

Kirklees Council

Scrutiny Lead Member Report

Lead Member: Cllr Cahal Burke

Panel: Children's Scrutiny Panel

Period of Update: From 27th November 2017 to 26th February 2018

Panel Highlights

The Children's Scrutiny Panel met on 18th December and 29th January during the above period. The main highlights from the meetings were:-

- **A visit to the Drop in Centre**
- **Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report**
- **Ofsted letter following October visit**
- **School Transport (SEN)**
- **Q2 Performance Monitoring**

Outcomes:

- The Panel had previously requested more meaningful Corporate Performance information, to allow members to understand improvements and areas of concern. However, this is work in progress and will be available in an improved format at a future meeting.
- The Panel were invited to attend a future KSCB meeting. Following consideration of the KSCB annual report, Panel members will be visiting Duty & Advice (previously MASH) to explore how the new front door arrangements are working in practice. Panel members will also visit a meeting of Head Teachers and Governors to explore their experience of accessing social work advice. Dates to be confirmed.
- The Panel will visit a children's home. Date to be confirmed.
- The Panel will request that any future School Transport Policy (SEN) return for consideration before implementation.

Monitoring Work

- The Elective Home Education ad-hoc is ongoing and will report regularly to the Panel.
- Panel will continue to receive regular updates following Ofsted visits.
- The Panel will continue to receive minutes from the Improvement Board and Corporate Parenting Board.
- Sheila Lock, KSCB Chair to be invited to return to update the Panel at 6 monthly intervals.

Looking Ahead

- Cllr Donna Bellamy will now be the scrutiny representative at the Improvement Board.
- The Panel have been asked to consider the new Children & Young People's

- Plan and it will be considered at the meeting in April.
- SEND – anticipated Ofsted visit.

Panel meeting 5th March 2018

- School Transport (mainstream)
- EHE update
- SEND initial briefing
- Q3 performance monitoring

General comments

Cllr Kendrick is working closely with senior officers to ensure good quality information is provided to the Panel to enable Members to effectively scrutinise the work of Children's Services.