

## CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

**MEMBERS:** Cllr Andrew Marchington (Chair), Cllr James Homewood, Cllr Ammar Anwar, Cllr Elizabeth Reynolds, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Paul White, Toni Bromley (Co-Optee), Graeme Sunderland (Co-Optee) and Oliver Gibson (Co-Optee)

**SUPPORT:** Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager and Nicola Sylvester, Democracy Officer

<b>FULL PANEL DISCUSSION</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Approach/Areas of Focus</b>	<b>Timescales and comments</b>
<p><b><u>Standard items (every meeting)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-decision scrutiny (decisions by Cabinet)</li> <li>• Performance Information (Children's Service) – Informal meeting</li> <li>• Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board</li> <li>• Ambition Board Minutes Informal meeting</li> </ul>	<p>Panel to check at each meeting if there are any potential areas of pre-decision scrutiny they need to consider at future meetings. (Leads: Cabinet Members/Senior Officers (Children's Service))</p> <p>The Panel will consider performance slides from the Ambition Board and monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection &amp; Family Support in the Informal meetings. Members of the Panel who attend the Corporate Parenting Board will ask questions through the Chair of the Board in relation to looked after children performance information and report back on any issues to the Children's Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>Members of the Panel who attend the Corporate Parenting Board will feedback on any other key issues to the Scrutiny Panel as appropriate. (Leads: Service Directors (Children's Service))</p> <p>The Panel will receive for information the minutes from the Ambition Board meetings which are held quarterly.  (Leads: Senior Officers (Children's Service) and Cabinet Members)</p>	<p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Quarterly</p>

<p><b>Review of the Improvement Journey</b></p>	<p>(Leads: Mel Meggs/Service Directors)</p> <p>The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of Children’s Services until they have achieved an ‘outstanding’ Ofsted rating, including receiving regular progress updates from the Children’s Service on how this is being achieved. The Panel will consider how the Council is formulating its approach, what data is being looked at and how Officers and Cabinet Members are responding.</p> <p><b>Panel meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022</b></p> <p>The Panel will receive an update on the outcomes of the Joint Area Targeted multi-agency Inspection at the meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> October (Lead: Elaine McShane)</p>	<p>Panel 31st October 22</p>
<p><b>Independent Review of Children’s Social Care – white paper</b></p>	<p>(Leads: Mel Meggs and Service Directors)</p> <p>The Panel will consider how the Council is addressing the implications of the Care Reform white paper and the outcome of the Government’s response, which is expected in September 2022.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Care Reform Report on Children’s Social Care was broken down into 8 key areas, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reset Children’s Social Care</li> <li>- A revolution in family help</li> <li>- A just and decisive child protection system</li> <li>- Unlocking the potential of family networks</li> <li>- Transforming care</li> <li>- The care experience</li> <li>- Realising the potential of the workforce</li> <li>- A system that is relentlessly focussed on children and families</li> <li>- Implementation</li> </ul>	<p>High priority –to be confirmed</p>

<p><b>Educational and learning Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Kirklees future commission Learning Strategy</b></li> </ul>	<p>(Leads: Jo-Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford/Chris Jessup/Phil Mark)</p> <p>The Panel may 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><b>Learning Strategy</b></p> <p>That a representation from the Panel be invited to attend the Launch of the Kirklees Futures Event on the 23rd June 2022 and other relevant partnership meetings.</p> <p><b>Panel meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b></p> <p>The Panel received a verbal update on the Educational Outcomes and the Implementation Plan, which will be finalised with priorities ready for the start of the new academic year in September 2022. The Panel agreed the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That the Panel are given the opportunity to contribute to the restructuring and reshaping of the Education and Learning Partnership Board ;</li> <li>- That the Panel receive future updates on how the Learning Service and Cabinet Members are scrutinising the educational outcomes;</li> <li>- That the Panel consider future information on longitudinal educational outcomes for the next 5 to 10 years, including 16+ and beyond;</li> <li>- That the Panel receive a copy for information of the Educational Outcomes report scheduled for consideration by Cabinet on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022.</li> </ul>	
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<b>Sufficiency for Children’s Service (places/staffing resources)</b>	<p>(Leads: Mel Meggs and Service Directors)</p> <p>The Panel will consider future updates on the social worker vacancies and staff shortages within the Children’s Social Care Service and the approaches being taken by the service to bring Social Workers back into the workforce, eg retention packages. The Panel will also monitor this during visits to the Social Care Teams.</p>	
<b>Changes to Young People’s Activity Team (YPAT) provision</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides after school activities for C&amp;&amp;YP with the most complex disabilities and needs</li> </ul>	<p>(Lead: Tom Brailsford)</p> <p>The Panel will consider the changes to YPAT Provision and youth development and receive future updates on what is happening in local wards in terms of after school activities – planned for September 2022.</p>	<p>Panel 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 22</p>
<b>Partnership Arrangements</b>	<p>(Leads: Elaine McShane/Jo-Anne Sanders/Tom Brailsford)</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, visits to internal teams and partners and the Panel will look at how data was collected and used to improve outcomes. The Panel will be represented at meetings, events and visits to internal teams and external providers and focus on the following areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection</li> <li>• Partnership working</li> <li>• Is the voice of the young person being heard? (as below)</li> <li>• Good practice</li> <li>• Delivery of quality service</li> </ul>	
<b>Voice of the Child</b>	<p>(Leads: Mel Meggs/Jo-Anne Sanders/Elaine McShane/Tom Brailsford)</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 have been learned.</p>	

<p><b>Special Educational Needs and High Needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEND Transformation Plan</li> <li>- Feedback from PCAN/parents on SENDACT</li> <li>- Outcome of SEND Inspection</li> </ul>	<p>(Leads: Jo-Anne Sanders/Chris Jessup/Kelsey Clark-Davies/Paul Harris/Jo-Anne Sanders)</p> <p><b>SEND Transformation Plan</b> Panel to agree areas of focus for 22/23.</p> <p><b>Feedback from parents via PCAN</b> The Panel will meet with parents via PCAN, some of whom were consulted as part of the Adhoc Panel on the report on ‘SENDACT– the parent’s perspective’ which was approved by Cabinet in March 2019. The Panel will seek feedback from parents at drop-in sessions 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 on whether the service has improved for them and what it feels like to engage and access the service/front door.</p> <p><b>Outcome of SEND Inspection</b></p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 - Outcome of SEND Inspection</u> The Panel will consider an update on the action plan and outcomes of the SEND Inspection and as part of pre-decision scrutiny, the Panel will be invited to be involved in the development of the Action Plan leading up to the September Panel meeting. The Panel asked that officers build into the action plan how the Panel might scrutinise the inspection outcomes.</p> <p><u>Invite to attend SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on 8.9.22</u> The Panel have been invited to attend the SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, to enable the Panel to be involved in the discussion on the SEND written statement of action following the recent inspection.</p>	<p>Panel 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 22</p>
<p><b>Mental Health in Schools</b></p>	<p>(Lead:</p> <p>The Panel will look at the Ladder Project (Colne Valley, Golcar and Lindley) and other work directly in schools (Spen Valley) around children’s mental health and explore how the roll out of NHS mental health support for children and young people was progressing in those areas.</p>	<p>Next 6 months</p>

<p><b>Elective Home Education</b></p>	<p>(Leads: Jo-Anne Sanders/Diane Yates/Kelsey Clark-Davies)</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>	
<p><b>Early Years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Engagement of Families Together</b></li> <li>- <b>Early Help Services</b></li> </ul>	<p>(Leads: Michelle Wheatcroft/Jackie Beever/Jo Sanders)</p> <p><b>Early Help Services</b></p> <p>Panel to consider a plan of action on this matter.</p> <p><b>Families Together</b></p> <p>The Panel will consider a future update on the review of the Families Together hubs and the review of the Hub Co-Ordinator role. The Panel noted that some Head Teachers had agreed to be part of the review. The Panel will explore what services are in place within the hubs and consider visits to observe the arrangements in place and will look at how the hubs in Dewsbury, Batley and Spen and Rural were progressing and what impact they were having on the local community.</p>	
<p><b>Lead Member Briefings</b></p> <p>(Bi-monthly LM Briefings with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children’s; and Mel Meggs/Elaine McShane, Tom Brailsford and Jo-Anne Sanders during 22/23) – Actions from these meetings will be included within the Panel’s Work Programme where appropriate</p>		

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