

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

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
<p>1. Review of the Improvement Journey</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>Informal meeting on 1st September 2021 The Panel considered a copy of the Front Door Peer Review feedback letter from the ADCS for information.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 15th September 2021 The Panel considered an Update of the Peer Review (Health Check) - Duty and Advice that took place in May 2021.</p> <p>The key areas of improvement identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure consent was always sought before checks were undertaken and that professionals understood consent fully, • Check whether feedback to the referrer was consistently applied, • Consider how daily performance management was proactive in timeliness for contacts to ensure proactive oversight of contacts to prevent delay, • To ensure that fathers were consistently included in the screening stage of contacts. <p>Panel meeting on 1st December 2021 The Panel will consider the letter from Ofsted on the outcome of the inspection of the Children’s Service which is scheduled to take place week commencing 11th October 2021.</p>

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<p>2. Educational Outcomes and Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy</p>	<p>Educational Outcomes</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the educational outcomes of looked after children and link this to the work ongoing in the Council on the Inequalities Commission; - 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; - 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; 	<p>(Lead Officer: Jo Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford/Chris Jessup/Phil Mark)</p> <p>Futures Expert Strategy Group on 30th June 2021</p> <p>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 30th 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>Informal Panel meeting on 28th July</p> <p>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 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>The Panel received a copy of the report on “Our Kirklees Futures - the Kirklees Learning Strategy” scheduled for decision by Cabinet on the 5th October 2021 which summarised its co-production and development and outlined the future strategic approach to learning in Kirklees. The report requested approval for the Council to adopt the strategy and sought delegated authority to progress with our key strategic partners the implementation and planned delivery of activity in line with proposed timelines and governance.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the longer-term effect of Covid on educational outcomes including the levels of family income and digital inclusion opportunities. <p>Kirklees Future Commission Learning Strategy</p> <p>The Panel were informed that a report was scheduled for Cabinet on 21st September 2021 prior to consultation with schools.</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - closing the attainment gap which the Panel were informed would be a priority in the Strategy; - the Panel understand that the Learning strategy will be focusing on early years groups and want to explore what difference this will make; 	<p>Panel meeting on 30th March 2022</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 partnership meetings.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - updates on the development of the Kirklees Council Education Futures and the proposed approach and timeline; - Relationships with Academies and Multi-Academy Trusts, eg admission policies, number of school places available and how impacting maintained schools nearby. 	
<p>3. Multisystemic therapies (MSTs)</p> <p>Wellbeing and Mental Health of Children and adolescents</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider the following on MSTs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the cost benefit of MST's and the cost effectiveness of what has been implemented; <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider the following in relation to the wellbeing and mental health of children and young people -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the prevention initiatives to solve the problems experienced by children 	<p>(Lead Officer: Tom Brailsford/Elaine McShane)</p> <p>The Panel will visit the Multi-systemic Therapy Team to observe and gain an understanding of the impact of the work being undertaken.</p>

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	<p>in Kirklees with mental health;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mental health provision provided by the different teams and providers who support this work, including the links to educational outcomes and access to CAMHS; - how many families had received treatment and how successful and cost effective it had been; - The mental health of children in care in residential children's homes. 	
<p>4. Number of children in care</p>	<p>The Panel will continue to scrutinise/consider via the Corporate Parenting Board and Lead Member Briefings –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That the Lead Member would keep a watching brief on children in care under 1 year old; - information relating to the differences in the number of children in care within Kirklees 	<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>

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	<p>compared with statistical neighbours;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	
<p>5. Youth Justice Plan (Services and Initiatives) and Anti-Social Behaviour</p>	<p>The Panel was informed that a report was scheduled for Cabinet on 31st 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"> - The effectiveness of the model following its introduction; 	<p>(Lead Officers: Ian Mottershaw / Lisa Warnes/Elaine McShane)</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 28th July 2021</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a verbal update on the Youth Justice Plan.</p> <p>The Panel visited the Youth Engagement Service, Exploitation Screening Panel and Youth Justice Service on the 18th November 2021 and met with Team Managers.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The key areas outlined in the Cabinet report; - 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). 	
6. Partnership arrangements	<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. *** (see last page)</p>	<p>(Lead Officers: Elaine McShane/Jo Sanders/Tom Brailsford)</p>
7. Special Educational Needs and High Needs	<p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a future report on how the recommendations of the SENDACT report to Cabinet on 19th March 2019 has been 	<p>(Lead Officer: Kelsey Clark-Davies/Paul Harris/Jo-Anne Sanders)</p> <p>The Panel has been invited to attend the SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on the 4th November 2021 and will report back to the Panel.</p> <p>The Panel will meet with the Local Offer Team virtually on the 18th January 2022 to discuss the inclusive support offer for SEND professionals.</p>

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	<p>implemented, including a progress update;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that the Panel seek feedback from parents (PCAN) who had been consulted as part of the Adhoc Panel on SEND – the parent’s perspective. 	<p>The Panel will meet with parents via PCAN who had been consulted as part of the Adhoc Panel on the report on ‘SENDACT– the parent’s perspective’ which was approved by Cabinet in March 2019 and seek their feedback on whether the service has improved for them and what it feels like to engage and access the service/front door.</p> <p>The Panel may also attend PCAN’s Annual General Meeting to meet with parents face to face – to be confirmed.</p> <p>Panel Meeting on 5th January 2022 The Panel will consider an update on the SEND Peer Review.</p> <p>The Panel will consider a future report giving an update on progress against the recommendations in the SENDACT Adhoc Panel report ‘SEND – the Parent’s perspective’ which was approved by Cabinet in March 2019.</p>
8. Performance Information (Children’s Services)	The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support in the Informal meetings. **	(Lead Officers: Jo-Anne Sanders/Elaine McShane/Tom Brailsford – supported by Sue Grigg and Andrew Wainwright)
9. Elective Home Education	<p>The Panel was informed that a report would be considered by Cabinet in October 2021 on Elective Home Education Policy.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to scrutinise –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Panel noted that an increasing number of 	<p>(Lead Officer: Jo-Anne Sanders/Diane Yates/Kelsey Clark-Davies)</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 20th October 2021</u> The Panel considered the report on the New Elective Home Education Policy approved by Cabinet on the 5th October 2021. The report to Cabinet proposed that the new Elective Home Education Policy and Cabinet agreed the adoption of the policy.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider analysis on percentages of families who had chosen to Elective Home Educate at their December meeting.</p>

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	<p>parents were opting out of mainstream education for their children and agreed to explore the reasons for this and seek feedback from the One Voice Team who engage with young people who are being home education to seek the views from young people who are being home educated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Panel will seek feedback from parents involved in the EHE Adhoc Panel to get their views on progress and the current situation from their perspective. - The Panel will consider an update on progress against the recommendations in the Adhoc Panel report on Elective Home Education. 	<p><u>Panel meeting on 1st December 2021</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider a report giving a progress update against the recommendations in the Adhoc Panel report on Elective Home Education that was agreed by Cabinet in December 2020, which will include information on percentages of families who had chosen to Elective Home Educate.</p> <p>The Panel will liaise with the One Voice Team to engage with young people to seek their views on being home educated.</p> <p>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.</p>

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10. Fostering and Adoption	<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"> - How to open up fostering opportunities in terms of accommodation; - Barriers to recruitment and retention. 	<p>Members of the Panel who attend the Corporate Parenting Board will ask questions through the Chair of the Board in relation to Fostering and Adoption and report back on any issues to the Children’s Scrutiny Panel.</p>
11. Voice of the Child	<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>
12. Representation by the Panel at meetings, events and visits to internal teams and external providers	<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</p>	<p>Corporate Parenting Board – Cllr Marchington (ex-officio), 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. Other members of the Panel who attend the meetings as Board Members will also report back on key issues to the Panel.</p> <p>Liquid Logic/Tableau – the Panel visited the Front Door Team on the 14th October 2021 to see meet with the team and received good examples of partnership working, voice of the child, data collection, good practice and professional development. Officers updated the Panel on how the data was being used to improve performance and manage services. The Panel also attended an online Weekly Referral meeting on the 11th October 2021.</p> <p>The Panel will attend the Liquid Logic Group chaired by Ophelia Rix in the near future.</p>

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	<p>meetings already scheduled and focus on the following areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection • Partnership working • Voice of the young person • Good practice • Delivery of quality service 	<p>Social Workers – the Panel attended a visit to Social Work Cluster Team at Slaithwaite Town Hall on the 21st September and met with Duty Managers and Social Workers to discuss a range of issues including the voice of the child and working arrangements and development opportunities for staff. In addition, the Panel will visit the Social Work Teams in Batley and Dewsbury to meet with social workers and duty managers.</p> <p>Children’s and Young People’s Partnership Event on the 21st June 2021– members of the Panel were invited to attend this event and report back on any key issues to the Panel.</p>
<p>13. Engagement of Families together</p>	<p>The panel agreed to scrutinise/consider:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	<p>(Lead Officers: Michelle Wheatcroft/Jackie Beever/ Jo Sanders)</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 28th 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 has been invited to attend a session with Councillors during either September or October 2021 organised by Officers to give an update on the implementation of the Families Together Scheme. The sessions had discussed the structuring of the programme and establishing partnership boards. There were 4 geographical areas, each to have their own families together Area Partnership Board.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 20th October 2021</u> The Panel agreed to add Kirklees Families Together Programme to the work programme to look at how the Area Partnership Boards in the 4 geographical areas were established and how effectively they were working.</p> <p><u>Informal Panel meeting on 1st December 2021</u> The Panel will consider a presentation on the Kirklees Families Together Area Partnerships.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- An explanation of how families together scheme 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.- that the issue of prevention work around mental health and trauma experienced by children be built into the overall early help offer.- 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.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a future update on how the voice of the child would be taken into account in the work of the engagement of families together scheme. - Kirklees Families Together Programme – the Panel agreed to look at how the Area Partnership Boards within the 4 geographical areas were established and how effectively they were working. 	
<p>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</p>		
Children in care under 1 year old	The Lead Member will keep a watching brief on children in care under 1 year old.	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)
Children transferred from	The Lead Member agreed to keep a watching brief with regard to what the educational	(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)

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Almondbury Community School	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.	
Staying Put Policy	<p>The Panel were informed that a report was scheduled for Cabinet on the 27th 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)
Petition – St John’s (CE) Junior School	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)</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 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): https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=139&Mid=6729&Ver=4</p> <p>The Governing Body or Diocese now have the right to appeal the decision made by cabinet to the Schools Adjudicator, should they wish.</p>

** 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.