

CHILDREN'S SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

MEMBERS: Cllr Andrew Marchington (Chair), Cllr Paul White, Cllr Amanda Pinnock, Cllr Aafaq Butt, Cllr Richard Smith, Cllr Paul Davies, Linda Summers (Education Co-Optee), Dale O'Neill (Co-Optee), Toni Bromley (Co-Optee)

SUPPORT: Helen Kilroy, Principal Governance & Democratic Engagement Officer

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION

ISSUE	APPROACH/AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES
<p>1. Special Educational Needs</p>	<p>Monitor the progress of the recommendations from the Panel made to Cabinet 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 which was approved by Cabinet in March 2019.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider progress updates during the 2019/20 municipal year.</p>	<p>That the Panel are confident that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with SEND are receiving the appropriate support. • That SENDACT are fully prepared for the Ofsted Inspection. • That SENDACT is a service that is regarded as 'good', with partners working alongside to ensure there is no delay for children. <p><u>Panel Meeting on 23 September 2019</u> The Panel considered a report giving an update on the recommendations made by Scrutiny and actions taken on the SENDACT Action Plan.</p> <p>The Panel agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That they wanted to see greater clarification in the timescales outlined in the SENDACT action plan; 2. That the panel wanted to see that the voice of young people was captured and reflected in the work of SENDACT. <p>A further update report will be considered by the Panel at a later date.</p>
<p>2. Exploitation Strategy</p>	<p>The Panel considered a joint presentation by West Yorkshire Police and Senior Officers from Kirklees on CSE, Safeguarding and Licensing in March 2019 and agreed to be kept informed and to be able to contribute to the future work on the Exploitation Strategy and consider the findings of the Dr Peel Review in the new 2019/20 municipal year.</p>	<p>That the Panel is assured that lessons had been learned from previous cases of CSE.</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>Future reports should provide an update on sexual harm prevention orders and what has been learned from the historic cases.</p>	<p>That as many takeaways and accommodation providers as possible receive exploitation safeguarding 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 23rd August 2019</u> The Panel considered and noted an overview of the work that had been undertaken in response to improving the quality of practice and to prevent children being at risk and vulnerable to harm and abuse from Exploitation and or from going missing from home or care.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 17th January 2020</u> The Panel will consider a follow up report on Dr Peel’s practice findings and an update on the Exploitation Strategy.</p>
<p>3. Kirklees Safeguarding Children’s Board (KSCB)</p>	<p>Review the improvements of the KSCB.</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> <p>Future reports to the Panel should advise how Kirklees will implement the new national strategies on children’s safeguarding.</p> <p>The Panel will consider the Kirklees Safeguarding Children’s Board Business Plan.</p>	<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> <p><u>Panel Meeting 23 September 2019</u> The Panel considered a presentation from Sheila Lock, Chair of the Kirklees Safeguarding Children’s Board, outlining the following highlights:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - her role to Chair the multi-agency arrangements in Kirklees which was aimed at safeguarding and protecting children.; - the process that had been followed in establishing the new partnership arrangements that included Kirklees, the police and health through the clinical commissioning groups;

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		<p>- Kirklees had submitted its revised safeguarding arrangements to Government in May 2019 and the new arrangements were currently being implemented.</p> <p>The Panel agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That they acknowledged the need to continue to focus and promote openness and transparency in safeguarding matters and would investigate the effectiveness of this approach; 2. That they would consider further the Panel’s role in supporting and challenging the work of safeguarding partnerships in helping to reduce the risks to young people.
<p>4. Early Support Partnership (Edge of Care)</p>	<p>To maintain an overview of the work done to improve the Edge of Care in Kirklees.</p> <p>In April 2019, the Panel considered an update on the development on the three programmes funded through the Department for Education (DFE) Innovation Funding and agreed to consider an update in the 2019/20 municipal year giving data and statistics on the Early Support Partnership following development of the practices.</p>	<p>The Panel is assured that the Early Support Strategy in Kirklees is clarified and enhanced, and should include consideration of whether good practice from other areas might be effectively adapted for use in Kirklees.</p> <p>That as part of clarifying the Early Support approach, the role of Schools is considered and schools have the opportunity to be part of the approach.</p> <p>The Panel will consider arranging a visit to the Early Support Teams to gain a better understanding of the work that was being undertaken and the impact it was having and that this be considered as part the Panel’s work programme for the 2019/20 municipal year.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 8th November 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider an update on the Early Support Partnership in October/November to consider data and statistics on the Early Support Partnership following development of the practices.</p>

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<p>5. Elective Home Education</p>	<p>The next steps from the Ad-Hoc Panel will be to gather further evidence which will be sought from:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A leading elective home education expert • Other local authorities in the area, to consider their offer for elective home educators • Parents of those local authorities mentioned above to explore their experiences • Head Teachers forums (primary, secondary and special schools) 	<p>The Panel is assured 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>The EHE Ad-Hoc Panel will commence its work and produce a final report on its findings early in the 2019/20 municipal year.</p>
<p>6. Ofsted Inspection (Children's Services)</p>	<p>The Panel will consider the Ofsted report following the inspection of Children's Services in June 2019.</p>	<p>That the Panel is confident Children's Services is continuing to improve and protect the vulnerable children and young people of Kirklees.</p> <p><u>Panel meeting on 23rd August 2019</u> The Panel considered and noted the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection regarding Children's Social Care Services and agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the continuing work and actions to be taken to achieve improved outcomes as the next stage of the improvement journey, and the role of the Panel in supporting this, be noted. 2) That arrangements be put in place to arrange an informal Panel session regarding improving partnership working and governance structures. <p><u>Panel Meeting 17 January 2019</u> The Panel will consider a report on partnership working and governance structures.</p>
<p>7. Learning Outcomes and the Learning Support Strategy</p>	<p>The Panel agreed to consider –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Draft Learning Support Strategy early in the 2019/20 municipal year; • what alternative provisions were available for children with different needs and abilities who are not able to attend mainstream education; 	<p><u>Panel Meeting on 19th July 2019</u> The Panel considered a report outlining the educational landscape in Kirklees and agreed:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That further information on exclusions be considered by the Panel to include particular focus on early intervention, monitoring, the practice in Kirklees and temporary exclusions.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how isolations within secondary schools were being managed and what the planned approach was for the future; • a progress update on the educational challenges ahead, attendance and exclusions – July 2019. 	<p>2. That the Panel consider a future report outlining how the new Ofsted framework for Education was working for schools and learners within Kirklees.</p> <p>The Panel agreed as part of their work programme for 2019/20 to visit schools to talk to children, young people and staff about the Learning Support Strategy.</p>
<p>8. CAMHS Transformation Plan</p>	<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> <p>The Panel will consider an update report in the 2019/20 municipal year giving a summary of the CAMHS Local Transformation Plan and outlining what is available digitally when making a request for an assessment and an outline of what support and help was available for families whilst awaiting an assessment – date to be confirmed.</p> <p>The Panel would also like to receive a summarised version of the CAMHS Transformation Plan as soon as it is available.</p>
<p>9. Number of children in care</p>	<p>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> <p>The Panel agreed to consider a more detailed report on children in care living outside Kirklees with some case studies showing the case history, challenges involved including financial demand on Kirklees and different types of placements. The report should also include the number of children who cannot be placed in Kirklees and the reasons why.</p>	<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 19th July 2019</u> The Panel agreed:-</p>

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the figures for data for children looked after age and gender breakdown be checked for accuracy and an update be provided at the next meeting of the Panel in August 2019. 2. That the Panel consider educational outcomes and stability for looked after children as part of the work programme for 2019/20.
<p>10. Future Options for Almondbury Community School</p>	<p>The Children’s Scrutiny Panel on the 7th August 2019 considered a Call-in request in respect of the decision made by Cabinet on the 16th July 2019 on Future Options for Almondbury Community School.</p>	<p>The Panel agreed that the Decision by Cabinet taken on the 16th July 2019 could be freed for implementation, however, recommended that Cabinet consider learning points on capacity and openness.</p> <p>The Panel agreed to consider regular updates on Almondbury Community School.</p> <p><u>Panel Meeting 23rd September 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel considered a verbal update which highlighted the following key areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planning was in place to create the right opportunities for transition for young people currently receiving secondary education at Almondbury; - the council had made applications to the agencies requesting a variation to the admission arrangements as they wished for every child in the Almondbury school catchment area had priority to attend another local school; - the council was taking to communicating with parents and would be writing directly to the families whose children were affected by the changes. <p><u>Panel Meeting 11th October 2019</u></p> <p>The Panel will consider a more detailed update on the planned closure of Almondbury Community School to include transitional arrangements to alternative schools and support that would be put in place for children with additional needs.</p>

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11. Performance Information (Children's Services)	The Panel will continue to monitor the performance of the Learning Early Support Service and Child Protection & Family Support.	The latest performance reports will be considered informally by the Panel as a standing item.
12. Visit to Copthorne Children's Home	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.
13. Visit to Fostering Team	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>The Panel agreed to visit the Fostering Team early in the 2019/20 municipal year.</p>
14. Visit to Duty & Advice	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>

Lead Member Briefings

(Bi-monthly LM Briefings arranged with Cabinet Members for Learning and Children's; and Mel Meggs/Elaine McShane and Jo-Anne Sanders during 19/20 – no issues currently identified)

CAMHS Transformation Plan	The Panel agreed on the 19 th July 2019 that the Lead Member would keep a watching briefing on the CAMHS Transformation Plan	
Educational outcomes for Looked after children	The Panel on the 19 th July 2019 agreed to consider educational outcomes for looked after children.	The Lead Member for Children's Scrutiny Panel will keep a watching briefing on this matter and ask the Corporate Parenting Board to report back to the Panel with their findings.

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<p>The Corporate Parenting Board is looking at the issue of educational outcomes for looked after children and specifically the number of placement moves taking place which impact on the educational outcomes for looked after children.</p>	
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