

Public Document Pack



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Friday 18 April 2025

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Children's Scrutiny Panel

The **Children's Scrutiny Panel** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **11.00 am** on **Monday 28 April 2025**.

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 'S Lawton'.

Samantha Lawton
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 Itrat Ali (Chair)

Councillor Ashleigh Robinson

Councillor Jane Rylah

Councillor Hannah McKerchar

Councillor Richard Smith

Councillor Tanisha Bramwell

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Panel

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 14th March 2025.

3: Declaration of Interests

9 - 10

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

4: Admission of the Public

Most agenda items take place in public. This only changes where there is a need to consider exempt information, as contained at Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. You will be informed at this point which items are to be recommended for exclusion and to be resolved by the Committee.

5: Deputations/Petitions

The Panel will receive any petitions and/or 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 submit a petition at the meeting relating to a matter on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Members of the Public must submit a deputation in writing, at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting and shall subsequently be notified if the deputation shall be heard. A maximum of four deputations shall be heard at any one meeting.

6: Public Question Time

To receive any public questions.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the period for the asking and answering of public questions shall not exceed 15 minutes.

Any questions must be submitted in writing at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

7: Special schools – update on the rebuild of Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College

11 - 18

The Panel will consider a report giving an update on the rebuild of 2 new special schools at Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College.

Contact: Martin Wilby, Head of Education Places and Access Strategy
Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director, Learning and Early Support

8: Decline of the cohort of children in primary schools in Kirklees

19 - 30

The Panel will consider a report giving an update on the decline of the cohort of children in primary schools in Kirklees.

Contact: Martin Wilby, Head of Education Places and Access Strategy
Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director, Learning and Early Support

9: 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 and receive updates from senior officers in Children's Services.

Contact: Cabinet Members and Service Directors (Children's Services)

10: Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Kirklees Parenting Board

Panel Members who attend the Kirklees Parenting Board, will feedback on key areas of focus considered by the Board, which will be of interest to the Panel.

11: Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2024/25

31 - 58

The Panel will discuss progress of the work programme and agenda plan for the 2024/25 municipal year and consider new issues for inclusion in the work programme during the 2025/26 municipal year.

Provisional dates for the 2025/26 municipal year have been arranged, but are subject to approval by Council Annual General Meeting in May.

Contact: Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager

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Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Friday 14th March 2025

Present: Councillor Itrat Ali (Chair)
Councillor Ashleigh Robinson
Councillor Jane Rylah
Councillor Hannah McKerchar
Councillor Richard Smith
Councillor Tanisha Bramwell

In attendance: Tom Brailsford, Executive Director for Children and Families
Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director - Learning and Early Support
Jayne Whitton, Principal Educational Psychologist
Vicky Metherringham, Service Director - Child Protection and Family Support
Councillor Viv Kendrick, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th February 2025 be approved as a correct record.

2 Membership of the Panel

All Panel Members were in attendance.

3 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Tanisha Bramwell declared an interest regarding a member of the public who was present online to ask a question. Councillor Bramwell declared that the member of the public was a resident in her ward, who she had been supporting.

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

In accordance with Council Procedure rule 11, Sally Ellis read out questions on behalf of Laura Reich.

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 14 March 2025

"My questions relate to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Tribunal cases in Kirklees. Could the panel please provide:

- The total number of active appeals currently lodged with the First-tier Tribunal (SEND) where Kirklees Council is the respondent
- A breakdown of these active appeals by the nature of the appeal (refusal to assess, refusal to issue an EHC plan, contents of an EHC plan, etc.)
- The number of tribunal orders from concluded hearings that remain outstanding (where the local authority has not yet fully implemented the required actions within the statutory timeframe)
- Supplementary question: For any outstanding tribunal orders, the length of time elapsed since the order was issued

This information will help provide transparency regarding SEND disputes and the authority's compliance with tribunal decisions, which impacts some of our most vulnerable children."

A response was provided on behalf of the Panel.

RESOLVED:

The Panel agreed that a meeting would take place with officers to discuss the areas of concern raised in the public questions, with a view to potentially widening the Panel's area of focus in relation to SEND and EHCPs.

7 New initiatives of schools working in clusters

The Panel considered a report providing an insight into the new initiative of schools working in clusters, presented by Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director for Learning and Early Support.

Jo-Anne Sanders highlighted the following key points -

- The report was presented in the early days of the cluster initiative to provide transparency on how the programme had originated and how it would support children and young people with additional needs, and their families. It informed the Panel how the clusters were operating and how checks and challenge were built in across the development.
- Cluster working involved bringing together geographical groups of mainstream Primary and Secondary Schools (and those in the three-tier system), so that school SENDCOs could meet to discuss the emerging needs of young people and receive help and support from the team around the cluster.
- Funding was provided to clusters to support individual children or groups of children, or to fund staff training.
- The cluster initiative had been suggested by Peter Gray, who had written a report for the Department for Education looking at innovative ways of using funding to support children with additional needs in schools. The Council and Kirklees Schools Forum commissioned Peter Gray to carry out a review of arrangements in Kirklees in Summer 2023. In the Autumn of 2023, the review

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was fed back to the stakeholder groups who had been consulted, including Headteachers, Parent and local officers.

- The review concluded that there were opportunities to offer more consistency of provision across Kirklees, and to offer early funding and help to avoid waiting for the funding associated with an EHCP.
- Ways of working in clusters had been trialled successfully in other local authorities, however it was important to produce a model that would meet the needs of Kirklees.
- A task and finish group was set up in October 2023 and ran until March 2024, which consisted of SENDCOs and Headteachers from Primary and Secondary Schools, Educational Psychology Teams, Specialist Outreach, Early Years Support, and the Parent and Carer Forum.
- Key principles had driven the approach and were outlined in the report which provided detail on what a good funding system should look like, and the principles of cluster working.
- The initiative was piloted in Kirklees with a first cluster in Summer 2024, with the intention of a full roll-out in September 2024.
- 17 clusters were now operating across Kirklees, each formed from a mix of Primary and Secondary schools, providing opportunities for work on transition.
- Council teams “around the cluster” had been organised to fit with the 17 clusters.
- Two Cluster Area Leads had been appointed to have an overview of practice in their area and share best practice, working with the cluster leads (a designated SENCO in each cluster).

Jayne Whitton, Principal Educational Psychologist, further informed the Panel about how the clusters were working in practice. Jayne Whitton explained that:-

- At each cluster meeting schools brought individual cases where there were concerns, cases around groups of children or young people, or school-wide issues.
- By bringing schools together, key challenges could be identified, expertise within the group could be capitalised on and positive solutions shared.
- Feedback from SENCOs indicated that even if they had not taken a case to a meeting, learning still took place, as issues and strategies discussed could often be related to pupils at their own schools.
- Each discussion had a clear structure, to enable solutions to be found.
- Schools could discuss and agree how resource could be used to meet shared challenges.
- Schools had visited other schools in the area to observe and support, and shared contact information for useful organisations.
- Shared training needs had been identified, and training organised across the cluster.

Jo-Anne Sanders advised that cluster working gave some control to schools to utilise funding at an early stage, prior to children receiving an EHCP. The initiative was in its second term, and a review was planned for June to develop the model in line with feedback from all stakeholders. It had involved a huge system change and required everybody to work in a different way. The Panel was informed that there

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had been challenges around communication and anxiety over funding arrangements from schools and parents. This had been recognised and listened to, and the initiative would continue to be shaped by all involved.

The Panel noted that they could visit a cluster meeting to observe the process in action, and that this could be arranged in conjunction with Area Leads.

In answer to a question from the Panel relating to clarity regarding funding arrangements, Jo-Anne Sanders advised that there would be openness and transparency through a Cluster Audit Statement. There was a modest amount of money available to the clusters, and the support provided was not always financial. The Panel was assured that the EHCP top-up funding would not be removed. One of the key principles was the principle of equity, so funding would be based on need and allocated in the most fair, open and transparent way.

Tom Brailsford, Executive Director for Children and Families, advised the Panel that while the Department for Education (DfE) worked on reforms, Kirklees were at the forefront of taking managed risks to find creative solutions to the problems which existed nationally. The DfE and NHS England had recognised that Kirklees were an example of good practice locally. Cluster working was part of an overall approach to SEND provision for children, which also included increasing special school capacity and creating Additionally Resourced Provision within mainstream schools.

In answer to a question from the Panel, Jayne Whitton advised that the clusters were supporting children with varying levels of need, and that SENDCos were now working more collaboratively both with each other and with the team around the cluster.

The Panel asked how feedback from families would be used to inform the cluster model, and how the families of children with SEND were communicated with about the process.

Jo-Anne Sanders informed the Panel that schools would contact parents of children who were discussed at the meetings, that the children were anonymous within the meeting, and that after the meeting the schools would provide the parents with the outcomes of the cluster's conversation. The Parent and Carer Forum were working on parent engagement on a range of matters related to SEND and would be reporting their feedback. A full day's review in June would include parent feedback because it was vital that the system had the confidence of families. The Panel was informed that by understanding needs within communities, appropriate provision could be planned, eg: Speech and Language Therapy capacity or Alternative Provision.

In answer to a question from the Panel about the sharing of best practice between clusters, Jayne Whitton informed the Panel that it was critical for the clusters to share learning and that this was done in several ways:-

- Each cluster had a cluster lead, and all cluster and Area Leads met up half-terminally to share successes and challenges and discuss next steps.
- Area leads attended cluster meetings to get to know the different areas and met with cluster leads individually.

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The Panel was advised that clusters were linking up as much as possible to share their learning and that the individual cluster leads were very interested in what was happening in other areas.

The Chair thanked the officers for their report and for the efforts that had been made to set up the cluster working.

RESOLVED:

- (1) The Panel noted the report and thanked Officers for their contributions.
- (2) The Panel agreed to arrange to visit a cluster meeting to observe the process in action, and that this would be arranged in conjunction with Area Leads.

8 Performance Data (Children's Services) - verbal update on highlights

Vicky Metheringham, Service Director for Child Protection and Family Support and Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director for Learning and Early Support, presented highlights from the Performance Data covering the period ending January 2025.

Vicky Metheringham highlighted the following key points:-

Care Leavers

There had been a deterioration in some areas of practice despite the focus on this area.

- There had been some recording issues regarding the number of care leavers in suitable accommodation and these figures were being amended. Housing colleagues were working on schemes that would better support care leavers and there was confidence that improvements were being made.
- A number of care leavers were unable to work due to disability, illness or parenting duties. If those unable to work were removed from the figures, there would be almost 65% of care leavers in education, training or employment, which was encouraging. Strong links existed with C&K Careers, Kirklees College and Huddersfield University, and there were opportunities within the Council for employment.
- The figures showed a drop in contact every 8 weeks with care leavers, and practice standards were being reconsidered to better meet the needs of care leavers. Sickness absence had contributed to the decline, but more PAs had been recruited and different ways of supporting additionality to the service were being investigated.

Children Going Missing

- Data suggested that there had been more missing children episodes, however the change in the way the Police recorded data had impacted on these figures.
- The number of children going missing in the last twelve months had increased, after a previous significant reduction, and work including partnership auditing continued, in order to better understand the impact of the recent changes in policies and protocols.

Children at Risk of Criminal Exploitation

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- The number of children at risk had risen; this was seen as positive as it was a result of an earlier intervention approach.
- The information sharing portal was being well used, as partners worked together to share information on vulnerable children.
- A multi-agency group met weekly to scrutinise individuals' circumstances.
- Risk reduction was a priority, and bespoke and targeted work was taking place with vulnerable young people through plans which had been developed to reduce risk.
- The Kirklees Youth Engagement Service were integral to the plans to support young people and shared valuable intelligence about targeting perpetrators and potential perpetrators.

In answer to a question from the Panel about the rising numbers of children being electively home educated and the ways in which those children were safeguarded, Jo-Anne Sanders advised that:-

- There were officers dedicated to Elective Home Education (EHE) as part of the Access to Education function, who were notified of children becoming EHE.
- Each child registered as EHE was screened for vulnerabilities and each notification was RAG rated to prioritise the next steps for support.
- If the child had been on the school roll, then the school would be contacted, to ensure all background information was known and so that the family could be supported appropriately.
- Reasons for the parental decision were explored with the family to determine the appropriate approach.
- Families were offered support to understand what was involved in Home Education and what support they were entitled to and any safety and wellbeing concerns were also discussed.
- The service valued the engagement with parents and understood that there were different reasons for deciding to home educate, from those who had made a positive choice to do so, to those who wished to see their child back in school.
- Support was given by the wider team to help children get back onto a school roll where appropriate.
- If there was social care involvement with a home educated child, there was a multi-agency approach, and services would work with the family to help the child return to school.
- If there were concerns, there was a robust process in place and if necessary formal action would be taken.

In answer to a question from the Panel about how children who had never been on a school roll, could access the Healthy Child Programme, Jo-Anne Sanders advised that the Healthy Child Programme looked after all children and there was a statutory requirement that included mandated visits. The service worked with the provider to look at all children, who were tracked through information received by government. Public Health colleagues who commissioned the Healthy Child Programme were looking for opportunities to strengthen this, however families did not always wish to take up the provision they were entitled to. It was important that every child was accounted for, and under the Access to Education function there was a Child

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Missing in Education Team. The Panel noted that contact made by the service with families due to the expansion of the entitlement to free early education, meant that parents were aware of their opportunities and gave the service an understanding of reasons why opportunities were not always taken up.

RESOLVED:

That the verbal updates on performance data be noted and Officers be thanked for their presentations.

9 Pre-decision scrutiny - Cabinet decisions on the horizon

No items of pre-decision scrutiny on Cabinet decisions were discussed.

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

Tom Brailsford gave an update on the key highlights discussed at the last meeting of the Kirklees Parenting Board Meeting:-

- Mark Riddell, the Government appointed Advisor for Care Leavers, had attended, to observe and give advice.
- An update was provided on the overall offer for Care Leavers, eg: free prescriptions agreed with the Integrated Care Board (ICB).
- The Family Firm was discussed, whereby employment opportunities and work placements within the Council would be available to Care Leavers.
- Wider improvements for Care Leavers, including a better Housing offer, were also discussed, to ensure accommodation was suitable.
- Care Leaver representation continued and their first-hand experience was making a positive contribution to the Board; a third Care Leaver representative had joined.
- Senior Officers were undertaking formal mentoring for Care Leavers, which had two-way benefits, with leaders gaining understanding of individual's experiences and for Care Leavers to receive one to one support.
- Further volunteers were wanted to become mentors, information about how to volunteer would become available in due course on the website.
- The Council's fleet of vehicles would soon be advertising for Foster Carers in Kirklees.

RESOLVED:

That the updates from the Kirklees Parenting Board be noted.

11 Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2024/25

The Chair of the Panel had visited the Front Door Team at Civic Centre 3 on 11th February 2025 and seen first-hand the complexity and volume of their work, how they worked physically alongside the Policing Team and liaised with Social Work and Health and Housing Teams.

Cllr McKerchar, Panel Member, had visited the Children with Disabilities Team on the 25th February to learn more about how that team fitted in with the other services such as the adaptations team.

There had been a joint discussion between the Adult Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel and the Children's Scrutiny Panel on the 26th February to consider a

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report giving an overview of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) and the background and vision of the contract which will be effective from April 2026. The Panel was updated with key milestones for the competitive tender process and the governance flight path was outlined. Improvements around statutory contact points with children aged 0-5 were also discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the progress on the Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2024-25 and the updates on recent visits be noted.

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.



REPORT TITLE: Special schools – update on the rebuild of Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College

Meeting:	Children’s Scrutiny Panel
Date:	28 April 2025
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Amanda Pinnock & Cllr Viv Kendrick
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No N/A
<p>Purpose of Report To provide a progress report on the rebuild of Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College as part of our strategy to secure sufficient places for Learners in Kirklees.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That this report is noted. <p>Reasons for Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a key element of the councils ‘SEND The Big Plan’ ensuring our children and young people in Kirklees with additional needs are educated locally. 	
<p>Resource Implications:</p> <p>£46.6M allocation in the Capital Plan for the rebuild of the two schools</p>	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	Tom Brailsford 11 April 2025
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Shard for information 11 April 2025
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	Shared for information 11 April 2025

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Yes

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The council has committed to the rebuild and expansion of two special schools, Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College. This is one part of our overall strategy to enable Kirklees Children to be educated in their local area.
- 1.2 Significant progress has been made with each project, working in partnership with local education partners and existing pupils at each school.
- 1.3 The design phases are nearing completion and artists impressions of each new school building are available.
- 1.4 Work is expected to start on both new sites by June 2025.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 We are passionate about every child in Kirklees having the best start in life and achieve their best. A key strand of the SEND Transformation Strategy 'SEND The Big Plan' is 'Enough of the right stuff' which includes sufficient special school places.
- 2.2 In October 2021, Kirklees Cabinet agreed an ambitious plan to rebuild and expand two existing special schools, Joseph Norton Academy, and Woodley School and College. Not only will the plan provide modern facilities for existing pupils, but the schools will also be built to accommodate more pupils to address growing demand.
- 2.3 This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, that proposes to secure and build on the capacity and expertise which exists in local state-funded special schools to continue to support children and young people's needs by ensuring we have high quality, fit for purpose facilities that can support a wide range of need within a sustainable delivery model
- 2.4 For Joseph Norton the plan is to build a school with a capacity for 132 pupils on Deighton Road, Huddersfield making provision for pupils with Social Emotional and Mental Health needs
- 2.5 For Woodley the plan is to build a school with a capacity for 180 pupils on the Fernside Avenue site in Almondbury with Complex Communication and Interaction/Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- 2.6 The rebuild of two special schools continues to complement and deliver on the Council's 2025/26 priorities:
 - Getting the basics right - a balanced budget and a modern organisation -- saving money on expensive independent provision and improving local services for children and young people.
 - Protecting the vulnerable and achieving inclusion - the investment in new build special schools will provide the right support at the right time in the right place.
 - Thriving people and communities - now and over the longer-term – the investment in new build special schools will serve Kirklees residents for decades to come. Energy efficient new build special schools will support our vision for a 'net zero and climate ready Kirklees by 2038'.
 - Local economic growth, working with regional and national partners - continuing to invest in our towns and villages

2.7 The rebuild of Joseph Norton Academy

- 2.7.1 In July 2024 a report to Kirklees Cabinet outlined the progress made with the design of the new school building and the granting of planning approval.
- 2.7.2 Since then, a procurement process has been completed which has led to the appointment of a construction partner. A Pre-construction service agreement (PCSA) has been developed to confirm construction details and pricing.
- 2.7.3 The design for the school building has been a collaborative process, with input from engagement with children from the school at the forefront, as well as close consultation with the local community and ward members.
- 2.7.4 A programme of pre-commencement works is currently underway with the construction partner, working closely with officers from the Council's Children's and Growth & Regeneration Directorates and the Wellspring Academy Trust, who operate Joseph Norton Academy. This has included making minor changes to the design and construction of the building to improve value for money. Care has been taken to ensure that any proposed changes will not impact upon the functioning of the building or learning environment for the children.
- 2.7.5 A planning application associated with the design changes has been submitted and an outcome is expected by the end of May 2025.
- 2.7.6 Groundworks and construction are due to commence on site in June 2025.
- 2.7.7 An artist's impression of the proposed building can be seen below:



- 2.7.8 Wellspring Academy Trust have completed the significant change process with the Department for Education. This confirms the increase in pupil numbers from 63 to 132 as well as the change of location for the school.

- 2.7.9 Plans are being developed with Wellspring for a phased growth strategy to build up to the planned pupil numbers and age ranges prior to occupying the new building. This may involve developing a temporary 'satellite' provision on another school site.
- 2.7.10 Detailed work such as the furniture and IT requirements for each room is underway leading up to the detailed planning which will be required for transition arrangements once construction has been completed.

2.8 **The rebuild of Woodley School and College**

- 2.8.1 In July 2024 a report to Kirklees Cabinet highlighted a number of key elements to the delivery of the new school building:
- Removal of telecom masts from the current building
 - Relocation of a private pre-school to Almondbury Library and Children's Centre
 - Exit of the site from the Public Private Partnership 'PP1' contract
 - An extensive demolition programme of existing buildings on site
 - The detailed design of the new school building
- 2.8.2 Since July 2024 the telecom masts have been removed and the private pre-school has been successfully relocated.
- 2.8.3 The exit of the of the PP1 contract is considered imminent with lender approval being the final stage to enable this.
- 2.8.4 A thorough procurement process has taken place leading to the appointment of a contractor to undertake the demolition and initial ground works. The contractor is on standby for mobilisation following the PP1 exit.
- 2.8.5 Detailed design of the new building has been a very positive and productive process involving the council, specialist design teams and school leaders from Woodley. The school leaders from Woodley know the needs of their children best and have been crucial to this process.
- 2.8.6 Direct engagement with pupils of the school has taken place in a programme of consultation about what is important to them in their new school buildings, and these findings have helped influence the design of new school building and its grounds.
- 2.8.7 An artist's impression of the proposed building can be seen on the following page:



2.8.8 Planning permission is expected in the coming weeks.

2.8.9 Work has started on the tendering process which will lead to the appointment of a main construction contractor.

2.8.10 A formal statutory process has been concluded leading to Cabinet approval to increase the places at Woodley School and College to 194. This includes 180 places at the new school building and 14 places at Blossom, Woodly's existing post-16 satellite provision in the Byram Arcade, Huddersfield. Implementation of the full 194 places was agreed to take place gradually over time.

2.8.11 Since this approval Woodley Moor temporary satellite provision has been established with 25 places available for primary aged pupils in Crosland Moor, by adapting an unused building. The current plan is for this to close when the pupils can transfer to the new school building.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

Working smart and delivering efficiently and efficiently – saving money on expensive independent provision and improving local services for children and young people. The investment in new build special schools will serve Kirklees residents for decades to come.

Working with people and partners using place-based approach – working with existing education partners, improving and providing the right support at the right time in the right place.

Complementing and delivering on 'Our Priorities' as detailed in 2.4 above.

3.2 Financial Implications

This is a significant investment for Kirklees. The council plan approved by Full Council on 5 March 2025 includes £46.6M allocation for the rebuild of the two schools.

3.3 **Legal Implications**

These are complex projects requiring significant support from the councils Legal Services. The removal of the telecoms mast which is complete and the exit from the PPP contract which should take place imminently are major legal milestones.

The Council must also comply with its obligations under section 149 of the Equalities Act and its public sector equality duty. Contracts for works and services will need to comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

3.4 **Climate Change and Air Quality**

The new buildings will contribute to the Council's Net Zero Carbon ambitions with air source heat pumps and extensive photovoltaic panels providing the heating and lighting for the schools, and it exceeds the requirements of Part L of the Building Regulations.

3.5 **Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**

Not applicable

4. **Consultation**

Formal statutory consultation has taken place leading up to the decision by Kirklees cabinet to increase the places at Woodley Schools and College to 194. A similar consultation has taken place to support a 'significant change' application to the Department for Education to increase the places at Joseph Norton Academy to 132, which was subsequently approved.

5. **Engagement**

- 5.1 There is very regular engagement with the senior leadership teams at both Woodley School and College, and Joseph Norton Academy, as well as the Wellspring Academy Trust.
- 5.2 Pupils from both schools have been engaged in a programme of consultation about what is important to them in their new school buildings, and these findings have helped influence the design of both new schools and their grounds.
- 5.3 Senior managers regularly engage with PCAN (Parents of Children with Additional Needs). PCAN is the parent-led forum for all parents and carers of children and young people (aged 0-25 years) with additional needs in Kirklees. PCAN is a key contact for the local authority to ensure that parents have their say in the design and delivery of local services for their children.
- 5.4 There is further engagement with our Local Area Partnership through the SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group.
- 5.5 Regular SEND newsletters are shared with wider stakeholders.
- 5.6 Ward members in both areas of the new sites are updated about key milestones.

6. Options

6.1 Options considered

Not applicable

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

Not applicable

7. Next steps and timelines

These have been included in the report where applicable

8. Contact officer

Joseph Norton rebuild project

Stewart Horn – Head of Service for Children’s Integrated Commissioning
stewart.horn@kirklees.gov.uk

Woodley rebuild project

Martin Wilby – Head of Education Places and Access
Martin.wilby@kirklees.gov.uk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

5 October 2021 Kirklees Council Cabinet Report

[Capital investment and rebuild of 2 Special Schools](#)

SEND The Big Plan – Dec 2023

[SEND - The Big Plan! | How we plan for SEND | Kirklees SEND Local Offer](#)

12 March 2024 Kirklees Council Cabinet Report

[Increasing special school places for children with complex autism at Woodley School & College - final decision](#)

9 July 2024 Kirklees Council Cabinet Report

[Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) – Capital Investment in the rebuild of two special schools](#)

SEND The Big Plan – What are we doing next - 2025

[SEND The Big Plan - What we are doing next - 2025 | How we plan for SEND | Kirklees SEND Local Offer](#)

10. Appendices

Not applicable

11. Service Director responsible

Jo-Anne Sanders Service Director – Learning and Early Support.
Jo-Anne.Sanders@kirklees.gov.uk

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REPORT TITLE: Decline of the cohort of children in primary schools in Kirklees

Meeting:	Children’s Scrutiny Panel
Date:	28 April 2025
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Amanda Pinnock & Cllr Viv Kendrick
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No N/A
Purpose of Report To highlight the challenges in the school system with the declining cohorts of children	
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That this report is noted • That Children’s Scrutiny consider how they might help raise awareness of opportunities to ensure a more sustainable school system. 	
Reasons for Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustainable schools system provides the foundation for efficient and effective education services which support the best possible start in life for children, helping them aspire and achieve. 	
Resource Implications: Not directly applicable	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	Tom Brailsford 11 April 2025
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Shared for information 11 April 2025
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	Shared for information 11 April 2025

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

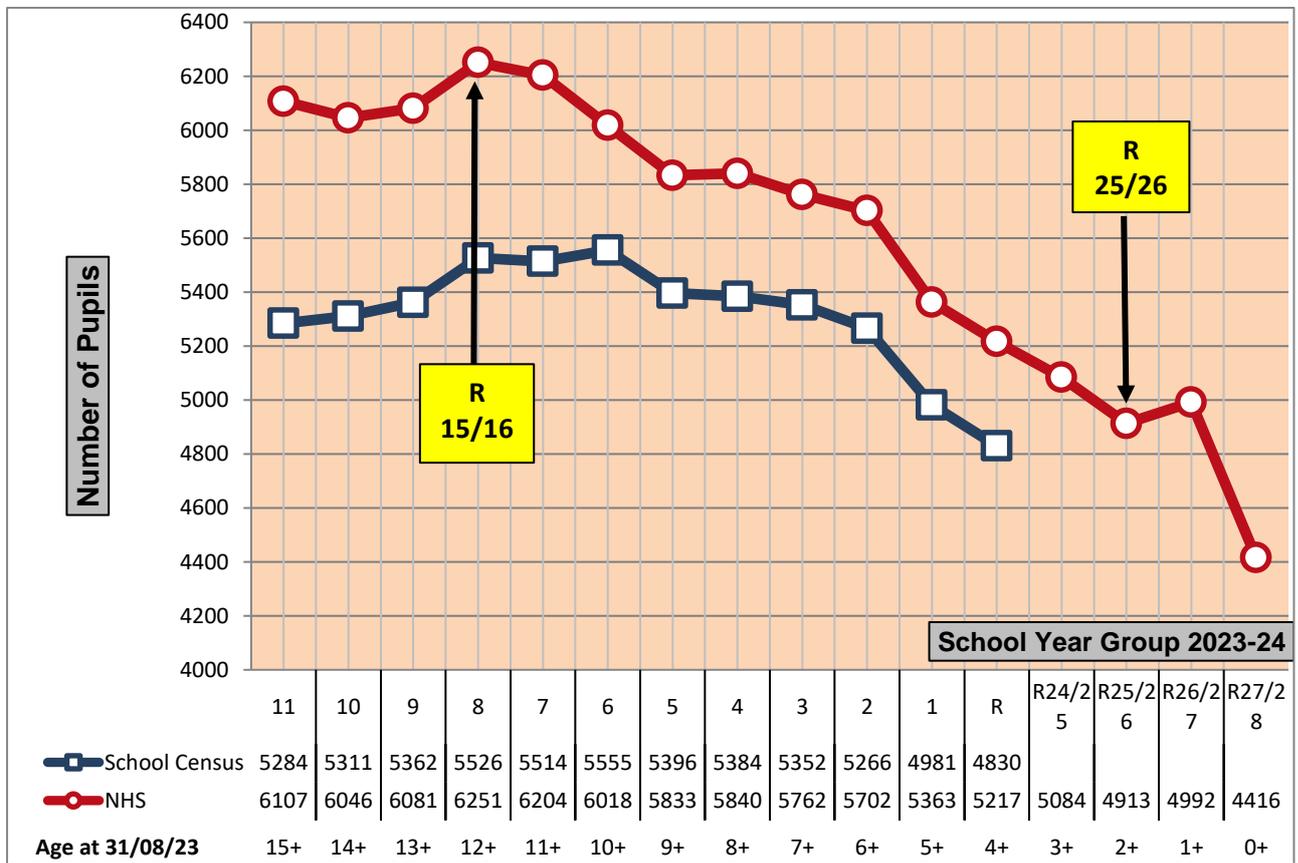
Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The size of the cohort of children entering reception classes has been declining for the last 10 years and further decline is expected.
- 1.2 With school funding being linked to pupil numbers, this has been creating financial pressures for some primary schools.
- 1.3 An approach to reducing available school places by taking opportunities to reduce Published Admission Numbers (PAN) has had some success but there remain some areas of Kirklees where significant surplus places still exist and the possibility of future school closures cannot be ruled out.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 The size of the cohort of children entering the school system at (R)eception age has been declining since a population peak in 2015/16. This decline is illustrated on the following graph by the red line which tracks the child population living in Kirklees based on NHS GP registrations.



- 2.2 In the majority of Kirklees house building alone will not be sufficient to reverse the population decline. Even in areas with large scale strategic house building sites they take many years to build.
- 2.3 The vast majority of funding a school receives by the national funding formula is predicated upon the numbers of children on their roll each year at October school census. Therefore, reducing numbers of children in schools means less money in the school system.

- 2.4 The most popular schools can have a degree of protection from population reduction but with greater choice available to parents this can in turn have a greater financial impact on schools which are less popular.
- 2.5 Another important factor is that the population decline is not evenly spread across Kirklees. A snapshot of this can be seen in appendix 1 with more detailed information being available in School Place Planning Documents.
- 2.6 Since 2020 there has been work underway to highlight this issue with school leaders and explore ways of reducing the risk of surplus places. The most obvious method is, where appropriate, to take opportunities to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) of some schools.
- 2.7 With the cost of staff accounting for more than 80% of the costs at most schools there is a clear incentive to look for cost effective staffing models. Theoretically, the most cost effective models in a primary school is where there is one class teacher to 30 pupils. Below 30 and there is less income per teacher and numbers above 30 can require the operation of two classes and the cost of an additional teacher. Of course, it is not all about the most cost effective model as there are educational outcomes considerations too.
- 2.8 This theoretical model is why many schools have a PAN of 30, 60 or 90 (ie multiples of 30). It is also why there can be an advantage to move to one of these models.
- 2.9 Some smaller schools have successfully found more creative solutions to help ensure they have cost effective staffing models such as mixed age teaching. It should be noted however, that PAN reduction is not a suitable option for every school.
- 2.10 By reducing their PAN, some schools have been able to plan their staffing models with more certainty. Once implemented there is also an opportunity to consider repurposing any spare space it provides such as for Additionally Resourced Provision, a special school satellite or school based nursery provision.
- 2.11 It does however take time to reduce a PAN. In compliance with the national School Admission Code there must be a consultation in the Autumn followed by a determination of new admission arrangements by the following February. There is then an 18 month period before the new arrangements take effect. It is a further 7 years for the change to work all the way through a primary school or linked infant and junior schools.
- 2.12 It must be the admission authority which undertakes the admission consultation and determination of admission arrangements. For Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools this is the local authority. For Academies, Foundation Trust and Voluntary Aided Schools, they are their own admission authority. This means the local authority must work in collaboration with a number of different organisations to effect change.
- 2.13 Between 2020 and 2026 there have been decisions made to reduce 456 places by PAN reduction which is the equivalent to a 7.7% reduction of places (2026 is relevant as future decisions have already been made for this period). The majority of this reduction is in the final 3 year period (see Appendix 2). Over the same period the size of the reception cohort has reduced by 8.2%.

2.14 Whilst there have been some successes over the last 5 years there are some areas in Kirklees where there remains significant levels of surplus places and no movement in reducing local PANs. Notably:

Holme Valley	26.1% surplus places
Skelmanthorpe and Denby Dale	26.0% surplus places

In both cases, further population decline is also expected

Note: the geographic areas referred here and in appendix 1 are Primary School Planning Areas which have been agreed with the Department for Education (further explanation is available in the School Place Planning Document)

- 2.15 There has been some reduction in PANs in Colne Valley, but levels of surplus remain high at 19.5% with further population decline expected.
- 2.16 To enable parental preference and to account for fluctuations in the population a surplus of between 5% and 10% of school places is considered healthy. Although there are other factors to consider such as strategic development sites with significant planned house building and existing pupil movement patterns.
- 2.17 Without action in areas with significant surplus and no mitigating factors, there is a real risk that continued pressure on school budgets could lead to the need to close some schools.
- 2.18 School closures hard to reverse should the population increase again in the longer term future. PANs on the other hand can be increased quite quickly to respond to any increase in local demand.
- 2.19 The focus of this report is clearly the primary school phase. The peak in population experienced in the primary phase has recently been experienced in the cohorts of children entering the secondary school phase at Year 7. Whilst a decline has started, the level of demand for places remains high. The dynamics for secondary schools are different, for example the scale of each school, however the impact of the population decline will still require careful monitoring. This is undertaken in annual School Place Planning Documents.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

A financially stable school system which offers choice for parents is key to delivering efficient and effective education services which support the best possible start in life for children. This underpins the opportunity for children to aspire and achieve their ambitions through education and beyond. To achieve this the council must work with partners such as schools, Trusts and Dioceses, in a place based approach.

3.2 Financial Implications

There is limited direct impact on council core budgets as the revenue funding for schools comes from the ring fenced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). However, measures within the DSG are supporting schools with challenges balancing their budgets and it could be argued that these resources might best be used for other purposes.

3.3 Legal Implications

All actions are being taken within legal framework of school finance regulations and School Admissions Code.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Having choices for parents is positive but this needs to be balanced with the financial sustainability of the local school system and with environmental sustainability pressures.

Whilst it is recognised that parental preference allows applications to be made for any school, Kirklees Council gives priority to school admission applications for local schools, where they are more likely to be able to walk or cycle to their preferred school. If we are unable to offer a place to the parent's preferred school because the school has reached its published admission number with applicants of a higher priority in the oversubscription criteria for the school, Kirklees Council aims to offer an alternative school place within a reasonable distance.

Choosing a school within walking distance of the family home has great health and wellbeing benefits for children and parents/carers and would contribute to the reduction of pollution and CO2 emissions, a focus of the key long-term priorities for the Council in tackling the Climate Emergency in Kirklees. It improves air quality and works towards achieving the Net Zero and Climate Ready Kirklees vision by 2038.

Not all own admission authorities take the same approach to oversubscription.

3.5 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

There can be HR implications when a school reduces it's PAN but school numbers reduce over time and there is plenty of time to plan ahead. The HR implications of a school closure are more drastic.

4. Consultation

Each PAN reduction has followed due process in terms of the consultation requirements in the School Admissions Code.

5. Engagement

There has been engagement with the Education and Learning Partnership Board along with its subcommittee for Places Access and Inclusion about surplus school places and the actions that can be taken. There has also been targeted engagement with Head Teachers and Multi-Academy Trusts where surplus places are present and there are opportunities to reduce PANs. In addition, financial considerations across the school system is part of the annual programme of work undertaken by Schools Forum.

6. Options

6.1 Options considered

- A. No action
- B. Reducing school places by taking opportunities to reduce PANs
- C. Reducing school places by school closures

6.2 **Reasons for recommended option**

Taking no action is not a viable option for a sustainable local school system. Reducing school places by taking opportunities to reduce PANs avoids the need for resource intensive and unpopular school closures which are then hard to reverse.

7. **Next steps and timelines**

Summer Term 2025 – Continued engagement with the school system about opportunities to reduce PANs including some targeted work with school governors in the areas of concern listed above.

Autumn Term 2025 – Support the consultation process for further PAN reductions

Continuous – monitoring of the viability of schools with low and falling pupil numbers

8. **Contact officer**

Martin Wilby – Head of Education Places and Access
Martin.wilby@kirklees.gov.uk

9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

School Place Planning reports:

<https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/schools/school-organisation-and-planning.aspx>

School Admission Code:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60ebfeb08fa8f50c76838685/School_admissions_code_2021.pdf

10. **Appendices**

- 1 - Extract from the School Place Planning Document 2024 – Primary Places
- 2 - Illustration of PAN reduction decisions in the last 3 years

11. **Service Director responsible**

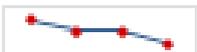
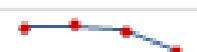
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Appendix 1 – Extract from the School Place Planning Document 2024

Primary Demand 2024/25 to 2026/27 at Planning Area Level

The following table provides a summary of the key evidence and conclusion referred to in Appendix A, plus an additional column to indicate the proportion of unused places.

PA No.	Planning area name	Trend in no. of children living in this PA per year group towards 2027	Percentage of unused Reception places within the planning area *	Actions required?
1	Batley	Decline with fluctuations 	12.5% (with the effect of agreed PAN changes, surplus will reduce to 6.4%)	The number of places in this planning area is sufficient to meet local demand.
2	Batley Birstall	Slight decline with fluctuations 	14.1%	The number of places in this planning area is sufficient to meet local demand.
3	Batley East	Broadly static 	22.1%	The number of places is sufficient to meet local demand at this time. However, it is important that the impact of housing development on demand for school places remains under constant review.
4	Birkenshaw & Gomersal	Decline with fluctuations 	14.7%	Continued monitoring of the level of surplus places in this planning area is required and the opportunities that may exist to address this.
5	Cleckheaton	Decline with fluctuations 	11.3% (with the effect of agreed PAN changes, surplus will reduce to 5.1%)	The number of places in this planning area is sufficient to meet local demand.
6	Colne Valley	Decline with fluctuations 	25.5% (with the effect of agreed PAN changes, surplus will reduce to 19.5%)	Engagement with the local school system about the level of surplus places in this planning area and opportunities that may exist has not resulted in a significant reduction in the surplus. Further action to raise the profile of this issue with school leaders, governors and Multi-Academy Trusts is required.

PA No.	Planning area name	Trend in no. of children living in this PA per year group towards 2027	Percentage of unused Reception places within the planning area *	Actions required?
7	Dewsbury East	Slight decline with fluctuations 	3.8%	The number of places is sufficient to meet local demand at this time. However, it is important that the impact of housing development on demand for school places remains under constant review.
8	Dewsbury South	Broadly static with fluctuations 	27.3% (with the effect of agreed PAN changes, surplus will reduce to 12.5%)	The number of places is sufficient to meet local demand at this time. However, it is important that the impact of housing development on demand for school places remains under constant review.
9	Dewsbury West	Decline with fluctuations 	15.4%	The number of places in this planning area is sufficient to meet local demand.
10	Golcar	Decline 	21.4% (with the effect of agreed PAN changes, surplus would reduce to 12.9%)	Continued monitoring of the level of surplus places in this planning area is required and the opportunities that may exist to address this.
11	Heckmondwike	Decline with fluctuations 	13.3%	Continued monitoring of the level of surplus places in this planning area is required and the opportunities that may exist to address this.
12	Holme Valley	Decline 	26.1%	Engagement with the local school system about the level of surplus places in this planning area and opportunities that may exist has not resulted in any reduction in the surplus. Further action to raise the profile of this issue with school leaders, governors and Multi-Academy Trusts is required.
13	Honley & Meltham	Decline with fluctuations 	12.8% (with the effect of agreed PAN changes, surplus would reduce to 10.8%)	The number of places in this planning area is sufficient to meet local demand.

PA No.	Planning area name	Trend in no. of children living in this PA per year group towards 2027	Percentage of unused Reception places within the planning area *	Actions required?
14	Huddersfield North	Decline with fluctuations 	1.4%	The number of places is sufficient to meet local demand at this time. However, it is important that the impact of housing development on demand for school places remains under constant review.
15	Huddersfield North West	Broadly static with fluctuations 	0.2%	The number of places in this planning area is sufficient to meet local demand.
16	Huddersfield South East	Decline with fluctuations 	15.8% (with the effect of agreed PAN changes, surplus would reduce to 14.3%)	Continued monitoring of the level of surplus places in this planning area is required and the opportunities that may exist to address this.
17	Huddersfield South West	Broadly static with fluctuations 	13.2% (with the effect of agreed PAN changes, surplus will reduce to 9.6%)	The number of places in this planning area is sufficient to meet local demand.
18	Kirkheaton, Lepton & Grange Moor	Slight decline with fluctuations 	13.3% (the effect of agreed PAN changes will remove this surplus**)	Taking account of the longstanding inward migration of children from outside the area, the number of places available in this planning area is sufficient to meet local demand.
19	Liversedge	Decline with fluctuations 	9.7%	The number of places in this planning area is sufficient to meet local demand.
20	Mirfield	Slight decline with fluctuations 	19.4% (with the effect of agreed PAN changes, surplus will reduce to 6.3%)	The number of places in this planning area is sufficient to meet local demand.

PA No.	Planning area name	Trend in no. of children living in this PA per year group towards 2027	Percentage of unused Reception places within the planning area *	Actions required?
21	Newsome	Slight decline with fluctuations 	12.2%	Continued monitoring of the level of surplus places in this planning area is required and the opportunities that may exist to address this.
22	Shelley	Slight decline 	11.5%	Continued monitoring of the level of surplus places in this planning area is required and the opportunities that may exist to address this.
23	Skelmanthorpe and Denby Dale	Slight decline 	26.0%	Engagement with the local school system about the level of surplus places in this planning area and opportunities that may exist has not resulted in any reduction in the surplus. Further action to raise the profile of this issue with school leaders, governors and Multi-Academy Trusts is required.

*The percentage of unused places has been calculated by taking an average of the numbers on roll in Reception and Year 1 in each planning area (Jan 2024 school census) and comparing this to the number of Reception places available in each planning area (PAN 2024/25).

**In accordance with the calculation method used, which is based on numbers on roll, this planning area appears to show a deficit. This is a feature of significant pupil movement into this planning area from neighbouring planning areas and not a cause for concern about availability of places for local children.

Appendix 2 - Illustration of PAN reduction decisions in the last 3 years

Agreed PAN reductions for 2024/25			
PA	PA name	School	Change in number of places
1	Batley	Manorfield I & N	↓30
8	Dewsbury South	Overthorpe CofE Academy	↓12
9	Dewsbury West	Westmoor Primary School	↑15
11	Heckmondwike	Millbridge, a SHARE Primary Academy	↓2
14	Huddersfield North	Birkby I & N School	↓30
16	Huddersfield South East	Netherhall St James CE (VC) I & N School	↓35
16	Huddersfield South East	Netherhall Learning Campus Junior School	↓15
17	Huddersfield South West	Oak CE (VC) Primary School	↓60
22	Shelley	Shelley First School	↓4

Agreed PAN reductions for 2025/26			
PA	PA name	School	Change in number of places
1	Batley	Purlwell I & N	↓30
8	Dewsbury South	Savile Town CE (VC) I & N	↓30
17	Huddersfield South West	Luck Lane, A SHARE Academy	↓15
20	Mirfield	Old Bank Academy	↓10

Agreed PAN reductions for 2026/27			
PA	PA name	School	Change in number of places
5	Cleckheaton	Heaton Avenue, a SHARE Academy	↓15
6	Colne Valley	Linthwaite Clough J I & EY School	↓15
8	Dewsbury South	Pentland I & N School	↓19
10	Golcar	Woodside Green, a SHARE Academy	↓20
13	Honley & Meltham	Honley CE (VC) J I & N School	↓6
16	Huddersfield South East	St Joseph's Catholic Academy (Hudds)	↓5
18	Kirkheaton, Lepton & Grange Moor	Kirkheaton Primary School	↓30
20	Mirfield	Crossley Fields J & I school	↓29

NB Y3 PAN reductions are also proposed in the Batley PA - Hyrstmount Junior (90 to 60) and Staindiffe CE (VC) Junior (90 to 60) and the Huddersfield South East PA - NLC Junior School (75 to 55)

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CHILDREN’S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

MEMBERS: Cllr Itrat Ali, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Jane Rylah, Cllr Ashleigh Robinson, Cllr Hannah McKerchar, Cllr Tanisha Bramwell

SUPPORT: Helen Kilroy (Assistant Democracy Manager), Claire Gardiner (Democracy Officer)

Agenda item/area of focus	Lead Officer	Areas of Scrutiny carried forward from 24-25	Comments
<p>Standard items</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 Kirklees Parenting Board • Ambition Board Minutes 	<p>Cabinet Members/Senior Officers (Children’s Service)</p> <p>Presented by Service Directors (produced by Paul Caladine)</p> <p>Panel Members who attend Kirklees Parenting Board</p> <p>Senior Officers and Cabinet Members</p>	<p>Panel will check at each meeting with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers from Children’s Service if there are any potential areas of pre-decision scrutiny they need to consider at future meetings.</p> <p>The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support (written report in informal session and verbal update on key issues in public meeting). Panel will be asked for questions prior to the Panel meeting so that these can be shared with Senior Officers and Cabinet Members in advance of the Informal meeting.</p> <p>Members of the Panel who attend the Kirklees Parenting Board will feedback on key issues to the Scrutiny Panel as appropriate.</p> <p>The Panel will receive for information the minutes from the Ambition Board meetings which are held quarterly.</p>	<p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Quarterly</p>
<p>Review of the Improvement Journey – Ofsted Inspection</p>	<p>Tom Brailsford/Vicky Metherringham</p>	<p>The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of Children’s Services and receive regular updates following Ofsted Inspections.</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p>

		<p>The Panel will visit Children’s Social Care Teams, Children with Disabilities Team and the Front Door during the 2024/25 municipal year.</p> <p>Training on Corporate Parenting on 30th August 2024 The Panel received a training presentation on Corporate Parenting on the 30th August 2024 and will consider regular updates on issues considered by the Kirklees Parenting Board at each Panel meeting.</p> <p>Visit to No 11 and No 12 hubs The Panel visited No 11 and No 12 hubs and observed the services on offer and being accessed by young people.</p> <p>Care Leavers Month – October 2024 The Panel were invited to events that took place during Care Leavers Month (October 2024) and details were shared with Members of the Panel.</p> <p>Visit on 30th October 2024 to Care Leavers Achievement Awards Members of the Panel attended the Care Leavers Achievement Awards Event at Huddersfield Town Hall, it was a celebratory event held for Care Leavers. The evening was inspirational, with speeches from the Mayor, Councillor Viv Kendrick (Cabinet Member for Children) and very bravely from some of the young people. The atmosphere in the room was supportive throughout, particularly as the students came on stage to receive their awards. The awards ceremony was followed by a buffet, a magician and an unplanned performance of Kurdish dancing.</p> <p>Visit on 24th October 2024 to the Takeover Event – Care Leavers Forum The Chair of the Panel attended the Takeover event on the 24th October 2024 which was facilitated by the Care Leavers Forum, supported by the Our Voice Team and Children’s Rights Team. There was attendance across the board from all different providers of children’s services and representatives from the Integrated Care System (ICS) healthcare, housing</p>	<p>30.10.24</p> <p>24.10.2024</p>
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		<p>as well as Cabinet Members. The meeting was very interactive and following the introductions there was an ice breaker, the presentations and group exercises facilitated by the care leavers. A great amount of work had gone into preparing the event. Three videos of the care leavers were shared outlining their journey, the challenges they faced and the support they received.</p> <p>The agenda included young people and Kirklees Parenting Board member discussion on the topics of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things to do • Homes for children • Health and wellbeing • Voice, influence and participation • Learning <p>The session ended with a quiz, and a recital of a poem written by one of the care leavers.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 11th October 2024 – Outcome of the Children’s Services Ofsted Inspection</p> <p>The Panel considered the outcome and recommendations of the Children’s Services Ofsted Inspection report, which was published on the 27th August 2024 and highlighted the key areas of improvement for the Service. The Ofsted Inspection covered all areas of the Children’s Service but focussed on children in need, children in care and care leavers. The Panel agreed that the Ofsted report was very positive and that it was encouraging to see the significant improvements that had been made since the last Ofsted report in 2019. The Panel asked that their thanks and congratulations be passed onto the Teams within Children’s Services for their hard work and commitment to improving the delivery of services and support to children and young people in Kirklees.</p>	<p>11.10.24</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Team will assess referrals at the front door and make a decision on what service was required. • Domestic abuse case consultants will take some of the early support and preventative work, for example around young people’s housing and trying to prevent homelessness. • Front Door had received 19,000 phone calls since 1.4.24 and all the enquiries have to be turned round in a 24 hour window. It was essential to get the timescales and right decision for families, seeking consent etc and it was a big challenge to meet the timescales. • The team worked with multi agency partners, for example, probation, youth engagement service, and the drug and alcohol service. Practice learning days were held and partners were invited to come and look at the work of the Team. A monthly meeting was held with partners to discuss anything that was not working and training was given to partners to help them understand the referral process. • A weekly Referral meeting was held to look at cases and review decisions where appropriate, this meeting was also attended by partners such as health and the police. The Panel agreed to attend and observe one of the Referral meetings. • Quote “The Front Door is engaged with young people, the child was at the heart of the conversation, high on the agenda and was the heart of everything we do”. • The Team were ‘growing their own’ staff and people were stepping up into roles. <p>Visit on 25th February 2025 to the Children with Disabilities (CWD) and Access and Intervention Teams</p> <p>Members of the Panel met with the CWD and Access and Intervention Teams on the 25th February 2025 and the following key points were discussed –</p>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CWD Team support children with disabilities who have complex health and physical needs, autistic children and some with behavioural needs. • Support to children did not tend to reduce over time, but instead would usually increase as the child got older. There was an Adult Pathway Team to support the young person once they turned 18, and from 16+ there would be joined up working to help prepare them for adulthood. • The caseloads in the CWD Team were manageable and weekly supervision took place with Social Workers and the team worked closely with Assessment and Intervention. • The CWD Team worked closely with the EHCP Team in Education, Adults Social Care, Youth Engagement Service, other services within Children’s and the police. • Communication with a large number of children being supported by the CWD Team was non-verbal. Social Workers would use pictures and story boards to communicate with children or speak to the child’s school or family to find out the best way to communicate with the young person. The Panel agreed to see some examples of the story boards. • The Team would often struggle to find a placement for some children with disabilities as their needs could be very complex and not all foster carers were skilled enough in this area to care for them. • There were waiting lists for home adaptation referrals which could cause frustration to families. 	
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<p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation Plan and</p> <p>Sufficiency of SEND and Mainstream capacity</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders Michelle Lister</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the SEND Transformation Plan and will focus on the following areas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Valve - Oversight of the Government Safety Valve Agreement and the current profile of spend across the High Needs Blocks 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and Compliance - Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) Overview of volume processes – quality and compliance (including Annual Reviews) • Graduated Approach – Mainstream Schools organised in Clusters - New initiative of schools working in clusters • Specialist places (Sufficiency) - Special Schools – overview of provision and two new school rebuilds <p>The Panel will consider sufficiency across Learning places and focus on the following areas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decline of the cohort of children in primary schools in Kirklees - Needs and capacity around the teacher workforce - Opportunities for extensions to entitlements for wrap around care and childcare <p>To support this work, the Panel will take advantage of opportunities throughout the 24/25 municipal year to observe partnership meetings when these issues were discussed including –</p> <p>Visit on 3rd October 2024 to SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group</p> <p>The Panel attended and observed the SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on the 3rd October 2024 to gain a better understanding of the SEND transformation work. A presentation was carried out sharing reflections, impacts and progress on the programme and clusters and explained the “why, approach and roles”. Break out groups were asked to discuss challenges to SEND, areas of strength, hopes and worries for cluster model.</p>	<p>3.10.24</p>
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		<p>Panel meeting on 22nd November 2024 – Safety Valve Agreement for High Needs Block</p> <p>The Panel considered a report providing an insight into the Council’s ‘Safety Valve’ agreement with the Department for Education in relation to the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Panel gave their support for the report and asked that officers consider and take on board any questions and comments raised by the Panel in future reports.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 4th February 2025 – Education Health and Care Plan Overview</p> <p>The Panel considered a report which provided an insight into the national and local challenges relating to Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The Panel recognised that there were local and national challenges due to the rise in EHCP numbers, but noted that it was evident from the report that the service was working in partnership, using a systems-based approach, and focusing on quality.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 14th March 2025 – New initiatives in schools working in clusters</p> <p>The Panel considered a report providing an insight into the new initiative of schools working in clusters. Cluster working involved bringing together geographical groups of mainstream Primary and Secondary Schools (and those in the three-tier system), so that school SENDCOs could meet to discuss the emerging needs of young people and receive help and support from the team around the cluster. Funding was provided to clusters to support individual children or groups of children, or to fund staff training. The Panel noted the report and agreed to visit a cluster meeting to observe the process in action.</p>	<p>22.11.24</p> <p>4.2.25</p> <p>14.3.25</p>
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		<p>Panel meeting on 28th April 2025 – Decline of the cohort of children in primary schools in Kirklees The Panel will consider a report on the decline of the cohort of children in primary schools in Kirklees.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 28th April 2025 – Overview of provision and 2 new school rebuilds The Panel will consider a report on Special Schools giving an overview of provision and 2 new school rebuilds – Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College.</p> <p>Visit on 10th June 2025 to the Places Access and Inclusion Committee of the Education (PAIC) The Panel will visit the Places, Access and Inclusion Meeting on the 10th June 2025 to observe the discussions around needs and capacity relating to the teacher workforce – date to be arranged.</p> <p>Visit on 16th July 2025 to an Education and Learning Partnership Board (ELPB) meeting The Panel will attend and observe the discussions at the ELPB meeting on the 16th July 2025, as part of their scrutiny focus on the SEND Transformation Plan.</p>	<p>28.4.25</p> <p>28.4.25</p> <p>10th June 2025</p> <p>16th July 2025</p>
<p>Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)</p>	<p>Vicky Metheringham/Jo-Anne Sanders/Jill Greenfield and Sara Miles</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the multi-agency partnership arrangements as part of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) and consider the changes which have been implemented.</p> <p>Visit on 10th February 2025 to Kirklees Safeguarding Partnership Board (KSPB) The Panel will visit the Kirklees Safeguarding Partnership Board meeting as part of their scrutiny on the working together action plan and achieving outcomes for the children across Kirklees.</p>	<p>10.2.25</p>

	<p>Patrick Boosey (NHS)</p>	<p>Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) Action Plan The Panel will consider the changes implemented in the Working Together Action Plan and the multi-agency partnership arrangements. Julie Sykes, the Independent Scrutineer of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children’s Partnerships (KSCP) will be invited to attend the Panel meeting – to be arranged in the 2025/26 municipal year.</p> <p>Visit on 9th May 2025 to Starting Well Board The Panel will visit the Starting Well Board on the 9th May 2025 as part of their scrutiny on achieving outcomes for children across Kirklees.</p>	<p>To be carried forward to 2025/26 municipal year</p> <p>9.5.25</p>
<p>Quality Assurance – impact of auditing the Children’s Service</p>	<p>Vicky Metheringham/Robert Fordyce</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the Quality Assurance impact of auditing the Children’s Service and what difference it was making to children’s lives.</p> <p>The Panel will be invited to observe appropriate forums on Quality Assurance, including the Practice Learning days and Quality Learning Events taking place within the Children’s Service.</p> <p>Panel Meeting on 11th October 2024 – Annual Report on Quality Assurance The Panel considered the Annual Report on Quality Assurance. The report provided an overview of audit and learning processes for the last 12 months for consideration and discussion. It was noted that Members of the Panel would attend some of the forthcoming Practice Learning Days with Teams across the Children’s Service and report back with updates to future Panel Meetings.</p> <p>Visit on 29th November 2024 to Practice Learning Day (PLD) for Care Leavers Members of the Panel attended the Practice Learning Day for Care Leavers on the 29th November 2024. During the day, a presentation was given by</p>	<p>11.10.24</p> <p>29.11.24</p>

		<p>Lauren James, the specialist from the Adult Pathway Team. An overview of “My Housing Plan” was provided and the Panel Members present had the opportunity to observe the valuable peer review process. Discussion took place around the themes of preparing for adulthood, front door entry and access to health and adult social care. The Panel felt that the Care Leavers input into their own planning pathways was positive. Issues regarding the complexity of the recruitment processes for Personal Assistants in Kirklees were raised.</p> <p>Key issues discussed at the meeting included the challenges faced by Personal Assistants and were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and engagement at visits, and with adult social care teams (the joint working process) • Clear defining of the role of the Personal Assistant for children with additional needs • Shared lives/young people starting out and the adult social care review to include this group and communication with this group • Drug users and related services • Parents understanding the child’s needs and capacity • Making the young person's voice heard (not just the carer’s) • Having the time to build relationships when caseload was high • The amount of people involved in care and their differing roles, making sure everyone keeps up with new information eg Mental Health Act • Access to Care First - adult social workers appeared to be unsure of the role of the Personal Assistant • Care plans in adult services were too big and need to be comprehensive • Autism, more training was needed around mental health or disability 	
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		<p>Overall, it was a great opportunity to engage with the group and deepen the understanding of the service they provided.</p> <p>Visit on 10th January 2025 to Practice Learning Day (PLD) for Youth Engagement Team</p> <p>The Chair of the Panel attended this meeting with the Youth Engagement Team, which consisted of 15 youth engagement officers, 3 team leaders and a coordination manager. There was introduction about the service, the work they undertake and some of the challenges they faced. Key information from the meeting was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance updates were held weekly by the team, and data and outcomes were captured. Quality assurance meetings were held every 2 weeks. • The team worked with multi-agency teams including police, schools, health, and council officers as well as youth clubs, volunteer groups and child vulnerability teams. The team also worked with charities, in particular post-18 charitable organisations, and housing. <p>The team faced challenges in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of resources and services available for young people locally, especially sports and recreation. • Assisting young people with specialist needs and the health services to address those needs. • Resources for those children who struggled with education and the need for specialist skills-based learning for them. • The gap for children once they reached 18 and the service could no longer support them, there was a need for something to bridge the gap so the support could continue. Charities were often relied upon to take on the work. 	<p>10.01.25</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The voice of the young person was a focus, to ensure it was heard, especially in the language used with young people and their families. 	
Educational Outcomes	Jo-Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford (key lead)	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the educational outcomes of children and young people in Kirklees.</p> <p>Informal Panel Meeting on 11th October 2024 – Overview of outcomes achieved – attainment and progress during 2023-24</p> <p>The Panel considered an overview of the statutory outcomes achieved (attainment and progress) by learners who took assessments in Kirklees during the academic year 2023-2024. The report covered outcomes at the end of the Foundation Stage, Phonics (Year 1), Key Stage 2 (Year 6), Key Stage 4 (GCSE) and Key Stage 5 (Post-16). The results and national comparisons provided in this report were subject to validation and the report aimed to offer preliminary insights into the educational outcomes in Kirklees, pending the release of the comprehensive Kirklees Annual Educational Outcomes report.</p> <p>Visit to meet with Elective Home Education Strategic Leads</p> <p>The Panel received data provided by Jo-Anne Sanders in September 2024 on Elective Home Education (EHE), which had been shared with Ofsted during the inspection. The Panel will also meet with Strategic Leads in 2025, when narrative is available for further consideration and scrutiny by the Panel.</p>	<p>11.10.24</p> <p>To be arranged</p>
Partnership Arrangements	Vicky Metheringham/Jo-Anne Sanders	<p>The Panel will continue to scrutinise partnerships and boards during the 2024/25 municipal year, for example, Kirklees Parenting Board and Health and Wellbeing Board, visits to internal teams and partners and the Panel can look at how data was collected and used to improve outcomes. The Panel can be represented at meetings, events and visits to internal teams and external providers and agree to 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>The Panel have been invited to attend the Home-Start Kirklees Annual General Meeting and 25th Anniversary celebration on the 26th September 2024 where there will be a showcase of work from families, volunteers and staff.</p>	
<p>Voice of the Young Person</p>	<p>Tom Brailsford/Service Directors (Children’s Service)</p>	<p>The Panel will keep a watching brief on all areas of scrutiny by the Panel and explore whether the voice of the child was being heard, whether they are empowered to speak up and ensure that lessons have and are being learned.</p>	
<p>Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford/Mark Janes (Chair of SACRE)</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the work of the Kirklees Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) which includes partnership working with other regional local authorities.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 4th February 2025 – Annual Report from the Kirklees Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p> <p>The Panel considered the Annual Report from the Kirklees Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). Successes this year included the revision of the locally agreed syllabus, well-attended training for teachers, and the introduction of a new inclusive Collective Worship Award. The Panel gave their support to work which would be undertaken in the future, to investigate the position for RE for non-examined students at Key Stage 4, as those not taking an exam may not be receiving their statutory requirement of RE teaching. The Panel also supported plans for</p>	<p>4th February 2025</p>

		<p>SACRE to work with the Communities Team to be involved in work around community cohesion.</p>	
<p>Health Provision for Children and Young People</p>	<p>Jane McDonnell (Head of Health Protection in Public Health)</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the health provision for Children and Young People in Kirklees with a particular focus on dental care, babies and immunisations.</p> <p>Joint Informal meeting of the Children’s Scrutiny Panel and the Health and Adult Social Care Panel on 16th January 2025) – Children’s Immunisations</p> <p>The Panel attended a Joint Informal meeting of the Children’s Scrutiny Panel and the Health and Adult Social Care Panel on the 16th January 2025 and received an update giving the latest children’s and young people’s and adults vaccinations uptake data for Kirklees and an overview of the collaborative working with partners to maximise uptake of all vaccinations; including communications and engagement work. A number of areas were focussed on by the Panel Members and questions were asked in connection with the following areas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics of the number of healthy children admitted to hospital with Influenza before the vaccine programme was introduced and the number of pregnant women admitted with Pneumonia before the vaccine programme was introduced. • How Locala funded for the school vaccination programme • Payment made to Locala for vaccines • Partnerships between Kirklees and the community hub co-ordinators • Could any child advocate for themselves as to whether they have a vaccine or not or if below 18 does the parent have the final say • Resources available to Members on vaccinations to share within communities and help to spread the message 	<p>16th January 2025</p>

		<p>Joint discussion at Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on 26th February 2025 – Healthy Child Programme</p> <p>The Panel was invited to attend the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on the 26th February 2025 for a joint discussion on the Healthy Child Programme as part of pre-decision scrutiny in advance of the report being considered by Cabinet on the 6th May 2025.</p> <p>The report gave an overview of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) and the background to the HCP contract with key milestones for the competitive tender process for the HCP. Also known as the 0-19 service, the HCP aims to improve the health and well-being of children through –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and development reviews • Health promotion • Parenting support • Screening and immunisation programmes. <p>The programme integrated health, education, and other key partners to provide comprehensive support for children and their families and was a mandated service as part of the Public Health Grant conditions.</p> <p>The Panels agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That a report with the number of school nurses along with the schools they were attached to would be provided to the Panel. 2) That information on the percentage of children that received the mandatory child measurement programme and vision and hearing screening be provided to the Panel. 3) That feedback from the consultation and engagement process be provided to the Panel. 4) That information on how children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities post 18 will be supported to be provided to the Panel. 	<p>26th February 2025</p>
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		<p>Responses to all the questions asked by the Panel Members was provided by officers.</p> <p>Joint discussion at Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on 9th April 2025 – Dental Services across Kirklees The Panel attended the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on the 9th April 2025 and took part in a joint discussion on Dental Services across Kirklees. Representatives from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) presented a report giving details of the current local and national position for dental services and oral health improvements.</p> <p>Joint discussion at Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel re Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination Programme The Panel will have a Joint meeting with the Health and Adult Social Care Panel in 2025/26 to discuss the Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programme, aimed at adults over 75 and babies/pregnant women when data will be available for consideration.</p>	<p>9th April 2025</p> <p>2025/26 municipal year</p>
<p>Emotional Wellbeing Provision for children in Kirklees and Mental Health in Schools - Keep in mind</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders/Stewart Horn</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the experience verses the provision of service and seek feedback from service users on their perception on using the service. The Panel will also consider the fluctuation in the waiting times and trends for children’s emotional health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Emotional Wellbeing Provision in Kirklees – “Keep in Mind” The Panel will consider an update on the implementation of the new “Keep in Mind” Service, which was launched in April 2024. The Panel will particularly focus on how the service is working in practice and this may include a visit to the service or attendance at appropriate meetings to understand how it is being implemented.</p>	<p>To be carried forward – July 2025</p> <p>To be arranged</p>

		<p>Panel meeting on 22nd November 2024 – Performance updates Panel Members discussed the teaching of mental health strategies for young people in schools and agreed to consider a future update on the range of strategies currently being implemented and resources available within schools to provide mental health support to young people.</p> <p>Panel Members agreed that they could contribute their ideas on supporting the mental health of young people in schools to the National Curriculum and Assessment Review that was taking place nationally.</p>	22.11.24
Review of the Provision of Short Breaks and Respite Care for Parents and Carers	Jo-Anne Sanders/Vicky Metheringham/ Stewart Horn	The Panel will consider the review of the provision of short breaks and respite care for parents and carers in Kirklees.	To be carried forward – July 2025
Review of Children’s Residential Homes and Foster Care Placements	Vicky Metheringham/Anna Gledhill/Joel Hanna	<p>The Panel will consider an update on the Review of Children’s Residential Homes and Foster Care Placements in Kirklees to ensure that children were living in the right home and environment.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 4th February 2025 – Review of Children’s Residential Homes and Foster Care Placements in Kirklees The Panel considered a report, which provided assurance and information on Residential Children’s Homes and Fostering Services in Kirklees which highlighted the following key points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of children in care in Kirklees were in family settings, with Foster Carers or Kinship/Connected Carers. A small number of children lived in residential, small group homes. • Placements were also commissioned from independent fostering agencies and independent care homes. • At the time of writing the report, 34 young people were living in externally commissioned provision, and 16 in Kirklees Care Homes. 	4.2.25

		<p>showcased the value of the service Home-Start provide to its service users. Background was provided into the service and the families they helped, and long service awards were presented to volunteers. A volunteer presented on the work that they do and an update on the social media platform was also given. Three service users explained how Home-Start had helped them and their children. Testimonials from service users stated that they regarded Home-Start as their second family and would not be where they were without them. Some said that Home-Start provided a lifeline for their family. The staff and volunteers were working hard to ensure the service would continue to provide and improve its offer in the future.</p> <p>Visit to Mocking Bird and Special Guardianship Orders carers and representatives The Panel will meet with Carers from the Mocking Bird Support Group on the 12th May 2025 and Special Guardianship Order carers (date to be arranged).</p> <p>Visit on 9th October 2024 to drop-in session to celebrate National Kinship Week The Panel were also invited to attend an informal drop-in session on Wednesday 9th October to celebrate National Kinship Week. The Connected Persons Support Team hosted the session, staff from the Connected Persons assessment team attended along with some of our carers from the constitution. The drop in session had been organised to improve knowledge of the Connected Persons Team (CSP). Special Guardianship Order (SGO) carers were invited, along with colleagues from other services. Feedback from the carers about the team was positive. SGO carers supported the move towards using different language, reporting how it was dehumanising to be referred to in meetings and on paper as “the Carer”. There was also a recurring theme of the discrepancy between financial support given to SGOs and Foster Carers. It was</p>	<p>SGOs to be arranged</p> <p>Mockingbird Carers meeting on 12.5.25</p> <p>9th October 2024</p>
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Updated 11.4.25

		recognised by the Panel that the financial discrepancy was less than in other local authorities, but the Panel asked whether other ways of supporting these families could be looked at.	
Lead Member Briefings (Bi-monthly LM Briefings with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children's; and Strategic Director/Service Directors in Children's Services during 24/25) – Actions from these meetings will be included within the Panel's Work Programme where appropriate			
Manchester Road – Asylum Seekers		The Lead Member will review any impact on Children's Service of the housing of asylum seekers on Manchester Road.	

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Children's Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Plan 2024/25

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>24th July 2024</p> <p>Workshop - Informal Meeting</p>	<p>(with Panel, Officers and Cabinet Members)</p> <p>To consider potential areas of focus for the Panel during 2024/25 municipal year which will include the Council's key priorities for the children's service.</p>	<p>Helen Kilroy</p>
<p>30th August 2024</p> <p>Informal meeting 9.30am-10.30am Public meeting 10.30am Hybrid meeting Council Chamber HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 16.8.24</p> <p>(Apols: V Metheringham)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Informal items:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ambition Board Minutes – 18.3.24 and 24.6.24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance Report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Minutes of meeting on 26.3.24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance Highlights (verbal)</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 Kirklees Parenting Board</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 24/25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">W Harris to provide</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/A Gledhill/J Hanna to present</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/A Gledhill/J Hanna to present</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Panel Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>11th October 2024</p> <p>Informal meeting 9.30am-10.30am</p> <p>Public meeting 10.30am</p> <p>Hybrid meeting Council Chamber HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 27.9.24</p>	<p>Informal items:-</p> <p>Ambition Board Minutes – 16.9.24</p> <p>Performance Report</p> <p>2023-24 Kirklees Annual Education Quality and Standards Report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Quality Assurance Annual Report</p> <p>Ofsted Inspection of Children’s Services – outcome and recommendations</p> <p>Performance Highlights (verbal)</p> <p>Pre-decision Scrutiny – Cabinet decisions on the horizon</p> <p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Kirklees Parenting Board</p> <p>Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 24/25</p>	<p>W Harris to provide</p> <p>Service Directors to present</p> <p>Jo-Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford</p> <p>V Metheringham/R Fordyce</p> <p>V Metheringham</p> <p>J Sanders/V Metheringham to present</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>
<p>22nd November 2024</p> <p>Informal meeting 9.30am-10.30am</p> <p>Public meeting 10.30am</p> <p>Hybrid meeting Council Chamber HTH</p> <p>Report deadline:</p>	<p>Informal items:-</p> <p>Performance Report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>SEND – Oversight of the Government Safety Valve Agreement and current profile of spend across High Needs Block</p>	<p>J Sanders/V Metheringham to present</p> <p>J Sanders</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
8.11.24	<p>Performance Highlights (verbal)</p> <p>Pre-decision Scrutiny – Cabinet decisions on the horizon</p> <p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Kirklees Parenting Board</p> <p>Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 24/25</p>	<p>J Sanders/V Metheringham</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>
<p>4th February 2025</p> <p>Informal meeting 9.30am-10.30am</p> <p>Public meeting 10.30am</p> <p>Hybrid meeting Council Chamber HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 23.1.25</p>	<p>Informal items:-</p> <p>Ambition Board Minutes – 19.12.24</p> <p>Performance Report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report</p> <p>Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) Overview of volume process – quality and compliance</p> <p>Review of Children’s Residential Homes and Foster Care Placements</p> <p>Performance Highlights (verbal)</p> <p>Pre-decision Scrutiny – Cabinet decisions on the horizon</p> <p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Kirklees Parenting Board</p> <p>Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 24/25</p>	<p>W Harris to provide</p> <p>J Sanders/V Metheringham</p> <p>J Sanders/Michelle Lister/Paul Calendine</p> <p>J Sanders/E Brayford/Pennine Learning</p> <p>V Metheringham/A Gledhill/ J Hanna</p> <p>J Sanders/V Metheringham</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>14th March 2025</p> <p>10am-11am Informal meeting 11am-12.30pm Public meeting</p> <p>Hybrid Meeting Council Chamber, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 27.2.25</p>	<p>Informal items:-</p> <p>Performance Report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>New initiatives of schools working in clusters</p> <p>Performance Highlights (verbal)</p> <p>Pre-decision Scrutiny – Cabinet decisions on the horizon</p> <p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Kirklees Parenting Board</p> <p>Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 24/25</p>	<p>J Sanders/V Metheringham to present – P Caladine to provide report</p> <p>J Sanders/M Lister/Jayne Whitton/A Wisniewski</p> <p>J Sanders/V Metheringham to present</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>
<p>28th April 2025</p> <p>10.30 am – 11 am Pre-meeting 11am – 1pm Public Meeting</p> <p>Hybrid Meeting Council Chamber, HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 11.4.25</p>	<p>Pre-meeting items:-</p> <p>Panel Preparation for Public Meeting</p> <p>Public items:</p> <p>Special Schools – overview of provision and 2 new school rebuilds – Joseph Norton and Woodley</p> <p>Decline of the cohort of children in primary schools in Kirklees</p> <p>Pre-decision Scrutiny – Cabinet decisions on the horizon</p>	<p>Panel Members</p> <p>M Wilby/S Horn/J Sanders</p> <p>M Wilby/J Sanders</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
	<p>Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Kirklees Parenting Board</p> <p>Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 24/25 (progress and items to roll forward to 25/26)</p>	<p>Panel Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>

Future agenda items

1. SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees (2025-2028) – 25th July 2025
2. The role of the health visitor in the health landscape in terms of ante natal care – joint scrutiny with the Health and Adult Social Care Panel
3. SACRE Annual Report – late Jan/early Feb each year
4. Review of the provision of short breaks and respite care for parents and carers

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