

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25**MEMBERS:** Cllr Itrat Ali, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Jane Rylah, Cllr Ashleigh Robinson, Cllr Hannah McKerchar, Vacancy**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 received a training presentation on Corporate Parenting on the 30th August 2024 and will consider regular updates on issues considered by the Kirklees Parenting Board at each Panel meeting.</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>Care Leavers Month – October 2024 The Panel will be invited to events taking place during Care Leavers Month (October 2024) and details have been shared with Members of the Panel.</p> <p>Panel meeting on 11th October 2024 The Panel considered the outcome and recommendations of the Children’s Services Ofsted Inspection report, which was published on the 27th August 2024 and highlighted 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. The Panel agreed that the Ofsted report was very positive and that it was encouraging to see the significant improvements that had been made since the last Ofsted report in 2019. The Panel asked that their thanks and congratulations be passed onto the Teams within Children’s Services for their hard work and commitment to improving the delivery of services and support to children and young people in Kirklees.</p>	<p>11.10.24</p>
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<p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation Plan and Sufficiency of SEND and mainstream capacity</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"> • Safety Valve - Oversight of the Government Safety Valve Agreement and the current profile of spend across the High Needs Blocks • Quality and Compliance - Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) Overview of volume processes – quality and compliance (including Annual Reviews) • Graduated Approach – Mainstream Schools organised in Clusters - New initiative of schools working in clusters • Specialist places (Sufficiency) - Special Schools – overview of provision and two new school rebuilds <p>To support this scrutiny, the Panel will do the following –</p> <p>Visit to SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on 3rd October 2024</p> <p>The Panel attended and observed the SEND Transformation and Commissioning Group on the 3rd October 2024 to gain a better understanding of the SEND transformation work. A presentation was carried out sharing reflections, impacts and progress on the programme and clusters and explained the “why, approach and roles”. Break out groups were asked to discuss challenges to SEND, areas of strength, hopes and worries for cluster model.</p> <p>Visit to an Education and Learning Partnership Board (ELPB) meeting – date to be arranged</p>	<p>3.10.24</p> <p>To be arranged</p>
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Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA)	<p>Pam Allen/Vicky Metheringham/Jo-Anne Sanders/Ian Mottershaw and Sara Miles</p> <p>Patrick Boosey (NHS)</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the multi-agency partnership arrangements as part of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA) 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 (KSPB) 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. Julie Sykes, the Independent Scrutineer of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children’s Partnerships (KSCP) had been invited to attend the Panel meeting in March for this discussion.</p>	<p>To be arranged early in 2025</p> <p>10.2.25</p> <p>14.3.25</p>
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.	

		<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>Panel Meeting on 11th October 2024 The Panel considered the Annual Report on Quality Assurance. The report provided an overview of audit and learning processes for the last 12 months for consideration and discussion. It was noted that Members of the Panel would attend some of the forthcoming Practice Learning Days with Teams across the Children’s Service and report back with updates to future Panel Meetings.</p>	<p>11.10.24</p>
<p>Educational Outcomes</p>	<p>Jo-Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford (key lead)</p>	<p>The Panel will scrutinise the educational outcomes of children and young people in Kirklees.</p> <p>Informal Panel Meeting on 11th October 2024 The Panel considered an overview of the statutory outcomes achieved (attainment and progress) by learners who took assessments in Kirklees during the academic year 2023-2024. The report covered outcomes at the end of the Foundation Stage, Phonics (Year 1), Key Stage 2 (Year 6), Key Stage 4 (GCSE) and Key Stage 5 (Post-16). The results and national comparisons provided in this report were subject to validation and the report aimed to offer preliminary insights into the educational outcomes in Kirklees, pending the release of the comprehensive Kirklees Annual Educational Outcomes report.</p> <p>Elective Home Education The Panel received data provided by Jo-Anne Sanders in September 2024 on Elective Home Education, which had been shared with Ofsted during the inspection.</p>	<p>11.10.24</p> <p>Jan/Feb 25 – to be arranged</p>

		The Panel will also meet with Strategic Leads early in 2025 when narrative was available for further consideration and scrutiny by the Panel.	
Partnership Arrangements	Vicky Metheringham/Jo-Anne Sanders/Pam Allen	<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"> • Data collection • Partnership working • Is the voice of the young person being heard? (as below) • Good practice • Delivery of quality service <p>The Panel have been invited to attend the Home-Start Kirklees Annual General Meeting and 25th Anniversary celebration on the 26th September 2024 where there will be a showcase of work from families, volunteers and staff.</p>	
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.	
Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)	Jo-Anne Sanders/Mark Janes (Chair of SACRE)	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>Panel meeting 17th January 2025 The Panel will consider the Annual Report from the Kirklees Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).</p>	17 th January 2025
Health Provision for Children and Young People	Jane McDonnell (Head of Health Protection in Public Health)	<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>Joint Informal meeting of the Children’s Scrutiny Panel and the Health and Adult Social Care Panel - 8th January 2025) – Children’s Immunisations 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 16th January 2025 to receive an update and presentation on Children’s Immunisations, including the whooping cough maternal vaccination programme.</p> <p>Joint discussion at Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on 22.1.25 - Dentistry The Panel has been invited to attend the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on the 22nd 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>Joint discussion at Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on 26th February 2025 – Healthy Child Programme The Panel has been invited to attend the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on the 26th February 2025 for a joint discussion on the Healthy Child Programme as part of pre-decision scrutiny before the report is considered by Cabinet.</p>	<p>8th January 2025</p> <p>22nd January 2025</p> <p>26th February 2025</p>

		<p>Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination Programme 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>	2025/26 municipal year
<p>Emotional Wellbeing Provision for children in Kirklees and Mental Health in Schools - Keep in mind</p>	Jo-Anne Sanders/Pam Allen 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. 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>	To be confirmed
<p>Review of the Provision of Short Breaks and Respite Care for Parents and Carers</p>	Jo-Anne Sanders/Pam Allen/Vicky Metheringham/ Stewart Horn	The Panel will consider the review of the provision of short breaks and respite care for parents and carers in Kirklees.	To be confirmed (Feb/March 25)
<p>Review of Children’s Residential Homes and Foster Care Placements</p>	Vicky Metheringham/Pam Allen/Anna Gledhill/Joel Hanna	<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 The Panel will consider an update on the Review of Children’s Residential Homes and foster care placements in Kirklees.</p>	17 th January 2025

		<p>Visits to Kirklees Fostering Network 26th September 2024</p> <p>Key issues discussed at the meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Collection – performance data available at the Kirklees Parenting board did not correspond with the paper. • Shortage of Foster Carers – numbers had halved, they cited the economic climate and families being put into poverty. • Older children needing foster care, and asylum-seeking children using the service. • Partnership working • Challenges of attending PPS meetings when children cannot attend with them. • Voice of the Young Person and how it was acted on. • Cllr Kendrick held in high esteem as a source of support. • Discrepancies between what the Personal Assistants do and the support that needs to start at 15 rather than 16. • The rewarding nature of Foster Care and the support between the Foster Carers and their families. <p>Visit to Mocking Bird and Special Guardianship Orders carers and representatives</p> <p>The Panel will meet with appropriate representatives from the Mocking Bird Support Meeting (date to be arranged) and the Special Guardianship Order Support Group meeting and Christmas party on the 18th December 2024.</p> <p>Visit to drop-in session to celebrate National Kinship Week</p> <p>The Panel were also invited to attend an informal drop-in session on Wednesday 9th October to celebrate National Kinship Week. The Connected Persons Support Team hosted the session, staff from the Connected Persons assessment team attended along with some of our carers from the constitution. The drop in session had been organised to improve knowledge of the Connected Persons Team (CSP). Special</p>	<p>9th October 2024</p>
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Updated 14.11.24

		<p>Guardianship Order (SGO) carers were invited, along with colleagues from other services. Feedback from the carers about the team was positive. SGO carers supported the move towards using different language, reporting how it was dehumanising to be referred to in meetings and on paper as “the Carer”. There was also a recurring theme of the discrepancy between financial support given to SGOs and Foster Carers. It was recognised by the Panel that the financial discrepancy was less than in other local authorities, but the Panel asked whether other ways of supporting these families could be looked at.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Lead Member Briefings (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>	