



Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board

Date: 23 April 2024

Title of report: Independent Visitors Scheme Update April 2024

Purpose of report: To inform the Board about the Children’s Services Independent Visitors Scheme

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £500k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? Decisions having a particularly significant effect on a single ward may also be treated as if they were key decisions.	Not Applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	10.04.24 Kieran Lord No No
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Kendrick

Electoral wards affected: N/A

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

The Independent Visitor's scheme sits within the Children's Rights team; this scheme matches children Looked After with volunteers, who offer support and guidance and opportunities to engage in positive activities.

2. Information required to take a decision

For information only, no decision required.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The Service works with children and young people, families, and carers, and across the council and wider partnership. Adult volunteers in the Independent Visitors scheme provide a valuable service to children and young people Looked After by the local authority.

3.2 Working with Partners

The Service works with partners to deliver outcomes for children and young people Looked After, by Kirklees Council.

3.3 Place Based Working

Not applicable.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

Not applicable.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

Kirklees Independent Visitors Scheme is also known as Care2Listen.

The scheme provides independent adult volunteers who befriend children / young people in the care of the local authority; to spend time with them on a one-to-one basis, undertake activities and develop a positive relationship with a trusted, responsible adult. Volunteers provide children / young people with the opportunity to talk to someone independent, seek advice, guidance, and support from and have fun with, in an informal setting.

The value and impact of the scheme and relationships built is evidenced within feedback received from children/young people. General feedback received highlights that they value a relationship which is 'just for them'.

3.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

Not applicable

3.7 Other (eg Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)/Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

Not applicable

4 Consultation

Not applicable

5 Engagement

Not applicable

6 Next steps and timelines

Key priorities for 2024/2025 include:

Build upon the recent recruitment drive.

Match young people waiting for an Independent Visitor

Introduce enhanced data and quality assurance processes and further develop mechanisms to capture timely feedback from children and young people to support continuous practice and service delivery improvements.

7 Officer recommendations and reasons

That the report be noted.

8 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable

9 Contact officer

Lucy Fearnley, Team Manager for Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

Sara Miles, Head of Service, Quality Assurance and Safeguarding

10 Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable

11 Service Director responsible

Kieran Lord, Service Director, Resources, Improvements and Partnerships