

Updated 9.7.26

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – 2026/27 MUNICIPAL YEAR

MEMBERS: Cllr Alex Vickers, Cllr Tanisha Bramwell, Cllr Jane Barraclough, Cllr Glennis Harrison, Cllr Maryam Jawaaid, Cllr Susan Maxwell

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

POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS/AREAS OF FOCUS FOR CONSIDERATION

Agenda item/area of focus	Lead Officer	Areas of Scrutiny carried forward from 25-26	Outcomes/Actions	Comments
<u>Standard items</u> • Pre-decision scrutiny (decisions by Cabinet) • Performance Information (Children's Service) – Informal meeting • Feedback from Panel Members on issues considered by Kirklees Parenting Board	Cabinet Members/Senior Officers (Children's Service) Presented by Service Directors (produced by Data and Insight Team) Panel Members who attend Kirklees Parenting Board	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. The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Children and Families Service (written report in informal session and verbal update on key issues in public meeting). Panel will be asked for questions to be submitted 1 week before the public meeting, these will be shared with Senior Officers/Cabinet Members in advance of the Informal meeting to prepare responses. Members of the Panel who attend the Kirklees Parenting Board will feedback	Ongoing Each meeting of the Panel (when data is available) Updates will be provided at Panel meetings when a meeting of the Board has taken place (meetings take	Every meeting Every meeting Every meeting

Ambition Board Minutes	Senior Officers and Cabinet Members	on key issues to the Scrutiny Panel as appropriate. The Panel will receive for information the minutes from the Ambition Board meetings which are held quarterly.	place quarterly). Minutes of meetings will be shared with the Panel once approved by the Board. Ongoing and when available	Quarterly
LEARNING AND EARLY SUPPORT				
SEND Reforms	Jo-Anne Sanders/ Adrian Wisniewski	The Panel will scrutinise the SEND Reforms and will focus on the following areas – SEND Reforms White Paper - Plan to be submitted by Director of Children and Families to NHS England in September 2026, Plan and updates to be shared with Panel. SEND 3 Year plan Effective communication with parents on the changes – action plans to be shared with the Panel Visit to SEND Reforms Engagement Event in July 2026	Visit to the SEND Reforms Engagement Event with parents and partners on 20 July 2026 The Panel have been invited to the SEND Reforms event to be held on the 20th July 2026 at 13.15 - 16.00 at Cathedral House, Huddersfield. On the 19th June 2026 the Council will submit the Kirklees Local SEND Reform Plan and the next step is to move from submission into delivery, and the Children's Service are bringing partners back together to:- - show how your feedback has shaped the plan - provide a clear overview of what we have committed to - pressure test key elements of the approach - continue to co-produce how this works in practice / inform next steps	Visit on 20.7.26

			Update on SEND Reforms – Panel meeting on 20th November 2026 The Panel will consider an update on the SEND Reforms. SEND Reforms – Next Steps – Panel meeting on 12th March 2027 The Panel will consider a report on the SEND Reforms next steps.	Panel on 20.11.26 Panel on 12.3.26
School Attendance	Jo-Anne Sanders/ Christina Marsay	The Panel will scrutinise the Family Hubs and will focus on the following areas – An overview of School Attendance underpinned by Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK, explaining the DfE expectations of parents, schools and the Local Authority which will include an overview of data for the academic year 2025/26 in comparison to previous years and nationally available data. Invite to the Panel to attend one of the Local Authority's Termly Attendance Matters Networks to provide information with schools and to enable sharing of good practice.	Visit to observe an Attendance Matters Network meeting The Panel were invited to attend and observe the meeting on either of the following dates - • 20 November 2026 – Civic Centre 1, Collaboration Space, 8.30am–1.00pm • 20 April 2027 – Civic Centre 1, Collaboration Space, 8.30am–1.00pm • 30 June 2027 – Civic Centre 1, Collaboration Space, 8.30am–1.00pm These sessions provided an opportunity to share attendance priorities, emerging issues, effective practice and partnership approaches with schools across the borough. Panel Members would gain insight into the ongoing work being undertaken to improve school attendance and outcomes for children and young people.	Visit on either – 20.11.26 20.4.27 or 30.6.27

			Overview of School Attendance - Panel meeting on 20th November 2026 The Panel will consider a report on School Attendance which will include an overview of data for the academic year 2025/26 in comparison to previous years and nationally available data.	Panel on 20.11.26
Standing Advisory Committee Religious Education (SACRE)	Jo-Anne Sanders/Emma Brayford/Mark Janes (Chair of SACRE rmijanes@aol.com) and Emma Salter, Pennine Learning (PL), Education Consultant and Jake Womack, PL Director	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 and consider the Annual Report in February each year.	Annual Report on Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) – Panel meeting on 6th February 2026 The Panel will consider SACRE's Annual Report.	Panel on 12.3.27
COMMISSIONING, QUALITY AND HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS				
Sufficiency of Children's Homes and the approach to create stable and loving homes for children in Kirklees	Jess Barclay-Lambert Stewart Horn	The Panel will scrutinise the Sufficiency of Children's Homes and focus on the following areas – • Developments to expand homes for children; and • Steps being taken to ensure children in care are cared for in Kirklees	Sufficiency of Children's Homes – Annual Report – Panel meeting on 16th April 2027 The Panel will consider an annual report on the sufficiency of children's homes which will focus on developments to expand homes for children and the steps being taken to ensure children in care are cared for in Kirklees.	Panel meeting on 16.4.27

Children's Voice	Jess Barclay-Lambert/ Benjamin Newsome/ Kay Parry	The Panel will scrutinise the Children's Voice and will focus on the following areas – • Our Children's Voice and impact of team on children and young people • The Panel will receive a presentation from Our Children's Voice Service who will give an update on the work undertaken by the team	Voice of the Child – Panel Meeting on 17th July 2026 The Panel will consider a presentation on the Voice of the Child which will include – • Principles of participation • Advocacy • Children's rights	Panel meeting on 17.7.26
Family Hubs	Jess Barclay-Lambert Michelle Lister	The Panel will scrutinise the Family Hubs and will focus on the following areas – • Reach and engagement of children and families • Progress on implementation of the Family Hubs • Best start programme implementation – to include links with wider Family Hubs 0-19/25 offer • Launch and development of Hub and spoke model – 4 main Hubs in the geographies of Batley and Spen, Dewsbury and Mirfield, Huddersfield and Rural, and satellites extending from these to communities with highest levels of need (page 6 of Kirklees Best Start Plan)	Update on progress of implementation of the Family Hubs – Panel Meeting on 22nd January 2027 The Panel will consider a report and presentation giving a progress update of the implementation of the Family Hubs.	Panel meeting on 22.1.27

		• Visit to Dewsbury Moor Family Hub – November 2026 • Visits to Family Hubs – dates to be confirmed		
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES				
Care Leavers Service	Vicky Metherringham/ Lauren Stephenson/ Zoe Prince	The Panel will scrutinise the Care Leavers Service and will focus on the following areas – • Care Leavers Service Improvement Plan • The Panel will meet informally with the young people who help with the Kirklees Parenting Board – date to be arranged • Visit to No 11 and No 12 – to be arranged when hub-based activities are taking place – dates to be confirmed • Visit to Kirklees Parenting Board - when Employment Training and Education (ETE) for care leavers aged 18-25 will be considered – to be arranged • Corporate Parenting Strategy – Panel to meet with Team Managers to go through the Strategy – to be arranged	Visit to Kirklees Parenting Board (KPB) on 28th July The Panel will be invited to attend the Board on the 28th July 2026 when Employment Training and Education (ETE) for care leavers aged 18-25 will be considered. Update on the Leaving Care Service Improvement Plan – Panel meeting on 16th April 2027 The Panel will consider an update on the Leaving Care Service Improvement Plan and specific work to engage 18-25 year olds into Care Leavers Service.	Kirklees Parenting Board on 28.7.26 Panel on 16.4.27
Youth Justice Service and Youth Engagement Service	Vicky Metherringham/ Theresa Racz	The Panel will scrutinise the work of the Youth Justice Service and will focus on the following area –	Overview of the inspection process and a summary of the previous	Panel on 16.10.26

		• Youth Justice Service and Youth Engagement Service – to be arranged • Visits to the New Street and Young Batley Centres to meet the Teams – to be arranged • Visit to Youth Justice Management Board – to be arranged • Visit to the Exploitation Screening Panel and Daily risk of exploitation and missing – to be arranged • Planned events – details to be provided	inspection - Panel on 16th October 2026 The Panel will consider a report giving an overview of the inspection process of the Youth Justice Service to include a summary of the previous inspection.	
Children's Social Care Reforms	Vicky Metherringham/ Robert Fordyce Rehana Hanif (Service Re-design) Charlotte Jackson (Family Group Decision Making webinars/ Family Group Conferencing/Multi Agency Events) Adele Herdsman (Family Help Teams)	The Panel will scrutinise the Children's Social Care Reforms and will focus on the following areas – • Service Redesign (by March 2027) – multi agency child protection teams • Practice approach – family group decision making • Keeping children safe • Role of the Social Worker – qualified and non-qualified - Panel to understand the different roles and responsibilities and how they link together within the teams.	Visit to Staff Engagement Event for the Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP) on 23rd September 2026 The Panel have been invited to attend and observe practice at the staff engagement event for practitioners. Visit to Family Group Decision Making Webinar on 24th September 2026 The Panel have been invited to attend the Webinar to observe practice.	Visit on 23.9.26 Visit on 24.9.26 Visit on 7.10.26

	Ann Franssen/Carol Ann Smith (Staff Engagement Event/Multi Agency Event/ Family Group Decision Making Webinars)	• Observation of Family Group Decision Making webinars • Visit to Family Group Conferencing Service • Visit to meet with one of the Family Help Teams – early April • Visit to Multi Agency Child Protection Team – early April 2027	Visit to Multi-Agency event for Families First Partnership Programme on 7th October 2026 The Panel have been invited to attend and observe practice at the multi-agency event attended by partners which has been planned for the Families First Reforms. Overview of the Service Review and key changes – Panel Meeting on 16th October 2026 The Panel will consider a report giving an Overview of the Service Review and key changes to include information explaining the role of Social Worker (to include a presentation) – October 2026	Panel on 16.10.26
Further discussion required to agree areas of focus -				
• Youth Work Offer • Children in Sports – role models (coaches) – what is happening in Kirklees?	To be confirmed	To be confirmed		
Safeguarding of Children and Young People in Kirklees and children in exploitation	To be confirmed	The Panel will scrutinise the safeguarding of children and young people in Kirklees and will focus on the following areas – • Current approach/position in Kirklees • Update on our “Changing Streets” • Children in exploitation		

Joint Scrutiny with Health and Adult Social Care Panel				
Impact of the ICB changes on health provision for children, in particular Mental Health Provision	Joint working with Health and Adult Social Care Panel – to be confirmed	The Panel will scrutinise the impact of the ICB changes on health provision for children and in particular Mental Health for children and agreed to receive future updates on – • The commissioning arrangements as they are developed. • Attendance at the Health and Adult Social Care Panel on the 22nd July to observe the discussion on the ICB changes. • Attendance at the Health and Adult Social Care Panel on the 10th March 2027 to observe the discussion on Mental health for adults and children.	ICB Changes and impact on health services – Health and Adult Social Care Panel on 22nd July 2026 The Panel have been invited to attend the Panel meeting to observe the discussion on the ICB changes and the impact on health services. Mental Health for Adults and Children (referral thresholds) – Health and Adult Social Care Panel on 10th March 2027 The Panel have been invited to attend the Panel meeting to observe the discussion on the Mental Health for Adults and Children to consider – • The number of referrals declined by CAMHS and adult mental health services. • The most common reasons for declined referrals. • What support is offered to people who do not meet service thresholds. • Waiting times between referral, assessment and alternative support. • Any evidence that people are repeatedly moving between	H&ASC Panel on 22.7.26 H&ASC Panel on 10.3.27

			services without receiving appropriate care. What work is underway to reduce people falling through the gaps.	
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