples of partnership working, voice of the child, data collection, good practice and professional development. Further Scrutiny visits had been arranged for November 2021, December 2021 and January 2022 and the work programme had been updated with the details.

A number of Panel Members attended the Front Door Weekly Referral meeting on the 11th October 2021 and gave feedback. It was noted that the Panel saw some good examples of partnership working, where representatives from the Police, Education and Health along with children's services teams worked together to review cases by dip sampling. The Panel were informed that there had been good examples of referrals received from Schools, GP's, ambulance service and NSPCC which showed a wide range of organisations were engaging with the Front Door service. Data analysis was provided which looked at weekly data and showed how that compared week on week to the previous week along with deep dives into individual cases whilst at the same time, capturing the voice of the child.

The Panel received an update on the information session for Kirklees Families Together Programme. Invites had been sent to all Kirklees Councillors and also the co-optees of the Children's Scrutiny Panel for the events which took place in October and November 2021. The sessions had discussed the structuring of the programme and establishing partnership boards. There were 4 geographical areas, each to have their own families together Area Partnership Board. The Panel agreed to add Kirklees Families Together Programme to the work programme to look at how the Boards were established and how effectively they were working.

RESOLVED:-

- That the work programme and Agenda Plan for the 2020/21 municipal year be noted and updated.
- That the Panel add Kirklees Families Together Programme to their work programme for 2021/22 and look at how the Area Partnership Boards in the 4 geographical areas were established and how effectively they were working.

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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: 1st December 2021

Title of report: Elective Home Education – progress update on Recommendations of Ad Hoc Panel Action Plan

Purpose of report: To provide a progress update on the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel’s Action Plan recommendations for Elective Home Education.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Key Decision – No Private Report/Private Appendix – No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Date signed off by <u>Service Director</u> & name	Jo-Anne Sanders – 18.11.2021
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 Carole Pattison - Cabinet lead for Learning, Aspiration and Communities Cllr Viv Kendrick - Cabinet lead for Children (statutory responsibility for Children)

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? There are no GDPR implications arising from the report.

1. Summary

In November 2017, the Children's Scrutiny Panel considered a report on elective home education. This was submitted against a background of increasing numbers of home educated children in Kirklees; a trend which was replicated in both neighbouring authorities and nationally.

The report provided background information, including an overview of the legislative framework and the current practice in Kirklees, and explained that the rights of parents that had chosen to home educate their children were fully respected. It recognised that there were many excellent examples of home education and acknowledged that learning took place in a wide variety of environments. The report explained that there was a strong commitment within Kirklees to support children, young people and their families who had chosen to home educate.

Further to the agreement of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, an Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Panel was formed, with the Terms of Reference set out below:

To scrutinise Elective Home Education in Kirklees, with a particular focus on;

- Developing an understanding of why some parents and carers choose to home educate, and for how long children are typically home educated for.
- Scrutinising the Local Authority's responsibilities for home educated children.
- Scrutinising how the Local Authority identifies, supports and ensures the safety and wellbeing of electively home educated children.
- Scrutinising elective home educated children's progression onto further education and employment and the outcomes achieved at Key Stage 4 & 5.

2. Information required to take a decision

In March 2020, following its findings from the Ad Hoc Scrutiny review, the Children's Scrutiny Panel made the following recommendations:

1. A new Kirklees Policy on Elective Home Education is produced.
2. Consideration is given to the implementation of a dedicated Elective Home Education Team.
3. That direct dedicated phone number and email address be provided in respect of elective home education.
4. A new form for schools to complete when taking a child off roll be implemented.
5. The Council's website relating to Elective Home Education be updated and improved.
6. The possibilities for the provision of at least one centre where home educated students can sit exams be explored.

7. That the options for alternative provision particularly in respect of the Key Stage 4 cohort be investigated.

A progress update on the recommendations is provided in Appendix A of this document.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The Ad Hoc Panel consulted with parents of children who are electively home educated and listened to their views on improving relationships by having approachable, knowledgeable, and non-judgemental officers who were able to advise on all aspects of elective home education. The council is keen to work with parents to develop positive and productive relationships with families who home educate their children and are committed to providing a high-quality service.

3.2 Working with Partners

The Elective Home Education (EHE) team has developed close working relationships with schools and partner agencies. A Multi-agency approach is provided to families who may need support.

3.3 Place Based Working

Families who electively home educate live in all communities within Kirklees. The EHE Team can support individual families based on their needs in line with the EHE policy.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

There will be no negative impact on the Council's commitment to tackle climate change.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The seven recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Panel are helping to shape and improve the council's Elective Home Education offer.

3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

The Local Authority SEND Transformation Plan is currently underway; this includes a work strand on EHE. Proposals and business cases will be developed as part of this process.

4. Next steps and timelines

To continue to work on the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Panel and implement outstanding actions.

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

To continue to progress and implement any outstanding recommendations from the Action Plan.

6. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Portfolio Holder's have previously supported the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel and now welcome the update on actions taken to date.

7. Contact officer

Diane Yates, Elective Home Education Lead
01484 221919: diane.yates@kirklees.gov.uk

8. Background Papers and History of Decisions

[Item 11 Final Report to Cabinet.pdf \(kirklees.gov.uk\)](#)

9. Service Director responsible

Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director - Learning and Early Support, Learning and Skills

Appendix A

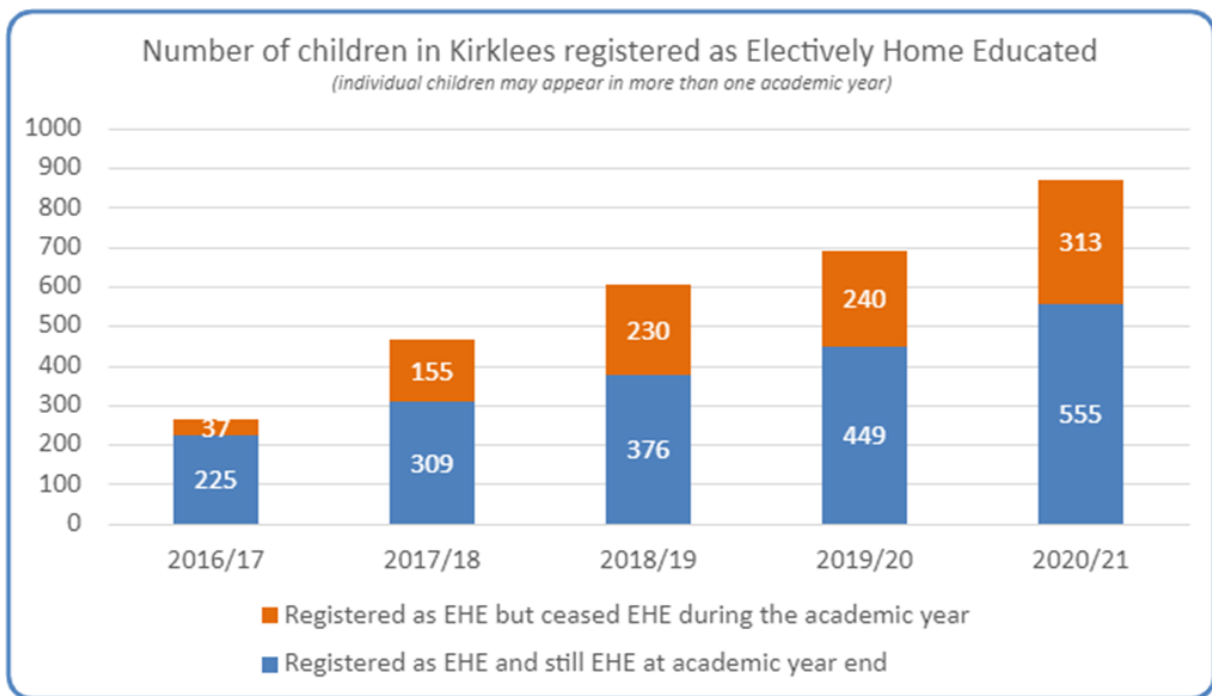
Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel – Elective Home Education Action Plan Recommendations 1st December 2021

Background:

The numbers of children becoming electively home educated are continuing to increase in Kirklees; this is in line with neighbouring Local Authorities and mirrors the national trend.

The numbers of children being home educated fluctuate throughout the year; some parents choose to home educate as a temporary measure whilst waiting for a place to become available at their preferred school. Some parents decided to temporarily elect home education because of Covid-19, many of these children have now returned to formal education.

The following graph shows the numbers of electively home educated children over the past 5 academic years:



2021/2022 academic year (1.9.2021 – 10.11.2021)

- 489 current open EHE
- 101 ceased EHE
- 590 Total

There are currently 489 children being home educated in Kirklees which equates to 0.7% of the school population as a whole. Again, this mirrors the national trend.

Action Plan Update:

No.	Recommendation	Update
1.	New Kirklees Policy on Elective Home Education to be produced, in consultation with home educators, at the earliest possible opportunity.	The new EHE policy, Information for Parents and Flexi-schooling guidance documents were approved by the cabinet on the 5 th October 2021. The policy has now been adopted.
2.	Consider the implementation of a dedicated Elective Home Education Team, including a qualified teacher, with dedicated budget provision sufficient to implement the policy effectively and consistently.	<p>As part of the Local Authority SEND transformation plan, we are reviewing systems, processes and roles across the wider service, including those relating to elective home education.</p> <p>In the interim, a dedicated team has been formed.</p> <p>The inclusion of a qualified teacher has been considered. Although there may be a need to have a qualified teacher assessment in situations where the legal process is being followed, these occasions are rare and therefore, this could be managed on an ad-hoc basis with the support of Kirklees Supply Service.</p>
3.	Provide a direct dedicated phone number and email address.	<p>A dedicated mailbox is now in place; EHETeam@kirklees.gov.uk – the introduction of the mailbox has been beneficial in streamlining communication and improving accessibility to the EHE team.</p> <p>The EHE team currently sits within the Education Safeguarding Service which has a dedicated telephone number allowing direct access to the EHE team for parents and professionals. We are exploring the possibility of an automated service that will enable the caller to link directly to the EHE team.</p>
4.	Implement a new form for schools to complete when taking a child off roll, for submission to the EHE Team within a short timescale.	<p>The purpose of introducing a new form for schools to complete is to ensure all relevant information is shared.</p> <p>New ways of working have now been introduced. The process includes telephone contact directly with schools upon receipt of all new EHE notifications.</p> <p>The contact with schools enables us to advise schools on the correct procedures they need to follow. It also allows us to gather relevant background information about the child. For example, information around any special educational needs, any ongoing plans in place etc.</p> <p>The introduction of this measure has been well received by schools, their feedback shows they find having a conversation with the EHE team reassuring, it provides a</p>

		<p>handover opportunity as well as checking all the correct procedures have been followed.</p> <p>The EHE team have found the school contact to be particularly useful in helping to identify and prioritise families that may need support.</p>
5.	Update and improve the relevant section of the Council's website.	Work to update and improve the EHE website is currently taking place. It will cover all the Panel's recommendations and is due to go live by the end of 2021.
6.	That the possibilities for the provision of at least one centre where home educated students can sit exams be explored, preferably one for North Kirklees and one for South Kirklees.	<p>Two independent provisions are now offering exam facilities to private candidates in North Kirklees, one of which is specifically for female students.</p> <p>We are continuing to explore other options.</p>
7.	That the options for alternative provision particularly in respect of the Key Stage 4 cohort be investigated.	<p>We have worked in partnership with Kirklees College to look at Early Access to College opportunities. A pilot started in September 2021 for a small number of children who are home educated to access 14-16 provision in South Kirklees.</p> <p>The plan is to evaluate the pilot at the end of this academic year and be in a position to offer a programme to more children who are home educated in North and South Kirklees.</p>

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10 November 2021

Mel Meggs
Strategic Director Children and Families
Directorate for Children and Young People
Civic Centre
1 High Street
Kirklees
HD1 2NF

Dear Mel Meggs

Focused visit to Kirklees children's services

This letter summarises the findings of the focused visit to Kirklees children's services on 6 and 7 October 2021. Her Majesty's Inspectors for this visit were Vicky Metheringham and Rachel Holden.

Inspectors looked at the local authority's arrangements for the experiences of children in care and, in particular, the quality of matching, placement and decision-making for children in care. They also looked at the quality of management oversight, and whether performance management information and quality assurance activities provide managers with an accurate view of social work practice to help senior leaders improve outcomes for children.

This visit was carried out in line with the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework.

Headline findings

Continuously ambitious and effective senior leaders have created a culture where strong social work practice improves outcomes for children in care who are in need of permanence. Skilled and committed social workers provide sensitive, child-centred practice to children and their carers.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, a wide range of effective services have been developed to support children and their carers. As a result, many children are benefiting from improved placement stability and live in timely, well-matched permanent placements. Staff report that professional development is strongly encouraged and supported. However, supervision does not take place frequently enough for some social workers with their direct line managers.

What needs to improve in this area of social work practice?

- The quality and frequency of social work supervision, including management oversight of children's progress and experiences.

Main findings

Despite the ongoing pressure of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, senior leaders have continued to prioritise improvements to services for children in care, underpinned by strong corporate and political support.

Comprehensive and analytical assessments inform decision-making for children in need of permanent care outside of their birth family. Assessments demonstrate thoughtful engagement with children and families and influence children's plans. Family group conferences are used consistently to support children to remain at home where it is safe to do so, with support from their family. When children cannot live with their birth family, robust assessments are undertaken with family members and relevant connected persons. Effective and timely use of the Public Law Outline ensures swift progression to care proceedings when children require permanence.

The use of a child-friendly care plan has recently been introduced as a better way to ensure that children's views are sought and that they are well informed of their plans. There is inconsistency in how these plans are used and they are still being developed.

There is a strong focus on direct work, which is helping children develop relationships with their social workers. Social workers know their children extremely well. They visit children in accordance with their needs and wishes, even through the pandemic. Most children are supported by social workers who remain working with them for long periods of time, which supports children to develop trust within these relationships. Children enjoy and receive support from the involvement of children's rights workers and from independent visitors. These professionals help children to understand their rights and ensure that their voice is fully represented in plans that affect them.

Children are benefiting from living in a range of well-matched, stable placements. Arrangements for securing permanence for children and young people are monitored effectively and tracked by senior managers and by children's independent reviewing officers (IROs) to enable children to achieve permanence in a timely way. Particular attention is paid to children's holistic needs during the matching process. This includes children's emotional well-being and educational needs. Sensitive consideration of children's cultural and identity needs informs their plans and the interventions and support needed.

Wherever possible, children are matched effectively to their placement and the rationale for the decision is consistently recorded. Social workers are relentless in their efforts to secure permanent homes for children. Carers benefit from a plethora of therapeutic interventions and support from the local authority. This includes support from the local authority's emotional well-being clinic, where a multi-disciplinary team meets to provide consultation and advice and clinical psychological support to carers and social workers.

IROs robustly review children's care plans. They provide time-bound actions, which they follow up in between reviews so that plans for children progress swiftly. Informal and formal resolution processes are used effectively when drift is identified. Children's reviews are well attended by a range of partner agencies, who commit to taking actions to improve children's experiences and outcomes.

Young people are supported to make transitions to independent living with good-quality, semi-supported unregulated accommodation. They receive effective support from key workers and social workers.

Political leaders scrutinise performance data and challenge senior social care leaders in relation to the progress and outcomes for children in care. The lead member is very well informed through performance data. She is a champion for children across the council and holds members and senior officers to account on their corporate parenting responsibilities.

Senior leaders have a good understanding about the quality of practice and children's experiences. They are supported by good performance data. Data is analysed through regular performance management meetings, which influences senior leaders' actions and priorities. Robust quality assurance processes are augmented by practice learning days and case reviews. Social workers benefit from these learning events and report that this learning enhances the quality of their work with children and their families. Social work practice is also strengthened through the array of training and development that is available to them.

Not all social workers benefit from regular supervision from their line manager, or reflection with their manager about the progress of children's plans. Risk is mitigated by the tenacity of the social workers, who have reflective discussions and receive case direction from the skilled, advanced practitioners. Social workers value this support and its contribution to their practice.

Ofsted will take the findings from this focused visit into account when planning the next inspection or visit.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Metherringham
Her Majesty's Inspector

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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 considered an Update of the Peer Review (Health Check) - Duty and Advice that took place in May 2021.</p> <p>The key areas of improvement identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure consent was always sought before checks were undertaken and that professionals understood consent fully, • Check whether feedback to the referrer was consistently applied, • Consider how daily performance management was proactive in timeliness for contacts to ensure proactive oversight of contacts to prevent delay, • To ensure that fathers were consistently included in the screening stage of contacts. <p>Panel meeting on 1st December 2021 The Panel will consider the letter from Ofsted on the outcome of the inspection of the Children’s Service which is scheduled to take place week commencing 11th October 2021.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
<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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 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>The Panel received a copy of the report on “Our Kirklees Futures - the Kirklees Learning Strategy” scheduled for decision by Cabinet on the 5th October 2021 which summarised its co-production and development and outlined the future strategic approach to learning in Kirklees. The report requested approval for the Council to adopt the strategy and sought delegated authority to progress with our key strategic partners the implementation and planned delivery of activity in line with proposed timelines and governance.</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; 	<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 partnership meetings.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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>3. Multisystemic therapies (MSTs)</p> <p>Wellbeing and Mental Health of Children and adolescents</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the prevention initiatives to solve the problems experienced by children 	<p>(Lead Officer: Tom Brailsford/Elaine McShane)</p> <p>The Panel will visit the Multi-systemic Therapy Team to observe and gain an understanding of the impact of the work being undertaken.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<p>in Kirklees with mental health;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	
<p>4. Number of children in care</p>	<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 	<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>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<p>compared with statistical neighbours;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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>5. Youth Justice Plan (Services and Initiatives) and Anti-Social Behaviour</p>	<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 visited the Youth Engagement Service, Exploitation Screening Panel and Youth Justice Service on the 18th November 2021 and met with Team Managers.</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. *** (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 19th March 2019 has been 	<p>(Lead Officer: Kelsey Clark-Davies/Paul Harris/Jo-Anne Sanders)</p> <p>The Panel has been invited to attend the SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on the 4th November 2021 and will report back to the Panel.</p> <p>The Panel will meet with the Local Offer Team virtually on the 18th January 2022 to discuss the inclusive support offer for SEND professionals.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<p>implemented, including a progress update;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that the Panel seek feedback from parents (PCAN) who had been consulted as part of the Adhoc Panel on SEND – the parent’s perspective. 	<p>The Panel will meet with parents via PCAN who had been consulted as part of the Adhoc Panel on the report on ‘SENDACT– the parent’s perspective’ which was approved by Cabinet in March 2019 and seek their feedback on whether the service has improved for them and what it feels like to engage and access the service/front door.</p> <p>The Panel may also attend PCAN’s Annual General Meeting to meet with parents face to face – to be confirmed.</p> <p>Panel Meeting on 5th January 2022 The Panel will consider an update on the SEND Peer Review.</p> <p>The Panel will consider a future report giving an update on progress against the recommendations in the SENDACT Adhoc Panel report ‘SEND – the Parent’s perspective’ which was approved by Cabinet in March 2019.</p>
8. Performance Information (Children’s Services)	The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support in the Informal meetings. **	(Lead Officers: Jo-Anne Sanders/Elaine McShane/Tom Brailsford – supported by Sue Grigg and Andrew Wainwright)
9. Elective Home Education	<p>The Panel was informed that a report would be considered by Cabinet in October 2021 on Elective Home Education Policy.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Panel noted that an increasing number of 	<p>(Lead Officer: Jo-Anne Sanders/Diane Yates/Kelsey Clark-Davies)</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 20th October 2021</u> The Panel considered the report on the New Elective Home Education Policy approved by Cabinet on the 5th October 2021. The report to Cabinet proposed that the new Elective Home Education Policy and Cabinet agreed the adoption of the policy.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider analysis on percentages of families who had chosen to Elective Home Educate at their December meeting.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<p>parents were opting out of mainstream education for their children and agreed to explore the reasons for this and seek feedback from the One Voice Team who engage with young people who are being home education to seek the views from young people who are being home educated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Panel will seek feedback from parents involved in the EHE Adhoc Panel to get their views on progress and the current situation from their perspective. - The Panel will consider an update on progress against the recommendations in the Adhoc Panel report on Elective Home Education. 	<p><u>Panel meeting on 1st December 2021</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider a report giving a progress update against the recommendations in the Adhoc Panel report on Elective Home Education that was agreed by Cabinet in December 2020, which will include information on percentages of families who had chosen to Elective Home Educate.</p> <p>The Panel will liaise with the One Voice Team to engage with young people to seek their views on being home educated.</p> <p>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.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
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. 	<p>Members of the Panel who attend the Corporate Parenting Board will ask questions through the Chair of the Board in relation to Fostering and Adoption and report back on any issues to the Children’s Scrutiny Panel.</p>
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>	<p>(Lead Officers: M Meggs/J Sanders/E McShane/T Brailsford)</p>
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</p>	<p>Corporate Parenting Board – Cllr Marchington (ex-officio), 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. Other members of the Panel who attend the meetings as Board Members will also report back on key issues to the Panel.</p> <p>Liquid Logic/Tableau – the Panel visited the Front Door Team on the 14th October 2021 to see meet with the team and received good examples of partnership working, voice of the child, data collection, good practice and professional development. Officers updated the Panel on how the data was being used to improve performance and manage services. The Panel also attended an online Weekly Referral meeting on the 11th October 2021.</p> <p>The Panel will attend the Liquid Logic Group chaired by Ophelia Rix in the near future.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<p>meetings already scheduled and focus on the following areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection • Partnership working • Voice of the young person • Good practice • Delivery of quality service 	<p>Social Workers – the Panel attended a visit to Social Work Cluster Team at Slaithwaite Town Hall on the 21st September and met with Duty Managers and Social Workers to discuss a range of issues including the voice of the child and working arrangements and development opportunities for staff. In addition, the Panel will visit the Social Work Teams in Batley and Dewsbury to meet with social workers and duty managers.</p> <p>Children’s and Young People’s Partnership Event on the 21st June 2021– members of the Panel were invited to attend this event and report back on any key issues to the Panel.</p>
<p>13. Engagement of Families together</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. 	<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 has been invited to attend a session with Councillors during either September or October 2021 organised by Officers to give an update on the implementation of the Families Together Scheme. The sessions had discussed the structuring of the programme and establishing partnership boards. There were 4 geographical areas, each to have their own families together Area Partnership Board.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 20th October 2021</u> The Panel agreed to add Kirklees Families Together Programme to the work programme to look at how the Area Partnership Boards in the 4 geographical areas were established and how effectively they were working.</p> <p><u>Informal Panel meeting on 1st December 2021</u> The Panel will consider a presentation on the Kirklees Families Together Area Partnerships.</p>

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An explanation of how families together scheme 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. - 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. 	

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a future update on how the voice of the child would be taken into account in the work of the engagement of families together scheme. - Kirklees Families Together Programme – the Panel agreed to look at how the Area Partnership Boards within the 4 geographical areas were established and how effectively they were working. 	
<p>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</p>		
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	The Lead Member agreed to keep a watching brief with regard to what the educational	(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
Almondbury Community School	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.	
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 brief with regard to the issues raised within the petition from a scrutiny perspective.	<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 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</p> <p>The Governing Body or Diocese now have the right to appeal the decision made by cabinet to the Schools Adjudicator, should they wish.</p>

** 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.

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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>Hybrid Meeting</p> <p>Report deadline: 8th October 2021</p>	<p>Informal items:</p> <p>Performance report</p> <p>Youth Places to Go - Grants scheme for organisations working with children and young people</p> <p>Early Support meetings and events for attendance by Panel Members</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Elective Home Education Policy – Cabinet report</p> <p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p>	<p>T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>Luke Wielgus/Michelle Wheatcroft</p> <p>Helen Kilroy</p> <p>Diane Yates</p> <p>Panel Members</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<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>Report deadline 19.11.21</p>	<p>Informal items:</p> <p>Families Together Area Partnerships (presentation)</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</p> <p>Outcome of Ofsted inspection of Children’s Services (Oct 21)</p>	<p>J Beever/M Wheatcroft</p> <p>T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>Diane Yates/Kelsey Clark-Davies</p> <p>Mel Meggs/Service Directors</p>
<p>5th January 2022</p> <p>1.15pm-2.15pm Informal meeting</p> <p>2.15pm-3.15pm 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>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>SEND Peer Review - outcome (to be confirmed)</p>	<p>T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>Kelsey Clark-Davies/Paul Harris</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>30th March 2022</p> <p>1.15pm-2.15pm Informal meeting</p> <p>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>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>Educational Outcomes – update</p> <p>Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report (to be confirmed)</p>	<p>T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane to present (S Grigg to provide report)</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>Emma Brayford/Phil Mark/ Chris Jessup</p> <p>Jo Sanders (Ian Ross & Alistair Ross)</p>