

CHILDREN’S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

MEMBERS: Cllr Itrat Ali, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Jane Rylah, Cllr Ashleigh Robinson, Cllr Tanisha Bramwell, Cllr Hannah McKerchar

SUPPORT: Helen Kilroy (Assistant Democracy Manager), Claire Gardiner (Democracy Officer)

Agenda item/area of focus	Lead Officer	Areas of Scrutiny carried forward from 24-25	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 Kirklees 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 Kirklees 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 Kirklees 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 –Ofsted Inspection</p>	<p>Tom Brailsford/Vicky Metherringham</p>	<p>The Panel will continue to review the Improvement Journey of Children’s Services and receive regular updates following Ofsted Inspections.</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p>

		<p>The Panel will visit Children’s Social Care Teams, Children with Disabilities Team and the Front Door during the 2024/25 municipal year.</p> <p>Training on Corporate Parenting The Panel will receive a training presentation on Corporate Parenting and will consider regular updates on issues considered by the Kirklees Parenting Board at each Panel meeting – to be arranged.</p> <p>Visit to No 11 and No 12 hubs The Panel will visit No 11 and No 12 hubs and observe the services on offer and being accessed by young people – to be arranged.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 11th October 2024 The Panel will consider the outcome and recommendations of the Children’s Services Ofsted Inspection report, which will be published on the 27th August 2024 and will highlight the key areas of improvement for the Service. The Ofsted Inspection covered all areas of the Children’s Service but focussed on children in need, children in care and care leavers.</p>	11.10.24
<p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation Plan</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders</p> <p>Michelle Lister/Paul Calendine</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the SEND Transformation Plan and will focus on the following areas –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight of the Government Safety Valve Agreement and the current profile of spend across the High Needs Blocks • Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) Overview of volume processes – quality and compliance (including Annual Reviews) • New initiative of schools working in clusters • Special Schools – overview of provision and two new school rebuilds 	

		<p>Panel meeting on 28th April 2025 The Panel will consider a report on Special Schools giving an overview of provision and 2 new school rebuilds – Joseph Norton and Woodley.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 28th April 2025 The Panel will consider a report on the decline of the cohort of children in primary schools in Kirklees.</p> <p>Visit to Education and Learning Partnership Board (ELPB) The Panel will visit the Education and Learning Partnership Board to observe the discussions around needs and capacity around the teacher workforce – date to be arranged.</p>	28.4.25
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Working Together Action Plan	Kieran Lord Patrick Boosey (NHS)	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the multi-agency partnership arrangements as part of the Working Together Action Plan and consider the changes which have been implemented.</p> <p>Visit to Starting Well Board The Panel will visit the Starting Well Board as part of their scrutiny on achieving outcomes for children across Kirklees– to be arranged.</p> <p>Visit to Kirklees Safeguarding Partnership Board on 10th February 2025 The Panel will visit the Kirklees Safeguarding Partnership Board meeting as part of their scrutiny on the working together action plan and achieving outcomes for the children across Kirklees.</p> <p>Panel Meeting on 14th March 2025 The Panel will consider the changes implemented in the Working Together Action Plan and the multi-agency partnership arrangements.</p>	10.2.25 14.3.25
Quality Assurance – impact of auditing the Children’s Service	Vicky Metheringham/Robert Fordyce	The Panel will scrutinise the Quality Assurance impact of auditing the Children’s Service and what difference it was making to children’s lives. The Panel will be invited to observe appropriate forums on Quality	

		Assurance, including the Practice Learning days and Quality Learning Events taking place within the Children's Service. Panel Meeting on 11th October 2024 The Panel will consider the Annual Report on Quality Assurance.	11.10.24
Educational Outcomes	Jo-Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford (key lead)	The Panel will scrutinise the educational outcomes of children and young people in Kirklees. Informal Panel Meeting on 11th October 2024 The Panel will consider early unvalidated data and GCSE outcomes, which will identify the strengths, prior to a decision being taken by Cabinet.	11.10.24
Partnership Arrangements	Vicky Metheringham/Jo-Anne Sanders/Kieran Lord	The Panel will continue to scrutinise partnerships and boards during the 2024/25 municipal year, for example, Kirklees 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:- <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	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.	

Updated 9.8.24

<p>Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders/Mark Janes (Chair of SACRE)</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the work of the Kirklees Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) which includes partnership working with other regional local authorities.</p> <p>Panel meeting 17th January 2025 The Panel will consider the Annual Report from the Kirklees Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).</p>	<p>17.1.25</p>
<p>Health Provision for Children and Young People</p>		<p>The Panel will scrutinise the health provision for Children and Young People in Kirklees with a particular focus on dental care, babies and immunisations.</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
<p>Emotional Wellbeing Provision for children in Kirklees and Mental Health in Schools - Keep in mind</p>	<p>Kieran Lord/Stewart Horn</p>	<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. The Panel will also consider the fluctuation in the waiting times and trends for children’s emotional health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Emotional Wellbeing Provision in Kirklees – “Keep in Mind” The Panel will consider an update on the implementation of the new “Keep in Mind” Service, which was launched in April 2024. The Panel will particularly focus on how the service is working in practice and this may include a visit to the service or attendance at appropriate meetings to understand how it is being implemented.</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
<p>Review of the Provision of Short Breaks and Respite Care for Parents and Carers</p>	<p>Kieran Lord</p>	<p>The Panel will consider the review of the provision of short breaks and respite care for parents and carers in Kirklees.</p>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
<p>Review of Children’s Residential Homes and Foster Care Placements</p>	<p>Vicky Metheringham/Anna Gledhill</p>	<p>The Panel will consider an update on the Review of Children’s Residential Homes and Foster Care Placements in Kirklees to ensure that children were living in the right home and environment.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 17th January 2025</p>	<p>17th January 2025</p>

Updated 9.8.24

		<p>The Panel will consider an update on the Review of Children’s Residential Homes and foster care placements in Kirklees.</p> <p>Visits to Kirklees Fostering Network, Mocking Bird and Special Guardianship Orders representatives</p> <p>The Panel will meet with appropriate representatives from the Kirklees Fostering Network on the 26th September 2024, Mocking Bird Support Meeting on the 15th October 2024 and the Special Guardianship Order Support Group meeting on the 18th December 2024.</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 Strategic Director/Service Directors in Children’s Services during 24/25) – Actions from these meetings will be included within the Panel’s Work Programme where appropriate</p>			
<p>Manchester Road – Asylum Seekers</p>		<p>The Lead Member will review any impact on Children’s Service of the housing of asylum seekers on Manchester Road.</p>	