

# Overview and Scrutiny

## Annual Report

2018/19

Improvement  
**Hold to account**  
Investigation *STP view*  
*Forward*  
Domestic abuse  
**OFSTED**  
Proposals  
Virtual school  
Ambulatory service  
Strategic Services  
Podiatry  
Ward councillors  
*Edge of Care*

Play Strategy  
**Review**  
Resilience  
**Health**  
Prevention  
*Healthy Child*  
Flooding  
Intervention  
**Citizens**

*Care closer*  
**Recommendations**  
Democracy Commission  
**Statutory** Social Care  
Housing **Briefings**  
*Regional working*  
Rough sleeping  
**Mental health**  
Safeguarding  
**Children**  
Monitoring  
Engagement  
**People strategy**  
Lessons learned  
Ad Hoc Panel

**Crime**  
**Wellness**  
Pre decision

# Chair's Foreword

At the start of my first year as Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, I would like to thank former Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner for her work in leading overview and scrutiny since 2014. I also want to thank those councillors who took part in scrutiny work during last year, together with our invaluable voluntary and statutory scrutiny co-optees. I look forward to working with new scrutiny panel lead members, panel members and some newly appointed and returning co-optees.

The annual report 2018/19 reflects some of the highlights of work carried out by scrutiny over the last municipal year. Many strategic areas of change will continue to be the focus of scrutiny in the coming year. Joint health scrutiny work continues to be a priority with new areas of work at a regional level. Moving forward I would like to build on previous work, with particular emphasis on ensuring we have a planned approach to pre decision scrutiny across all panels and the management committee.

This year has also seen the publication of new guidance for effective overview and scrutiny in local government. We will be holding a workshop at the end of September, facilitated by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, to look in detail at the guidance and see how it might support the development of scrutiny in Kirklees.

I look forward to updating Council during the year on key areas of scrutiny work.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liz Smaje." The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Chair of Scrutiny 2019/20**  
Councillor Liz Smaje

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# Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 2018/19

## Committee membership

Cllr Julie Stewart-Turner (Chair)  
Cllr Liz Smaje  
Cllr Gulfam Asif  
Cllr Cahal Burke  
Cllr Rob Walker

### Committee Work Programme:

- Approach to scrutiny work 2018/19
- Appointment and allocation of co-optees
- Re-establishment of ad hoc scrutiny panel
- Approval and monitoring of scrutiny work programme 2018/19
- Scrutiny communications
- Overview of Transformation Programme ( 2 meetings)
- Inclusion and diversity - Year 2 update
- Pre-scrutiny workshop - Cohesion and Integration Strategy
- Crime and disorder – refresh of Domestic Abuse Strategy (2 meetings)
- Panel lead member reports
- Leader of the Council priorities (2 meetings)
- Crime and disorder - Crime and Disorder Partnership Plan
- Draft 5 year flood risk management plan – Including update on community and member engagement
- Annual update against flood risk management action plan
- Play Strategy – progress progress
- Introduction to new approach to corporate performance
- Consultation on Kirklees Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
- Update on cctv operation in Kirklees
- Regional working update
- Supporting and growing the community and voluntary sector

# Committee highlights

## Domestic Abuse

During 2018/19 as part of the statutory scrutiny of crime and disorder, the committee looked at the incidence rates for domestic abuse in Kirklees and how the council was working in partnership to address the issue. The committee welcomed some of the recent improvements in this area, including the work of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates in supporting victims through the court process.

The committee felt that the visibility of information in communities to be able to identify where to go for support had declined over recent years. It was therefore important that the quality of information that could be accessed on the council's website was easily accessible, with up to date information and advice.

The committee recommended that given the need for domestic abuse victims to be able to quickly identify where to go for support, the information on domestic abuse on the council's website should be updated and enhanced.

The committee also contributed to the development of a revised Domestic Abuse Strategy, which would focus on 5 priorities;

- partnership working
- preventing violence and abuse
- provision of services
- victim/ survivor support
- Pursuing perpetrators to reduce offending

The committee was concerned about an insufficiency of perpetrator programmes and the lack of clarity about funding for this area from the police and crime commissioner. The chair of the committee raised the issue at a scrutiny liaison meeting with the police and crime panel.

### Outcome:

The information on the council website has been updated and is clear about what domestic abuse is and where to go to report it or look for help. Scrutiny raised concerns directly with the police and crime panel about the lack of clarity about funding for perpetrator programmes.

## Inclusion and Diversity

In 2017/18 the committee had looked in detail at the refresh of the inclusion and diversity strategy and work to deliver the priorities within the action plan. The committee recommended a move to an outcome focussed action plan so the council can better demonstrate the progress that is being made.

In 2018/19 the committee looked at progress over the last 12 months which included establishing a baseline of internal information from which to measure progress. The year two plan had been developed in an outcome based, intelligence-led manner. There was an increase in external focus with priority areas including high impact work with vulnerable communities and high profile partnership activities such as a diversity award event. There was an ambitious set of actions for year 2 which the committee will measure progress against in the 2019/20 municipal year.

The committee welcomes that the council has become a full member of Inclusive Employers which was the UK's first membership organisation for employers looking to build inclusive workplaces and practices. The committee supported the council working with the organisation to achieve the new inclusive standard.

The committee also explored the role of the employee networks and commended the positive contributions made by some of the networks during 2018/19.

### Outcomes:

Following discussion with the committee an outcome focussed action plan has been introduced. The positive contribution of employee networks has been highlighted with a recommendation that more resources are targeted to ensure that all the employee networks are strengthened to achieve similar outcomes.

# Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

## Panel membership

**Councillor Elizabeth Smaje** (Chair)  
**Councillor Nell Griffiths**  
**Councillor Fazila Loonat**  
**Councillor Alison Munro**  
**Councillor Habiban Zaman**  
**Councillor Gemma Wilson**  
**David Rigby** – voluntary co-optee  
**Peter Bradshaw** – voluntary co-optee  
**Lynne Keady** – voluntary co-optee

## Health and Adult Social Care Work Programme 2018/19

- Financial position of the Kirklees health and adult social care economy.
- Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Plan (STP) to include work emerging from the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership (WY&H HCP)
- Integration of health and adult social care
- CQC inspections - review progress
- Integrated Wellness Model
- Quality of care in Kirklees
- Suicide prevention - review progress
- Podiatry Services
- Mental health services transformation programme
- Interim changes to acute inpatient elderly medicine, cardiology and respiratory services provision at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT).
- Wheelchair Services
- Adult Care offer consultation
- Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) 2017/18 Annual Report
- Mental Health Rehabilitation and Recovery Services Transformation Project.
- Diabetes in Kirklees
- Transforming outpatient care
- Ambulatory care unit Dewsbury Hospital
- Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

# Panel highlights

## 1. Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

The panel received a request by a member of the public to review the provision of support in Kirklees for children with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

At its January 2019 meeting the panel invited the member of public to attend the discussions on the issue which included input from local commissioners, Kirklees Council, the lead investigator of a UK and Ireland study of FAS and a retired paediatrician who had expertise in this area.

The member of the public presented a deputation to the panel which included a number of proposed solutions. The discussions were extremely constructive and resulted in a number of recommendations from the panel that included endorsing the solutions presented by the member of public.

A key outcome from the meeting was an agreement by the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership to establishing a regional protocol and diagnostic pathway for children with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

The issue has been carried forward for inclusion in the 2019/20 work programme to assess progress of the regional work.

### Outcome:

The discussion helped to raise awareness of the impact of drinking alcohol during pregnancy and resulted in an agreement to look at developing a regional protocol and diagnostic pathway for children with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

## Following the meeting the member of the public gave this feedback on their experience of Scrutiny

“

*As far as working with scrutiny for Kirklees is concerned we have nothing but praise, you communicated very effectively and set our expectations as well as I think you could, given that we'd not attended a council meeting before. Thank you and your team for all of your help, most appreciated. Thanks for stopping to speak to us outside as well.*

*The board were formal as would be expected, but proceedings were well managed, people seemed friendly and helpful. We would like to thank the members particularly for having taken the time to read the papers we sent, as there were quite a few, and asking appropriate and searching questions. It was nice to hear that members actually took an interest in the issue, some also stopped to speak to us outside which was also very gratifying.*

”

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## 2. Kirklees Integrated Wellness Model

The Kirklees integrated wellness models aim to develop an integrated health improvement approach for adults; to help people build their capacity to maintain good health and be independent.

The wellness model has been a continuing area of work for the panel and at its meeting in September 2018 the panel received an update of the progress of the design and commission of the model.

The panel agreed a number of actions which included: a request to see the engagement plan for comment and to provide assurance that engagement was being carried out across the whole of Kirklees; and a request to receive information that would provide assurance that the model would focus on both physical and mental health.

At a meeting held in March 2019 the panel received a further update on the model design. The panel made a number of comments and recommendations that were aimed at ensuring there was greater input from service users; that there was a clear process for involving clients groups that did not normally engage with primary care or other health and social care bodies; and due to the level of contact that the Wellness Service would have with vulnerable people that the service included the police on its list of key partners.

The panel have agreed to continue monitoring the development of the wellness model during 2019/20.

### Outcomes:

The panel's feedback and recommendations helped to ensure that there was greater service user input into the development of the model design; increased focus on involving those client groups that can be overlooked during engagement exercises; and the inclusion of mental health as a key element of the model.

## 3. Ambulatory Care Unit Dewsbury Hospital

In 2018 the panel was made aware that the Ambulatory Emergency Care (AEC) Unit at Dewsbury District Hospital had closed and until further notice ambulatory care facilities would be provided on the Pinderfields Hospital site.

In October 2018 the panel met with representatives from Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (MYHT) who provided an update on the current position of the AEC unit.

The panel agreed that it should monitor closely the impact of the closure and in particular was keen to ensure there was an assessment of the capacity of the consolidated ambulatory care facility on the Pinderfields site and clarification on the timescales of the closure.

At a second meeting in February 2019 the panel heard that due to continuing workforce challenges the Trust was recommending that the centralised service model be maintained and indicated that the position was unlikely to be resolved in the short term.

As a result of these discussions the panel agreed that a more detailed scrutiny of AEC services was required and to approach Wakefield scrutiny committee to see if they wished to participate in the review of AEC Services.

Wakefield scrutiny has agreed to be involved in the review and this joint piece of work will commence early in the 2019/20 municipal year.



- **4. Mental Health Rehabilitation and Recovery Services Transformation Project**

The panel had two meetings during 2018/19 to look at the work that local commissioners were developing in transforming the provision of mental health rehabilitation and recovery services in Kirklees.

The key focus of these meetings was the engagement work that was being undertaken and at the initial meeting in July 2018 the panel made clear that it would wish to see evidence that engagement activity was robust and included a focus on engaging with service users across the whole of Kirklees and from different communities.

In December 2018 the panel was presented with the findings of the engagement activity and as a result of the discussions a number of actions were agreed with commissioners that included: a request to receive details on how key messages that had

emerged from the engagement would inform the proposed model; and for the panel to be provided with an opportunity to review the new proposed model and take a view on whether any elements of the model constituted a significant change to service.

This item of work has been carried forward for inclusion in the panel's 2019/20 work programme.

**Outcome:**

Local commissioners agreed to undertake more work on its engagement plan to ensure that more people across the whole of Kirklees and from different communities were provided with an opportunity to inform the development of a new model.



# Corporate Scrutiny Panel

## Panel membership

**Councillor Gulfam Asif** (Chair)  
**Councillor James Homewood**  
**Councillor Marielle O'Neill**  
**Councillor Hilary Richards**  
**Councillor John Taylor**  
**Councillor Will Simpson**  
**Philip Chaloner** – Voluntary co-optee  
**Linda Summers** – Voluntary co-optee

## Panel work programme 2018/19

- Corporate Plan
- Libraries review
- Financial monitoring
- Transformation Programme – procurement ( 2 meetings and introduction to procurement workshop)
- Review of Medium Term Financial Plan including headline assumptions, financial resilience and budget risk
- People Strategy (staff development) ( 2 meetings)
- Cabinet member priorities and end of year update
- Finance end of year summary /start of next year monitoring plan; including link to corporate plans and service plans & budgets

## Panel highlights

### Corporate Plan

The panel had a pre decision discussion of the Corporate Plan for 2018-20 prior to it being submitted to council for approval on 11th July 2018. A constructive discussion took place with the panel noting the key shift in terms of emphasis and the 'We're Kirklees' approach.

### Financial Monitoring

This is an ongoing priority for the panel with a more robust approach to scrutiny of financial monitoring being developed.

A number of reports were submitted for consideration throughout the year:

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| July –     | An Introduction to council finances workshop  |
| August –   | High level overview and approach to financial scrutiny  |
| October –  | Progress report in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan   |
| November – | Quarter 2 financial monitoring report   |
| April -    | High level overview of quarter 3 financial monitoring report and other key financial management updates |

The panel will continue to focus on financial management in 2019/20.

The Service Director for Finance who has worked with the panel to develop more robust scrutiny of financial monitoring commented:

“

*Given the scale of broader financial challenges facing the council, my view is that corporate scrutiny panel has become much more confident and assured over the past 12 months in terms of a more critical eye and challenge to a range of key financial management information presented to it, including testing critical assumptions around reserves strategy, capital slippage, emerging and key pressures and risks. I see opportunities for Scrutiny going forward to continue to check and challenge officer approaches to managing the continuing impact of key financial challenges, especially around broader sectoral financial resilience/sustainability and the council's approach, and also related opportunities, such as with the forthcoming training around commercialisation, and scrutiny's subsequent role in helping shape the council's approach to this agenda.*

”

### **Outcomes**

The panel made a number of recommendations throughout the year to identify actions to contribute towards strong financial management of the authority these included :

- that the forecast process be reviewed in an attempt to set budgets accordingly and avoid high level overspends in areas where need has already become apparent.
- that the difference between the aspirational figures for housing growth within the Corporate Plan and those set out in the base line budget assumptions for council tax revenue, be clearly explained in narrative within the relevant documents;
- that the narrative relating to the review of the Waste Strategy within the corporate risk register be amended to clearly outline the potential risks to the organisation;
- that schemes relating to the development of the high street be developed in readiness for the distribution of the pot of money being made available by Government for “changes to local high streets”.
- that a future report include information in respect of the management of the capital plan in terms of re-profiling and the availability of resources and capacity to deliver its ambitions.

### **Transformation Programme/ Procurement**

Procurement was an important element for the panel's scrutiny in 2018/19; this included:

An introduction to the broader aims of the project which were to challenge and redefine how goods and services were procured, to ensure that all third party spend was necessary, to support local economic growth through local spend and to stimulate local social value and contribute to good growth.

An interactive procurement workshop, held on 1st March 2019, which proved very beneficial in increasing knowledge of the role and approach to procurement. As part of the workshop panel members found it helpful to talk to the category managers, to get a better understanding of operational issues.

At the April meeting an update was presented which included information on the implementation of the new operating model. The panel welcomed that the procurement team had been nominated for three UK national GO Awards.

In 2019/20 the panel hopes to receive training in respect of commercialisation and to contribute to the development of the Commercial Strategy.

## Kirklees People Strategy

During the year the panel has looked at two areas of the People Strategy.

In October the focus was on the 'development' work stream followed in April by "health and wellbeing". The panel welcomed the change in emphasis for the work of the Employee Health Care Unit from a traditional, reactive approach to becoming a proactive targeted service. In practical terms this meant an emphasis on early intervention and

prevention; a focus on staff wellbeing rather than absence; and a holistic view of wellbeing including physical, mental and financial support.

The various changes introduced had achieved a steady fall in levels of sickness absence across the Council since their inception. The proactive work and positive results of the new approach were welcomed by the panel.

The Head of People Services, who was new to the council in 2018 said of her first experience at a scrutiny panel meeting:

“

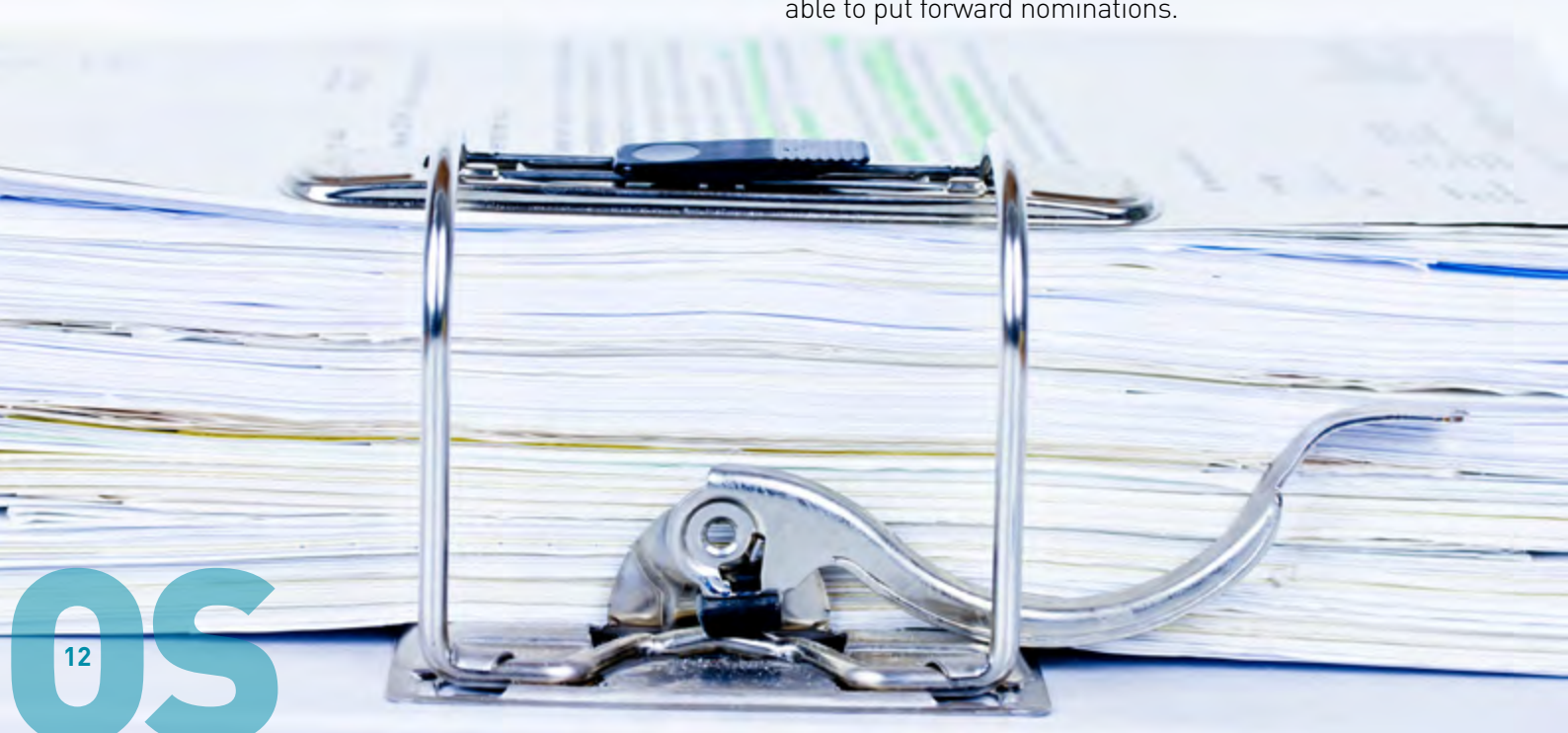
*I have to admit that in advance of the meeting, I was fairly anxious as I am relatively new to the organisation and it was my first scrutiny panel, so I wasn't quite sure what to expect. My presentation to the panel lasted over an hour and I genuinely don't know where that time went! The panel were engaging, inquisitive and constructively challenging, posing some very thoughtful questions around the work I am leading on; they made some great observations and suggestions and I came away reflecting upon how we might engage better with members going forward when we are developing and implementing workforce strategies. A very helpful and positive experience!*

”

The panel has the 'attraction and retention' stream included within its work programme for consideration during 2019/20.

### Outcomes:

As a result of the discussion of the People Strategy it was recommended that Councillors be involved in the monthly recognition scheme for employees and able to put forward nominations.



# Economy & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel

## Panel membership

**Councillor Rob Walker** (Chair)  
**Councillor Bill Armer**  
**Councillor Martyn Bolt**  
**Councillor Judith Hughes**  
**Councillor Richard Murgatroyd**  
**Councillor Harpreet Uppal**  
**Mark Mercer** – Voluntary co-optee  
**Andrew Bird** – Voluntary co-optee

## Work Programme 2018/19

- Kirklees Economic Strategy refresh
- - including social value, local wealth building, links to inclusive growth
- Housing Strategy
- Housing Allocations Policy
- Skills Strategy
- Green Paper – a New Deal for Social Housing consultation
- The recommendations of the Hackitt Review
- Town and communities
- Update on rough sleeping and severe weather emergency protocol
- Draft Greenspace Strategy
- Waste minimisation
- Draft Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Strategy
- Digital Strategy
- Air quality  
Local Lettings working group update
- Housing Strategy implementation

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# Panel highlights

## Economic Strategy

The panel contributed to work being undertaken to refresh the Kirklees Economic Strategy (KES), considering the issue at 3 meetings during 2018/19. This included associated work in relation to social value, local wealth building and links with inclusive growth. One of the meetings included input from Tom Lloyd Goodwin from the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) which had provided support to the council in reviewing its social value policy, specifically in relation to procurement and spend.

The refreshed KES was approved by full council in March 2019. In 2019/20 the panel will retain a monitoring brief in terms of the progress made in respect of the strategy's priorities and has requested information on economic outcomes. It has also included an item on its work programme in relation to the strategic approach to inward investment.

## Towns and communities

The panel received an initial overview of the issues facing the district's town centres and the programmes in place to address those challenges, including a masterplan for Huddersfield town centre (now called the Huddersfield Blueprint). Further

to this, Members of the Panel visited Barnsley in January 2019 to hear about the Council's Town Centre Regeneration Strategy. The visit incorporated a walk around the town to see at first-hand the ongoing works which included a new purpose built market placed at the heart of the development.

Members observed that there were a number of differences between Barnsley and Kirklees which would affect the approach that could be taken in Kirklees. The panel agreed that the visit had both interesting and informative. Particular note was taken of some of the measures used to engage with wider stakeholders, including local people, in respect of the regeneration proposals.

The Panel intends to continue to assess proposals as they are developed and has stressed the importance of partnership working and effective engagement. It also wishes to give consideration to the wider context of other town centres and villages across Kirklees, including a focus on the key challenges and opportunities that could influence this agenda.



Sue Weston, Strategic Partnership Lead for Business and Skills commented:



*Scrutiny provided us with the opportunity to raise awareness of the digital agenda and sense-check the proposed direction of travel. It provoked an interesting debate; generating a number of suggestions that we have incorporated into the delivery plan before committing further resource in order to achieve the ambitions set out.*



## Housing

Various aspects of the housing agenda were scrutinised during 2018/19 including:

- In July 2018 the panel reviewed the draft Kirklees Housing Strategy and action plan 2018-23, which was subsequently adopted by full council in September 2018. Then in March 2019 they received a report in relation to the progress made against the 11 priorities set out in the year 1 action plan.
- In October a special meeting was arranged to contribute to the council's response to the Government's green paper; A New Deal for Social Housing which had arisen from the recommendations made by the Hackitt Review.
- The Panel considered the draft Kirklees preventing homelessness and rough sleeping strategy prior to it being submitted to Council for adoption on 17th July 2019 and looked at changes to the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP). This work included undertaking a visit to Clare House in Huddersfield; a provider of supported accommodation for homeless people.

The panel will be expecting to be kept apprised of progress during 2019/20 and, in particular, has requested post implementation data in respect of rough sleepers and homelessness.

During 2018/19 the panel also gave consideration to the draft greenspace strategy in December 2018 and a draft digital plan in March 2019. It was also updated on the progress and approach being taken

in relation to the development of the council's 5 Year Air Quality Strategy and action plan and the Kirklees Learning and Skills Strategy.

## Outcomes:

Pre decision scrutiny has been embedded in the panel's work programme and enabled a cross party panel to influence and comment on strategic proposals at an early stage. This has included recommendations such as: strengthening the reference to developing and using digital capacity to build business, encourage entrepreneurship and retain wealth in the district, within the council's Digital Plan; and that statistics in relation to the uptake of the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol provision be included in the documentation to council when it considered the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The panel has been able to get out and about and see aspects of service delivery at first hand, including getting views of service users and frontline staff.

Two members of the panel took part in a working group considering the Open Age Policy and Local Lettings Framework which resulted in recommendations in respect of the adoption of a revised and more streamlined 'sensitive lettings' approach and the designation of one-bedroomed bungalows.

# Children's Scrutiny Panel

## Panel membership

**Councillor Cahal Burke** (Lead Member)  
**Councillor Donna Bellamy**  
**Councillor Lisa Holmes**  
**Councillor Darren O'Donovan**  
**Councillor Sheikh Ullah**  
**Dale O'Neill** – Voluntary co-optee  
**Fatima Khan-Shah** - Voluntary co-optee

## Panel work programme 2018/19

- Elective home education update
- CAMHS Transformation Plan and autism waiting list
- Ongoing monitoring of the number of children in care
- The Virtual School
- Kirklees Annual Educational Quality and Standards Report 2017-18
- Schools as community hubs
- CSE, Safeguarding and Licensing
- Learning Support Strategy
- Early support partnership
- Outcomes of OFSTED monitoring visits
- Updates on the Children's Improvement Plan

## Panel highlights

### SENDACT report – the Parent's Perspective

During 2018 the panel considered the developments taking place within the Special Educational Needs and Disability Assessment and Commissioning Team (SENDACT). The Panel wanted to hear the views of families who regularly engage with the service, to understand their experience of the support available and the SEND practice and process. The Panel met with parents and carers on two occasions and used the information gathered to report back to the Service and the Cabinet portfolio holders. There were approximately 35 families that took part in the coffee morning style discussions with panel members.

The resulting report "SENDACT – the Parent's Perspective" had fourteen recommendations on issues ranging from communication and casework standards to the accessibility of information and advocacy support.

The scrutiny panel has also asked that the support group PCAN should be consulted to check if the changes made have been effective for families. The panel will continue to monitor the implementation of the agreed recommendations.



**Outcomes:**

**(1)** Scrutiny facilitated the views of carers and families using the SENDACT service to influence development work in the service.

**(2)** A positive example of pre decision scrutiny, where the informed views of scrutiny were able to influence service development.

**CSE and Contextual Safeguarding**

Members considered a joint presentation from senior officers from Children's Services, Licensing and West Yorkshire Police advising that due to emerging concerns for young people the approach to contextual safeguarding had been changes. This was to enable agencies to understand and respond to young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. The Director of Children's Services advised the panel that a response on the Dr Peel review was expected towards the end of April and assured the panel that scrutiny would be engaged as part of the work plan.

Members agreed that it was reassuring to see the joint work taking place to share good practice and requested that the panel be kept informed and engaged so that they could continue to contribute to the future work on CSE, safeguarding and licensing.

**Outcomes:**

Timely information to enable Scrutiny to understand and comment on the changes in approach.  
Improved engagement to ensure scrutiny is integrated into updates on key cse and safeguarding issues.

**Virtual School**

The Panel wanted a better understanding of the role of the virtual school in Kirklees, including the role of the Virtual School Head (VSH) and its statutory duties.

National guidance indicates that " looked-after and previously looked-after children start with the disadvantage of their pre-care experiences and, often, have special educational needs. VSHs have a key role to ensure these children have the maximum opportunity to reach their full educational potential."

The information provided to the panel included a number of anonymised case studies which enabled the panel to see the breadth of work that the VSH is involved in. The panel's recognised the positive and continuous improvements that are being made to achieve better educational outcomes for looked after children.

**Outcomes:**

An improved understanding of the virtual school. Through use of case studies, assurance that the statutory role of the VHS, working with other key partners, is resulting in better educational outcomes for looked after children in Kirklees.

**Looking forward to 2019/20**

The panel agreed that as well as considering reports on important issues relating to children, they want to continue to get out and about within Children's Services and arrange visits to a children's home, the Fostering Service and Duty and Advice Team. This will enable members to talk to staff and see for themselves how the service is delivered.

There are a number of areas where the panel continue to scrutinise progress including addressing OFSTED recommendations and work connected to the exploitation strategy, such as updates on sexual harm prevention orders and embedding the learning from the historic cases.

# Joint Health Scrutiny Committees' headlines

## 1. Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

### **Kirklees Membership:**

Councillors Liz Smaje, Richard Eastwood, Julie Stewart-Turner, Carole Pattison

Following the Secretary of State's response and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel's (IRP) assessment report local NHS have been reviewing the proposals to address the concerns expressed by stakeholders and the issues highlighted in the IRP's recommendations

Local NHS has actively engaged with the jhsc while it has been developing an enhanced plan and discussions on this work took place at the jhsc meeting held in September 2018.

In December 2018 the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) confirmed that capital funding had been allocated to support implementation of the enhanced proposal. At the jhsc meeting held in February 2019 local NHS presented the progress report to the Secretary of State. This included a description of the enhanced proposed model of care and confirmation that approval of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC), Outline Business Case (OBC) and Full Business Case (FBC) by NHS Improvement, DHSC, Ministers and HM Treasury would be required.

At the February 2019 meeting the jhsc agreed an updated terms of reference (ToR) which included confirmation that it would review the revised proposals to include assessing its impact on patients and the public.

The jhsc will continue its work during 2019/20 which will include scoping out its plans for future meetings and activities.

## 2. West Yorkshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### **Kirklees Membership:**

Councillors Liz Smaje and Judith Hughes.

The jhosc met 5 times during 2018/19 and covered a wide range of issues across the West Yorkshire and Harrogate footprint.

Specific areas that were considered included: changes to the arrangements of the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership (WY&H HCP) which was moving to an integrated care system in shadow form; an update on the specialist stroke care programme; the activity taking place to mitigate workforce risks; proposed changes to specialist vascular services for adults in West Yorkshire; an outline of the activity taking place across the partnership relating to mental health and urgent and emergency care programmes ; and the work being done by the partnership to drive delivery of the national cancer strategy.

During the year significant work has taken place in drafting new rules of procedure and terms of reference for the jhosc. It is hoped that they can be agreed by all constituent members during 2019/20.

### **Outcomes:**

As a consequence of the concerns regarding the regional workforce challenges the committee established a working party that will look in more detail at the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership Strategy on human resources. The outcomes and recommendations from this work will be presented to the partnership during the 2019/20 municipal year.

# Ad hoc panel headlines

## Panel membership

**Councillor Cahal Burke** (Lead Member)  
**Councillor Lisa Holmes**  
**Councillor Habiban Zaman**  
**Kimberley Stock** – Voluntary Scrutiny Co-optee (until end 2018)  
**Dale O’Neill** (from June 2019)  
**Councillor Andrew Marchington** (from June 2019)

The ad hoc scrutiny panel has been working to the following terms of reference;

To scrutinise Elective Home Education in Kirklees, with a particular focus on;

- Developing an understanding of why some parents and carers choose to home educate, and for how long children are typically home educated for.
- Scrutinising the Local Authority’s responsibilities for home educated children.
- Scrutinising how the Local Authority identifies, supports and ensures the safety and wellbeing of electively home educated children.
- Scrutinising elective home educated children’s progression onto further education and employment and the outcomes achieved at Key Stage 4 & 5.

### **Work undertaken to date:**

The Ad Hoc Panel has met with a number of senior officers to explore the background and context to Elective Home Education (EHE) from both a national and a Kirklees Council perspective. The Panel has also taken evidence from C & K Careers who outlined the support on offer to EHE children in the equivalent KS4 cohort.

The panel was keen to hear the views of parents who have chosen to home educate their children and visits were made to talk to parents at drop-in events in September and December 2018. Parents highlighted the challenges facing home educators, the benefits they believed home education had for their children, the support that was currently available and how the local authority might be able to support home educators more effectively. The panel also spoke to those who had previously home educated about the educational and employment achievements of their children.

Since the ad-hoc panel commenced its work, new guidance has been published by the Government on ‘Elective Home Education, Departmental Guidance for Local Authorities, April 2019’ and the implications of this for Kirklees will be taken into consideration. As the final phase of work the panel will be gathering further evidence from adjoining local authorities in respect of their approach to EHE; meeting with the author of the website Ed-Yourself, and seeking input from Kirklees Head Teachers.

# Work programme for 2019/20

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee</b>	
Crime and Disorder, including Domestic Abuse Strategy	Corporate Plan refresh
Flood risk management annual review of strategy and action plan	Regional working, including inclusive growth
Transformation Programme – overview of progress	Place Based Working
Overview of major consultations	Update on progress of Council Working Parties
Panel Lead Member Reports	
<b>Children’s Panel</b>	
Special Educational Needs	Exploitation Strategy
Kirklees Safeguarding Children’s Board (KSCB)	Early Support Partnership (Edge of Care)
Elective Home Education	Ofsted Inspection (Children’s Services)
Learning Outcomes and the Learning Support Strategy	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS ) Transformation Plan
Number of children in care	Performance Information (Children’s Services)
Visits to Copthorne Children’s Home; the Fostering Team; and the Duty & Advice service.	
<b>Corporate Panel</b>	
Financial Monitoring	Corporate Plan
Libraries Review (to include Access to Services)	Commercialisation Strategy
People Strategy	IT Strategy Development
Leaving the EU preparations	Land and Property Lettings Policy
Organisational Communications Strategy	
<b>Economy And Neighbourhoods Panel</b>	
Economic Strategy	Skills Strategy
Towns and Communities in Kirklees	Green Space Strategy
Playable Spaces Strategy	Digital Strategy
Planning and Related Issues	Waste Strategy
Housing	Economic Strategy
Air Quality	Housing
Poverty Strategy	
<b>Health and Adult Social Care Panel</b>	
Financial position of the Kirklees Health and Adult Social Care Economy.	Care Closer to Home
Integration of Health and Adult Social Care	Integrated Wellness Model
Quality of Care in Kirklees	Suicide Prevention
Mental Health Rehabilitation and Recovery Services Transformation Project.	Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) 2018/19 Annual Report
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (MYHT) Ambulatory Emergency Care (AEC) Services	Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).
Transforming Outpatient Care at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT)	Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) Response Times
Primary Care Networks (PCNs)	West Yorkshire and Harrogate Local Maternity Network
Kirklees Immunisation Programme	Update on Winter Planning

# Frequently asked questions

Here are some brief answers to the most frequently asked questions about Overview & Scrutiny.

## What is Overview & Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny acts as a check and balance on the Council's decision maker (the Cabinet) by holding it to account for its decision. Overview and Scrutiny aims to:

- Contribute to the development of strategic decisions before the Cabinet makes them
- Ensure Cabinet is accountable for the decisions it has made
- Improve the performance of the Council's services;
- Improve the performance of other public services for which the Council has responsibility or is a stakeholder in;
- Actively engage local people in scrutiny and promote issues which are of importance and of relevance to them.

## Who is involved?

Any councillor, other than those who hold a cabinet post, can take part in scrutiny work. Panels in Kirklees also include statutory and voluntary co-optees and are supported by officers of the Council's Democracy Service. Cabinet members, senior officers, representatives from partners and members of the public, are invited to attend scrutiny panels to contribute to discussions on items in the panels' work programme.

## Is scrutiny a party political activity?

Scrutiny is a key part of the political process; however it is not party political. The scrutiny committee and panel structure is made up of Councillors from across all the political groups.

Councillors aim to leave their party politics at the door and look objectively at issues, basing their findings on the information they have heard and received reports on.

## How do you choose what to scrutinise?

The councillors and voluntary co-optees decide which issues to prioritise, with the overview and scrutiny committee having overall responsibility for the scrutiny work programme. Carrying out effective scrutiny takes a lot of time, commitment and effort so it is simply not possible to look at every issue. When choosing issues, scrutiny will consider whether it is can make a real difference by looking at the issue (for example, whether recommendations could result in improved services).

## What can't Scrutiny look at and why?

Scrutiny is not appropriate for considering individual complaints. The panels also cannot investigate regulatory or 'quasi-judicial' decisions, such as planning or licensing decisions.

## How can the public get involved?

- Attend public meetings of the scrutiny committee or one of the scrutiny panels
- Suggest a topic for scrutiny
- Provide evidence at a panel or send us your views.
- Join a pool of people interested in being co-opted on to a panel when vacancies are advertised.
- 







Scrutiny

# Team contact details

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Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

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Sheila Dykes, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

**Corporate Scrutiny Panel**

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