

## CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

**MEMBERS:** Cllr Cahal Burke, Cllr Lisa Holmes, Cllr Donna Bellamy, Cllr Sheikh Ullah, Cllr Darren O'Donovan, Fatima Khan-Shah (Education Co-Optee), Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee)

**SUPPORT:** Yolande Myers, Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
<p><b>1. Improvement Journey.</b></p>	<p>Maintain a focus of the improvement journey in Kirklees to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing the letters sent to the Director of Children's Services following each Ofsted Visit</li> <li>• Considering the implementation of the improvement journey, and how this aligns with the recommendations of the Children's Ad-hoc Scrutiny Panel.</li> <li>• To consider the Sufficiency Strategy of local placements to ensure that children are not placed outside of the area</li> </ul>	<p>That the Panel are confident that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That children in Kirklees are safe.</li> <li>• The service is one that is considered good by Ofsted.</li> </ul> <p><u>Panel meeting 11 June 2018</u></p> <p>The Panel considered the draft strategy and action plan on the sufficiency of placements until the end of the calendar year 2019. The Panel agreed :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That a table with statistics relating to the numbers of children in Local Authority in care should be brought to each Children's Scrutiny Panel.</li> <li>2. That the Panel support the principles contained within the draft Sufficiency Strategy.</li> </ol> <p><u>Panel meeting 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel considered the letter sent to the Director for Children's Services following the monitoring visit on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Panel welcomed the progress made so far within Children's Services and thanked officers for their hard work and commitment but acknowledged that there was still further work and improvements to be made.</li> <li>2. The Panel agreed to consider sickness absence data for Agency staff working within the Children's Service at a future meeting – date to be determined.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>2. Special Educational Needs (to include Home to School Transport)</b></p>	<p>Monitor the Self Evaluation Form for SEND, in preparation for an Ofsted Inspection to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. key indicators to ascertain progress, plus an action plan to show where progress is being made</li> <li>2. Engagement with parents – initially the focus could support their engagement with services. The Panel will support SENDACT with this.</li> </ol> <p>The SEND report will be considered by the Panel and implementation of the recommendations will be reviewed on a regular basis. Six-monthly progress report to the Panel in August 2019 – to be confirmed.</p> <p>Monitor the implementation of the Home to School Transport Policy to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requesting that the final draft version of the policy be shared with the panel.</li> </ul>	<p>That the Panel are confident that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with SEND are receiving the appropriate support.</li> <li>• That SENDACT are fully prepared for the Ofsted Inspection.</li> <li>• That SENDACT is a service that is regarded as ‘good’, with partners working alongside to ensure there is no delay for children.</li> </ul> <p>That the School Transport policies offer the best outcomes to ensure children can attend school, with the finite resources available to the Council.</p> <p><u>Informal Panel meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel considered the final report outlining the findings and recommendations following an investigation by the Panel into how SENDACT interacted and worked with parents and carers. The report contained the response of the Cabinet Portfolio Holders to the investigation findings.</p> <p>The Panel approved the draft findings report and revised recommendations appended to the report and noted the Cabinet response. The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the report and recommendations be forwarded to parents and carers who contributed to the work of the Panel for information.</li> <li>2. That the report be submitted to Cabinet on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 for consideration.</li> <li>3. That progress updates to the Panel be provided in the 2019/20 municipal year.</li> </ol>
<p><b>3. CSE and Safeguarding</b></p>	<p>Monitor issues relating to CSE and Safeguarding following the disbanding of the CSE Panel. The Panel would like to consider the following areas:-</p>	<p>That the Panel is assured that lessons had been learned from previous cases of CSE.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection on lessons learned from historic cases</li> <li>• Details of Joint working and collaboration with partners</li> <li>• Transition work – where we were to where we are now</li> <li>• Anonymised narrative examples of good practice OR illustrative narratives of good practice</li> <li>• Communication / engagement with ward councillors when incidents occur within their ward – what is the current practice and how can information be shared appropriately?</li> <li>• Looking ahead – what is on the horizon?</li> <li>• The Panel would like to know what work is being done with the night time economy, eg takeaways and accommodation providers in training and raising awareness of CSE and safeguarding;</li> <li>• What awareness training has taken place with taxi drivers on CSE and safeguarding and what are future plans?</li> <li>• Joint working between Kirklees and the Police on the risk and vulnerabilities agenda;</li> <li>• How can Scrutiny continue to be engaged on this matter and kept up to date?</li> </ul>	<p>That the Panel is convinced that the best practices identified following the review by Dr Peel are being implemented in Kirklees, and ensure good outcomes for vulnerable children.</p> <p>That as many takeaways and accommodation providers as possible receive CSE training. That these providers begin to feel more comfortable and better informed as to how and when to report potential safeguarding issues.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018</u> An initial discussion took place at the Panel meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018. However the issue will be considered further at a future additional Panel meeting – date to be confirmed.</p> <p><u>Lead Member Briefing on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019</u> The Chair of the Panel met with senior officers in the Children’s Service and agreed that the Panel would like to consider a presentation on CSE, Safeguarding and Licensing which covered the areas outlined under “areas of focus”.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018</u> The Panel will consider a presentation on CSE, Safeguarding and Licensing. A representative from the Police has been invited to attend along with key officers from Children’s Service and Licensing.</p>
4. KSCB	Review the improvements of the KSCB.	<p>That the Board is considered as ‘good’ and that the Panel is satisfied that it is effective and accountable.</p> <p>That the Panel is convinced that the best practices identified following the review by Dr Peel are being implemented in Kirklees, and ensure good outcomes for vulnerable children.</p>

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		<p><u>Panel Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018</u></p> <p>The Panel considered the draft KSCB annual report.</p> <p>The Panel will consider an update report on KSCB at a future meeting of the Panel in the 2019/20 municipal year.</p>
<b>5. Children and Young People's Plan</b>	To receive the final draft plan once completed.	That the Panel is assured that the voice of the child is heard in Kirklees and that they have the ability to influence process and policy where appropriate.
<b>6. Visit to Duty &amp; Advice</b>	The Panel will visit staff at Duty & Advice to seek feedback on service changes and working arrangements	<p>The Panel is assured that staff are well supported to do their job and that retention rates improve to those seen in other 'good' Local Authority areas.</p> <p>The Panel is clear that staff have been trained on the chosen Social Work Model and the newly implemented IT system.</p> <p>Visit to Duty and Advice Team to be arranged in 2019/20 municipal year.</p>
<b>7. Front Door Policy</b>	<p>Review progress of the Kirklees Front Door Policy to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting a head teacher's forum to obtain feedback on their experiences of the front door policy.</li> <li>• To seek the experience of social work staff at the visit to Duty and &amp; Advice.</li> </ul>	That the Panel is assured that head teachers feel confident in the front door policy, and have seen a positive change.
<b>8. Early Support Strategy (Edge of Care)</b>	<p>Maintain an overview of the work done to improve the Edge of Care in Kirklees to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy for Partnership working - Early Help</li> <li>• Multi Systemic Therapy</li> <li>• Family Mental Health Service</li> <li>• Family Conferencing</li> </ul>	The Panel is ensured that the Edge of Care model in Kirklees is clarified and enhanced, and should including consideration of whether good practice from other areas might be effectively adapted for use in Kirklees.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To seek the experiences of head teachers on the visit to the HT forum</li> <li>Examples of how the interventions are working</li> <li>Issue of future funding</li> </ul>	<p>That as part of clarifying the Edge of Care approach, the role of Schools is considered and schools have the opportunity to be part of the approach</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018</u> The Panel considered a report on the development of the Early Support Strategy, the Family Support Service and provide information on the 3 programmes (Family Group Conferences, Multi Systemic Therapy and the Family Mental Health Service) funded through the Department for Education Innovation Fund. The Panel agreed the following actions:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Members of the Panel be invited to attend the information event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018.</li> <li>2. That a report be brought to the Panel on the development of schools as community hubs – date to be determined.</li> <li>3. That a report on the success of the early support strategy, to include details of the partnership working arrangements be considered by the Panel early in 2019 – date to be determined.</li> </ol> <p>The Panel were invited to attend the Early Support Launch on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – Cllr Lisa Holmes and Cllr Donna Bellamy attended.</p> <p>The Panel will consider a future report providing data which demonstrates the success and effectiveness of the Early Support Strategy, which will include details of the partnership working arrangements, specific examples of how the interventions are working in practice and funding moving forward – date to be determined.</p> <p><u>Informal Panel meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019</u> The Panel will consider a report on the Early Support Partnership, following the launch on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019.</p>

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<b>9. Elective Home Education</b>	<p>The ad-hoc EHE Scrutiny Panel continues and has received receive evidence from witnesses and visits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting parents who currently EHE their children</li> </ul> <p>Further evidence will be sought from:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C &amp; K Careers</li> <li>• Visiting Leeds to see their approach</li> <li>• Considering policies and procedures in other areas of the county.</li> </ul>	<p>The Panel is ensured that that children who are home educated receive the best offer from Kirklees council.</p> <p>That the Panel is content that any new Elective Home Educating policy is updated and fit for purpose.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019</u> The Panel considered an update report outlining the progress of the work of the Ad-Hoc Panel on Elective Home Education. The Panel agreed the next steps for the Ad-Hoc Panel and agreed that they will meet a number of other witnesses to gather information including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A leading elective home education expert</li> <li>• Other local authorities in the area, to consider their offer for elective home educators</li> <li>• Parents of those local authorities mentioned above to explore their experiences</li> <li>• Head Teachers forums (primary, secondary and special schools)</li> </ul>
<b>10. Learning Outcomes (Kirklees Annual Educational Standards and Quality Report) and Learning Support Strategy</b>	<p>The Panel will consider the Educational Learning Outcomes and the Learning Support Strategy</p>	<p><u>Panel meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019</u> The Panel considered a report on the Kirklees Annual Educational Standards and Quality report for 2017/18 and the Panel agreed to consider a future report giving a progress update on the educational challenges ahead, attendance and exclusions – date to be determined.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019</u> The Panel will consider the Kirklees Learning Strategy.</p>
<b>11. CAMHS Transformation Plan</b>	<p>To maintain an overview of the work of CAMHS in Kirklees, particularly to update on the autism assessment waiting list.</p>	<p>That the Panel is satisfied that CAMHS continue to improve the service offer, and that the waiting lists for autism assessments continue to reduce.</p>

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		<p><u>Panel Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019</u> The Panel considered the CAMHS local transformation plan which included an update on Autism assessments and the current position in Kirklees.</p> <p>The Panel agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To receive a summarised version of the CAMHS Local Transformation Plan when available.</li> <li>2. To consider a future report outlining what was available digitally when making a request for an assessment and also what support and help was available for families whilst awaiting an assessment.</li> </ol>
<b>12. Number of children in care</b>	A standing item for each meeting containing details of how many children are in care, and particularly how many are placed out of area.	<p>The Panel is satisfied that the Early Help initiatives are having an impact on the number of children in care.</p> <p>That children are placed in foster care as near to home as possible, unless they are placed with family connected persons which may be a further distance.</p> <p>The latest reports showing number of children in care will be considered by the Panel as a standing item.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019</u> The Panel considered the latest report outlining the number of children in care and agreed to receive details of comparative data and statistical neighbours in future reports.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019</u> The Panel considered the latest report outlining the number of children in care, which outlined details of the statistical neighbours. The Panel agreed to be kept up to date on the future plans around the number of children placed in care out of the district.</p>

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<b>13. Virtual School</b>	<p>The Panel would like to see some case studies of children who have been supported by the Virtual School and an update on the work of the Virtual School and an explanation of its statutory responsibilities – report to Panel on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019.</p> <p>That foster carers be invited to attend a Panel meeting, to outline their experiences of the Virtual School.</p>	<p>That the Panel has a clear understanding of how the virtual school works, and is content with the progress of children that the virtual school supports.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019</u> The Panel considered a report on the role of the virtual school in Kirklees and some case study examples. The Panel agreed that the information contained within the report had raised the Panel’s awareness of the Virtual School and recognised the positive and continuous improvements being made to achieve better educational outcomes for looked after children.</p> <p>Representatives from the Kirklees Fostering Network will be invited to attend a Panel meeting to outline their experiences of the Virtual School – date to be determined.</p>
<b>14. Development of Kirklees Community Hubs</b>	<p>The Panel would like to monitor how Kirklees Community Hubs are working, how they were coping with any pressures as a result of the new early help initiatives and see examples of good practice.</p> <p>The Panel would also like to speak to a number of schools to ensure that they are receiving the correct support for the additional responsibilities that they have taken on and be satisfied that the best outcomes for children were being achieved.</p>	<p>That schools are supported in the additional responsibilities and that the best outcomes for children are achieved.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019</u> The Panel considered a report on the development of Kirklees Community Hubs and the accountability arrangements established for activity taking place within the hubs and across the Council and partner agencies. The Panel agreed to consider a future report giving a progress update on the educational challenges ahead, attendance and exclusions – date to be determined.</p>
<b>15. Performance Information (Children’s Services)</b>	<p>The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection &amp; Family Support.</p>	<p>The latest performance reports will be considered informally by the Panel as a standing item.</p>

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<b>16. Visit to Copthorne Children’s Home</b>	Members of the Panel will visit Copthorne House. The date has yet to be confirmed.	Visit to Copthorne House to be arranged in the 2019/20 municipal year – date to be determined.
<b>17. Visit to Fostering Team</b>	Members of the Panel will visit the Fostering Team and the different elements of the service.	<p>That the Panel Members learn about and understand the different elements of foster caring.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019</u>                      The Panel considered a report on the number of children in care and agreed that they needed to understand more about the different elements of foster caring.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to visit the Fostering Team on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019.</p>