

## Kirklees Council

### Scrutiny Lead Member Report

**Lead Member:** Cllr Cahal Burke

**Panel:** Children's Scrutiny Panel

**Period of Update:** From 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018

#### Panel Highlights

The Children's Scrutiny Panel met on 5<sup>th</sup> March during the above period. The main highlights from the meeting were:-

- **Proposals for changes to Home to School Transport Policy for children attending mainstream school**
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**
- **Visit to Woodlands, Lindley**

#### Outcomes:

- The Panel received the Cabinet report with proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy. The Panel requested that the proposed policies for both mainstream and SEND children return for consideration by the Panel
- The Panel received the SEND report relating to the upcoming inspection by Ofsted. However, the Panel were concerned about the level of detail within the report, and requested that further information be brought to the next meeting of the Panel on 16<sup>th</sup> April. The Panel received the Self Evaluation Form (SEF) following the meeting.
- Members of the Panel who visited Woodlands updated the other members on the visit. There were some questions raised by members, and a report addressing these will be brought to the meeting of the Panel on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

#### Monitoring Work

- The Elective Home Education ad-hoc is ongoing and will report regularly to the Panel.
- Ofsted visited Kirklees in March, and the letter to the Director of Children's Services from them will be considered at the Panel meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April.
- There is some discussion as to whether the Improvement Board minutes should continue to be considered by the Children's Scrutiny Panel. The Panel are awaiting an update.
- The visit to Duty and Advice had to be cancelled due to bad weather – a further visit will be arranged.
- The Panel would like to visit a forum of Head Teachers and Governors to explore their experiences of the new front door policy. A date will be confirmed at a later date.

#### Looking Ahead

- Cllr Donna Bellamy will continue to attend the meetings of the Improvement Board.

- The new Children & Young People's Plan will not be considered at the meeting in April as planned, as further work is being undertaken. The Panel would like assurances that they will have the opportunity to comment on and influence the final plan.
- The Panel would like to be assured that staff are well supported to do their job and that retention rates improve.
- The Panel had not seen as significant an improvement in Children's Services as anticipated, however the Panel appreciated the work that has been done to date, given the substantial changes in the service.

#### Panel meeting 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

- Ofsted visit update – letter to Director for Children's Services
- SEND
- Children's Residential Homes update (to include Edge of Care)
- Improvement Board Minutes & Update – to be confirmed
- Performance monitoring

#### **End of Year Highlights**

##### Suggested highlights & key challenges:

- PHSE & Prevent – completed
- Improvement Plan – completed
- Corporate parenting – issues highlighted, to be monitored throughout 2018/19
- SEND – issues highlighted, to be monitored throughout 2018/19
- KSCB – completed, although reports to Panel recommended on 6 monthly intervals

#### **General comments**

Cllr Kendrick has continued her work to ensure that senior officers provide quality information is provided to the Panel to enable Members to effectively scrutinise the work of Children's Services.