

Public Document Pack



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

Julie Muscroft

Governance and Commissioning

PO Box 1720

Huddersfield

HD1 9EL

Tel: 01484 221000

Please ask for: Helen Kilroy

Email: helen.kilroy@kirklees.gov.uk

Friday 21 October 2022

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Children's Scrutiny Panel

The **Children's Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **2.00 pm** on **Monday 31 October 2022**.

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 Ammar Anwar

Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds

Councillor James Homewood

Councillor Richard Smith

Councillor Paul White

Graeme Sunderland (Co-Optee)

Oliver Gibson (Co-Optee)

Toni Bromley (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 - 8

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on the 6th September 2022.

3: Interests

9 - 10

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 Panel will hear any questions from the general public.

7: Outcomes of the Joint Area Targeted multi-agency Inspection

11 - 18

The Panel will consider a letter from Ofsted outlining the outcomes of the Joint Area Targeted multi-agency Inspection and an update from Officers on the key issues.

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

8: Pre-decision Scrutiny - Cabinet decisions on the horizon

The Panel will consider any potential areas of pre-decision scrutiny in accordance with any cabinet decisions relating to children and young people which are on the horizon.

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

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

10: Children's Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2022-23

19 - 30

The Panel will consider the proposed areas of focus and activity for the 2022/23 municipal year and discuss the method and means to be used to continue the Panel's work going forward.

Contact: Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Tuesday 6th September 2022

Present: Councillor Andrew Marchington (Chair)
Councillor Elizabeth Reynolds
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Paul White

Co-optees Graeme Sunderland

In attendance: Tom Brailsford, Service Director – Children and Families, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships
Elaine McShane, Service Director – Family Support and Child Protection
Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director – Learning & Early Support
Stewart Horn, Head of Children’s Integrated Commissioning
Sara Miles, Head of Homes for Children, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Christine Bennett, Head of Assessment & Intervention & Disabled Children’s service
Kelsey Clark-Davies, Head of Inclusion & Educational Safeguarding
Emily Parry-Harries, Consultant in Public Health, Head of Public Health
Ophelia Rix, Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance
Robert Fordyce, Head of Quality Assurance and Practical Development
Lucy Wearmouth, Acting Head of Improving Population Health
Paul Harris, Head of Children’s Improvement, Partnerships & Voice
Gary Wainwright, Commissioning Manager
Vicky Stadniki, Public Health
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje
Councillor Viv Kendrick
Councillor Carole Pattison

Apologies: Councillor Richard Smith
Oliver Gibson (Co-Optee)

- 1 Membership of the Committee**
Apologies were received from Councillor Richard Smith and Oliver Gibson.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th July be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interest 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 members of the public.

7 Changes to the Young Peoples Activity Team (YPAT) Provision

The Panel received an update on the ongoing changes to the Young Peoples Activity Team (YPAT) provision as part of the ongoing SEND Transformation Programme and the ongoing development of the Short Breaks Offer, which was presented by Tom Brailsford, Service Director (Resources Improvements and Partnerships), Gary Wainwright, Commissioning Manager and Sara Miles, Head of Homes for Children, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance.

Gary Wainwright and Sara Miles advised the Panel that Children's service, Best Start capital funding had an allocation of £5 million for development of children with disability services; Young Peoples Activity Team (short breaks), Elm Grove (long term) and Orchard View (short breaks) provision in Kirklees. By investing in the most vulnerable children and young people, Kirklees provided support to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The Panel was informed that the Young Peoples Activity Team short breaks service supported disabled children and young people aged 5 to 18 with profound and complex needs. The service comprised of out of school clubs, weekend and holiday sessions, and community sessions, which ran from a large council owned building on Havelock Street, Ravensthorpe. The building was shared with Adult Services, learning disability day service provision, and required significant investment. A need for new premises was identified several years ago.

Gary Wainwright further explained that the former children's Place nursery in Ravensthorpe had been selected as the best option due to its location. It was very close to the current building which minimised disruption to the disabled children, and young people and parents who attended. The building size was ideal, the accessibility offered by a single storey building located on a level site, with a secure enclosed outdoor play area made the former Children's Place nursery the ideal preferred choice.

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 6 September 2022

The new premises were to open in the summer 2023, and provide an opportunity for the facilities to be used more frequently for new additional and alternative uses as below:

- Parent and carer support sessions
- Training sessions
- Supporting older children who were NEET
- Assistive Technology and VR sessions
- Provide a building for health partners that could deliver specialist children's clinic sessions.

Gary Wainwright advised the Panel that over time, the ambition was to identify and establish a second Young Peoples Activity Team building in South Kirklees. The second building would be based on the learning from the new Ravensthorpe building, and the evolving role that in-house short breaks services would play in the overall short breaks market.

The Panel noted the ambition to open a site in South Kirklees and asked a question regarding a similar provision in terms of geography and what impact that had on the service. Gary Wainwright advised that through consultation a clear message from families was that they would travel to Ravensthorpe if they needed to, but having a facility within 30 minutes travel time would be beneficial.

The Panel acknowledged the involvement of young people and asked a question regarding the mechanisms around including them, how they felt, and how that would feed into another facility in South Kirklees. Gary Wainwright advised that the technical assessment skills had been completed along with consulting with parents. The young people had been taken to different places to try out different equipment in the proposal which concluded what would work and what would not work. The South Kirklees facility would be developed on the needs of the children and would be adapted around them. Sara Miles advised the Panel that even at the point of opening the Ravensthorpe site, consultations would not stop. Any learnings made from the Ravensthorpe site would feed into the South Kirklees site.

The Panel thanked the officers for their hard work that had been carried out and recognised the positive impact the facility would have on young people and their families. The Panel also raised an interest in visiting the site once it was open.

RESOLVED-

- That the Panel noted the update.
- That the Panel arrange a visit to the new premises at the Children's Place Nursery, Netherfield Road, Ravensthorpe when fully operational.

8 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inspection - Action Plan and Inspection Outcomes

The Panel received a report on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inspection – Action Plan and Inspection Outcomes presented by Tom Brailsford, Service Director – Children and Families, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships and Paul Harris, Head of Children's Improvement, Partnerships & Voice.

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 6 September 2022

The Panel was informed that on the 25th May 2022, the Ofsted inspection report for Kirklees was published. As a result of the findings of the inspection, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector determined that a Written Statement of Action was required due to two significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice, which were:-

- The poor delivery of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) which did not support the identification of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in children at the earliest opportunity consistently,
- Weaknesses in the area's ability across services and within settings to identify and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND who were in mainstream settings.

The Panel was informed that Kirklees and a SEND partnership accepted and valued the assessment and feedback provided by the independent inspection and recognised that it provided an important benchmark in the implementation of the 2014 SEND reforms.

In 2021 Kirklees produced a plan to strengthen and improve some of its SEND Services. The report provided the context to the inspection and outlined the approach to SEND transformation which predated the inspection outcome and showed the identified issues were already being addressed.

Paul Harris advised the Panel that the operation of the Healthy Child Programme was being reviewed and would be a priority incorporated into the Transformation Plan as a key workstream going forward.

The Panel acknowledged the Transformation Plan and asked a question regarding re-issuing the plan post Ofsted to incorporate the Ofsted report. Tom Brailsford advised that an annual review of the transformation plan was taking place. Officers from the Children's Service had given their feedback to Ofsted on their views on how the letter had been written, which was different to what had been expected following feedback from Ofsted. The Panel noted that the transformation plan had been commended by the DfE as an example of good practice.

The Panel Highlighted the waiting times for children with Mental Health difficulties and asked a question on how improvements would be made. Stuart Horne advised that waiting lists were longer than the Service would like to see. Some services had secured additional investment and had procured assessment resources. In terms of mental health services, there had been significant investment for Mental Health in school's teams which had started to take shape and have an impact, the real progress would show in the next year or 2 as the service expanded. Stewart Horn further explained that with regards to CAMHS, the service was undergoing a review and service re-design to make improvements to pathways to improve the patient journey and experience and increase the confidence in parents.

The Panel noted weaknesses in different settings and asked a question on how improvements to communication were going to be made. Tom Brailsford advised the Panel that there were several areas in the transformation plan that would be addressed, and that it was about a partnership approach. The Panel were advised that some examples of what would need to be addressed would be how schools identified children early, to ensure schools had good Mental Health support teams

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 6 September 2022

and about making sure schools had a good Healthy Child Programme with a mandate of contacts and early intervention. Tom Brailsford explained that there was a broad group of professionals who contribute to outcomes.

The Panel raised concerns relating to children with Special Educational Needs and the problems that parents experienced when receiving the right support, and the length of time it took to identify a need. Tom Brailsford advised that there was not a problem with identifying needs, the problem was increasing demand for Education Health and Care Plans for the under 5's, along with delays from external agencies. Tom Brailsford also explained that the services wanted to provide the earliest support as quickly as possible. Jo-Anne Sanders advised the Panel that the Transformation Plan was to re-orientate support as early as possible, and Kirklees was fortunate to have a very strong special educational need co-ordination network. There was a lot of expertise in special schools with innovation in terms of special school satellite provisions where they invested in support of schools into outreach teams.

The Panel highlighted that the Ofsted report indicated a lot of families had been let down by the system, with the number of Special Educational Statements compared to Education Health and Care Plans being half the number and that there was a need to acknowledge families had been let down. Emily Parry-Harries requested that the Panel allow her to look further into the figures in the Transformation report that provided information on the increase in number of pupils in Kirklees LA schools and academies with an Educational Health and Care Plan since January 2015 to January 2021.

Kelsey Clark-Davies responded to the Panel regarding actual experiences by some service users and acknowledged that the information captured was over a length of time from some families that had a negative experience who were more likely to come forward. The Panel was informed that some families had come forward who had a positive experience and a key theme within the plan was to ensure that culture across the council was child and family centred, working with, and not doing to.

In response to a question from the Panel regarding what support was available to parents, and how that was being strengthened, along with how mainstream support was provided to parents who had sought a private diagnosis. Tom Brailsford explained that parents were supported through early mechanisms, such as health resources online, that parents could access. There was a need to do more in terms of making sure there was parental support and parental confidence. There was also a support line for SENCO's to receive information and the Panel was informed that One aspiration was to open this up to parents, however, further work was required. Tom Brailsford confirmed that diagnosis reports from private providers would not affect any support received for an Education Health and Care Plan. Stuart Horne advised that one problem with a private provider was the commission provider in SWIFT as their psychiatrist was not able to prescribe medication on an ongoing basis that they felt was not necessary.

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 6 September 2022

The Panel thanked officers for all the information provided and acknowledged the passion that officers had to improve families lives and that the improvement journey was a high priority for the Council's Administration.

RESOLVED-

- The Panel noted the report on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Inspection – Action Plan and Inspection Outcomes.
- That the Panel receive updates on the improvement journey of the Transformation Plan.
- That Officers in Children's Service provide the Panel with details of partners involved in the Transformation Plan that they can meet with or visit as part of the Panel's scrutiny work.
- That the Panel receive further information on the increased number of pupils in Kirklees LA schools and academies with an Education Health and Care Plan since January 2015 to January 2021.

9 Pre-decision Scrutiny - Cabinet decisions on the horizon

The Panel considered potential areas of pre-decision scrutiny in accordance with any cabinet decisions on the horizon relating to children and young people.

Jo-Anne Sanders explained that coming forward in the Autumn term would be some decision making for Cabinet on Technical School Organisation for Additionally Resourced Provisions.

RESOLVED-

The Panel noted the potential item for pre-decision scrutiny on Technical School Organisation for Additionally Resourced Provisions that would be considered by Cabinet during the 2022-23 municipal year.

10 Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board

Councillor Marchington advised the Panel that a Corporate Parenting Board meeting had not taken place since the last meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Panel on 12th July 2022. The next Corporate Parenting Board was scheduled to take place on the 27th September 2022 and Panel Members could feedback to the Panel in October 2022.

RESOLVED-

The Panel noted the date of the next Corporate Parenting Board meeting in September 2022.

11 Children's Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-23

The Panel considered the work programme for the 2022-23 municipal year.

Councillor Marchington advised that no new amendments had been made to the work programme since the last Panel meeting and that several visits to partners had been arranged to take place during the 2022-23 municipal year.

RESOLVED-

The Panel noted the Work Programme and agenda plan for 2022-23.

This page is intentionally left blank

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.

18 August 2022

Mel Meggs, Director of Children's Services, Kirklees Metropolitan Borough
Carol McKenna, Clinical Commissioning Group¹
Alison Lowe, Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime
John Robins QPM Chief Constable, West Yorkshire Police
Julie Sykes, Independent Scrutineer

Dear Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership

Joint targeted area inspection of Kirklees

This letter summarises the findings of the joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to the criminal exploitation of children in Kirklees.

This inspection took place from 27 June 2022 to 1 July 2022. It was carried out by inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Headline findings

Partners at a strategic level enable a well-embedded practice approach that supports professionals to work well together. Children in Kirklees who are at risk of, or experiencing, criminal exploitation have their needs identified quickly and receive multi-agency support to manage and reduce risk to them effectively.

What needs to improve?

- The recording of the work and decision-making of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership (KSCP).
- The training offer from the KSCP to ensure that it provides relevant, localised multi-agency training focusing on child criminal exploitation.
- The exercise of professional curiosity from some health practitioners, including GPs and emergency department staff.
- Contingency planning for children in care who are not able to return to their birth families.

¹ as of 1 July 2022, the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) changed to the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership (KSCP)

The Kirklees safeguarding children partners have significant knowledge of the local area and demand, practice within their agencies, and the experiences of children. Partners have strong aspiration, willingness and motivation to reduce risks of criminal exploitation for children in Kirklees. Mature relationships within the KSCP enable partners to challenge each other effectively. This demonstrates the well-established respect for, and equity of, partners' views.

The KSCP has strong links with the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Board, adult safeguarding board and the community safety partnership. Executive partners have agreed the provision of two exploitation subgroups that focus on strategic and operational matters relating to the exploitation of children. The KSCP receives relevant information from these forums and is able to share information specific to safeguarding children at risk of criminal exploitation. This supports a holistic approach to addressing criminal exploitation in Kirklees.

The impact of COVID-19 has stalled the progress of some of the priorities of the KSCP and the exploitation subgroups. However, several initiatives have been implemented, for example the 'safe zones' scheme in Huddersfield, 'be phenomenal' in schools and the 'focused deterrent car'. These are positive examples of how partners have acted on children's views and their understanding of need in Kirklees.

The range of multi-agency work that focuses on children who are at risk of, or experiencing, criminal exploitation is not always fully recorded at the KSCP level. This means that it is not always clear for other professionals and children to see the work that the partnership has effectively planned and coordinated to evaluate the work of the partners.

The KSCP uses local, regional and national research to develop services based on its local knowledge of need and demand. This has created a strong multi-agency service for children who are at risk of, or are experiencing, exploitation. This has included the development and implementation of the Youth Engagement Service (YES) and the amalgamation of the YES with the Youth Justice Service into a wider contextual safeguarding service.

The KSCP does not currently receive sufficient collective data to have a comprehensive overview of practice and outcomes for children who are at risk of criminal exploitation. However, inspectors did see several strands of work across the partnership that are contributing to the improvement of the current reporting of performance data.

Individual agencies singularly provide effective exploitation training, advice and support to their workforce. The KSCP recognises that there is a need to ensure that the multi-agency child criminal exploitation training is refreshed and is based on national and local research and need. This is a missed opportunity to enable the wider workforce to learn together and understand the complexities of working with children at risk of exploitation in Kirklees.

Main findings

Leadership and management

Leaders and managers have an effective oversight of practice at the 'front door'. Daily and weekly multi-agency meetings, such as the daily risk exploitation and missing meeting (DREAMM), exploitation screening panel, exploitation screening review meeting and the referral review panel, enable managers to have ongoing oversight of the demand for services, the quality of work and the allocation of resources. Practice or multi-agency difficulties are identified and swiftly acted on. All partners have invested in these forums in terms of staff availability and time.

Professionals are clear on their role and contribution to these multi-agency forums and decision-making. Joint decision-making is encouraged to facilitate a shared understanding to reduce the risk of exploitation for children. However, the possible contribution of community and voluntary sector agencies to these meetings has not been fully explored.

Most agencies use the information-sharing forums to 'flag' effectively children who are at risk of, or experiencing, criminal exploitation. However, health IT systems do not consistently identify children at risk of exploitation through the use of 'flags'. This means health practitioners are not always able to see at first glance if a child is at risk of criminal exploitation.

Senior leaders in the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) show strong commitment to improving outcomes for vulnerable children exposed to child exploitation. Effective governance within the CCG and health providers offers oversight of safeguarding arrangements and the performance of services. The Health Assurance Information Group is a strength and provides an effective forum for the collective sharing of knowledge and prioritisation of work across the complex health economy.

Staff in all partner agencies receive appropriate levels of training to support them in their role when working with children who are at risk of exploitation. Social workers are supported through access to specialist knowledge from the YES. Child criminal exploitation training is accessible to health practitioners, and they report that this is increasing their knowledge and skills.

The police force's children vulnerable to exploitation team (CVET), is a skilled team consisting of experienced and accredited child abuse investigators. The team has provided effective training to frontline police officers and staff across the Kirklees area to raise awareness of its role in the protection of children and risk indicators for exploitation. Frontline police officers in Kirklees receive regular bulletins about children who are at risk of exploitation, and those who pose a risk to them. During this inspection, the police force agreed to improve their electronic briefing system to make sure that information can be updated in real time.

The YES works intensively with children to reduce risks of exploitation. Caseloads are low to enable that to happen. Staff demonstrate a tenacious commitment to supporting young people and are motivated to reducing risks of exploitation. The team has strong links with other agencies and is also involved in the training of other services.

The CVET undertakes successful disruption activity using appropriate tactics to reduce the risk of exploitation for children. However, recording of the activity, particularly in complex cases when a crime has not been committed, is not consistent. This makes it difficult to monitor progress.

The 'partners intelligence portal' enables information to be shared quickly with the police. Partners in Kirklees use this resource effectively.

Practice study: highly effective practice

The Youth Engagement Service (YES) in Kirklees is a successful resource that works well with other agencies to identify and meet the needs of children who are at risk of, or are experiencing, exploitation. This service initially focused on child sexual exploitation and gang activity in Kirklees. However, it has developed over the last few years in accordance with leaders' understanding about the level of demand and need in their local area, particularly in relation to child criminal exploitation.

The YES is made up of social workers, youth engagement officers (from a wide and varied range of backgrounds), a PACE worker and a large number of youth outreach workers. YES staff work closely with other providers to meet children's needs, for example BASE (substance misuse), KISH (Kirklees Integrated Sexual Health), Youth Justice Service, police, statutory social work teams, and the community and voluntary sector. The service has seen a recent increase in the number of criminal exploitation concerns raised and it is working closely to provide specialist training, advice and support to the wider workforce.

Joint supervision for YES staff and case-holding social workers is very reflective and supports the direction of the intervention for the child.

The YES works intensively with children to reduce risks of exploitation. It agrees priorities and action plans to work alongside social workers and early help practitioners and staff attend all multi-agency meetings for children.

The YES has engaged in Practice Learning Days with statutory social work teams to review the quality of practice and outcomes for exploited children in Kirklees. The positive impact and learning of this model is now planned to be rolled out as multi-agency practice learning events.

In all the strategic and operational work seen by inspectors, the involvement and positive impact of the YES was clearly evident in improving children's lived experiences.

Multi-agency practice with children who are at risk of, or experiencing, criminal exploitation

Children in Kirklees benefit from the strong relationships between partners in the front door. Professionals working with children make the clear distinction between criminal and sexual exploitation to inform the response from the front door. Prompt and effective information-sharing informs decision-making for next steps to safeguard children. Timely management oversight of contacts received at the front door means that decisions are made swiftly and appropriately to ensure that work

progresses, and families do not wait for the allocation of appropriate services. Children and families are routinely engaged at this early stage, and their views are clearly recorded.

Partner agencies raise appropriate challenge when there is a dispute about decision-making.

Agencies across the partnership have a strong child-centred approach. Practitioners are persistent in their efforts to engage children and families who present as resistant to professional involvement. Professionals carefully consider who is the most appropriate individual to work with a child. This reduces the need for children to repeat their stories.

Assessments of children's needs are detailed and concise. Most consider relevant history and factors including culture, religion and ethnicity as well as the exploitation risk. Decisions made for next steps are proportionate to the level of risk and need identified. When child protection concerns are highlighted for children, strategy discussions are arranged quickly, and these are well attended by the relevant professionals who know the children best.

Children and young people's voices are captured well in most agency's child records. This offers additional insight into their lived experiences.

Multi-agency meetings ensure that progress against the child's plan is regularly monitored, reviewed and amended in response to changing circumstances. These meetings evidence the strong multi-agency relationships which exist to support some of the most vulnerable children at risk of exploitation.

A wide range of statutory and non-statutory agencies work well together to identify and address risks of criminal exploitation for children in Kirklees. Substance misuse and sexual health workers jointly visit children and provide an effective, regular drop-in clinic for children in care who live in residential children's homes.

Practitioners are aware of the changing levels of risk and the fluctuating ability of children to engage, and they are tenacious in finding creative ways of working with children to reduce risk.

Police prevention interviews are held regularly when children go missing. This provides an early understanding of push and pull factors and supports the child on their return. Independent return home interviews are offered routinely and completed when engagement is possible. When successful engagement with children

has not been achieved, the interview considers push and pull factors and includes discussion with family and the wider professional network.

Professionals avoid unnecessary criminalisation of children who are at risk of criminal exploitation. They understand the contextual factors underpinning children's behaviours and the impact on their emotional well-being. The inspectors saw examples of the National Referral Mechanism being used appropriately, ensuring that children are recognised as victims of exploitation.

Children at risk of, or experiencing, exploitation are encouraged and supported to attend some form of education provision. Education staff carry out appropriate welfare and safety checks when children are absent. However, education practitioners are not always fully informed of children's histories and this affects the practitioner's ability to recognise risk and concern sufficiently. Furthermore, not all personal education plans fully reflect the work that education professionals complete with children and their families.

Children at risk of exploitation have their health needs met by specialist health professionals from a range of services.

Health and education professionals are not always informed, engaged or invited to multi-agency risk management meetings in longer-term cases. The outcomes and actions from some multi-agency risk assessment meetings are, for a small number of children, unclear and they are not always shared with all agencies. For example, GPs are often unaware of the risks relating to child exploitation, which limits their ability to offer support to children and families.

Professionals in the emergency department do not always demonstrate professional curiosity when seeing children. The medical model used often focuses on the presenting complaint and practitioners do not always explore children's behaviours, such as self-harm, going missing and not attending school. Additionally, professional curiosity was not always evident in GP health records, for example in regard to a child's vulnerability, and their request for contraception. These are missed opportunities to explore with the child the possible reasons for their presenting behaviours and consider what other help, or outside medical care, might be needed.

Not all children's statutory care plans include contingencies in the event of children in care not being able to return to the care of their families. This affects the timeliness of securing permanence for children and increases the risk of multiple changes to where they live.

Inspectors engaged with children, young people and their families who commented on their experiences in Kirklees. For example a parent told inspectors that the intervention from the partnership 'had been amazing' and led to a reduction in the number of times their child went missing. Young people told inspectors: 'They

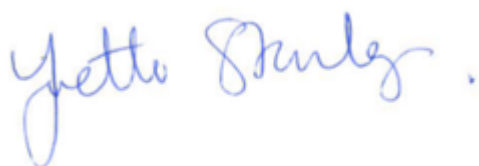
listened a lot, telling me what to do and helping me; 'The social worker was amazing and was always there for me;' and 'I am feeling positive about the future.'

Next steps

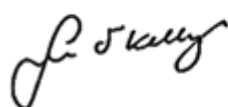
We have determined that Kirklees Council is the principal authority and should prepare a written statement of proposed action responding to the findings outlined in this letter. This should be a multi-agency response involving the individuals and agencies that this report is addressed to. The response should set out the actions for the partnership and, when appropriate, individual agencies. The local safeguarding partners should oversee implementation of the action plan through their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership should send the written statement of action to ProtectionOfChildren@ofsted.gov.uk by 25 November 2022. This statement will inform the lines of enquiry at any future joint or single-agency activity by the inspectorates.

Yours sincerely



Yvette Stanley
National Director Regulation and Social Care, Ofsted



Dr Sean O'Kelly BSc MB ChB MSc DCH FRCA
Chief Inspector of Hospitals and Interim Chief Inspector of Primary
Medical Services



Wendy Williams, CBE
Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

MEMBERS: Cllr Andrew Marchington (Chair), Cllr James Homewood, Cllr Ammar Anwar, Cllr Elizabeth Reynolds, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Paul White, Toni Bromley (Co-Optee), Graeme Sunderland (Co-Optee) and Oliver Gibson (Co-Optee)

SUPPORT: Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager and Nicola Sylvester, Democracy Officer

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
Issue	Approach/Areas of Focus	Timescales and comments
<p><u>Standard items (every meeting)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-decision scrutiny (decisions by Cabinet) • Performance Information (Children's Service) – Informal meeting • Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board • Ambition Board Minutes Informal meeting 	<p>Panel to check at each meeting if there are any potential areas of pre-decision scrutiny they need to consider at future meetings. (Leads: Cabinet Members/Senior Officers (Children's Service))</p> <p>The Panel will consider performance slides from the Ambition Board and monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support in the Informal meetings. Members of the Panel who attend the Corporate Parenting Board will ask questions through the Chair of the Board in relation to looked after children performance information and report back on any issues to the Children's Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>Members of the Panel who attend the Corporate Parenting Board will feedback on any other key issues to the Scrutiny Panel as appropriate. (Leads: Service Directors (Children's Service))</p> <p>The Panel will receive for information the minutes from the Ambition Board meetings which are held quarterly. (Leads: Senior Officers (Children's Service) and Cabinet Members)</p>	<p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Quarterly</p>

<p>Review of the Improvement Journey</p>	<p>(Leads: Mel Meggs/Service Directors)</p> <p>The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of Children’s Services until they have achieved an ‘outstanding’ Ofsted rating, including receiving regular progress updates from the Children’s Service on how this is being achieved. The Panel will consider how the Council is formulating its approach, what data is being looked at and how Officers and Cabinet Members are responding.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 31st October 2022 The Panel will receive an update on the outcomes of the Joint Area Targeted multi-agency Inspection at the meeting on the 31st October (Lead: Elaine McShane)</p> <p>Visit to Children’s Social Care Team (Dewsbury) on 14th October 2022 The Panel visited Team Managers, Social Workers and Business Support staff at the Children’s Social Care Team at Empire House, Dewsbury. The Panel met with staff in their ‘huddle’ meeting and spoke informally about issues relating to data collection, caseloads and staff vacancies, working environments, management support and training and development for staff.</p>	<p>Panel 31st October 22</p>
<p>Independent Review of Children’s Social Care – white paper</p>	<p>(Leads: Mel Meggs and Service Directors)</p> <p>The Panel will consider how the Council is addressing the implications of the Care Reform white paper and the outcome of the Government’s response, which is expected in September 2022.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Care Reform Report on Children’s Social Care was broken down into 8 key areas, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reset Children’s Social Care - A revolution in family help - A just and decisive child protection system - Unlocking the potential of family networks - Transforming care - The care experience - Realising the potential of the workforce 	<p>High priority –to be confirmed</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A system that is relentlessly focussed on children and families - Implementation 	
<p>Educational and learning Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kirklees future commission Learning Strategy 	<p>(Leads: Jo-Anne Sanders/Chris Jessup/Narinder Kaur)</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The impact and effect of ethnicity, gender and socio-economic factors on educational outcomes. - 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>Learning Strategy</p> <p>That a representation from the Panel be invited to attend the Launch of the Kirklees Futures Event on the 23rd June 2022 and other relevant partnership meetings.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 12th July 2022</p> <p>The Panel received a verbal update on the Educational Outcomes and the Implementation Plan, which will be finalised with priorities ready for the start of the new academic year in September 2022. The Panel agreed the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the Panel are given the opportunity to contribute to the restructuring and reshaping of the Education and Learning Partnership Board ; - That the Panel receive future updates on how the Learning Service and Cabinet Members are scrutinising the educational outcomes; - That the Panel consider future information on longitudinal educational outcomes for the next 5 to 10 years, including 16+ and beyond; - That the Panel receive a copy for information of the Educational Outcomes report scheduled for consideration by Cabinet on the 26th July 2022. 	

	<p>Informal Panel meeting on 6th September 2022 The Panel agreed to receive information on the attainment analysis which has been carried out on all key stages and in particular relating to the definition on the equality gap. The Panel also agreed to focus on the impact and affect of ethnicity, gender and socio-economic factors on educational outcomes.</p> <p>Informal Panel meeting on 31st October 2022 The Panel will consider an update on Educational Outcomes and GCSE exam results. The report will include an update on School Readiness.</p>	Panel on 31 st October 22
<p>Sufficiency for Children’s Service (places/staffing resources)</p>	<p>(Leads: Mel Meggs and Service Directors)</p> <p>The Panel will consider future updates on the social worker vacancies and staff shortages within the Children’s Social Care Service and the approaches being taken by the service to bring Social Workers back into the workforce, eg retention packages. The Panel will also monitor this during visits to the Social Care Teams.</p>	
<p>Changes to Young People’s Activity Team (YPAT) provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides after school activities for C&YP with the most complex disabilities and needs 	<p>(Lead: Tom Brailsford/Sara Miles)</p> <p>The Panel will consider the changes to YPAT Provision and youth development and receive future updates on what is happening in local wards in terms of after school activities – planned for September 2022.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 6th September 2022 The Panel considered a report which gave an update on the ongoing changes to the Young Peoples Activity Team (YPAT) provision as part of the ongoing SEND Transformation Programme and the ongoing development of the Short Breaks Offer. The Panel agreed to arrange a visit to the new premises at the Children’s Place Nursery, Netherfield Road, Ravensthorpe when fully operational.</p>	Panel 6 th Sept 22

<p>Partnership Arrangements</p>	<p>(Leads: Elaine McShane/Jo-Anne Sanders/Tom Brailsford)</p> <p>The Panel will continue to scrutinise partnerships and boards during the 2021/22 municipal year, for example, Corporate Parenting Board and Health and Wellbeing Board, visits to internal teams and partners and the Panel will look at how data was collected and used to improve outcomes. The Panel will be represented at meetings, events and visits to internal teams and external providers and focus on the following areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection • Partnership working • Is the voice of the young person being heard? (as below) • Good practice • Delivery of quality service 	
<p>Voice of the Child</p>	<p>(Leads: Mel Meggs/Jo-Anne Sanders/Elaine McShane/Tom Brailsford)</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 have been learned.</p>	
<p>Special Educational Needs and High Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback from PCAN/parents on SENDACT - Outcome of SEND Inspection and Transformation Plan 	<p>(Leads: Tom Brailsford/Kelsey Clark-Davies/Paul Harris/Christine Bennett)</p> <p>Feedback from parents via PCAN</p> <p>The Panel met with parents on the 8th and 14th September 2022 at PCAN Social drop-in sessions to follow up the work of the Adhoc Panel on the report on ‘SENDACT– the parent’s perspective’ which was approved by Cabinet in March 2019. The Panel members who attended the visits sought feedback from parents on whether the service had improved for them and what it felt like to engage and access the service/front door. The Panel’s main findings from the feedback received at the sessions was:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of specialist resources both in the SEND Teams but also schools - SENDACT do not follow up with schools after an EHCP is issued - Long waiting times to get a diagnosis or support - No single point of contact for parents to get access to all the support and information they need - Parent’s were not aware of the SEND Transformation Plan or how to access it. 	

The Chair agreed to attend future PCAN Social drop-in sessions during October and November and a more formal visit by the Panel would be arranged to the December PCAN Social meeting where it was hoped Kelsey Clark-Davies, Head of Inclusion and Educational Safeguarding, could also attend for a joint visit with the Panel.

Following the visit to PCAN on the 8th September 2022, information was sent by the Panel to PCAN on the SEND Inspection Outcome report considered by the Children’s Scrutiny Panel on the 6th September 2022, which included a copy of the SEND Transformation Plan. PCAN have shared this information with parents on their PCAN Facebook parent’s page.

Outcome of SEND Inspection and SEND Transformation Plan

Panel meeting on 6th September 2022 - Outcome of SEND Inspection

The Panel considered a report on the SEND Inspection and action plan and outcomes of the Inspection and as part of their pre-decision scrutiny. The Panel agreed –

- to receive updates on the improvement journey of the Transformation Plan.
- That Officers in Children’s Service provide the Panel with details of partners involved in the Transformation Plan that they can meet with or visit as part of the Panel’s scrutiny work.
- That the Panel receive further information on the increased number of pupils in Kirklees LA schools and academies with an Education Health and Care Plan since January 2015 to January 2021

The Panel will be invited to be involved in the development of the Transformation Action Plan going forward. The Panel asked that officers build into the action plan how the Panel might scrutinise the inspection outcomes.

Invite to attend SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on 8.9.22

The Panel attended the SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on the 8th September 2022, to enable the Panel to be involved in the discussion on the SEND written statement of action following the recent inspection. The main points considered at the meeting was the SEND Inspection and action plan and outcomes of the Inspection.

Panel 6th Sept 22

Mental Health in Schools	(Lead: The Panel will look at the Ladder Project (Colne Valley, Golcar and Lindley) and other work directly in schools (Spenn Valley) around children's mental health and explore how the roll out of NHS mental health support for children and young people was progressing in those areas.	Next 6 months
Elective Home Education	(Leads: Jo-Anne Sanders/Diane Yates/Kelsey Clark-Davies/Paul Harris) The Panel will liaise with the One Voice Team to engage with young people to seek their views on 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.	
Early Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early Help Services - Engagement of Families Together 	(Leads: Michelle Wheatcroft/Jackie Beever/Jo Sanders) Early Help Services Panel to consider a plan of action on this matter. Families Together The Panel will consider a future update on the review of the Families Together hubs and the review of the Hub Co-Ordinator role. The Panel noted that some Head Teachers had agreed to be part of the review. The Panel will explore what services are in place within the hubs and consider visits to observe the arrangements in place and will look at how the hubs in Dewsbury, Batley and Spenn and Rural were progressing and what impact they were having on the local community.	

	<p>Families Together Launch</p> <p>The Panel have been invited to attend the Families Together Launch at John Smith’s Stadium on Monday 28th November 2022, which will include a lunch event for the Families Together model of integrated early support.</p>	28 th November 2022
<p style="text-align: center;">Lead Member Briefings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Bi-monthly LM Briefings with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children’s; and Mel Meggs/Elaine McShane, Tom Brailsford and Jo-Anne Sanders during 22/23) – Actions from these meetings will be included within the Panel’s Work Programme where appropriate</p>		

Children's Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Plan 2022/23

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
9th June 2022 Informal Meeting 11 am	(with Panel, Officers and Cabinet Members) To consider potential areas of focus for the Panel during 2022/23 municipal year which will include the Council's key priorities for the children's service.	Helen Kilroy
20th June 2022 Informal meeting 2pm-3.30pm Hybrid meeting Meeting Rm 3, HTH	(with Panel only) To agree and sign off priority areas of focus for Panel during 2022/23 municipal year.	Helen Kilroy
12th July 2022 2.00pm-3.00pm Informal meeting 3.00pm-4.30pm Public meeting Hybrid Meeting Council Chamber, HTH Report deadline: 30.6.22	<p style="text-align: center;">Informal items:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ambition Board Minutes (12.3.22)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance slides</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Formal report membership change – Cllr Elizabeth Reynolds</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pre-decision Scrutiny – Cabinet decisions on the horizon</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 – verbal update on next steps/priorities for the Service</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;">H Kilroy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panel Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/C Jessup</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>6th September 2022</p> <p>10am – 11 am Informal meeting 11am – 12.30 pm Public meeting</p> <p>Hybrid Meeting Council Chamber, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 25.8.22</p>	<p>Informal items:</p> <p>Ambition Board Minutes (20.6.22)</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Performance highlights slide</p> <p>Pre-decision Scrutiny – Cabinet decisions on the horizon</p> <p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>SEND Inspection – Action Plan and inspection outcomes</p> <p>YPAT changes to provision and youth development</p>	<p>H Kilroy</p> <p>T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane to present</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>Tom Brailsford/Paul Harris (author)/ also invited Kelsey Clark-Davies/Christine Bennett/Stewart Horn</p> <p>Sara Miles/Tom Brailsford/Gary Wainwright</p>
<p>31st October 2022</p> <p>1.00pm -2.00pm Informal meeting 2.00pm-4pm Public meeting</p> <p>Hybrid Meeting Council Chamber, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 19.10.22</p>	<p>Informal items:</p> <p>Educational Outcomes update (GCSE exam results)</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Pre-decision Scrutiny – Cabinet decisions on the horizon</p> <p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>Outcomes of the Joint Area Targeted multi-agency Inspection (Ofsted letter)</p>	<p>Chris Jessup/Narinder Kaur/Jo Sanders</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>Elaine McShane/Ian Mottershaw (rep from WY police to be invited)</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>12th December 2022</p> <p>1.00pm -2.00pm Informal meeting 2.00pm- 4pm Public meeting</p> <p>Hybrid Meeting Council Chamber, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 28.11.22</p>	<p>Informal items:</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Performance highlights slide (quarterly report dates to be confirmed)</p> <p>Pre-decision Scrutiny – Cabinet decisions on the horizon</p> <p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p>	<p>T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane to present</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p>
<p>23rd January 2023</p> <p>1.00pm-2.00pm Informal meeting 2pm-3.30 pm Public Meeting</p> <p>Hybrid Meeting Council Chamber, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 12.1.23</p>	<p>Informal Items</p> <p>Ambition Board Minutes (12.12.22)</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Performance highlights slide (quarterly report dates to be confirmed)</p> <p>Pre-decision Scrutiny – Cabinet decisions on the horizon</p> <p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p>	<p>H Kilroy</p> <p>J Sanders/E McShane/S Miles to present</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p>
<p>20th March 2023</p> <p>1.00pm-2.00pm Informal meeting 2.00pm-4pm Public meeting</p>	<p>Informal Items</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Performance highlights slide (quarterly report dates to be confirmed)</p>	<p>T Brailsford/J Sanders/E McShane</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>Hybrid Meeting Council Chamber, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 6.3.23</p>	<p>Pre-decision Scrutiny – Cabinet decisions on the horizon</p> <p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</p>	<p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p>