

## 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

<b>FULL PANEL DISCUSSION</b>		
<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>
<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>Informal meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021</b> The Panel considered a copy of the Front Door Peer Review feedback letter from the ADCS for information.</p> <p><b>Panel meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b> The Panel will consider an update on the Peer Review – Front Door.</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/assessments and outcomes with examples of good practice and monitor the progress of how children in year 11 will be assessed in 2021 and how grades will be decided;</li> </ul>	<p>(Lead Officer: Jo Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford/Chris Jessup/Phil Mark)</p> <p><b>Futures Expert Strategy Group on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021</b> Panel Members were invited to attend and observe and will feedback to future meeting. The Chair had attended the Futures Expert Strategy Group is next week on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June and reported that there had been very positive engagement from school leaders and officers at the meeting. The Panel was informed that it was confirmed at the session that all information had been investigated and that they had found that no children were at risk.</p> <p><b>Informal Panel meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July</b> The Panel considered an update on the Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy, focusing on the aims of the Strategy and how these were arrived at, what will be achieved and how will the aims be met and assessed and measured. The Panel agreed to submit questions of any further information they wished to</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <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> <li>- Relationships with Academies and Multi-Academy Trusts, eg admission policies, number of school places available and how impacting maintained schools nearby.</li> </ul>	<p>scrutinise and the Lead Member agreed to keep a watching brief on the Learning Strategy and its development.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider Relationships with Academies and Multi-Academy Trusts to look at educational outcomes for children and young people, admission policies, number of school places available and how impacting on maintained schools.</p> <p><b>Panel meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b></p> <p>The Panel will consider a report on educational outcomes including information on youngsters not in education, employment or training and pathways to transition to next phase of education (KS4 and KS5)</p> <p>Chair of Panel to report back to future meetings on issues of relevance considered by the Quality Assurance Panel.</p> <p>That a representation from the Panel be invited to attend the Launch of the Learning Strategy and other relevant meetings.</p>
<p><b>3. Multisystemic therapies (MSTs)</b></p> <p><b>Wellbeing and Mental Health of</b></p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise/ consider the following on MSTs –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the cost benefit of MST’s and the cost effectiveness of what has been implemented;</li> </ul> <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider the following in relation to the wellbeing and mental health of children and young people -</p>	<p>(Lead Officer: Tom Brailsford/Elaine McShane)</p>

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<b>Children and adolescents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	
<b>4. Number of children in care</b>	<p>The Panel will continue to scrutinise/consider via the Corporate Parenting Board and Lead Member Briefings –</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>	<p>(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane/Ophelia Rix)</p> <p>Members of the Panel who attend the Corporate Parenting Board will ask questions through the Chair of the Board in relation to performance information and report back on any issues to the Children's Scrutiny Panel.</p>
<b>5. Youth Justice Plan (Services and Initiatives) and Anti-Social Behaviour</b>	<p>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 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> </ul>	<p>(Lead Officers: Ian Mottershaw / Lisa Warnes/Elaine McShane)</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a verbal update on the Youth Justice Plan.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to visit the Youth Engagement Service during the 2021/22 municipal year.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	
<b>6. Partnership arrangements</b>	<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, visits to internal teams and partners and the Panel will look at how data was collected and used to improve outcomes.</p> <p>*** (see last page)</p>	(Lead Officers: Elaine McShane/Jo Sanders/Tom Brailsford)
<b>7. Special Educational Needs and High Needs</b>	<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 to Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 has been implemented, including a progress update;</li> <li>- that the Panel seek feedback from parents (PCAN) who had been consulted as part of the Adhoc Panel on SENDACT.</li> <li>- SEND Transport Scheme – Travel Assessment Unit – scrutiny of procedural changes to different ways to transport children to school (new item at request of Cllr Smaje/Cllr Mather) – Cllr Mather to explore further and confirm if wishes to raise with Scrutiny</li> </ul>	<p>(Lead Officer: Kelsey Clark-Davies/Paul Harris/Jo-Anne Sanders)</p> <p><b>Panel Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on the SEND Peer Review.</p> <p>The Panel be invited to attend the SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group in either September or October and report back to the Panel.</p> <p>The Panel meet with the Local Offer Team to discuss the inclusive support offer for SEND professionals.</p>
<b>8. Performance Information (Children’s Services)</b>	<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>	(Lead Officers: Jo-Anne Sanders/Elaine McShane/Tom Brailsford – supported by Lucy Tiffany)
<b>9. Elective Home Education</b>	<p>The Panel was informed that a report would be considered by Cabinet in September 2021 on Elective Home Education Policy.</p>	(Lead Officer: Jo-Anne Sanders/Diane Yates/Kelsey Clark-Davies)

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	<p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise –</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> <li>- The Panel will consider an update on progress against the recommendations in the Adhoc Panel report on Elective Home Education that was agreed by Cabinet in December 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>The Chair will consider the report to Cabinet in September 2021 and discuss key issues with Panel.</p>
<p><b>10. Fostering and Adoption</b></p>	<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>	
<p><b>11. Voice of the Child</b></p>	<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>	<p>(Lead Officers: M Meggs/J Sanders/E McShane/T Brailsford)</p>
<p><b>12. Representation by the Panel at meetings, events</b></p>	<p>The Panel agreed to undertake visits to both internal teams and services and external providers as required to observe and scrutinise.</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>

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<p><b>and visits to internal teams and external providers</b></p>	<p>The panel agreed to undertake visits to internal teams and external partners including attending and observing meetings already scheduled.</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> <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.</p>
<p><b>13. Engagement of Family Hubs</b></p>	<p>The panel agreed to scrutinise/consider:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A narrative to explain how and when a family of 4 (2 working parents and 2 school age children) on a minimum wage would be able to access help from the hubs when they needed it; to include examples of where families and Councillors were engaging with the hubs and where this was working well.</li> <li>- An explanation of how family hubs had been modelled and framed in terms of who would access the hubs most and at what times, eg people who work during the day and how activities and services would be planned and publicised.</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> </ul>	<p>(Lead Officers: Michelle Wheatcroft/Jackie Beever/ Jo Sanders)</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021</u> The Panel agreed to revise the areas of focus for scrutiny as outlined in “approach/areas of focus” column.</p> <p>The Panel had asked to be invited to any sessions set up at Family Hubs for Councillors to give an update on the progress of the implementation.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 Member Briefings

(Bi-monthly LM Briefings with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children’s; and Mel Meggs/Elaine McShane, Tom Brailsford and Jo-Anne Sanders during 21/22) – Actions from these meetings will be included within the Panel’s Work Programme where appropriate

<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>	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	<p>(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)</p> <p>The petition did not reveal anything material that was not revealed in the non-statutory consultation which had already been undertaken in the lead up to the September 2020 cabinet report. This report made clear the right of the Governing Body of St. John’s CE(VC) Infant school, with approval from the Diocese, to publish their own statutory</p>

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	brief with regard to the issues raised within the petition from a scrutiny perspective.	proposals. They exercised this right on 29 April 2021. This triggered an LA decision making process (as the LA remained the decision maker) which led to a cabinet decision on 27 July 2021. Link to the recent cabinet report and decision (item 14): <a href="https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&amp;MIId=6729&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&amp;MIId=6729&amp;Ver=4</a> The Governing Body or Diocese now have the right to appeal the decision made by cabinet to the Schools Adjudicator, should they wish.

\*\* 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.