

Public Document Pack



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Thursday 9 October 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 17 October 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 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 - 14

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on the 8th and 29th August 2025.

3: Declaration of Interests

15 - 16

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: The outcome of the Kirklees Local Area Partnership Inspection of SEND and Alternative Provision undertaken in June 2025 by Ofsted and CQC and the post inspection Action Plan

17 - 30

The Panel will consider a report and presentation on the outcome of the Kirklees Local Area Partnership Inspection of SEND and Alternative Provision undertaken in June 2025 by Ofsted and CQC and the post inspection Action Plan.

Contact: Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director (Learning and Early Support)
Stewart Horn, Head of Children's Integrated Commission
Vicky Dutchburn, NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
Ian Bennett, NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

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 August 2025.

Contact: Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director
Robert Fordyce, Head of Quality Assurance

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

31 - 52

The Panel will consider the agreed areas of focus and activity for the 2025/26 municipal year within the work programme and agenda plan 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

Friday 8th August 2025

Present: Councillor Itrat Ali (Chair)
Councillor Richard Smith (Virtual)

In attendance: Tom Brailsford, Director of Children and Families
Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director for Learning and Early Support
Joel Hanna, Head of Corporate Parenting and Looked After Children
Councillor Viv Kendrick, Cabinet Member for Children
Councillor Jane Rylah, Cabinet Member for Education

Apologies: Councillor Tanisha Bramwell
Councillor Hannah McKerchar
Councillor Ashleigh Robinson

- 1 Membership of the Panel**
Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Hannah McKerchar, Cllr Tanisha Bramwell and Councillor Ashleigh Robinson.
- 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th April 2025 be deferred for approval at the next meeting.
- 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 Cabinet Priorities for the Children's Service in 2025/26**
The Cabinet Members for Children's Services and Education gave a verbal update on their priorities for the 2025/26 municipal year.

Children's Scrutiny Panel - 8 August 2025

Councillor Viv Kendrick, Cabinet Member for Children and Families and statutory responsibility for children, outlined her cabinet priorities for 25/26 –

- **Sufficiency of places in homes** - for looked-after children and young people (fostering, special guardianship orders and residential care) was a constant challenge and the Service was looking to develop and increase places.
- **Homes for care leavers** – a recent partnership with Homes and Neighbourhoods had provided some homes specifically for care leavers and this would be developed further.
- **Sufficiency of staff** - including recruitment and development of social workers and monitoring of caseloads for Personal Advisors in the care leaving service.
- **Early support and intervention** - to provide the right support and prevention early in order to reduce disruption to families by not having to take children into care.
- **Support to Care Leavers** - trying to provide more support to our young people whether its work opportunities and finding ways to reduce financial challenges
- **Voice of young people** – continuing to develop the voice of young people particularly through the Kirklees Parenting Board
- **Implementation of social care reforms**

Councillor Jane Rylah, Cabinet Member for Education outlined her cabinet priorities for 25/26 –

- **Securing sufficient learning places** with a priority focus on SEND pupils.
- **Rebuilds of Special Schools** at Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College and ensuring sufficient additionally resourced provision places were available for primary and secondary aged learners and ensure sufficiency of alternative pathways to support those children with more complex needs.
- **Post-16** - review and plan for opportunities post 16 including education, employment, and training.
- **Cluster working within schools** – continue to embed and develop in order to support greater inclusion and improve the pathways for young people in preparation for Adulthood
- **EHCPs** – continue to improve the quality of the EHCP Plans and the timeliness of the annual reviews.
- **SEND White Paper** - Preparing for the anticipated White Paper in the autumn regarding SEND reforms and consideration of this will be a priority

The Chair of the Panel confirmed that a number of the Cabinet priorities listed above were on the work programme for 25/26 for scrutiny and consideration by the Panel, in particular the CQC and Ofsted SEND Inspection and the Local Authority Action Plan. The Panel also noted that visits were planned to the Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College when they were ready to view.

RESOLVED -

That the Cabinet Members be thanked for the updates on their priorities for the year ahead and noted that a number of key areas had already formed part of the Panel's areas of focus on the Work Programme for 2025/26.

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

Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director for Learning and Early Support, and Joel Hanna, Head of Corporate Parenting and Looked After Children, presented highlights from the Performance Data covering the period ending June 2025.

Jo-Anne Sanders highlighted the following key points:-

- **Number of EHCPs** had increased by 495 in June 2025 compared to the same period in 2024.
- **EHCPs statutory compliance** Statutory compliance had been low in 2024 at 23% but had improved in June 2025 (as published in the SEN2); in the first 6 months of 2025 (measured at a cumulative rate) statutory compliance for initial EHCPs was at 47.2% which was in line with the national average; June 2025 data showed that 65.9% of EHCPs were compliant within 20 weeks and in July 72.7% of the plans issued were within the 20 week compliance, which was significantly better than the national average.
- **Suspensions and exclusions** – there had been a reduction in the numbers of suspensions and exclusions.
- **Inclusion Multi-Agency Panel** – had been in place for 12 months and the work of the Panel was having a positive impact and the Service had seen 500 referrals for access to one of the commissioned or additionally resourced places. Schools had been using this pathway to access this provision, for example for children with a medical need.
- **Cluster model** was embedded and had been in place for 12 months, a review had shown that the model was having a positive impact in supporting the child's needs at their local school.
- **Elective Home Education (EHE)** – there had been a rise in the number of children being educated at home this year and officers welcomed the planned visit by the Panel to meet with the EHE Team and there would be future opportunities to look at the types and reasons for families deciding to home educate.
- **Children Missing Education** – the number of children missing in education had been steady in June 2025 at 179 and the Service had not seen any significant increase or decrease since the same time in 2024. There was usually a spike at the start of the new school year in September, and the Team would be following up to make sure that all children were accounted for.

Jo-Anne Sanders informed the Panel that the Service had invested in EHCP's and were making improvements but were aware that there was further work to do particularly in respect of EHCP Annual Reviews, but the Service was now sustaining a good turnaround in terms of compliancy and quality.

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The Panel were informed that analysis of the suspensions and exclusions data would be undertaken to assess the main reasons for the reduction in numbers. Inclusion Managers were working closely with schools when notifications were received to explore opportunities for an alternative outcome and as a result of this several notifications had been withdrawn, for example, providing education at an alternative site for a cooling off period or where the child had an EHCP an earlier review would be arranged so that the needs of the child could be met.

The Panel had undertaken some visits to schools working in clusters and the Chair highlighted that during her visit to a local school, the cluster model was seen as exemplary compared to other local authority areas within Yorkshire, some of whom were reaching out to the Kirklees school for assistance and guidance which had been good to see.

Joel Hanna highlighted the following key points:-

- **Looked after children** – there had been a slight increase in the number of looked after children, but rates remained below national average. The service performed well at finding alternatives and supporting families to stay together.
- **Children in Need** - numbers remained low due to the strong early help offer and were still below the national average and statistical neighbours.
- **Child Protection Conference reviews** – most reviews were held within timescales - reviews of child protection conferences should be undertaken within 15 days.
- **Return Home Interviews** – these were offered for all children reported by the police as missing once they had returned and the missing episode had concluded. There had been a slight decrease in the numbers of return interviews that had taken place, and this could be due in some cases to the number of repeat episodes which had taken place since the first missing episode and had been covered by one return interview.

Joel Hanna advised the Panel that the Service was continuing to identify the right services for children and young people in need. There was strong quality assurance and decision making within the Duty and Advice and Assessment and Intervention Services to ensure that children received statutory responses when required and that the services and systems in place to support children and families in need were effective and robust. Quality assurance was in place to routinely review the quality of decision making.

The Panel was informed that when Child Protection Conference Reviews could not be held within the 15-day timescales, measures were put in place to safeguard the children whilst the conference was held. Joel Hanna further explained that the Service would also assess the reason for the child falling out of the 15-day timescale. Conferences were sometimes delayed to ensure engagement with parents could take place, that interpreters were booked or that papers had been circulated. Quality Assurance in this area took place which had confirmed that where conferences were outside of the timescales, there was no cause for concern in relation to risk or vulnerability.

Joel Hanna informed the Panel that when a missing child had returned, as well as offering a return home interview, an independent person would also visit the young person to gain an insight as to any potential risk that could be learned from to try and prevent any further missing episodes. There were robust systems within the Youth Engagement Service to ensure that the service was aware of every child who went missing and where appropriate, return home interviews were offered. The Panel was informed that not all children would take up the offer of a return home interview and where that was the case, this would be reviewed and a decision taken as to what other ways and mechanisms could be more appropriate for engaging with the young person.

RESOLVED –

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

9 Pre-decision scrutiny - Cabinet decisions on the horizon

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

Tom Brailsford, Director for Children and Families, advised the Panel that Jo-Anne Sanders would bring the Action Plan following the CQC and Ofsted SEND Inspection to the Panel in October 2025 and would welcome comments and contributions from the Panel in terms of pre-decision scrutiny.

RESOLVED -

That the Panel would consider the Action Plan following the CQC and Ofsted SEND Inspection at their next meeting in October 2025.

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

Panel Members who attended the last meeting of the Kirklees Parenting Board gave feedback on key areas considered which were of interest to the Panel.

The Chair of the Panel advised that a young person had attended the last meeting of the Board and she had been very impressed by how engaged they were and how useful and constructive it had been to the work of the Board. The Panel was informed that the Board would be welcoming more young people to attend by holding some meetings later in the afternoon to enable Care Experience representatives to attend and contribute.

Councillor Kendrick, Cabinet Member for Children, gave a summary of the key areas discussed at the last meeting of the Board –

- **Priority One - Supporting engagement and achievement in lifelong learning training and employment** - the Board received a presentation from the Virtual School Headteacher, Louise Hallas, on the work of the virtual school which was responsible for overseeing the learning of young people aged from 2 to 18 who were in care or a care leaver.

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- **Kirklees Family Business** - Louise Hallas also gave an update on the development of a sustainable model for the Kirklees family business, the aim of which was to improve the aspiration of children in care and care leavers from the age of 13. Board Members asked how they could support the delivery of a family business. Tom Brailsford agreed to liaise with Human Resources (HR) to ascertain if the Family Business Model could be embedded into the HR procedures.
- **Feedback from a Care Experience representative** - the young person who attended the Board raised the following –
 - Pre-Covid Apprenticeship Programme - asked if this could be restarted
 - Job Fairs for Care Leavers – suggested that these could be held at No 11 and No 12 hubs focussed on young people
 - Travel assistance – asked if this could be offered to Care Experience young people
- **Communication with children in care and care leavers** - improvements were needed in communication with children in care and care leavers

RESOLVED -

That the updates from the Kirklees Parenting Board be noted.

11

Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2025/26

The Panel discussed the progress of the work programme and agenda plan for 2025-26 municipal year.

The Chair of the Panel confirmed that the Work Programme had now been finalised and asked if Panel Members could feedback with any comments, particularly those who had been unable to contribute at the workshop in June. The Chair thanked officers for their contributions and advised that the Panel valued the opportunity to undertake visits, which allowed them to engage first hand with those who provided services to children and young people.

Tom Brailsford advised that officers agreed that the Work Programme covered the key priorities for the Service and welcomed the contributions and input from the Scrutiny Panel in these important areas of work, which included scrutiny later in the year on the DfE White Paper proposals for SEND Reforms and the focus on care leavers.

RESOLVED -

1. That the progress on the Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2025-26 and agreed schedule of visits be noted.
2. That Panel Members provide feedback and comments on the areas of focus included within the Work Programme for 2025-26.

Contact Officer: Helen Kilroy

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL

Friday 29th August 2025

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

In attendance: Tom Brailsford, Executive Director for Children and Families
Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director - Learning and Early Support
Anna Gledhill, Head of Service – Sufficiency in Children’s
Stuart Horn, Head of Children’s Commissioning for West Yorkshire ICB and Kirklees Council
Councillor Jane Rylah, Cabinet Member for Education

Apologies: Councillor Aafaq Butt

12 Membership of the Panel

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Aafaq Butt.

13 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th April 2025 be approved as a correct record

14 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

15 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

16 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

17 Public Question Time

In accordance with Council Procedure rule 11, Corinne Hunter read out questions on behalf of Emma Day which they had submitted in writing.

“I wish to raise concerns about the local authority’s compliance with statutory mediation requirements for EHCP decisions supported by evidence from a recent Freedom of Information response and the LA’s own policy documents. Under the Children of Families Act 2014 and SEND regulations 2014, parents must be able to access mediation advice and obtain a mediation certificate before proceeding to the

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first-tier tribunal. While parents can choose not to mediate, the LA has a statutory duty to provide effective mediation services when requested, with meetings required to be held within 30 days of the mediation service notifying the LA. The SEN Code of Practice emphasises that mediation should be a genuine attempt to resolve disagreements, not a procedural box ticking exercise. With SEND tribunal waiting times at record highs nationally, effective mediation is crucial for timely dispute resolution when mediation fails. Families are forced into lengthy tribunal processes causing educational delays for vulnerable children and significantly higher costs for the LA.

Question 1:

Freedom of Information data from covering the period 1 July 2024 - 31 December 2024 shows that of 67 requests for mediation across all Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) disagreements (including Refusal to Assess, Refusal to Issue, and Contents), zero mediation meetings were arranged within the required 30-day timeframe - representing a 100% failure rate. What immediate action will be taken to address this complete breakdown of statutory mediation services?

Question 2:

The Terms of Reference for the EHCP Decision Making Panel (September 2024) shows only the Chair (EHCP Senior Manager) has decision-making authority. The FOI response states that "all overturned decisions via mediation are taken back to panel for processing." Given that effective mediation should enable immediate implementation of agreements, why do all mediation outcomes require subsequent panel approval rather than being resolved at the mediation meeting itself?

Supplementary Question

During this same period, approximately 48% of refusal decisions were overturned via mediation. What measures will address this disconnect between initial refusal decisions and subsequent approvals, suggesting fundamental flaws in the Decision Making Panel's application of legal criteria?"

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, Lisa Green attended the meeting and asked the following questions which they had submitted in writing:

“As part of the Panel’s upcoming work plan, scrutiny is to be given to the EHCP process and the Local authority’s use of Tribunals to settle cases.

Question 1:

What will the Panel's specific focus of scrutiny be re EHCPs / Tribunals?

Question 2:

What is the extent of the panel's powers to ensure lawful accountability in this area?"

A response was provided on behalf of the Panel.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Members of the Public be thanked for their questions.
- (2) That the Panel would consider EHCP timescales and compliance, and the tribunals process as part of the work programme at the meeting on 11th December.
- (3) That the Panel would be briefed by officers to discuss the wider areas of concern raised in the public questions, with a view to potentially widening the Panel's area of focus in relation to EHCPs.

18 Kirklees SEND Sufficiency for Kirklees 2025-2028

The Panel considered a report providing assurance of the work being undertaken to ensure sufficiency of provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Kirklees and this was presented by Jo-Anne Sanders, Service Director for Learning and Early Support. The Panel were asked to consider and support the Kirklees SEND Sufficiency for Kirklees 2025-28 and to note the actions undertaken to address some of the issues raised in the report.

Stuart Horn, Head of Children's Sufficiency presented the highlights of the report which:

- Demonstrated understanding of the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities in Kirklees
- Defined the provision in place to meet those needs and support children's learning.
- Identified gaps in provision and potential areas for growth, and considered the development of provision to meet future needs.
- Identified where needs had changed and where some provision may need to be decommissioned.

Stuart Horn advised the Panel that "sufficiency" meant "having enough of the right stuff" – the report examined whether there were the right learning places available to meet children's needs.

The Panel was informed that Practitioners from learning services, schools, health and voluntary sectors and parent carer forums had contributed to the design of the approach. The report had been created using a variety of data and intelligence sources from across the partnerships, and Stewart Horn explained that it was important to use consistent, agreed data sets. The principal data set used was the

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SEN2 data, taken from the annual return to the Department for Education, which identified:

- An increase in speech and language need especially in the early years
- An increase in social emotional and mental health needs in secondary schools and at points of transition, particularly from primary to secondary
- A rise in children with neurodiversity with additional needs such as mental health, learning needs or behavioural challenges.

The Panel noted that key features of the strategy included:

- How to support secondary settings to develop the inclusive approach that was evident in primary schools.
- The need for longer-term improvement in post-16 provision, to ensure the type, range and diversity of provision so that children with a range of different interests, aspirations, and abilities could be catered for.
- The aim to educate children as close to home as possible, by reducing the reliance on the independent school sector, particularly the out of area independent school sector. This required an increase in and improvement of state funded, local-to-Kirklees provisions.

Stewart Horn advised the Panel that the strategy report also outlined current developments in provision:

- The rebuild and expansion of two special schools was underway. The construction of Joseph Norton, the social emotional mental health school had just begun in Deighton and the new site for Woodley School, the school and college for children with autism was about to start construction.
- In recent years satellite provisions had been developed, where special schools utilised space in mainstream schools. In these satellite provisions, children were on the roll of the special school and educated by special school staff on the mainstream school site. Benefits included children being more involved with the wider activities in the school and feeling part of a bigger school community. This successful approach was being expanded and developed.
- A range of additional resource provisions had been developed, which were also provisions within a mainstream school to provide children with additional support where necessary.
- School clusters were an important step in improving the inclusivity of the mainstream school approach. Clusters were groups of schools grouped together geographically who met to share expertise, solve problems and help maintain children in mainstream settings.

The Panel was informed that the sufficiency strategy itself was not a standalone document, it sat alongside other learning strategies such as Our Kirklees Futures, the Health and Well-being Strategy and the Pupil Place Planning Strategy. The strategy would continue to evolve over time as new data and intelligence becomes available. Regular sufficiency strategy group meetings took place where professionals came together to analyse jointly the information received and to examine how the strategy needed to adapt and evolve to reflect new intelligence.

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For example, the SEN2 data set had recently been published and there was a meeting planned to look at how that will impact the strategy.

Stuart Horn advised the Panel that an application had been submitted to the government for a new alternative provision free school which would be of great benefit, and the outcome of this was being awaited. Another area of focus would be the improvement of post 16 provision, which tied in with the area of improvement around "preparation for adulthood" from the recent SEND inspection.

In conclusion, the report and appendix with data that informed the report was attached to the agenda papers and the report had been published on the Local Offer website.

The Panel asked how the council reported on EHCP timeliness, mediation uptake, and tribunal outcomes so that families, schools and councillors could track improvements. Tom Brailsford, Executive Director for Children's Services, advised that Panel that this information would not necessarily fall under this strategy but that the service was looking at ways in which information could be made more readily available, through signposting people to information on the Council's website. The SEN2 data used in this report was available online and Kirklees could be compared with other authorities.

In answer to a question about what schools were doing to become more inclusive, Tom Brailsford advised the Panel of the following support available within mainstream education:

- The graduated approach
- The educational psychologist team.
- Dingley's Promise (a national award-winning approach which was about inclusivity)
- The schools hub/cluster approach
- A leadership team recognised in the recent inspection report as child-centred and inclusive

Jo-Anne Sanders added that:

- 14 Primary Schools were involved in the partnership for inclusion and neurodiversity (PINS) and another 10 Primary Schools were joining.
- Clusters were operating, sharing expertise and investing in specialist outreach support.
- Dingley's Promise offered support for inclusive practice for children in the early years.
- Inclusion multi-agency panels were also operating, where schools could reach out for extra support alongside their offer or a full-time alternative provision place.
- A strong SENCO network which met to share best practice.

In answer to a question about how schools were made aware of the support on offer, Jo-Anne Sanders informed the Panel that there was information on the Local Offer site for families and professionals and that school specific websites had links to specialist outreach. Access to advice and services was available through the

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Multi-Agency Panel, and cluster leads were also being brought together to disseminate information. Training was also offered to new Headteachers and SENCOs.

The Panel commented that the SEND Sufficiency Group seemed to be a new initiative with multi-agency involvement, which they felt was positive, and asked whether the group's outcomes, findings, or recommendations would be made available for scrutiny or for Members. Stuart Horn advised that the Group would have more structure and rigour to its work. Outcomes from the group would be shared through updated reports to Scrutiny, such as this one, once agreed and published. Jo-Anne Sanders informed the Panel that reports would be presented to Cabinet when appropriate, particularly in cases involving capital investment, for example, the rebuilding of the two special schools, which required decisions beyond the remit of officers. Jo-Anne Sanders advised that there were established opportunities for pre-decision scrutiny, supported by a standard agenda item.

Jo-Anne Sanders explained that when the strategy was refreshed there would be a further presentation to scrutiny, with updates on progress and future plans, however some developments, such as the Alternative Provision Free School, were outside of the Council's control and would be decided by the Department for Education.

In answer to a question about how parents and carers were made aware of the process to follow to access help, support and appropriate education for their children with additional needs, Tom Brailsford advised that the information was available on the Kirklees Local Offer website. Tom Brailsford further explained that in future statistics on performance and sufficiency, as well as outcome letters from inspections under the new framework, were to be published on the Local Offer site to further support transparency for the public.

The Panel questioned the specifics on how places for children with visual impairment and hearing impairment would be reduced and Stuart Horn advised that this document outlined where a certain provision would be likely to increase or decrease but did not go into the detail of exactly how that would be done.

In answer to a question from the Panel about the future of the satellite provisions set up in preparation for the opening of the two new special schools, Stuart Horn advised that these would be kept under review.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be noted and officers be thanked for their contributions.
- (2) That the Panel support the Kirklees Send Sufficiency for Kirklees 2025-28 and noted the actions undertaken to address some of the issues raised in the report.
- (3) That future reports would be shared with the Panel for consideration when available on the SEND Sufficiency Strategy giving an update on progress and future plans, including an update on the work of the SEND Sufficiency Group.

19 Pre-decision scrutiny - Cabinet decisions on the horizon

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

20 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 Children's Scrutiny Panel meeting.

The Panel suggested that the Kirklees Parenting Board and especially the Care Leaver representatives, be briefed on the role of scrutiny to encourage engagement and broaden understanding.

RESOLVED:

That Tom Brailsford raise awareness at Kirklees Parenting Board to highlight the role of the Children's Scrutiny Panel with the Chair of the Kirklees Parenting Board, Cllr Viv Kendrick.

21 Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2025/26

The Panel discussed whether the EHCP quality assurance framework should be included in the Panel's areas of focus and added to the work programme and the Chair agreed to be briefed by Officers and feedback to the Panel.

RESOLVED:

(1) That the progress on the Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 2024-25 be noted.

(2) That the Chair be briefed by officers on whether the EHCP Quality Assurance Framework should be added to the Panel's areas of focus and included within the work programme for 2025-26.

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL			
COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC			
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS			
Childrens Scrutiny Panel			
Name of Councillor			
Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest

Signed: Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

- (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
- (b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



REPORT TITLE: The outcome of the Kirklees Local Area Partnership Inspection of SEND and Alternative Provision undertaken in June 2025 by Ofsted and CQC and the post inspection Action Plan

Meeting:	Children’s Scrutiny Panel
Date:	17th October 2025
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Viv Kendrick – Children’s Services Cllr Jane Rylah - Education
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No No
Purpose of Report : To share the post inspection action plan developed as a response to our local area SEND inspection.	
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the outcome of the inspection. To note the post inspection action plan which will be presented to Scrutiny Panel at the meeting and consider how this will align with the existing and future scrutiny work plan. <p>Reasons for Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Area Partnership have in place our co-produced ‘Big Plan’, the SEND Transformation Strategy. We subsequently published ‘Big Plan 2’ that set out actions about what we were doing to achieve the ambitions set out in that Strategy. Our post Ofsted inspection plan means we are updating our “Big Plan” to ‘Big Plan 3’. This will complement Big Plan 2 and focus on specific actions to address the 4 areas for improvement that were highlighted in our Inspection. 	
Resource Implications: Not Applicable	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	Tom Brailsford – Executive Director for Children and Families – 9 th October 2025
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	N/A
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	N/A

Electoral wards affected: ALL

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, there is no individual data included in the is report, the inspection report is available on the Ofsted website and has been published on the Kirklees SEND Local Offer website.

1. **Executive Summary**

All Local Area Partnerships are eligible for Inspection by Ofsted and CQC in relation to their arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) including Alternative Provision. There is a useful extract from the SEND inspection handbook below which concisely summarizes the purpose of inspection :-

‘Inspections evaluate how well members of a local area partnership work together to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND. The focus is not on inspecting the specific individuals who work in the local area partnership.

‘Local area partnership’ refers to those in education, health and social care who are responsible for the strategic planning, commissioning, management, delivery and evaluation of arrangements for children and young people with SEND who live in a local area. A local area is the geographical area covered by a local authority. When evaluating the local area partnership, inspectors focus mainly on how effectively the local authority and integrated care board (ICB) jointly plan, evaluate and develop services for children and young people with SEND. However, they also consider the duties of other area partners, which are set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 and described further in the SEND code of practice.

[Area SEND inspections: framework and handbook - GOV.UK](#)

The Kirklees Local Area Partnership was inspected Between 16-20th June 2025 (although inspection activity began 2nd June and finished on 20th June).

The last area inspection undertaken by Ofsted and CQC was in February 2022, and at that time the Local Area Partnership received 2 areas for improvement identified in a Written Statement of Action (WSOA).

- The poor delivery of the Healthy Child Programme which does not support the identification of SEND in children at the earliest opportunity consistently.
- Weaknesses in the area’s ability across services and within settings to identify and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND who are in mainstream settings.

Since that time, we have made continuous and significant improvements in both areas, acknowledged and agreed that these had been addressed through the post inspection challenge and support meetings with the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England. This was further triangulated in this inspection.

This report provides the inspection report in full (at Appendix A), and, at the Scrutiny Panel meeting the post inspection plan, ‘Big Plan 3’, will be shared with Panel Members. Big Plan 3 will be made available on the Kirklees Local Offer after the meeting.

2. Information required to take a decision

To support our work, our Local Area Partnership produces a self-evaluation which sets out our assessment about our strengths and also where we still need to improve. This is shared, along with a range of other information to support the inspection.

What did the inspection team tell us we are doing well

They told us that:

- Our leaders are highly ambitious for children and young people with SEND.
- We work well to create things together including with our Parent and Carer Forum, Parents of Children with Additional Needs (PCAN).
- We 'knew ourselves' – our areas of strength and where we needed to improve further.
- They saw passion and dedication in Kirklees with people who work together to strive and make a difference for and with children and young people and their families.

They were very positive about many things including our Big Plan and cluster working. They said we put children at the heart of what we're doing and decision making - we listen to children and young people's voices and that means that children and young people shape local developments that affect them for example, our student's getting involved in the design of the rebuilding of their schools.

We also know there is more to do, and we are extremely ambitious for every child and family in Kirklees.

What did the inspection tell us we needed to focus on

The local area SEND inspectors raised 4 areas of improvement:

- Preparing for Adulthood (PfA);
- Waiting times for some Health services (therapeutic services, Mental Health Services and access to wheelchair services);
- Education Health and Care Plans; and
- Communication.

There are 3 outcomes that a local Area Partnership can receive following the inspection.

Inspection outcome	Subsequent meetings and inspection activities
<p>The local area partnership's SEND arrangements typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership is taking action where improvements are needed.</p>	<p>Engagement meetings</p> <p>Full inspection usually within 5 years</p>
<p>The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.</p>	<p>Engagement meetings</p> <p>Full inspection usually within 3 years</p>

<p>There are widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which the local area partnership must address urgently.</p>	<p>Engagement meetings</p> <p>Submission of priority action plan (area SEND)</p> <p>Monitoring inspection, usually 18 months from the date when the local area partnership receives its final full inspection report</p>
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The Kirklees Area Partnership outcome was;
 ‘The local area partnership’s arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.’

Whichever outcome an Area Partnership receives, there is a requirement to update strategic plans to address the areas for improvement. We have approached this by producing ‘Big Plan 3’.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

Our SEND Big Plan aligns with our Council Plan, it explains that together we’ve strive to make sure that every child has the best possible start in life and achieve their best. We know that there are always opportunities to improve how we do that - sometimes that’s doing more, but often it’s about doing things differently.

We’re ambitious for children, young people and parents and carers in Kirklees. We want to make sure we support children and families at the earliest opportunity; our young people go to school in Kirklees with positive results; there’s a consistent and inclusive offer; and whatever our young people are interested in, we want them to excel.

3.2 Financial Implications

Not applicable

3.3 Legal Implications

Not applicable

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable

3.5 Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) or Human Resources

Not applicable

4. Consultation

We have been working across our partnership since the inspection to reflect on the outcome and take feedback as we develop the post inspection plan. We have taken advice and feedback from our assigned DfE Advisor and our assigned NHS England Advisor to ensure that the plan is fit for purpose, as well as ensuring we can take opportunities to fold in activity that will help us to improve.

5. Engagement

We have worked across the partnership to develop the plan including engaging with our parents and carers and including messages we know our children and young people want us to hear. We have also work closely with NHS England and the Department for Education in developing our plan. We will provide regular public updates on progress on a quarterly basis to ensure further transparency.

6. Options

6.1 Options considered

Not applicable

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

Not applicable

7. Next steps and timelines

We will publish 'Big Plan 3' on the Kirklees Local Offer. We will share quarterly updates on progress and make those available across the partnership. We will welcome the work of the Children's Scrutiny Panel activity to support the partnership to improve.

8. Contact officer

Jo-Anne Sanders – Service Director – Learning and Early Support

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable

10. Appendices

The Ofsted and CQC report is attached at Appendix A.

11. Service Director responsible

Jo-Anne Sanders – Service Director – Learning and Early Support

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Area SEND inspection of Kirklees Local Area Partnership

Inspection dates: 16 to 20 June 2025

Dates of previous inspection: 7 to 11 February 2022

Inspection outcome

The local area partnership's arrangements lead to inconsistent experiences and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The local area partnership must work jointly to make improvements.

The next full area SEND inspection will be within approximately 3 years.

Ofsted and CQC ask that the local area partnership updates and publishes its strategic plan based on the recommendations set out in this report.

Information about the local area partnership

Kirklees Metropolitan Council and West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) are jointly responsible for the planning and commissioning of services for children and young people with SEND in Kirklees.

The commissioning of health services changed across England in 2022. At this time, the responsibility for health services in Kirklees passed to the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), which took over responsibility from Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group.

Since the last inspection, there have been changes to senior leadership in the local area partnership. The executive director for children and families was appointed in May 2023. The chief executive officer of Kirklees Metropolitan Council has also been in post for two years. There is currently an interim chair of the ICB and an interim accountable officer of the ICB. A new director of nursing and quality joined the ICB in April 2025.

The local area partnership commissions a multi-academy trust to provide education for children and young people who have been permanently excluded from school. This provision is in a neighbouring local authority. The local area partnership also commissions a range of alternative provision (AP) for children and young people who cannot attend school due to medical needs or who need personalised education packages. Schools also commission their own AP.

What is it like to be a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in this area?

Children and young people with SEND have inconsistent experiences accessing support to meet their education, health and social care needs. However, the partnership is ambitious to improve. Since the last inspection, leaders across the partnership have built on strengths and worked on areas for development. Some practitioners across the partnership state that children and young people with SEND are getting increasingly better experiences.

Many children and young people do not get the support they need through their education, health and care plan (EHC plan). Education outcomes are typically focused and linked to children and young people's needs. However, contributions from health services and social care are often not included in EHC plans. This means that children and young people do not consistently have clear, joined-up support to address their needs. The partnership has already identified this weakness and has started to make improvements to newer EHC plans.

Long waits for some health services negatively impact meeting children and young people's needs. This includes therapeutic services, the child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS), wheelchair services and receiving a diagnosis of a neurodevelopmental need. This means that children and young people with SEND do not consistently receive the support they need at the right time.

Children and young people with SEND are at the centre of leaders' decision-making. Leaders listen to their views. This means that children and young people shape local developments that affect them, including, for example, the rebuilding of two special schools in the area. Children and young people also influence strategic planning. For example, they renamed the overall SEND strategy as 'The Big Plan' and made public documents easier for children and young people with SEND and their families to understand.

Some children and young people participate in co-produced projects that promote inclusion. These projects, supported by schools and the active parent carer forum, Parents of Children with Additional Needs (PCAN), help them feel valued. For example, a government-funded initiative to improve inclusion for neurodiverse children and young people was praised by many during the inspection. However, some children and young people and their families express wider frustrations. They report that support is difficult to access, and they do not always know what is happening while they wait.

Most young children and families experience positive early years support. They benefit from early identification of their needs by the proactive early years SEND team. In early years settings, a wide training programme helps staff make appropriate adaptations for children. This professional development focuses on quality-first teaching. However, as children and young people grow older, some feel that school becomes harder. This is in part because, along with their families, they want teachers and staff to understand their

needs better and remove barriers to their learning. The partnership is developing geographical clusters to facilitate collaboration between mainstream schools and professionals. This approach is showing early signs of success. However, it is still too early to understand fully the impact of this work.

In the local area, many young people with SEND progress on to college or work, but others struggle due to a lack of appropriate support. For some, routes into education, employment or training in the local area, from the age of 16, are too limited. This restricts how effectively some young people with SEND can pursue their ambitions. As a result, some young people who can work and learn disengage altogether. Another key factor is that children and young people with SEND do not always get the advice or support that they need to plan effectively for adulthood. Some EHC plans miss key steps to help families navigate upcoming transitions. When it is planned, preparation for adulthood often starts too late. This leaves many children and young people and their families unprepared.

Children and young people with SEND who are known to social care receive effective and ongoing targeted support. When children and young people's needs are identified early, they enjoy access to short breaks and other activities. This includes attending youth clubs in their local area. When accessed, these activities help them gain independence and build relationships with other children and their community.

Many children and young people who attend AP access education that is well-matched to their needs. The partnership helps to ensure that these children and young people are safe and progressing well while in these settings.

What is the area partnership doing that is effective?

- Leaders have high ambitions for children and young people with SEND. Co-production is a strength of the partnership. For example, PCAN work strategically and operationally with the partnership to help shape services and provision.
- The dynamic support register for children and young people with a learning disability and/or autism is well established in the local area. Clear governance and oversight ensure appropriate wraparound care. This has successfully prevented unnecessary hospital admissions and supported planned admissions well.
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and physiotherapists provide compassionate and considered care. Service improvements, such as a joint speech and language therapy project with the local university, strengthen their work. However, some children and young people wait too long for these services.
- The Healthy Child Programme has improved in both timeliness and coverage since the last inspection. The service demonstrates a proactive, coordinated approach to supporting children and young people with SEND.
- The 'Families Together Gateway' offers a triage service across education, health and social care. Its strong multi-agency model supports children and families with complex needs and builds a shared understanding of their individual needs. As a

result, early intervention is improving for these children and young people.

- When professionals refer disabled children to social care, they complete thorough assessments to meet children's needs and provide appropriate support. The team around the family also provides appropriate support to children with SEND.
- Disabled children and young people, and those with SEND receiving early help, and their families benefit from consistent support from social workers or family support workers who know them well. These practitioners stay committed to supporting children and young people to achieve their long-term goals in their EHC plans.
- The partnership commissions a range of short break services to meet the individual needs of children and young people and their families. These include group activities that promote inclusion and support from care agencies and direct payments. Families appreciate the flexibility and choice. However, some parents and carers would like more support to access these activities. This includes clearer information about what is available, particularly for older children and young people with SEND.
- The small number of disabled children requiring residential school placements or out-of-area provision are well supported by practitioners to make progress and have their medical needs met effectively. This includes effective oversight and relevant partners working together.
- The specialist visual impairment and hearing impairment teams provide strong support to children and young people with SEND. They identify individual needs early, prepare children and young people for their next steps and provide a range of enrichment opportunities. They also train school staff to improve the identification, assessment and meeting of children and young people's needs in mainstream settings.
- The early years SEND team plays a key role in the partnership. It identifies needs early and helps children access education with tailored support that reduces over time. Schools and early years settings value this service highly.
- The local authority's 'access to education team' monitors children and young people with SEND well. This includes those on part-time timetables, those moving to elective home education and those educated other than at school. The virtual school also provides targeted support for children and young people with SEND who have a social worker. For example, the virtual school tracks children's rates of attendance closely and addresses barriers to engagement early and effectively.
- The 'Nexus in school' careers project combines core subjects such as English and mathematics with work experience in key stage 4. This helps participating children and young people with SEND to enter post-16 education, employment and training after leaving school.
- The partnership commissions appropriate short-term placements in AP to re-engage secondary-age children and young people with education. Many of these children and young people return successfully to mainstream settings.
- Some young people with SEND take part in supported internships within the council. While numbers are small, many interns go on to secure long-term employment.
- The inclusion multi-agency panel helps schools find solutions for children and young

people at risk of permanent exclusion. This includes arranging support from specialist outreach teams.

What does the area partnership need to do better?

- The quality of children and young people's EHC plans is too variable. Some plans are outdated and lack information from social care and health. Many do not include preparation for adulthood or show enough ambition for the child or young person's future. Due to leaders' improved audit practice, the partnership is aware of the variable quality in EHC plans and has established effective oversight of new EHC plans. This includes the introduction of a robust quality assurance framework. However, it is too early to assess the impact of this improved oversight on the quality of children and young people's new and updated EHC plans.
- Some professionals do not receive requests to contribute to EHC plans and do not receive updated plans. For example, therapists often do not receive copies of a draft, final or amended EHC plan. This creates gaps in support plans and in therapists' clinical records. Therefore, it is harder to work together effectively and ensure that children and young people are accessing the right support.
- Too many annual reviews of EHC plans happen late. These reviews often miss updated views from the child, young person or family and fail to include changes recommended by professionals. These delays and omissions negatively impact outcomes and disrupt the support that children and young people receive.
- The specialist pathway team does not get involved early enough to ensure Care Act assessments support children and young people's transitions into adulthood. These delays leave children and families feeling uncertain and unprepared for the future.
- Parents and carers say communication from the partnership is often unclear or inconsistent. They sometimes struggle to find out how to access support, including when an EHC plan is refused. Some families report that poor communication has led to gaps in their child's education.
- Practitioners do not always know the partnership's timelines or outcomes of decisions. This limits the advice and support that they can offer to children, young people, and families.
- Children and young people wait too long for their wheelchairs to be issued. Some children, after long waits, need a new assessment before receiving equipment that meets their needs.
- Children and young people face long waits for neurodevelopmental assessments. While family navigators support families on the waiting list and signpost them to appropriate services, delays still cause frustration, and some children and young people's needs escalate while they wait.
- Many children and young people wait too long for their initial therapy assessment and support, including for sensory occupational therapy. However, the partnership has created a clear recovery plan to reduce these delays.
- Waits from referral to treatment for the multiple service pathways within CAMHS vary

significantly. Some children and young people wait far too long. However, when children and young people are seen, they typically receive care that meets their needs well.

- The local area lacks enough support for some children with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. This is especially true for older children and young people receiving SEN support who do not require specialist provision and primary-age children and young people who may need an alternative education package. Some children and young people with SEMH, particularly those receiving SEN support, are suspended from school more often than their peers.
- Children and young people with SEND and their families lack sufficient post-16 education, employment and training options to meet their needs locally. The partnership's work to enhance employment and training routes is not fully embedded and does not currently reach enough young people.

Areas for improvement

Areas for improvement
<p>Leaders across the partnership should improve how effectively children and young people are prepared for adulthood by ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic action planning for preparation for adulthood is coordinated and has clear and measurable outcomes • education, health and social care practitioners work together more effectively and at an earlier point to help prepare the child or young people and their families for adulthood • annual reviews reflect a clear focus on how children and young people will achieve their goals and be supported to participate fully in adulthood • there is a sufficient breadth of education, employment and training routes for children and young people with SEND to pursue their ambitions post-16.
<p>The local partnership should work at pace to strengthen and implement its plans to reduce the waits that children and young people face for therapeutic services, CAMHS and access to wheelchair services.</p>
<p>The local partnership should continue to improve the quality and impact of EHC plans, including through timely and robust annual reviews and appropriate contributions to new and updated EHC plans by education, health and social care professionals.</p>
<p>The local area should improve communication across the partnership, including ensuring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parents and carers are informed about relevant universal and targeted support services, are clear about ongoing wait times for services and understand where they can access support while waiting • all relevant partners are informed about timescales and wider decision-making linked to children and young people's assessments and allocation of support.

Local area partnership details

Local authority	Integrated care board
Kirklees Metropolitan Council	NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
Tom Brailsford Executive Director - Children and Families	Rob Webster CEO of the Integrated Care Board
www.kirklees.gov.uk	www.westyorkshire.icb.nhs.uk
Civic Centre 3 Market Street Huddersfield HD1 2EY	White Rose House West Parade Wakefield WF1 1LT

Information about this inspection

This inspection was carried out at the request of the Secretary of State for Education under section 20(1)(a) of the Children Act 2004.

The inspection was led by one of His Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) from Ofsted, with a team of inspectors including: one Ofsted Inspector and one HMI from education and social care; a lead Children's Services Inspector from the Care Quality Commission (CQC); and another Children's Services Inspector from the CQC.

Inspection team

Ofsted

Hannah Millett, Ofsted Lead inspector

Rodica Cobarzan, Ofsted HMI

Gaynor Roberts, Ofsted Inspector

Care Quality Commission

Lesley Perry, CQC Lead inspector

Thomas Davis, CQC inspector

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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 • The Panel will visit Children’s Social Care Teams to continue their review of the improvement journey of the Children’s Service 	<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>Visit to Front Door Social Care Team – to be arranged The Panel have been invited to meet with the team to continue to review the improvement journey.</p> <p>Visit to North Service Area Social Care Team (Dewsbury and Batley) on 17th November 2025 The Panel have been invited to meet with the team to continue to review the improvement journey.</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 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</p>	<p>Visit on 17.11.25</p> <p>Panel on 6.2.26</p> <p>Various dates</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Our Children’s Voice Team will visit the Panel to discuss the work undertaken on ‘What it feels like to be excluded as a child. • Joint Targeted Area Inspection of multi-agency response to child sexual abuse in the family environment – the Panel will consider information on the inspection – timescales to be confirmed • Visits to – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaving Care Service - Front Door Social Care Team - North service Area Children’s Social Care Team (Dewsbury and Batley) - Activities that the youth justice service coordinate with young people and the team 	<p>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>Our Children’s Voice Team – Panel meeting on 19th March 2025 The Panel will consider an update from the Our Children’s Voice Team on the key aspects of their work and hear about the work undertaken on “What it feels like to be excluded as a child”.</p> <p>Oversight of the Ofsted Improvement Plan and planned Re-design of the Leaving Care Service – Panel meeting on 19th March 2025 The Panel will consider a report on the Oversight of the Ofsted Improvement Plan and planned Re-design of the Leaving Care Service, which will include a visit to the Leaving Care Service Team in March 2026.</p>	<p>Panel on 19th March 2025</p> <p>Panel on 19th March 2025</p> <p>Visit to Leaving Care Service – March 2026</p>
<p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation Plan</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders</p> <p>Clusters – Jayne Whitton</p> <p>Sufficiency Strategy – S Horn</p> <p>DfE White Paper – J Sanders</p> <p>EHCPs – Jenny Sneideris/ 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"> • SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees (2025-2028) • Overview of SEND Tribunals and EHCP Compliance and timescales and the Complaints Process - which will include – 	<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.</p>	<p>Visit on 10.6.25</p>

	<p>Ofsted & CQC Inspection – Jo Sanders Adulthood PFA Board – Adrian Wisniewski/Donna Auty PCAN - Carol Thomas/Johanna Hull and Dawn Pitt</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - observation of the decision-making process for EHCP; - a look at the volume processes/quality and compliance (including Annual Reviews) and the multi-agency approach - observation at the EHCP Quality Assurance Multi-Agency meetings - data on complaints/mediation/tribunals against the number of EHCPs - In order to raise the awareness of Panel Members an anonymised EHCP would be shared with the Panel/Vision 360/Self Evaluation and SEN2 publication data • 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 – Local Authority Action Plan (to include information on the Liquid Logic Parent Portal) • 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 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEND Transformation Programme Event on 26th June 2025 	<p>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 as although FAP could override PAN, some schools were already oversubscribed. <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. 	<p>Visit on 25.6.25</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Satellite provision for the two new special schools and Alternative Resource Provisions at Woodley Moor, Overthorpe and New Mill sites - Mainstream schools to observe the practice of the new initiatives of schools working in clusters - Half yearly SEND Event (date to be confirmed) - PCAN (Parent Carer Forum) - Local Offer Live on 23.10.25 - EHCP Quality Assurance Multi-Agency meetings (dates to be confirmed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - Schools were dealing with incontinence problems and concerns were raised as to what was the most appropriate course to source funding for required adaptations. - The benefit of having the secondary SENDCO was acknowledged by all. <p>Visit to Cluster meeting at Birkby Junior School on 26th June 2025</p> <p>The Panel fed back that it a very collaborative approach was implemented</p>	<p>Visit on 26.6.25</p>
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			<p>in the meeting, and it was apparent why this cluster has been highlighted as a leading cluster in the north.</p> <p>Individual cases were discussed, and colleagues were supportive of each other with suggestions and signposting to services and resources. Budget was an issue with the need for more finance and often lack of money to provide the resource required for each individual child.</p> <p>Visit to the SEND Transformation Programme Event on 27th June 2025</p> <p>The Panel visited the SEND Transformation Programme Event which had been organised to celebrate and share key aspects of the SEND Transformation Programme and also connect with staff about how the service can improve 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. 	<p>Visit on 27.6.25</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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> <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 	<p>Visit on 22.5.25</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel members know the young person and discuss character and preferences as part of decision making • Demand is greater than supply in terms of specialist places, sufficiency concerns were discussed • Panel discussed independent reports, some parents have expressed concerns that these are automatically dismissed • The Panel take an overview of lessons learnt in terms of mainstream inclusion so they are not just considering on a case by case basis <p>Visit on 16th July 2025 to Education and Learning Partnership Board (ELPB) meeting</p> <p>The Panel attended the ELPB meeting and observed the discussions as part of their scrutiny focus on the SEND Transformation Plan. Key points discussed were –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust response on the need for an Accessibility Strategy • A forum had been formed for feedback on ways of working and questions were being asked early when planning engagement • Discussed EHCP Quality Assurance (QA) Framework - newer EHCPs were showing better quality and the QA 	<p>Visit on 16.7.25</p>
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			<p>process had highlighted gaps in health and social care advice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a monthly review with multi-agency membership that examined a sample of cases • The Service was considering how to build Quality Assurance into Annual Reviews and staff training to raise awareness • Good collaboration with external partners such as Bradford Research School on the Our Kirklees Futures • Early Years Development Board was relaunching and would include school readiness considerations • Survey on Fair Access Protocol had been undertaken and only 22 out of 170 schools responded, further work was taking place to try and understand why schools did not engage and how to reach a wider cohort <p>Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) SEND online event on 28th August 2025</p> <p>The Panel attended an online event organised by the CfGS designed for Local Authorities and stakeholders, the event considered the complexities of SEND Scrutiny from legal frameworks and funding models to the real-world impact on children and young people and</p>	<p>Visit on 28.8.25</p>
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			<p>families. A number of presentations were given by LA Officers, a representative of the National Network of Parent Carers Forum and Councillors involved in scrutiny of SEND.</p> <p>CQC and Ofsted SEND Inspection report – draft action plan – Informal Panel meeting on 29th August 2025 The Panel considered a presentation giving an update on the draft action plan regarding the SEND Inspection Report which was published in August 2025.</p> <p>SEND Sufficiency Strategy for Kirklees (2025-2028) - Panel Meeting on 29th August 2025 - The Panel considered and supported the Kirklees SEND Sufficiency for Kirklees 2025-28 and noted the actions undertaken to address some of the issues raised in the report. The Panel agreed to consider future reports when available on the SEND Sufficiency Strategy giving an update on progress and future plans, including an update on the work of the SEND Sufficiency Group.</p>	<p>Panel on 29.8.25</p> <p>Panel on 29.8.25</p>
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			<p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation Plan – Informal meeting on 16th September 2025 The Panel met to consider whether the agreed areas of focus needed to be widened and agreed further areas for consideration which have been discussed with Officers.</p> <p>SEND Ofsted and CQC Inspection of Kirklees – Local Authority Action Plan – Panel meeting on 17th October 2025 The Panel will consider a report and joint presentation from Jo-Anne Sanders and Ian Bennett from ICB, on the Local Authority’s Action Plan in response to 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 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>Panel on 16.9.25</p> <p>Panel on 17.10.25</p> <p>Visit on 23.10.25</p>
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			<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 providing additionally resourced provision. Visits to be arranged when appropriate to the 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 the autumn 2025, regarding the proposals for SEND reforms.</p>	<p>Visits to be arranged</p> <p>Panel on 11.12.25</p> <p>Panel on 11.12.25</p>
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			<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 to meet with Elective Home Education (EHE) Strategic Leads and the Team – 9th September 2025 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 of pre-decision scrutiny before the matter is considered by Cabinet.</p>	<p>Visit on 9.9.25</p> <p>Panel on 17.10.25</p>

<p>Partnership Arrangements</p>	<p>Vicky Metherringham/Jo-Anne Sanders</p>	<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 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</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>Ongoing</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Health Provision for Children and Young People</p>	<p>Emily Parry-Harries from Public Health Stewart Horn/Jackie Beaver to co-ordinate</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the health provision for Children and Young People in Kirklees with a particular focus on the following –</p> <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 		<p>Tbc</p>

		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 Emma Salter, Pennine Learning (PL), Education Consultant and Jake Womack, PL Director	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 style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy</p> <p>Cllr Kendrick and Cllr Rylah</p> <p>Service Directors to present</p> <p>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>29th August 2025</p> <p>Informal meeting 9.30am-10.30am Public meeting 10.30am 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>16th September 2025</p> <p>Informal meeting 4pm Online on Teams</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Discussion on whether to widen Panel’s agreed areas of focus on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation Plan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H Kilroy/C Gardiner</p>
<p>17th October 2025</p> <p>Informal meeting 9.30am-10.30am Public meeting 10.30am 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 – Local Authority Action Plan</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, S Horn, A Wisniewski, & Ian Bennett (ICB), Vicky Dutchburn</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
	<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</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) <i>(may need to be deferred)</i></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>
<p>6th February 2026</p> <p>Informal meeting 9.30am-10.30am</p>	<p>Informal Items:-</p> <p>Children’s Service Data Performance Report</p>	<p>J Sanders/V Metheringham/ to present</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
<p>Public meeting 10.30am Hybrid meeting Council Chamber HTH</p> <p>Report deadline: 23.01.2026</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>E Brayford/J Sanders and Mark Janes (Chair) Pennine Learning/Emma Salter</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>Visit by Our Children’s Voice Team to give an update on the work of the Team</p> <p>Oversight of the Ofsted Improvement Plan and planned Re-design of the Leaving Care Service</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>J Sanders/V Metheringham to present</p> <p>Anna Gledhill/Kay Parry (TomB)</p> <p>V Metheringham/J Hanna</p> <p>Senior Officers/Cabinet Members</p> <p>Panel Members</p>

Date of Meeting	Issues for Consideration	Officer Contact
	Work Programme and Agenda Plan for 25/26 (progress and items to roll forward to 26/27)	H Kilroy

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