

## CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

**MEMBERS:** Cllr Andrew Marchington (Chair), Cllr Paul White, Cllr Amanda Pinnock, Cllr Aafaq Butt, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Paul Davies, Linda Summers (Education Co-Optee), Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee), Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)

**SUPPORT:** Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

### FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
<p><b>1. Special Educational Needs</b></p>	<p>Monitor the progress of the recommendations from the Panel made to Cabinet following an investigation by the Panel into how SENDACT interacted and worked with parents and carers. The report contained the response of the Cabinet Portfolio Holders to the investigation findings which was approved by Cabinet in March 2019.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider progress updates during the 2019/20 municipal year.</p>	<p>That the Panel are confident that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with SEND are receiving the appropriate support.</li> <li>• That SENDACT are fully prepared for the Ofsted Inspection.</li> <li>• That SENDACT is a service that is regarded as 'good', with partners working alongside to ensure there is no delay for children.</li> </ul> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 23 September 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a report giving an update on the recommendations made by Scrutiny and actions taken on the SENDACT Action Plan.</p> <p>The Panel agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That they wanted to see greater clarification in the timescales outlined in the SENDACT action plan;</li> <li>2. That the panel wanted to see that the voice of young people was captured and reflected in the work of SENDACT.</li> </ol> <p>A further update report will be considered by the Panel at a later date.</p>
<p><b>2. Exploitation Strategy</b></p>	<p>The Panel considered a joint presentation by West Yorkshire Police and Senior Officers from Kirklees on CSE, Safeguarding and Licensing in March 2019 and agreed to be kept informed and to be able to contribute to the future work on the Exploitation Strategy and consider the findings of the Dr Peel Review in the new 2019/20 municipal year.</p> <p>Future reports should provide an update on sexual harm prevention orders and what has been learned from the historic</p>	<p>That the Panel is assured that lessons had been learned from previous cases of CSE.</p> <p>That the Panel is convinced that the best practices identified following the review by Dr Peel are being implemented in Kirklees, and ensure good outcomes for vulnerable children.</p> <p>That as many takeaways and accommodation providers as possible receive exploitation safeguarding training. That these providers begin to feel more comfortable and better informed as to how and when to report potential</p>

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	cases.	<p>safeguarding issues.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019</u> The Panel considered and noted an overview of the work that had been undertaken in response to improving the quality of practice and to prevent children being at risk and vulnerable to harm and abuse from Exploitation and or from going missing from home or care.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020</u> The Panel will consider an update report on the Exploitation Strategy.</p>
<p><b>3. Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board (KSCB)</b></p>	<p>Review the improvements of the KSCB.</p> <p>The Panel will consider an update report on KSCB at a future meeting of the Panel in the 2019/20 municipal year.</p> <p>Future reports to the Panel should advise how Kirklees will implement the new national strategies on children's safeguarding.</p> <p>The Panel will consider the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board Business Plan.</p>	<p>That the Board is considered as 'good' and that the Panel is satisfied that it is effective and accountable.</p> <p>That the Panel is convinced that the best practices identified following the review by Dr Peel are being implemented in Kirklees, and ensure good outcomes for vulnerable children.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 23 September 2019</u> The Panel considered a presentation from Sheila Lock, Chair of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Board, outlining the following highlights:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- her role to Chair the multi-agency arrangements in Kirklees which was aimed at safeguarding and protecting children.;</li> <li>- the process that had been followed in establishing the new partnership arrangements that included Kirklees, the police and health through the clinical commissioning groups;</li> <li>- Kirklees had submitted its revised safeguarding arrangements to Government in May 2019 and the new arrangements were currently being implemented.</li> </ul> <p>The Panel agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That they acknowledged the need to continue to focus and promote openness and transparency in safeguarding matters and would investigate</li> </ol>

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		<p>the effectiveness of this approach;</p> <p>2. That they would consider further the Panel's role in supporting and challenging the work of safeguarding partnerships in helping to reduce the risks to young people.</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise partnership working and will attend and observe meetings. See Improvement Journey of Children's Services for further information.</p>
<p><b>4. Early Support Partnership (Edge of Care)</b></p>	<p>To maintain an overview of the work done to improve the Edge of Care in Kirklees.</p> <p>In April 2019, the Panel considered an update on the development on the three programmes funded through the Department for Education (DFE) Innovation Funding and agreed to consider an update in the 2019/20 municipal year giving data and statistics on the Early Support Partnership following development of the practices.</p>	<p>The Panel is assured that the Early Support Strategy in Kirklees is clarified and enhanced, and should include consideration of whether good practice from other areas might be effectively adapted for use in Kirklees.</p> <p>That as part of clarifying the Early Support approach, the role of Schools is considered and schools have the opportunity to be part of the approach.</p> <p>The Panel will consider arranging a visit to the Early Support Teams to gain a better understanding of the work that was being undertaken and the impact it was having and that this be considered as part the Panel's work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel considered an update on the Early Support Partnership. The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Panel consider data and analysis on the key areas of the Early Support approach when it was available.</li> <li>2. That the Panel consider information at a future meeting regarding how the intervention work being carried out could have an impact in reducing the risks of tensions within families and how this might impact in terms of repeat referrals, children coming into care and child protection plans.</li> <li>3. That the Panel consider information giving further detail on the outcomes of all referrals to Family Group Conferencing or the reasons</li> </ol>

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		<p>why these may not have been successful.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 13 March 2020</u> The Panel will consider a report following the Early Years Event in March 2020 which will outline feedback from the event and next steps.</p>
<p><b>5. Review of the Improvement Journey</b></p>	<p>The Panel considered the Ofsted report following the inspection of Children's Services in June 2019 and will receive future updates as appropriate.</p> <p>The Panel will review the improvement journey of Children's Services and gather evidence as part of holding the service to account.</p>	<p>That the Panel is confident Children's Services is continuing to improve and protect the vulnerable children and young people of Kirklees.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019</u> The Panel considered and noted the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection regarding Children's Social Care Services and agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) That the continuing work and actions to be taken to achieve improved outcomes as the next stage of the improvement journey, and the role of the Panel in supporting this, be noted.</li> <li>2) That arrangements be put in place to arrange a Panel session regarding improving partnership working and governance structures.</li> </ol> <p>The Panel will attend and observe the following meetings to scrutinise the partnership arrangements within Children's Service and gather evidence:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sufficiency Placement meetings</li> <li>- Multi-Agency meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019;</li> <li>- Early Years Event in January 2020 and consider a formal report at a future meeting giving feedback and next steps;</li> <li>- Practice Progress meetings;</li> <li>- Visits to key health partners – Northorpe Hall (Locala) Single Point of Access on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019;</li> <li>- Visit to Youth Offending Board and YOT team;</li> <li>- Visit to Multi Systemic Therapy Team.</li> </ul> <p><u>Panel Meeting 16 December 2019</u> The Panel considered an update on the Review of the Children's Services Improvement Journey during 2019 and agreed to consider the Youth Model</p>

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		<p>at a future meeting. The Panel also agreed that the voice of the child and their experiences should be reflected, clearly demonstrated and lessons learned in all aspects of work undertaken by the Children's Service.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020</u> The Panel will consider a report giving an update on the new Kirklees Children and Young People's Partnership arrangements and shares the draft Children and Young People's Plan for comment.</p>
<p><b>6. Educational Outcomes and the Learning Support Strategy</b></p>	<p>The Panel agreed to consider –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Draft Learning Support Strategy early in the 2019/20 municipal year;</li> <li>what alternative provisions were available for children with different needs and abilities who are not able to attend mainstream education;</li> <li>how isolations within secondary schools were being managed and what the planned approach was for the future;</li> <li>a progress update on the educational challenges ahead, attendance and exclusions – July 2019.</li> </ul> <p>The Panel on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 agreed to consider educational outcomes for looked after children.</p> <p>The Corporate Parenting Board is looking at the issue of educational outcomes for looked after children and specifically the number of placement moves taking place which impact on the educational outcomes for looked after children.</p>	<p><u>Panel Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019</u> The Panel considered a report outlining the educational landscape in Kirklees and agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That further information on exclusions be considered by the Panel to include particular focus on early intervention, monitoring, the practice in Kirklees and temporary exclusions.</li> <li>That the Panel consider a future report outlining how the new Ofsted framework for Education was working for schools and learners within Kirklees.</li> </ol> <p>The Panel agreed as part of their work programme for 2019/20 to visit schools to talk to children, young people and staff about the Learning Support Strategy.</p> <p>The Panel will consider whether to scrutinise Secure and Sufficient School places – provisionally for the 2020/21 municipal year.</p> <p>The Lead Member for Children's Scrutiny Panel will keep a watching briefing on this matter and ask the Corporate Parenting Board to report back to the Panel with their findings.</p> <p><u>Informal Panel Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020</u> The Panel will consider an update on the Educational Outcomes for 2019.</p>

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<b>7. Number of children in care</b>	<p>A standing item for each meeting containing details of how many children are in care, and particularly how many are placed out of area.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider a more detailed report on children in care living outside Kirklees with some case studies showing the case history, challenges involved including financial demand on Kirklees and different types of placements. The report should also include the number of children who cannot be placed in Kirklees and the reasons why.</p>	<p>The Panel is satisfied that the Early Help initiatives are having an impact on the number of children in care.</p> <p>That children are placed in foster care as near to home as possible, unless they are placed with family connected persons which may be a further distance.</p> <p>The latest reports showing number of children in care will be considered by the Panel as a standing item.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019</u> The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the figures for data for children looked after age and gender breakdown be checked for accuracy and an update be provided at the next meeting of the Panel in August 2019.</li> <li>2. That the Panel consider educational outcomes and stability for looked after children as part of the work programme for 2019/20.</li> </ol> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019</u> The Panel agreed that officers should continue to monitor the stability of the data for looked after children less than 2 years old due to the fact that the numbers had increased over the previous 3 month period.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019</u> The Panel considered an update on the number and age of children in care and agreed to consider scenarios at a future meeting which demonstrated examples of good practice of placement stability.</p>
<b>8. Future Options for Almondbury Community School</b>	<p>The Children's Scrutiny Panel on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019 considered a Call-in request in respect of the decision made by Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 on Future Options for Almondbury Community School.</p>	<p><u>Panel Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – Call-in Hearing</u> The Panel agreed that the Decision by Cabinet taken on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 could be freed for implementation, however, recommended that Cabinet consider learning points on capacity and openness.</p>

## FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

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	<p>The Panel agreed to consider regular updates on Almondbury Community School and the transitional arrangements for Children on roll at the school for the school year 2020/21.</p>	<p>The Panel agreed to consider regular updates on Almondbury Community School.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019</u>  The Panel considered a verbal update which highlighted the following key areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- planning was in place to create the right opportunities for transition for young people currently receiving secondary education at Almondbury;</li> <li>- the council had made applications to the agencies requesting a variation to the admission arrangements as they wished for every child in the Almondbury school catchment area had priority to attend another local school;</li> <li>- the approach the council was taking to communicating with parents and would be writing directly to the families whose children were affected by the changes.</li> </ul> <p><u>Panel Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019</u>  The Panel considered an update regarding Almondbury Community School, following the Council's decision to change the age range of the school from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.</p> <p>The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to consider an update report to the November meeting outlining next steps and progress and which would include an outline of the transitional arrangements for children years 7 to 10.</li> <li>2. to consider a future report on the success rating of the Academy Trust that was sponsoring Newsome High School and that the report should include an update on the management arrangements for the school, which had received an Ofsted judgement of special measures.</li> <li>3. to attend meetings with parents regarding the transitional arrangements for children from Almondbury Community School for the school year 2020/21.</li> </ol>

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		<p>The Chair of the Panel attended the Opening Evening at Almondbury Community School on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019</u> The Panel considered a verbal update on Almondbury Community School and agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To continue to attend future meetings with parents regarding the transitional arrangements for children from Almondbury Community School for the school year 2020/21.</li> <li>2. That the Panel consider future updates on the transition arrangements for children from Almondbury Community School for the school year 2020/21 – next report will be considered at Panel on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019.</li> </ol> <p><u>Panel meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019</u> The Panel considered an update on the implementation of the Council's decision to change the age range of Almondbury Community School for the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and agreed to monitor progress via future Panel meetings and Lead Member Briefings.</p>
<p><b>9. Performance Information (Children's Services)</b></p>	<p>The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection &amp; Family Support.</p>	<p>The latest performance reports will be considered informally by the Panel as a standing item.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 13 March 2020</u> The Panel will consider information on data and performance, including feedback from the Director of Children's Services Regional meeting to be held in January 2020.</p> <p>The Panel will consider whether to attend training on how to better understand data sets and performance information for the Children's Service.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019</u></p>



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		<p>The Panel considered a report giving an update on repeat referrals and second time on Care Protection Plan following a request for further information from the Panel. The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Panel consider a future report giving more detail on child referrals of domestic violence/abuse, including what impact this was having on young people and information on the origins of the referrals.</li> <li>2. That the Panel consider a report outlining the results of the research undertaken by Professor Thorpe assessing how the front door has developed and is performing including responses to child protection enquiries and referrals.</li> <li>3. That the Panel consider a future update outlining what support is put into place for children and young people once their Child Protection Plan finishes.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Lead Member Briefings</b></p> <p>(Bi-monthly LM Briefings arranged with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children's; and Mel Meggs/Elaine McShane and Jo-Anne Sanders during 19/20 – no issues currently identified) – Actions from these meetings are included within the Panel's Work Programme where appropriate</p>		
<p><b>CAMHS Transformation Plan</b></p>	<p>To maintain an overview of the work of CAMHS in Kirklees, particularly to update on the autism assessment waiting list.</p> <p>The Panel agreed on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 that the Lead Member would keep a watching briefing on the CAMHS Transformation Plan</p>	<p>That the Panel is satisfied that CAMHS continue to improve the service offer, and that the waiting lists for autism assessments continue to reduce.</p> <p>The Panel will consider an update report in the 2019/20 municipal year giving a summary of the CAMHS Local Transformation Plan and outlining what is available digitally when making a request for an assessment and an outline of what support and help was available for families whilst awaiting an assessment – date to be confirmed.</p> <p>The Panel would also like to receive a summarised version of the CAMHS Transformation Plan as soon as it is available.</p>
<p><b>Elective Home Education Ad-Hoc Panel</b></p>	<p>The next steps from the Ad-Hoc Panel will be to gather further evidence which will be sought from:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A leading elective home education expert</li> </ul>	<p>That the Panel be assured that that children who are home educated receive the best offer from Kirklees council.</p> <p>That the Panel is content that any new Elective Home Educating policy is</p>

## FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other local authorities in the area, to consider their offer for elective home educators</li> <li>• Parents of those local authorities mentioned above to explore their experiences</li> <li>• Head Teachers forums (primary, secondary and special schools)</li> </ul>	<p>updated and fit for purpose.</p> <p>The EHE Ad-Hoc Panel will commence its work and produce a final report on its findings early in the 2019/20 municipal year.</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> November considered an update report on the progress of the Ad-Hoc Panel and agreed that the findings report be shared with the Management Committee in April 2020.</p>