

Public Document Pack



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Thursday 31 July 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 **10.30 am** on **Friday 8 August 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 "Samantha 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 Aafaq Butt

Councillor Tanisha Bramwell

Councillor Hannah McKerchar

Councillor Ashleigh Robinson

Councillor Richard Smith

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 - 6

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on the 28th April 2025.

3: Declaration of Interests

7 - 8

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: Cabinet Priorities for the Children's Service in 2025/26

The Cabinet Members for Children's Services and Education will give a verbal update on their priorities for the 2025/26 municipal year.

Contact: Councillor Viv Kendrick, Cabinet Member for Children
Councillor Jane Rylah, Cabinet Member for Education

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

The Panel will consider a verbal update on the performance highlights from the latest Children's Services data report covering period ending June 2025.

Contact: Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director
Vicky Metheringham, Service Director

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: 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 2025/26

9 - 26

The Panel will consider the proposed areas of focus and activity for the 2025/26 municipal year and discuss the method and means to be used to continue the Panel's work going forward.

Contact: Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager

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Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday 28th April 2025

Present: Councillor Itrat Ali (Chair)
Councillor Jane Rylah
Councillor Hannah McKerchar
Councillor Tanisha Bramwell

In attendance: Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director - Learning and Early Support
Martin Wilby, Head of Education Places and Access
Stewart Horn, Head of Children's Integrated Commissioning
Joel Hanna, Head of Service for Corporate Parenting
Councillor Viv Kendrick, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Apologies: Councillor Ashleigh Robinson
Councillor Richard Smith

1 Membership of the Panel

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Richard Smith and Councillor Ashleigh Robinson.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2025 be approved as a correct record.

3 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

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

The Panel considered a report providing an update on the rebuild of two Special Schools, Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College, presented by Stewart Horn, Head of Children's Integrated Commissioning and Martin Wilby, Head of Education Places and Access.

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 28 April 2025

Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director for Learning and Early Support, provided an introduction and advised the Panel that Kirklees was making a huge investment as part of its sufficiency duty, to enable the ambition of placing Kirklees young people close to where they live. It had been recognised that there was a growing need for places for children with complex autism, and for children with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs and additional places would be provided as part of the rebuilds.

Stewart Horn highlighted the following key points regarding the rebuild of Joseph Norton Academy:

- Joseph Norton Academy was facing growing demand for places for children with SEMH needs. The Academy was currently based in Scissett and had 63 places, however there was a need for more places and for a higher-quality learning environment.
- The new building had been designed to incorporate the views of staff, and the children currently at the school had also been consulted using the Our Voice Team.
- The new school would be built on the site of the former Deighton Centre.
- The pre-contract phase involved checking the design against value for money for Kirklees and finalising the design, costings and timelines.
- Groundworks were due to start on site in early June 2025.
- Links between the school and the Deighton and Ashbrow communities were being developed.
- The number of pupils at the school was increasing by utilising other sites, so that pupil numbers could gradually grow before the new building was completed.
- Other ongoing activities included the purchasing of furniture and IT for the school, and transition arrangements.

Martin Wilby highlighted the following key points regarding the rebuild of Woodley School and College:

- Staff and pupils had been involved with the design of the new build to ensure it met the children's needs.
- The future Woodley site presented more complexity due to the existing buildings.
- In July 2024 a report had been presented to Cabinet with a list of key elements that would need to be addressed in order to start the build process and some of these had been addressed and others were underway.
- Telecoms masts on the building had now been removed after legal challenges had been overcome.
- The private pre-school site had moved to alternative and improved facilities at Almondbury Library.
- The Private Public Partnership arrangement that the building was under was due to be exited within the near future.
- Procurement had taken place to recruit a demolition contractor and activity should start on site over the coming weeks.
- A temporary site in Crosland Moor was being used as a satellite site for the school, with 25 pupils gaining a positive experience there prior to the new site opening.

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 28 April 2025

In response to a question from the Panel about when the schools would reach capacity, Jo-Anne Sanders advised that Woodley School and College was almost at the capacity of the new build with the combined number of pupils at the satellite site and the current site. For Joseph Norton, because the school was doubling in size, careful planning was being put into place for transition to a larger school population and premises. The Panel was informed that Joseph Norton was also expanding its age range and would admit girls. Each child being admitted to the new school would be looked at individually to promote a smooth transition.

The Panel asked when Joseph Norton would be completed and were advised that it was hoped to be completed in a year, however many factors could affect the timescales. Woodley School and College's rebuild would take longer due to the necessity for demolition on the site.

In response to a question regarding the engagement with parents, staff and children, the Panel were informed that a dedicated team had run play sessions and more formal facilitated feedback to gather the children's voice. This had included videos, drawings and comments, resulting in elements being included in the design such as gardens outside classrooms and a farm provision at Joseph Norton, and a Forest School provision and outside playground including slides, swings and trampolines at Woodley. Proposed designs had been taken back to the schools to ensure the designs reflected the feedback given and reactions from the children had been positive. The Panel was informed that some parents would find the move from Scissett to Deighton more difficult than others, but the location had been chosen as central within Kirklees to facilitate easier transport for the majority of pupils. Parents had raised questions over the length of time the project was taking, but the service was committed to getting the builds of the best quality and value, which took time.

The Panel asked what would happen if circumstances changed with the external partners involved and were advised by Jo-Anne Sanders that the Council had engaged the services of technical experts to put in challenge and support and provide an appropriate level of check and balance. Other partners would be contractually bound, and it was felt that the projects undertaken had been future-proofed.

The Panel raised the issue of recent successful engagement by the Joseph Norton Academy with the community, and were assured that the school wanted to become part of the Deighton community and would take steps to do so.

The Panel asked for detail of the consultation process and were advised by Jo-Anne Sanders and Martin Wilby that there was a genuine commitment to ongoing engagement with all parties, and that results of the consultation undertaken by Woodley School and College and Joseph Norton Academy as part of their "significant change" process had been published. The Panel were assured that residents, parents, pupils, staff and relevant ward councillors had all been engaged with at the time when sites for both builds were chosen. Further detail on the consultation on Woodley School and College could be found in the Cabinet report for the meeting on 12th March 2024. ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Cabinet, 12/03/2024 13:30](#)

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the officers be thanked for their contributions and the report be noted.
- 2) That a visit by the Panel be undertaken to the two new schools when the rebuilds were complete.

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

The Panel considered a report on the decline of the cohort of children in primary schools in Kirklees, which was presented by Martin Wilby, Head of Education Places and Access.

Martin Wilby gave an overview of the report and highlighted the following key points:

- The number of children in the cohort entering Reception had been in decline since a peak in 2015/16, and the cohort across Kirklees had reduced by over 1,000 since then.
- A large proportion of school funding was determined by the number of children on roll, and the decline in numbers was having an impact on the budgets of some schools.
- Over the last five years opportunities for reducing places had been considered, to enable schools to have a more efficient financial model.
- The mechanism for this had been a reduction in Pupil Admission Numbers (PAN).
- Progress had been made, with a reduction of 7.7% Reception places, over 400 places less than 5 years ago. At the same time, the cohort reduced by 8.2%.
- In some geographical areas progress had been limited, and there were a larger number of surplus places available, with two named areas having a 26% surplus.
- A healthy surplus would be 5-10%, so 26% was being highlighted as a concern.

Martin Wilby informed the Panel of the background to School Planning Areas and explained that there were 23 Primary Planning Areas in Kirklees which were geographical areas signed off by the Department for Education. All schools in the planning area were looked at when planning school places. Pupil cohorts fluctuated year on year within a single schools' locality, so having a larger number of schools within a local area made planning more effective. More information could be found in the school place planning document which provided the evidence base for this report [School Place Planning 2024-2027](#).

The Panel was informed that there were no plans for school closures, but this was the ultimate destination for schools if they could not remain sustainable. There was a heightened risk of school closures in cases where high surplus places could not be resolved.

In response to a question from the Panel, Martin Wilby advised that the majority of engagement to date had been with school leaders, and where this had not resulted in progress being made, he recommended that the next steps would be to present the facts and information to both school leaders and governors, and to discuss potential opportunities in partnership with them. The Panel noted that Kirklees was not the admission authority in some schools as they had their own admission

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 28 April 2025

arrangements and made their own decisions. Martin Wilby advised the Panel that by bringing the report to Children's Scrutiny, awareness of the facts on this issue would be raised and suggestions from the Panel were welcomed.

The Panel suggested that where schools were run by Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) the governors of the MATs were often spread across a large geographical area, however there were often individual school subcommittees/governors whose members held local knowledge and could be valuable contacts for such future discussions. Martin Wilby thanked the Panel for the suggestion.

In response to a question about the Published Admission Number (PAN) the Panel were informed that the National Admissions Code underpinned the national system for admissions, with the decision on a school's PAN made by the admission authority. Martin Wilby advised the Panel that for community and voluntary controlled schools the Council was the admission authority, although schools were engaged with prior to any proposed changes to PAN. Academies, voluntary aided schools and Trusts were their own admission authorities and complied with the same admissions code. The Published Admission Number (PAN) determined the number of pupils admitted at a usual point of entry, for example into Reception for Primary Schools. The most financially efficient PAN would be 30 or multiples of 30.

Jo-Anne Sanders, Head of Learning and Early Support, advised the Panel that:

- Some smaller schools worked creatively to differentiate the curriculum with PANs that differed from the usual model of 30 per year group.
- Schools needed to be financially sustainable to enable them to provide a high quality of education.
- The birth rate was falling nationally, while a bulge of pupils were passing through the secondary system.
- Engagement was taking place with secondary schools; there were opportunities to use surplus space for Additional Resourced Provisions, or satellites for special schools.
- The service was exploring how the school estate could be used to the greatest effect and seeking creative solutions to the issue of surplus places.

The Panel asked for reassurance that the Council had planned for any further significant drops in birth rate. Jo-Anne Sanders informed the Panel that the Council met its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places by using detailed information on birth rates from the NHS, tracking patterns of pupil movement and taking into account factors that impacted on demand such as house building, to ensure the right number of places were available. Schools had the opportunity to join together by federating, and to look at different ways to be as effective and efficient as possible; all avenues would be explored with stakeholders before closures would be considered.

In answer to a question about potential timescales where schools may change their PAN significantly, Martin Wilby advised the Panel that the significant change procedure outlined in the admission code would be followed, which specified a window between October and January for consultation to take place for planned changes for the September the following year, effectively giving an 18-24 month lead time before changes would take effect.

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 28 April 2025

In answer to a question from the Panel about the opportunities around Alternative Resource Provisions (ARPs) and satellite provision for specialist schools, Jo-Anne Sanders advised that Stuart Horn was leading on the publication of a document around specialist places, and that cluster working would provide additional insight into demand for places. Jo-Anne Sanders suggested that this document could be brought to a future scrutiny meeting. The Panel were informed that further ARPS needed to be established, closer to where children lived to improve opportunities for relationships to be built and to reduce travel time for children. Jo-Anne Sanders advised that discussions were underway with some schools regarding new ARPs which provided the opportunity for more inclusive practice and that schools were invited to come forward to discuss possibilities. Kirklees schools had developed good examples of best practice, and the DfE were working with the service while developing their policy on ARPs.

The Panel asked a question about decision making on school closures. Martin Wilby informed the Panel that where schools were under council control, the council made the decision, and it would follow the significant change procedure outlined previously. A non-statutory consultation was always carried out by Kirklees where a controversial change was proposed, followed by statutory consultation as outlined in the Admissions Code. Academies would follow a similar process, also following the Admissions Code, and the decision would ultimately be made by the regional director at the DfE.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the officers be thanked for their contributions.
- 2) That the suggestions made by the Panel be taken into account by officers in taking this work forward.

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

The Panel noted that there had been no meetings of the Kirklees Parenting Board since the last meeting of the Panel in March 2025.

11 Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2024/25

The Panel noted the end of the Work Programme for 2024/25 and that the scrutiny visits scheduled during May, June and July 2025 would lead into the Work Programme for the next municipal year 2025/26. The Panel noted that the Children's Scrutiny Panel workshop to plan the 2025/26 Work Programme was scheduled to take place on the 13th June 2025.

RESOLVED:

That the progress on the Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2024/25 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.

CHILDREN’S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26

MEMBERS: Cllr Itrat Ali, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Aafaq Butt, Cllr Ashleigh Robinson, Cllr Hannah McKerchar, Cllr Tanisha Bramwell

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

THEME/ISSUE	Lead Officer	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES/ACTIONS	Timescale
<p><u>Standard items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-decision scrutiny (decisions by Cabinet) • Performance Information (Children’s Service) – Informal meeting • Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by 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 Children.</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 the minutes of the quarterly Ambition Board meetings for information.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Each meeting of the Panel</p> <p>Updates will be provided at Panel meetings when a meeting of the Board has taken place (meetings take place quarterly).</p> <p>Ongoing and when available</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>When available</p> <p>When available</p>
<p>Review of the Improvement Journey (Children’s Services)</p>	<p>Tom Brailsford/Vicky Metheringham</p>	<p>The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of the Children’s Service, have an oversight of the Ofsted improvement plan, attend appropriate</p>	<p>Oversight of the Ofsted Improvement Plan and planned Re-design of the Leaving Care Service – Panel meeting on 17th October 2025</p>	<p>Panel on 17.10.25</p>

	<p>YJS – Ian Mottershaw/ Teresa Racz Leaving Care Service – Joel Hanna Children’s Social Care Reforms – V Metheringham CQC and Ofsted Inspection – V Metheringham</p>	<p>meetings and undertake observation to see the key elements of the new arrangements on working together to safeguard children with a particular focus on the effective implementation of the service and good practice.</p> <p>The Children’s Service were looking to undertake a redesign of leaving care to make it more robust and the Panel will invite the Head of Corporate Parenting to Scrutiny to provide updates on progress.</p> <p>The Panel will visit the Leaving Care Service and monitor the work taking place to develop this area of practice.</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise the following areas -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight of the Ofsted Improvement Plan and planned Re-design of the Leaving Care Service which will include a visit to the Team • Multi-agency developments around the Children’s Social Care Reforms, the leaving care service and Front Door • Updates of future Ofsted Inspections • Visits to the Leaving Care Service, Front Door Team and North service Area Children’s Social Care Team (Dewsbury and Batley) to continue to review the 	<p>The Panel will consider a report giving an oversight of the Ofsted Improvement Plan and planned Re-design of the Leaving Care Service which will include a visit to the Team.</p> <p>Multi-agency developments around the Children’s Social Care Reforms – Panel meeting on 6th February 2026 The Panel will consider a report on the multi-agency developments around the Children’s Social Care Reforms.</p> <p>Visit to Leaving Care Service The Panel will visit the Leaving Care Service in March 2026 when the review was complete.</p> <p>Visit to activities organised by the Youth Justice Service (YJS) for young people The Panel have been invited to attend some of the activities being co-ordinated by the YJS Team with young people and will take place from May 2025 until December 2026. Activities are planned by staff who will take the lead and include activities such as playing pool, baking and playing games.</p>	<p>Panel on 6.2.26</p> <p>March 2026</p> <p>Various dates</p>
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		<p>Improvement Journey of Children’s Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panel will visit some of the activities that the youth justice service coordinate with young people and the team. 		
<p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation Plan</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders Clusters – Jayne Whitton Sufficiency Strategy – S Horn DfE White Paper – J Sanders EHCPs – Jenny Sneideris/ Michelle Lister Ofsted & CQC Inspection – Jo Sanders Adulthood PFA Board – Adrian Wisniewski/ Donna Auty</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the SEND Transformation Plan and will focus on the following areas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visits to mainstream schools to observe the practice of the new initiatives of schools working in clusters SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees (2025-2028) Visit to the SEND Transformation Programme Event on 26th June 2025 Visit to Satellite provision for the two new special schools and Alternative Resource Provisions Overview of SEND Tribunals and EHCP Compliance and timescales and the Complaints Process - which will include observation of the decision-making process for EHCPs, a look at the volume processes/quality and compliance (including Annual Reviews) and the multi-agency approach that is being implemented to ensure fairness and transparency SEND Ofsted and CQC Inspection of Kirklees Local Area Partnership’s provision for children and young people 	<p>Visit on 10th June 2025 to the Places Access and Inclusion Committee of the Education (PAIC)</p> <p>The Panel visited the Places, Access and Inclusion Meeting on the 10th June 2025 to observe the discussions around needs and capacity relating to the teacher workforce. Some of the issues discussed were around –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additionally Resourced Provision and support for New Mill Junior and Infant to develop 2 site provision within rural areas; Analysis of sufficiency data and reducing PANs for Primary schools; The Local Plan and the impact of new development on school sufficiency in certain areas; Review of the Fair Access Protocol (FAP) which had see 14 schools join a task and finish group; Capacity for the Committee was a risk, there were now equal levels of permanent exclusions and electively home educated cases and a pressure with the current secondary place bulge 	<p>Visit on 10.6.25</p>

		<p>with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DfE White Paper on proposals on SEND Changes (April 26 implementation) • Preparation to Adulthood (PFA) which will include a visit to the PFA Board (date to be confirmed) • Visits to the half yearly SEND Event (date to be confirmed), Parent Carer Forum (to be arranged) and Local Offer Live on 23.10.25 	<p>as although FAP could override PAN, some schools were already oversubscribed.</p> <p>Visit to Cluster meeting at Holmfirth High School on 25th June 2025</p> <p>The Panel visited the cluster meeting at Holmfirth High School and fed back on the following key issues –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respectful relationships had been built through the year. - Shared training followed up with ideas on how to implement what they had learned. - Clusters had enabled consideration of all-staff training within settings as well as specialist training for staff from multiple settings. - Important to ensure the EHCP Team would accept whole school evidence for the Decision Panels not only specialist assessments. - It was seen as a priority that EHCP Leaders should attend cluster meetings. - Feedback from SENDCO's was often that they were not clear why refusals had been given and could not get hold of an officer to discuss. - There was a wellbeing element to being able to share cases. 	<p>Visit on 25.6.25</p>
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			<p>communication. Key points fed back from Panel Members were as follows –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Services who attended seemed to value the chance to network and feel informed on progress. - Good collaborative atmosphere for teams to come together to gain a deeper understanding of each other’s roles and there were useful conversations between sessions. - Good to hear the progress on the 2 new build special schools at Woodley and Joseph Norton. - Progress made on compliance with issuing EHCPs within statutory timescales. - A suggestion was made that some of the training needs of officers and professionals could be met with bitesize options, eg short YouTube videos or TikTok’s; - A table discussion highlighted the need for communication styles tailored to the young people and better ways to engage. <p>Visits to observe the Decision-Making process for EHCPs</p> <p>The Panel observed the decision-making process for EHCPs which took place in 3 stages –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Decision to assess Panel on 22nd May</u> 	<p>Visits on 22.5.25 19.6.25 4.7.25</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• multi-disciplinary approach worked well although not all services had been able to attend on the day;• a wide focus for discussion, not only on education but considering factors such as social service or CAMHS involvement• The panel had access to cross-boundary working such as the ability to access medical records from South Yorkshire.• Key Learning Partners can intervene if settings do not take the expected actions, and the Specialist Outreach team can look at the whole school picture as well as on an individual level. <p>2. <u>Decision to issue Panel on 19th June</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An example of positive multi-disciplinary working where everyone's voice was invited and valued;• Decisions were made by consensus and with discussion.• Consideration was given to the family situation, risks such as adoption disruption and to parental and school recommendations and preferred outcomes.• If the answer was a decision not to issue, there were still support and outreach recommendations made.	
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			<p>3. <u>Specialist Placement Panel on 4th July</u> <i>To be completed</i></p> <p>Visit on 16th July 2025 to Education and Learning Partnership Board (ELPB) meeting The Panel attended the ELPB meeting and observed the discussions as part of their scrutiny focus on the SEND Transformation Plan.</p> <p>SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees (2025-2028) - Panel Meeting on 29th August 2025 - The Panel will consider a report on the SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees (2025-28).</p> <p>SEND Ofsted and CQC Inspection of Kirklees – Panel meeting on 17th October 2025 The Panel will consider a report on the SEND Ofsted and CQC Inspection of Kirklees Local Area Partnership’s provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision, including the Post-Inspection Action Plan.</p>	<p>Visit on 16.7.25</p> <p>Panel on 29.8.25</p> <p>Panel on 17.10.25</p>
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			<p>Visit to Local Offer Live on 23rd October 2025 The Panel will drop in to the Local Offer Live event on the 23rd October 2025 which will be led by PCAN and will be a marketplace with stalls and workshops.</p> <p>Visit to Satellite provision sites for the two new special schools and Alternative Resource Provisions – to be arranged The Panel will visit the satellite provision sites which are being put in place for youngsters whilst the two new special schools are built. Visits to be arranged in the autumn term of 2025 at the following sites – Children’s Centre at Crosland Moor, Overthorpe and New Mill.</p> <p>SEND Tribunals and EHCP Compliance and timescales and an overview of complaints process – Panel meeting on 11th December 2025 The Panel will consider a report on SEND Tribunals and EHCP compliance and timescales and include an overview of the complaints process.</p> <p>DfE White Paper on SEND changes - Panel Meeting on 11th December 2025 The Panel will consider an update on the DfE White paper due to be published in</p>	<p>Visit on 23.10.25</p> <p>Visit to be arranged</p> <p>Panel on 11.12.25</p> <p>Panel on 11.12.25</p>
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			<p>the autumn 2025, regarding the proposals for SEND reforms.</p> <p>Preparation for Adulthood (PFA) – Panel Meeting on 6th February 2026 The Panel will consider a report on the Preparation for Adulthood (PFA) and will visit the PFA Board.</p> <p>Visit to the Preparation for Adulthood (PFA) Board – date to be arranged The Panel will visit the PFA Board to observe the arrangements for preparing for adulthood.</p>	<p>Panel on 6.2.26</p> <p>Visit to be arranged</p>
<p>Educational Outcomes and Elective Home Education (EHE)</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford (key lead)</p> <p>EHE – Christina Marsay and Louise Hallas</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the educational outcomes of children and young people in Kirklees in the following areas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective Home Education – to include a visit to meet with Strategic Leads and the Team • Educational Attainment Outcomes -pre-decision scrutiny before considered by Cabinet in 25/26. 	<p>Visit on 9th September 2025 to meet with Elective Home Education (EHE) Strategic Leads and the Team 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 meet with Strategic EHE Leads and the rest of the Team in September 2025 to continue the scrutiny in this area.</p> <p>Educational Attainment Outcomes – Informal Panel meeting on 17th October 2025 The Panel will consider unvalidated data on the latest attainment outcomes as part</p>	<p>Visit on 9.9.25</p> <p>Panel on 17.10.25</p>

			of pre-decision scrutiny before the matter is considered by Cabinet.	
Partnership Arrangements	Vicky Metherringham/Jo-Anne Sanders	<p>The Panel will continue to scrutinise partnerships and boards during the 2025/26 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 	Ongoing	Ongoing
Voice of the Young Person	Tom Brailsford/Service Directors (Children’s Service)	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.	Ongoing	Ongoing
Health Provision for Children and Young People	Emily Parry-Harries from Public Health	The Panel will scrutinise the health provision for Children and Young People in Kirklees with a particular focus on the following –		Tbc

	Stewart Horn/Jackie Beever to co-ordinate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional Wellbeing Provision for children in Kirklees and Mental Health in schools - to scrutinise the provision of service and seek feedback from service users and consider fluctuation in waiting lists and trends for children’s emotional health and wellbeing to include an update on the implementation of the Keeping Kirklees in Mind service. 		
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)	Jo-Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford/Mark Janes (Chair of SACRE rmijanes@aol.com) and Ian Ross (ian@penninelearning.com)	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 and consider the Annual Report in February each year.	Annual Report on Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) – Panel meeting on 6th February 2026 The Panel will consider SACRE’s Annual Report.	Panel on 6.2.26

Children's Scrutiny Panel

Agenda Plan 2025/26

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>13th June 2025</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 2025/26 municipal year which will include the Council's key priorities for the children's service.</p>	<p>Helen Kilroy</p>
<p>8th August 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: 25.07.2025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Informal Items:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children's Service Data Performance Report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Minutes of meeting on 28.04.2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cabinet Priorities 25/26</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 25/26</p>	<p>Service Directors to present</p> <p>H Kilroy</p> <p>Cllr Kendrick and Cllr Rylah</p> <p>Service Directors to present</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>29th August 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: 15.08.2025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Informal Items:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No data report due to timescales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SEND Inspection report – draft action plan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees 2025-28</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 25/26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders</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>
<p>17th October 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: 03.10.2025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Informal Items:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Educational Outcomes (unvalidated data)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ambition Board Minutes – 29.09.25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children’s Service Data Performance Report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SEND Ofsted and CQC Inspection of Kirklees</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oversight of the Ofsted Improvement Plan and planned Re-design of the Leaving Care Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance Highlights (verbal)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders</p> <p style="text-align: center;">W Harris to provide</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/V Metheringham to present</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Metheringham</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J Sanders/V Metheringham</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
	<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 25/26</p>	<p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>
<p>11th December 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: 27.11.2025</p>	<p>Informal Items:-</p> <p>Ambition Board Minutes – 01.12.25</p> <p>Children’s Service Data Performance Report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>DfE White Paper – proposals for SEND reforms</p> <p>SEND Tribunals and EHCP Compliance (to include an overview of the complaints process)</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 25/26</p>	<p>W Harris to provide</p> <p>J Sanders/V Metheringham</p> <p>J Sanders</p> <p>Jenny Sneideris/ Michelle Lister/ J Sanders</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>6th February 2026</p> <p>Informal meeting 9.30am-10.30am Public meeting 10.30am Hybrid meeting Council Chamber HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 23.01.2026</p>	<p>Informal Items:-</p> <p>Children's Service Data Performance Report</p> <p>Public Items:</p> <p>Annual report for Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p> <p>Preparation for Adulthood (PFA)</p> <p>Multi-agency developments around the Children's Social Care Reforms</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 25/26</p>	<p>J Sanders/V Metheringham/ to present</p> <p>E Brayford/J Sanders</p> <p>J Sanders</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>19th March 2026</p> <p>Informal meeting 9.30am-10.30am Public meeting 10.30am Hybrid meeting Council Chamber HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 05.03.2026</p>	<p>Informal Items:-</p> <p>Children's Service Data Performance Report</p> <p>Public items</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 25/26 (progress and items to roll forward to 26/27)</p>	<p>J Sanders/V Metheringham to present</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p> <p>H Kilroy</p>

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