

**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><b><u>Standard items</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-decision scrutiny (decisions by Cabinet)</li> <li>• Performance Information (Children’s Service) – Informal meeting</li> <li>• Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Kirklees Parenting Board</li> <li>• Ambition Board Minutes</li> </ul>	<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 &amp; 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><b>Review of the Improvement Journey – Ofsted Inspection</b></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><b>Training on Corporate Parenting</b> The Panel received a training presentation on Corporate Parenting on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and will consider regular updates on issues considered by the Kirklees Parenting Board at each Panel meeting.</p> <p><b>Visit to No 11 and No 12 hubs</b> 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><b>Care Leavers Month – October 2024</b> The Panel will be invited to events taking place during Care Leavers Month (October 2024) – to be arranged.</p> <p><b>Panel meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b> The Panel will consider the outcome and recommendations of the Children’s Services Ofsted Inspection report, which will be published on the 27<sup>th</sup> 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>	<p>11.10.24</p>
<p><b>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation Plan and Sufficiency of SEND and mainstream capacity</b></p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders 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"> <li>• <b>Safety Valve</b> - Oversight of the Government Safety Valve Agreement and the current profile of spend across the High Needs Blocks</li> <li>• <b>Quality and Compliance</b> - Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) Overview of volume processes – quality and compliance (including Annual Reviews)</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Graduated Approach – Mainstream Schools organised in Clusters</b> - New initiative of schools working in clusters</li> <li>• <b>Specialist places (Sufficiency)</b> - Special Schools – overview of provision and two new school rebuilds</li> </ul> <p>To support this scrutiny, the Panel will do the following –</p> <p><b>Visit to SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024</b>  The Panel will attend and observe the SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 to gain a better understanding of the SEND transformation work.</p> <p><b>Visit to an Education and Learning Partnership Board (ELPB) meeting –</b>  date to be arranged</p> <p><b>Panel meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024</b>  The Panel will consider a report on SEND giving an oversight of the Government Safety Valve Agreement and current profile of spend across the High Needs Block.</p> <p><b>Panel meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>  The Panel will consider a report on the Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) giving an overview of volume process, quality and compliance, including Annual Reviews.</p> <p><b>Panel meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025</b>  The Panel will consider a report on the new initiatives in schools that are working in clusters.</p>	<p>3.10.24</p> <p>22.11.24</p> <p>17.1.25</p> <p>14.3.25</p>
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<b>Quality Assurance – impact of auditing the Children’s Service</b>	Vicky Metheringham/Robert Fordyce	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the Quality Assurance impact of auditing the Children’s Service and what difference it was making to children’s lives.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Panel Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b> The Panel will consider the Annual Report on Quality Assurance.</p>	<p>11.10.24</p>
<b>Educational Outcomes</b>	Jo-Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford (key lead)	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the educational outcomes of children and young people in Kirklees.</p> <p><b>Informal Panel Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b> The Panel will consider early unvalidated data and KS2 and GCSE outcomes, which will identify the strengths, prior to the outcomes being shared with Cabinet.</p> <p><b>Elective Home Education</b> The Panel will consider recent data (provided by Jo-Anne Sanders in September 2024) shared with Ofsted during the inspection provided. The</p>	<p>11.10.24</p> <p>Jan/Feb 25 – to be arranged</p>

		Panel will also meet with Strategic Leads early in 2025 when narrative was available for further consideration and scrutiny by the Panel.	
<b>Partnership Arrangements</b>	Vicky Metheringham/Jo-Anne Sanders/Kieran Lord	<p>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:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection</li> <li>• Partnership working</li> <li>• Is the voice of the young person being heard? (as below)</li> <li>• Good practice</li> <li>• Delivery of quality service</li> </ul> <p>The Panel have been invited to attend the Home-Start Kirklees Annual General Meeting and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 where there will be a showcase of work from families, volunteers and staff.</p>	
<b>Voice of the Young Person</b>	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.	
<b>Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)</b>	Jo-Anne Sanders/Mark Janes (Chair of SACRE)	<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><b>Panel meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b> The Panel will consider the Annual Report from the Kirklees Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).</p>	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2025

<p><b>Health Provision for Children and Young People</b></p>	<p>Jane McDonnell (Head of Health Protection in Public Health)</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><b>Joint discussion at Health and Adults Social Care Scrutiny Panel on 22.1.25 - Dentistry</b> The Panel has been invited to attend the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 for a joint discussion on Dentistry. Representatives from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) will give a report on access to dentistry for Adults and Children.</p> <p><b>Joint Informal meeting of the Children’s Scrutiny Panel and the Health and Adult Social Care Panel - 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025) – Children’s Immunisations</b> The Panel will be invited to attend a Joint Informal meeting of the Children’s Scrutiny Panel and the Health and Adult Social Care Panel on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to receive an update and presentation on Children’s Immunisations including the whooping cough maternal vaccination programme.</p> <p>The Panel will have a Joint meeting with the Health and Adult Social Care Panel in 2025/26 to discuss the Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programme, aimed at adults over 75 and babies/pregnant women when data will be available for consideration.</p>	<p>22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025</p> <p>8<sup>th</sup> January 2025</p> <p>2025/26 municipal year</p>
<p><b>Emotional Wellbeing Provision for children in Kirklees and Mental Health in Schools</b> - Keep in mind</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders/ 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>To be confirmed</p>

		<p><b>Emotional Wellbeing Provision in Kirklees – “Keep in Mind”</b>                  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><b>Review of the Provision of Short Breaks and Respite Care for Parents and Carers</b></p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders/ Stewart Horn</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><b>Review of Children’s Residential Homes and Foster Care Placements</b></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><b>Panel meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>                  The Panel will consider an update on the Review of Children’s Residential Homes and foster care placements in Kirklees.</p> <p><b>Visits to Kirklees Fostering Network, Mocking Bird and Special Guardianship Orders carers and representatives</b>                  The Panel will meet with appropriate representatives from the Kirklees Fostering Network on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Mocking Bird Support Meeting (date to be arranged) and the Special Guardianship Order Support Group meeting and Christmas party on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024.</p> <p><b>Visit to drop-in session to celebrate National Kinship Week</b>                  The Panel were also invited to attend an informal drop-in session on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate National Kinship Week. The Connected Persons Support Team are hosting the session, staff from the Connected Persons assessment team will be attending along with some of our carers from the constitution. This will be an information session for</p>	<p>17<sup>th</sup> January 2025</p> <p>KFN 26.9.24                  SGOs 18.12.24                  Mocking Bird – to be confirmed</p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> October 2024</p>



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		professionals, to tell them about the support offer for Kirklees Kinship carers. The carers will be sharing their experience of being a Kinship carer, so professionals have a better understanding of what its like being a kinship care and some of highlights and challenges they face.	
<b>Lead Member Briefings</b> (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			
<b>Manchester Road – Asylum Seekers</b>		The Lead Member will review any impact on Children’s Service of the housing of asylum seekers on Manchester Road.	