

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

MEMBERS: Cllr Andrew Marchington (Chair), Cllr Paul White, Cllr Amanda Pinnock, Cllr Yusra Hussain, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Paul Davies, 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
1. Review of the Improvement Journey	The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of Children's Services.	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)
2. Educational Outcomes	<p>The Panel will consider the impact of children being out of school during the current pandemic and the measures in place to mitigate the impact, recognising the different experiences in respect of home schooling and digital inclusion/engagement.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to link in and scrutinise the work being undertaken by the Learning Partnership on this issue. Input and monitoring of the draft Learning Strategy.</p> <p>The Panel will look at the educational outcomes of looked after children and link this to the work ongoing in the Council on the Inequalities Commission.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>(Lead Officer: Jo Sanders/Emma Brayford)</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 14.1.01</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a verbal update on the Covid Catch up fund and agreed that this was a key priority on educational outcomes. The Panel agreed to consider an update report later in the academic year covering the longer-term impact of Covid on schools and how long the Covid catch up funding needed to be in place to help children in Kirklees and how it complemented pupil premium and SEND. The Panel also agreed that it would be useful to look at how the schools had used the funding, how this was measured and any learning points.</p> <p>(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)</p> <p><u>Future Panel Meeting</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on Exam Results with examples of practice.</p>
3. Number of children in care	A standing item for each meeting containing details of how many children are in care, and particularly how many are placed out of area. *	<p>(Lead Officer: Julie Bragg)</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 25th February 2021</u></p>

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		The Panel considered the latest report on the number of children in care and agreed to consider future information explaining the reasons for differences in numbers of children in care for Kirklees compared to statistical neighbours.
4. Youth Services and Initiatives	The Panel agreed to look at 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).	(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)
5. Partnership arrangements	The Panel will continue to scrutinise partnerships and boards during the 2020/21 municipal year, for example, Corporate Parenting Board and Health and Wellbeing Board and the Panel will look at how data was collected and used to improve outcomes. * (see note below)	(Lead Officers: Elaine McShane/Jo Sanders/Tom Brailsford)
6. Special Educational Needs and High Needs	6 monthly reports to be considered by the Panel and visits to be arranged to some of the SEN Teams to corroborate the information in the presentations provided to Panel Meetings. Arrangements to be made for virtual visits, where appropriate, during the current pandemic. The Panel will keep a watching brief on the longer-term effect of Covid on educational outcomes including the levels of family income and digital inclusion opportunities.	(Lead Officer: Ronnie Hartley/Jo-Anne Sanders) <u>Panel 13th August 2020</u> The Panel received an update report in respect of the impact on children and families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) of the Covid 19 public health pandemic. The report also provided an update on progress in relation to the SEND Improvement Plan. The Panel noted the report requested that a future update report include an analysis of figures relating to assessments. <u>Panel 1st October 2020</u> The Panel received a report providing an update about the work undertaken in preparation for re-opening schools for the Autumn term, and the planning undertaken with school colleagues to enable a positive and safe return to education for children, young people and their families. The Panel agreed –

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and acknowledged the good work undertaken, in partnership with schools, to re-open safely. 2. That an update on the partnership work with Colleges and the University, to support pupils and assist business continuity, be submitted to a future Panel meeting. 3. That the Panel keep a watching brief on the longer-term effect of Covid on educational outcomes including levels of family income and digital inclusion opportunities.
7. 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. * (see note below)	(Lead Officer: Steve Comb/Julie Bragg – reports produced by Sue Grigg and Andrew Wainwright from Performance Team)
8. Learning Strategy	The Panel will consider updates on the development of the Kirklees Council Learning Strategy and the proposed approach and timeline.	<p><u>Panel 9th November 2020</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a report providing an update on progress and next steps for developing a Learning Strategy. The Panel agreed that future reports be submitted to the Panel as the draft Strategy develops.</p>
9. Elective Home Education	The Panel will monitor implementation of the Action Plan agreed by Cabinet on the 15 th December 2020.	<p>A final report on Elective Home Education by the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel was approved by Cabinet on the 15th December 2020 and Cabinet agreed that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel, and the responses as set out in the Action Plan, be noted.</p> <p>(Lead Officer: Jo-Anne Sanders)</p>
<p>Lead Member Briefings</p> <p>(Bi-monthly LM Briefings to be arranged with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children's; and Mel Meggs/Elaine McShane and Jo-Anne Sanders during 20/21) – Actions from these meetings will be included within the Panel's Work Programme where appropriate</p>		
Exploitation Strategy	The Lead Member agreed to keep a watching brief to monitor the impact on children and young people in the borough.	<p>(Lead Officer: Elaine McShane)</p> <p><u>Panel 13th August 2020</u></p>

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		The Panel received a report providing an update in respect of the Kirklees Exploitation Safeguarding Strategy 2019 -2021, which was launched earlier this year. The Panel noted the report and highlighted the work of the Practice Learning Review as a means of informing the work of scrutiny in this area.
Children transferred from Almondbury Community School	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)
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.	(Lead Officer: Martin Wilby)

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