

Kirklees Council

Scrutiny Lead Member Report

Lead Member: Cllr Cahal Burke

Panel: Children's Scrutiny Panel

Period of Update: 3rd September 2018 to 7th December 2018

Panel Highlights

The Children's Scrutiny Panel met on 10th September. The main highlights from the meeting were:-

- **Strategy for Partnership working - Early Help**
- **Multi Systemic Therapy**
- **Family Mental Health Service**
- **Family Conferencing**
- **CSE / Safeguarding Update**

Outcomes:

Strategy for Partnership working – Early Help

- The Panel received a report on the new approach to Early Help. They heard evidence from a school about how well this approach had worked. However, the Panel would like further information about the level of involvement of schools and requested that a report be brought to Panel on the development of schools as community hubs.
- The Panel would like to monitor the progress across all areas and asked that a report on the success of the early support strategy, to include details of the partnership working arrangements, be brought to the Panel early 2019.

CSE / Safeguarding

- The Panel sought to understand the 10 identifiable risks common to children who go missing or become involved in CSE and these were circulated to the Panel following the meeting. They also requested information as to what work was being done to invite accommodation providers and takeaways to training be provided to the Panel. It was agreed that this information would be brought to another meeting of the Panel.
- The Panel also asked for a further report be brought outlining the multi-agency approach and that the report include details of progress made with all partners.

The Panel also met on 9th November. The main highlights from the meeting were:-

- **KSCB Annual Report**
- **Review of All Age Disability**

Outcomes:

KSCB Annual Report

- The Panel requested further information about the partnership working, as they didn't feel that this was fully reflected in the report. It was noted however, that the partnership working was contained within 2 appendices to

the annual report, which would be sent to all Panel members once they had been approved by the Board.

- The Chair of the KSCB suggested that she return to the Panel meeting on 1 April 2019 to outline reflections on the lessons learned around Child Sexual Exploitation and to provide assurances that the current practice and strategy is fit for purpose.

Review of All Age Disability

- The Panel heard that Children's Disability Service had been reviewed so as to re-align back under the oversight of Elaine McShane, Service Director, Children & Families. The Panel agreed to continue to monitor the Children's Disability Service, to ensure positive outcomes for children and their families.

Monitoring Work

- The Elective Home Education (EHE) ad-hoc panel is ongoing. Meetings have taken place with parents and carers to gather their experiences of home educating in Kirklees. Evidence will also be gathered from a prominent EHE blogger, Leeds City Council, Calderdale Council and EHE parents and carers in those authorities.
- Ofsted visited Kirklees on 4th & 5th December for a full inspection. The results of the inspection will be considered at the meeting on 14th January 2019.
- The Panel continued with gathering evidence from parents of children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities. An Ofsted visit is anticipated and officers would like to provide evidence that they have actively engaged with, and included the experiences of parents in Kirklees in the services development planning. Meetings have taken place between parents and carers and members of the Panel. The outcome of these meetings will be a report to the SENDACT team and will be made available to OSMC at a future meeting.
- Panel have continue to monitor the improvement journey and considered a refreshed 10 point Improvement Plan. The Panel recognised the work done by all staff within children's services and they were encouraged to see the progress that had been made. However, the Panel will continue to monitor progress.

Looking Ahead

- Cllr Donna Bellamy will continue to attend the meetings of the Improvement Board.
- The new Children & Young People's Plan has been delayed and will be considered in 2019.

Panel meeting 14th January 2019

- Statistical information / table relating to children in care (standing item)
- Ofsted Letter to DCS
- CAMHS Transformation Plan and Autism waiting list update
- Schools as Community Hubs (to include pressures on schools)
- Virtual School

An additional meeting will be held in January or February to consider

- Statistical information / table relating to children in care (standing item)
- EHE Update
- Update on training for accommodation providers and takeaways on CSE
- General CSE Update

Key challenges:

- The inspection of Ofsted for the Special Educational Needs and Disability will challenge the service, but the scrutiny panel will continue to work alongside the service to assist where possible.
- The Panel would like to be assured that schools are receiving good support for the additional challenges they face as part of the community hubs and early help strategies.
- The Panel would like to be assured that lessons have been learned from past cases of CSE, and be confident that the current strategy will prevent children from being vulnerable to harm and abuse.

General comments

The Panel looks forward to working alongside the new Director of Children's Services Mel Meggs.