

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

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
Issue	Approach/Areas of Focus	Timescales and comments
<p><u>Standard items (every meeting)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre-decision scrutiny (decisions by Cabinet) ● Performance Information (Children's Service) – Informal meeting ● Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Corporate Parenting Board ● Ambition Board Minutes Informal meeting 	<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/or the Quality Assurance Board and monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & 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))</p>	<p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Quarterly</p>

<p>Review of the Improvement Journey</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>Panel meeting on 31st October 2022</p> <p>The Panel considered a report on the Outcomes of the Joint Multi-agency Inspection which took place from 27th June 2022 and 1st July 2022 and was carried out by Inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire Rescue Services. The outcomes of the inspection were provided by letter which summarised the headline findings and what needed to be improved. The Panel noted the report and thanked the staff and partners for their hard work.</p> <p>Visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children’s Social Care Team (Dewsbury) on 14th October 2022 The Panel visited Team Managers, Social Workers and Business Support staff at the Children’s Social Care Team at Empire House, Dewsbury. The Panel met with staff in their ‘huddle’ meeting and spoke informally about issues relating to data collection, caseloads and staff vacancies, working environments, management support and training and development for staff. The team expressed that although there were vacancies, they felt well supported by their managers and other teams. - Children’s Social Care Team (The Valleys – Slaithwaite) and Children with Disabilities Team on 13th December 2022 The Panel met with Team Managers and asked questions around data collection, partnership working, the voice of the child, good practice, delivery of quality service and future development and supervision of staff. The Connected Persons Team had transferred to the Valleys in July 2022 which included special guardianship or foster carers who wanted to become special guardians. Approximately 500 children were not in 	<p>Panel meeting on 31st October 2022</p> <p>Visit on 14th October 2022</p> <p>Visit on 13th December 2022</p>
---	--	---

	<p>care as a result of special guardianship orders. The Panel had a brief tour of the offices and spoke to some members of the team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Protection Team (Civic Centre 3) on 23rd February 2023 The Panel met with staff and Team Managers and asked questions around caseloads and recruitment, data collection, partnership working, voice of the young person, delivery of quality services and good practice and learning points. The Panel agreed to investigate the following actions – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of rooms and meeting space in Civic 3 to hold staff meetings and places to assess and meet with families; • Special guardianships which have ended because they can no longer look after the child and unsuccessful adoptions which has meant more children coming back into care. The Panel agreed to raise at Corporate Parenting Board. • Working relationship barriers between Child Protection and Safer Kirklees and how these could be strengthened. • The relationship between Child Protection and the police and use of police powers which conflict against the processes of the child protection team and could impact significantly on the child when decisions were made by the police which the social care team do not agree with and which do not meet the social care threshold. - Children’s Residential Home at Healds Road The residential home at Healds Road is currently closed for refurbishment. The Panel plan to visit the home during the 2023/24 municipal year. - Weekly Referral and Review meeting on 27th March 2023 The Panel will visit and observe the Weekly Referral and Review meeting on the 27th March 2023. 	<p>Visit on 23rd February 2023</p> <p>Carry forward to 23/24 municipal year</p> <p>Visit on 27th March 2023</p>
<p>Independent Review of Children’s Social Care – white paper</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 January 2023.</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"> - Reset Children’s Social Care - A revolution in family help - A just and decisive child protection system - Unlocking the potential of family networks - Transforming care - The care experience - Realising the potential of the workforce - A system that is relentlessly focussed on children and families - Implementation <p>Panel meeting on 23rd March 2023 The Panel will consider a report entitled “Stable homes built on love” giving an update on the Government’s response in February 2023 to the McCallister, National Care Review which was published in May 2022.</p>	<p>Panel meeting on 23rd March 2023</p>
<p>Educational and learning Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kirklees future commission Learning Strategy 	<p>(Leads: Jo-Anne Sanders/Chris Jessup/Narinder Kaur)</p> <p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The impact and effect of ethnicity, gender and socio-economic factors on educational outcomes. - 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; - 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>Visit to Kirklees Futures Summit on 23rd June 2022 A member of the Panel visited the Kirklees Futures Summit on the 23rd June 2022.</p>	<p>Visit on 23rd June 2022</p>

	<p>Informal Panel meeting on 31st October 2022 The Panel received an update on Educational Outcomes and GCSE exam results.</p> <p>Visit to Local Offer AGM at John Smith’s Stadium on 17.11.22 The Chair of the Panel visited the Local Offer AGM on the 17th November 2022.</p> <p>Visit to Educational Outcomes Committee on 10th January 2023 Members of the Panel attended and observed a meeting of the Educational Outcomes Committee on the 10th January 2023.</p>	<p>Informal meeting on 31st October 2023</p> <p>Visit on 17th November 2022</p> <p>Visit on 10th January 2023</p>
<p>Sufficiency for Children’s Service (places/staffing resources)</p>	<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>	
<p>Changes to Young People’s Activity Team (YPAT) provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides after school activities for C&&YP with the most complex disabilities and needs 	<p>(Lead: Tom Brailsford/Sara Miles)</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 meeting on 6th September 2022 The Panel considered a report which gave an update on the ongoing changes to the Young Peoples Activity Team (YPAT) provision as part of the ongoing SEND Transformation Programme and the ongoing development of the Short Breaks Offer. The Panel agreed to arrange a visit to the new premises at the Children’s Place Nursery, Netherfield Road, Ravensthorpe when fully operational.</p>	<p>Panel Meeting on 6th September 2022</p>
<p>Partnership Arrangements</p>	<p>(Leads: Vicky Metherington/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</p>	

	<p>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"> • Data collection • Partnership working • Is the voice of the young person being heard? (as below) • Good practice • Delivery of quality service 	
Voice of the Young Person	<p>(Leads: Mel Meggs/Jo-Anne Sanders/Vicky Metherington/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>Special Educational Needs and High Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback from PCAN/parents on SENDACT - Outcome of SEND Inspection and Transformation Plan 	<p>(Leads: Tom Brailsford/Kelsey Clark-Davies/Paul Harris/Christine Bennett)</p> <p>Feedback from parents via PCAN</p> <p>The Panel met with parents on the 8th and 14th September 2022 at PCAN Social drop-in sessions to follow up the work of the Adhoc Panel on the report on ‘SENDACT– the parent’s perspective’ which was approved by Cabinet in March 2019. The Panel members who attended the visits sought feedback from parents on whether the service had improved for them and what it felt like to engage and access the service/front door. The Panel’s main findings from the feedback received at the sessions was:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of specialist resources both in the SEND Teams but also schools - SENDACT do not follow up with schools after an EHCP is issued - Long waiting times to get a diagnosis or support - No single point of contact for parents to get access to all the support and information they need - Parent’s were not aware of the SEND Transformation Plan or how to access it. <p>The Chair and some members of the Panel attended PCAN Social drop-in sessions during October, November and December to engage with parents of children with SEND and seek</p>	<p>Visits on 8th and 14th September 2022,</p> <p>Attended Drop-in sessions in October,</p>

	<p>their feedback on accessing the services. A range of professionals attended the social meeting in December 2022, with a representative from the Local Offer team requesting feedback on their new booklet that had been produced. The Chair of the Panel provided additional details to senior officers within Children’s Services on a number of specific issues and queries raised by parents at the social meetings.</p> <p>Following the visit to PCAN on the 8th September 2022, information was sent by the Panel to PCAN on the SEND Inspection Outcome report considered by the Children’s Scrutiny Panel on the 6th September 2022, which included a copy of the SEND Transformation Plan. PCAN have shared this information with parents on their PCAN Facebook parent’s page.</p> <p>Outcome of SEND Inspection and SEND Transformation Plan</p> <p>Panel meeting on 6th September 2022 - Outcome of SEND Inspection The Panel considered a report on the SEND Inspection and action plan and outcomes of the Inspection and as part of their pre-decision scrutiny. The Panel agreed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to receive updates on the improvement journey of the Transformation Plan. • That Officers in Children’s Service provide the Panel with details of partners involved in the Transformation Plan that they can meet with or visit as part of the Panel’s scrutiny work. • That the Panel receive further information on the increased number of pupils in Kirklees LA schools and academies with an Education Health and Care Plan since January 2015 to January 2021 <p>The Panel will be invited to be involved in the development of the Transformation Action Plan going forward. The Panel asked that officers build into the action plan how the Panel might scrutinise the inspection outcomes.</p> <p>Visit to SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on 8th September 2022 The Panel attended the SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on the 8th September 2022, to enable the Panel to be involved in the discussion on the SEND written statement of action following the recent inspection. The main points considered at the meeting was the SEND Inspection and action plan and outcomes of the Inspection.</p>	<p>November and December.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 6th September 2022</p> <p>Visit on 8th September 2022</p>
--	--	---

	<p>Informal meeting on 12th December 2022</p> <p>The Panel discussed a draft report scheduled for consideration by Cabinet on the 21st December 2022, giving an overview of plans to refresh and expand the “Alternative Provision” (AP) Education offer and seek authority to progress plans to create additional specialist AP places to support the needs of children (some of whom also have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) who require an alternative education offer. The Panel noted the report to Cabinet and agreed that it was essential that officers captured whether children were happy and also that a long-term plan was put into place for assessing the outcomes.</p>	<p>Panel meeting on 12th December 2022</p>
<p>Mental Health in Schools</p>	<p>(Lead: Tom Brailsford/Stewart Horn)</p> <p>The Panel have currently agreed to look at the Ladder Project (Colne Valley, Golcar and Lindley) and other work directly in schools around children’s mental health, including the challenges and key issues faced by children, the schools and CAMHS and explore how the roll out of NHS mental health support for children and young people is progressing. The Panel would like to understand what good mental health in children looks like and visit a mental health in school’s team.</p> <p>Visit to Mental Health in School’s Team</p> <p>On the 21st February 2023, the Panel visited the Mental Health in School’s Team at Lowerhouses Children’s Centre and met with staff and Team Managers from the three key partner which were South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Kirklees Council Educational Psychology and Northorpe Hall Trust. The Panel were given a presentation and taken through a resume of the work undertaken by the key partners and handed an information pack. The MHST service has 3 core functions –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliver evidence based interventions for children and young people with mid to moderate mental health problems; • Supporting the senior mental health lead in each school or college to introduce or develop their whole school or college approach; • Offering timely advice to school and college staff and liaise with external specialist services to help children and young people to get the right support and stay in education 	<p>Visit on 21st February 2023</p>

	<p>The Panel also visited the Hillside Primary School at Newsome and observed an emotional wellbeing session being run by a colleague from the MHST service for a group of year 7 children.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 23 March 2023 The Panel will consider a report giving a progress update on Mental Health in Schools and CAMHS waiting times.</p>	<p>Panel meeting on 20th March 2023</p>
<p>Elective Home Education</p>	<p>(Leads: Jo-Anne Sanders/Diane Yates/Kelsey Clark-Davies/Paul Harris)</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>Early Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early Help Services - Engagement of Families Together 	<p>(Leads: Carol Ann Smith/Michelle Wheatcroft/Jo Sanders)</p> <p>Early Help Services Panel to consider a plan of action on this matter.</p> <p>Engagement of Families Together 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>Families Together Launch</p> <p>The Panel will be invited to attend the Families Together Launch which will take place in the near future (date to be advised) and which will include a lunch event for the Families Together model of integrated early support.</p>	<p>To be carried forward to 23/24 municipal year</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lead Member Briefings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(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>		