

CHILDREN’S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

MEMBERS: Cllr Andrew Cooper, Cllr Eric Firth, Cllr John Lawson, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Paul Moore, Cllr Ebrahim Dockrat, Oliver Gibson (Co-Optee)

SUPPORT: Helen Kilroy, Assistant Democracy Manager

Agenda item/area of focus	Lead Officer	Areas of Scrutiny carried forward from 22-23	Comments
<p><u>Standard items</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 	<p>Cabinet Members/Senior Officers (Children’s Service)</p> <p>Presented by Service Directors (produced by Lucy Tiffany)</p> <p>Panel Members who attend Corporate Parenting Board</p> <p>Senior Officers and Cabinet Members</p>	<p>Panel will check at each meeting with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers from Children’s Service if there are any potential areas of pre-decision scrutiny they need to consider at future meetings.</p> <p>The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support (written report in informal session and verbal update on key issues in public meeting). Panel will be asked for questions prior to the Panel meeting so that these can be shared with Senior Officers and Cabinet Members in advance of the Informal meeting.</p> <p>Members of the Panel who attend the Corporate Parenting Board will feedback on key issues to the Scrutiny Panel as appropriate.</p> <p>The Panel will receive for information the minutes from the Ambition Board meetings which are held quarterly.</p>	<p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Every meeting</p> <p>Quarterly</p>

<p>Review of the Improvement Journey – ILACs Inspection</p>	<p>Tom Brailsford/Vicky Metheringham</p>	<p>The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of Children’s Service and receive regular updates of the ILACs Inspection and the outcome when it has been undertaken.</p> <p>The ILACS Self Evaluation May 2023 and Self Evaluation Summary was circulated to the Panel for consideration in June 2023. The Panel will consider the ILACS Self Evaluation (SEF) and agree what elements may be relevant to this work. The latest version of the Children’s Services Self Evaluation for January 2024 was shared with the Panel for information.</p> <p>The Chair of the Panel attended a Webinar on ILACS preparation.</p> <p>The Panel will consider the Front Door Health Check in July 2024.</p> <p>Informal Panel meeting on 26th January 2024 The Panel will consider a report on Working Together to Safeguard Children, advising that in December 2023, the Department for Education published new statutory guidance on multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children and the report will give a summary of the changes made.</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p> <p>26.1.24</p>
<p>Review of Children’s Residential Homes and functions</p>	<p>Kieran Lord</p>	<p>The Panel will review the Children’s Residential Homes and functions and officers will update the Panel on visits to the Homes as appropriate.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 26th March 2024 The Panel will consider a future report in relation to Ofsted Inspection outcomes for children's Residential Homes. A report giving an update on each individual home inspection outcome will be presented to a future Informal meeting of the panel which will include an explanation of the children's home inspection framework and its application. As the information within Ofsted reports regarding Children’s Residential Homes contains highly sensitive information which could potentially identify</p>	<p>26.3.24</p>

		individual homes, a thematic report giving an update on the key areas of strengths and areas for improvement across all homes will be presented to a public meeting of the Panel.	
Quality Assurance – impact of auditing the Children’s Service	Vicky Metherringham/Robert Fordyce/Service Directors in Children’s	<p>The Panel will consider the Quality Assurance impact of auditing the Children’s Service, what difference it was making to children’s lives.</p> <p>Informal Panel meeting on 1st December 2023</p> <p>The Panel considered a Quarterly Overview report on Quality Assurance and the impact of auditing the Children’s Service. The report covered the 31 Learning Conversations and Practice Learning Days which had taken place during May, June, and July 2023. These conversations covered engagement with children, management oversight and supervision, partnership working, assessments and feedback from parents and carers. The Panel noted the report and agreed to receive a further update in March 2024 when the process had embedded.</p>	<p>In next 6 months</p> <p>1st December 2023</p>
<p>Educational and learning Outcomes</p> <p>- Our Kirklees Futures Learning Strategy</p>	Jo-Anne Sanders/Narinder Kaur/Paul Caladine/Emma Brayford	<p>The Panel will scrutinise/consider the following areas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future updates on how the Learning Service and Cabinet Members are scrutinising the educational outcomes; Longitudinal educational outcomes for the next 5 to 10 years, including 16+ and beyond. - That the Panel be invited to be involved in the development of the Transformation Plan going forward and that officers build into the action plan how the Panel might scrutinise the inspection outcomes; - To focus on the impact and effect of ethnicity, gender and socio-economic factors on educational outcomes; - Exclusions and attendance updates 	

		<p>Informal Panel meeting on 22 Sept 2023 Panel The Panel considered a report for information, giving an overview of the statutory outcomes achieved by learners in Kirklees during the academic year 2022-2023. The report covered outcomes at the end of the Foundation Stage, Phonics (Year 1), Key Stage 1 (Year 2), Key Stage 2 (Year 6), Key Stage 4 (GCSE) and Key Stage 5.</p> <p>The Panel have been informed that a report for decision by cabinet regarding the SEND Transformation plan and sufficiency regarding alternative provision would be available for them to consider at a future meeting.</p> <p>Invite to the Our Kirklees Futures Learning Summit and Joint Headteacher Session on 27th June 2023 The Panel attended the Learning Summit on the 27th June 2023 at the John Smith’s Stadium. The Learning Summit focused on broad obsessions of Inclusion, Equity and Resilience and introduces the golden thread of Transition – moments of change across the education journey. This was in response to some of the shared challenge the Council faces across the education system. For the first time, the Learning Summit was followed by a joint session of Primary, Secondary, Special and AP Headteachers, allowing all sectors to work together to meet our shared challenges.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 28th July 2023 The Panel agreed to consider a future report on Exclusions and Suspensions, following engagement with schools and settings this will include a plan to address challenges in this area. The panel would undertake a series of supported visits to schools to look at a range of good practice examples in this area, including inclusive approaches. The visits will be arranged to take place after the October 2023 half term. Visits will also be undertaken to the Education Learning Partnership Board and other</p>	<p>22.9.23 Panel</p> <p>27th June 2023</p> <p>28th July 2023</p>
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Sufficiency for Children’s Service (places/staffing resources)	Tom Brailsford and Service Directors	<p>The Panel will consider future updates on vacancies and staff shortages within the Children’s Service and the approaches being taken by the service to bring professionals back into the workforce, eg retention packages. The Panel will also monitor this during visits to the Social Care Teams.</p> <p>Areas to be looked at by Panel (suggested by Service Directors) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children’s Social Care (Social Workers) - Foster carers - Residential Homes staff - Over provision of primary places 	Within next 6 months

		<p>Panel meeting on 28th July 2023</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider future data which would provide information relating to safeguarding training of frontline staff from the Housing Solutions Team Members who visit private homes and may become aware of safeguarding issues. Homes and Neighbourhoods have arranged with Children’s Services (via Children’s Services Duty and Advice) that they will deliver bespoke training on front door/children’s safeguarding issues direct to Housing Solutions team members. The training session took place in October 2023 and more dates would be arranged to take place in the future to pick up any other team members who could not attend. In addition, all staff in the Housing Solutions Team have been asked to refresh the basic safeguarding MI pod case and some bespoke training has been arranged on children’s safeguarding for all staff.</p> <p>Lead Member Briefing on 12th January 2024</p> <p>School place planning information will be shared with the Panel when the next iteration of this year’s school place planning document is published.</p>	28 th July 2023
<p>Potential changes to Young People’s Activity Team (YPAT) provision</p> <p>- Provides after school activities for C&YP with the most complex disabilities and needs</p>	Kieran Lord/ Sara Miles	Panel to agree on areas of scrutiny.	
<p>Partnership Arrangements</p>	Vicky Metherington/Jo-Anne Sanders/Kieran Lord	<p>The Panel will continue to scrutinise partnerships and boards during the 2023/24 municipal year, for example, Corporate Parenting Board and Health and Wellbeing Board, visits to internal teams and partners and the Panel can look at how data was collected and used to improve outcomes. The Panel can be represented at meetings, events and visits to internal teams and external providers and agree to focus on the following areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership working • Is the voice of the young person being heard? (as below) • Good practice • Delivery of quality service 	
Voice of the Young Person	Tom Brailsford/Service Directors (Children’s Service)	The Panel will keep a watching brief on all areas of scrutiny by the Panel and explore whether the voice of the child was being heard, whether they are empowered to speak up and ensure that lessons have and are being learned.	
Special Educational Needs and High Needs (SEND)	Jo-Anne Sanders/Kieran Lord/Adrian Wisniewski	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the following areas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in special school places by the rebuild of Joseph Norton Academy and Woodley School and College - SEND Transformation Plan - the role of the voluntary sector partnerships, third/private sector - New provision – schools and additional resources - Sufficiency of SEND, foster care and residential care – key challenges - High Needs block funding (quarterly reports – Jo Sanders to confirm dates) - Visits to PCAN drop-in sessions to engage with parents of children with SEND and get their views and experiences on accessing the services. - Post 16 Home to School Transport for SEND Young People <p>Informal meeting on 22nd September 2023 The Panel considered a verbal update regarding Post 16 Home to School Transport to include costs, action plans to address and manage the current challenges and a position statement.</p> <p>Informal Panel Meeting on 1st December 2023 The Panel considered a briefing note giving an update on Post 16 Home to School Travel outlining the current arrangements, future plans for</p>	<p>(ongoing)</p> <p>22nd September 2023</p> <p>1st December 2023</p>

		<p>proposed changes and next steps. The Panel agreed to consider a further update in January giving an update on the outcome of the consultation which was due to finish on the 31st December 2023. The Panel noted that following the consultation, responses would be taken into account on the final Statement and a decision made by Cabinet in March 2024.</p> <p>Visit to Education and Learning Partnership Board (ELPB) on 27th September 2023</p> <p>The Chair of the Panel attended the Education Learning and Partnership Board (ELPB) on the 27th September 2023 as part of the Panel's focus on SEND. The Board considered SEND data, SEND Transformation Plan and challenges. The ELPB also received an update on the Kirklees SEND Partnership WSoA whose meetings had been attended by representatives from the DfE, PCAN, Headteachers and health and care professionals.</p>	27 th September 2023
Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's)	Kieran Lord/Joel Hanna	The Panel will scrutinise the support given to Special Guardianship Orders, not just financial but also to check they are getting the support they need.	Within next 6 months
Mental Health in Schools - Provision of service - Waiting lists	Kieran Lord/Stewart Horn	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the experience verses the provision of service and seek feedback from service users on their perception on using the service.</p> <p>The Panel will also consider the fluctuation in the waiting times and trends for children's emotional health and wellbeing.</p>	Review post xmas 23 and agree approach to scrutiny
Transition of young people to adults	Vicky Metheringham/Kieran Lord/Jo-Anne Sanders	<p>The Panel will scrutinise how well transitions are managed for young people with additional needs.</p> <p>The Panel will be invited to attend the Children's Access to Service Panel (CASP) which is attended by partners from health, education and assists young people to develop relationships with Adult Social Care.</p> <p>The Panel will also consider the voice of the family as well as the child in this work.</p>	

		<p>Lead Members Briefing on 12th January 2024</p> <p>An update was provided on the work the Children’s Service had been undertaking with Mark Riddell from the Department for Education on the Care Leaver’s provision. The Panel will receive an update on the Action Plan which has been drawn up at a future meeting – date to be confirmed</p>	
Emerging Risks	Martin Dearnley/Alice Carruthers	<p>Prior to each meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee the latest version of the Corporate Risk Matrix, Heat Map and the list of Emerging Risks will be shared with the Scrutiny Lead Members for each Panel so that they can discuss in their Informal meetings and each Panel will discuss risks relevant to their areas of focus.</p> <p>Informal Panel meeting on 26th January 2024</p> <p>The Panel will consider emerging risks for the areas of focus on the Work Programme for 23/24 and any new risks that the Panel are not aware of.</p>	
<p>Lead Member Briefings</p> <p>(Bi-monthly LM Briefings with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children’s; and Strategic Director/Service Directors in Children’s Services during 23/24) – Actions from these meetings will be included within the Panel’s Work Programme where appropriate</p>			
Elective Home Education	Jo-Anne Sanders	The Lead Member will keep a watching brief on any issues relating to Elective Home Education and consider updates regarding the overview of statistical neighbours.	Within next 12 months
Structure Review of multi-disciplinary teams	Vicky Metheringham	The Lead Member will receive updates on the structure review of multi-disciplinary teams where services are being brought together.	Sept 24 (23/24 municipal year)
School Improvement Offer	Jo-Anne Sanders	<p>The Lead Member will receive regular updates regarding the following areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and Learning Board - Early Years Development Board 	

Kirklees Support Offer to Schools	Jo-Anne Sanders/Isabel Brittain	The Lead Member will receive updates on the issues around budget management for schools, what role the local authority is taking in supporting schools and are multi academy schools included in this work.	
Redesign of short break, respite and support provision for disabled children, young people and their families	Kieran Lord/Tom Brailsford/Joel Hanna	The Chair received a briefing on the 15 th September 2023 to update that a report will be considered by Cabinet on the 26th September 2023 asking for the consultation process to start on the Redesign of short break, respite and support provision for disabled children, young people and their families. No decisions will be taken at this stage until consultation has taken place, as part of this consultation the Children’s Scrutiny Panel will be given the opportunity to have a view on the results of the consultation and any subsequent proposals.	LM Briefing on 15.9.23 and Cabinet on 26.9.23