

## **CHILDREN’S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22**

**MEMBERS:** Cllr Andrew Marchington (Chair), Cllr Jackie Ramsay, Cllr Elizabeth Reynolds, Cllr Joshua Sheard, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Paul White, Linda Summers (Education Co-Optee), Dale O’Neill (Co-Optee), Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)

**SUPPORT:** Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager

<p><b>1. Review of the Improvement Journey</b></p>	<p>The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of Children’s Services until they have achieved an ‘excellent’ Ofsted rating, including receiving regular updates on how this is being achieved.</p>	<p>(Lead Officer: Mel Meggs/Service Directors)</p>
<p><b>2. Educational Outcomes and Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy</b></p>	<p><b>Educational Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the educational outcomes of looked after children and link this to the work ongoing in the Council on the Inequalities Commission;</li> <li>- impact of covid on educational attainment in particular on certain groups, eg gender– what can the Council do to improve this for children post pandemic and how can children be supported;</li> <li>- the Panel will consider a future report on Exam Results and outcomes with examples of practice and will monitor the progress of how children in year 11 would be assessed or examined in 2021 and how grades will be decided;</li> <li>- the longer-term effect of Covid on educational outcomes including the levels of family income and digital inclusion opportunities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy</b></p> <p>The Panel were informed that a report was scheduled for Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 prior to consultation with schools.</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- closing the attainment gap which the Panel were informed would be a priority in the Strategy;</li> </ul>	<p>(Lead Officer: Jo Sanders/Emma Brayford/Chris Jessup)</p> <p><b>Informal Panel meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July</b></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on the Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy, focusing on the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the aims of the Strategy and how did you arrive at these?</li> <li>- What are you hoping to achieve?</li> <li>- How will you assess and measure that the aims are being/have been met?</li> </ul> <p><u>Kirklees Futures meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021</u> Panel Members were invited to attend and observe and will feedback to future meeting.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Panel understand that the Learning strategy will be focusing on early years groups and want to explore what difference this will make;</li> <li>- updates on the development of the Kirklees Council Education Futures and the proposed approach and timeline.</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Wellbeing and Mental Health of Children and adolescents and multisystemic therapies (MSTs)</b>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the cost benefit of MST’s and the cost effectiveness of what has been implemented;</li> <li>- the prevention initiatives to solve the problems experienced by children in Kirklees with mental health;</li> <li>- mental health provision provided by the different teams and providers who support this work, including the links to educational outcomes and access to CAMHS;</li> <li>- how many families had received treatment and how successful and cost effective it had been;</li> <li>- The mental health of children in care in residential children’s homes.</li> </ul>	(Lead Officer: Tom Brailsford/Elaine McShane)
<b>4. 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>In addition to the standard reports, the Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That the Lead Member would keep a watching brief on children in care under 1 year old;</li> <li>- information relating to the differences in the number of children in care within Kirklees compared with statistical neighbours;</li> <li>- The Panel will explore whether the Children’s Service have responsibility for homeless children on the register for accommodation who are at risk of malnutrition and are vulnerable</li> </ul>	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane/Ophelia Rix)
<b>5. Youth Justice Plan (Services)</b>	The Panel was informed that a report was scheduled for Cabinet on 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021 and that comments in advance would be welcomed	(Lead Officers: Ian Mottershaw / Lisa Warnes/Elaine McShane)

<p><b>and Initiatives) and Anti-Social Behaviour</b></p>	<p>from the Panel. The Cabinet report will cover the plan for the next 12 months, the Council’s priorities on the focus of youth justice and children making their first offence.</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The effectiveness of the model following its introduction;</li> <li>- The key areas outlined in the Cabinet report;</li> <li>- the Youth Practice Model, providing input into the development of the model with a view to scrutinising the effectiveness of the model following its introduction (based on data/evidence).</li> </ul>	<p><u>Panel meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021</u> The Panel will consider a report on the Youth Justice Plan.</p>
<p><b>6. Partnership arrangements</b></p>	<p>The Panel will continue to scrutinise partnerships and boards during the 2021/22 municipal year, for example, Corporate Parenting Board and Health and Wellbeing Board and the Panel will look at how data was collected and used to improve outcomes. *** (see last page)</p>	<p>(Lead Officers: Elaine McShane/Jo Sanders/Tom Brailsford)</p>
<p><b>7. Special Educational Needs and High Needs</b></p>	<p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a future report on how the recommendations of the SENDACT report has been implemented, including a progress update;</li> <li>- that the Panel seek feedback from parents (PECAN) who had been consulted as part of the Adhoc Panel on SENDACT.</li> <li>- SEND Transport – scrutiny of changes to new system (new item at request of Cllr Smaje/Cllr Mather)</li> </ul>	<p>(Lead Officer: Kelsey Clark-Davies/Jo-Anne Sanders)</p>
<p><b>8. 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 in the Informal meetings. **</p>	<p>(Lead Officers: Service Directors – reports produced by Sue Grigg and Andrew Wainwright from Performance Team)</p>
<p><b>9. Elective Home Education</b></p>	<p>The Panel was informed that a report would be considered by Cabinet on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 on Elective Home Education Policy.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise –</p>	<p>(Lead Officer: Jo-Anne Sanders/Diane Yates/Kelsey Clark-Davies)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Panel noted that an increasing number of parents were opting out of mainstream education for their children and agreed to explore the reasons for this and seek feedback from the Youth Council of the views from young people who were being home educated.</li> <li>- The Panel will meet with parents who were involved in the Adhoc Panel on Elective Home Education to seek feedback from them on how well the Action Plan agreed at Cabinet in December 2020 has been progressed and implemented.</li> </ul>	
<b>10. Fostering and Adoption</b>	<p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise via the Corporate Parenting Board on the following and Panel Members will report back on key issues:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to open up fostering opportunities in terms of accommodation;</li> <li>- Barriers to recruitment and retention.</li> </ul>	
<b>11. Voice of the Child</b>	<p>The Panel agreed to keep a watching brief on all areas of scrutiny by the Panel and explore whether the voice of the child was being heard and lessons learned.</p>	(Lead Officers: M Meggs/J Sanders/E McShane/T Brailsford)
<b>12. Representation by the Panel at meetings, events and visits to internal teams and external providers</b>	<p>The Panel agreed to undertake visits to both internal teams and services and external providers as required to observe and scrutinise.</p> <p>The panel agreed to undertake visits to internal teams and external partners including attending and observing meetings already scheduled.</p>	<p><b>Corporate Parenting Board</b> – Cllr Marchington (ex-officio) and Dale O’Neill would attend the meetings of the Board to provide scrutiny on behalf of the children’s scrutiny Panel and feedback to the Panel as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Liquid Logic/Tableau</b> – the Panel will schedule a visit to the front door to see how the system works on a daily basis and how the data was being used to improve performance and manage services.</p> <p><b>Social Workers</b> – the Panel will schedule a visit to Social Workers on the frontline to undertake a ‘temperature check’ of how they were getting on and seek feedback on whether they felt that there was a professional pathway for them within the Council.</p>

		<b>Children's and Young People's Partnership Event on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021</b> – the Panel agreed to send representatives from the Panel to attend this event and report back to the Panel.
<b>13. Engagement of Family Hubs</b>	<p>The panel agreed to scrutinise/consider:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An update to include details of the services that could be offered to a family of 4 where there were 2 parents working with 2 children, along with examples from families of where this was working well.</li> <li>- that the issue of prevention work around mental health and trauma experienced by children be built into the overall early help offer.</li> <li>- that information be provided for families on how and when they could access all the services on offer and that examples be given of how the services would relate to families.</li> <li>- a future update on how the voice of the child would be taken into account in the work of the engagement of family hubs.</li> </ul>	(Lead Officers: Carol Ann Smith/Jackie Beever/ Jo Sanders)
<b>Children in care under 1 year old</b>	The Lead Member will keep a watching brief on children in care under 1 year old.	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)
<b>Children transferred from Almondbury Community School</b>	The Lead Member agreed to keep a watching brief with regard to what the educational impact had been for the children who had transferred from Almondbury Community School to alternate schools and to ensure that the children were getting the right amount of results and opportunities.	(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)

<b>Staying Put Policy</b>	<p>The Panel were informed that a report was scheduled for Cabinet on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 on the Staying Put Policy.</p> <p>The Lead Member agreed to keep a watching brief on the Staying Put Policy.</p>	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)
<b>Petition – St John’s (CE) Junior School</b>	<p>The Council received a petition objecting to the council’s decision at Cabinet in September 2020 not to allow St John’s Infant school to be made available for junior places in September 2021. The Lead Member will keep a watching brief with regard to the issues raised within the petition from a scrutiny perspective.</p>	(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)

\*\* It is suggested that arrangements be made for representatives from the Panel to attend relevant meetings of Partnership bodies to ensure relevant scrutiny of performance data and information is being effectively scrutinised “upstream”. This will not prevent onward referral to the Panel where appropriate but will act as a means of avoiding un-necessary duplication.