

**Name of meeting:** Children's Scrutiny Panel  
**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
**Title of report:** Children's Services Improvement Journey

**Purpose of report:** To provide Scrutiny Panel with an overview of the Improvement Journey in Children's Services in 2019.

<b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>  If yes give the reason why
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?</b>	<b>Key Decision –No</b>  Private Report/Private Appendix – Yes/No
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>  If no give the reason why not
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	Elaine McShane for Mel Meggs 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u></b>	<b>Councillors Kendrick and Pattison</b>

**Electoral wards affected: All**

**Ward councillors consulted:**

**Public or private:**

**Has GDPR been considered? Yes**

## 1. **Summary**

The report was submitted by the Director of Children's Services as part of the "Annual Conversation" with Ofsted in November 2019. The Annual Conversation between Ofsted and local authorities is part of the inspection system and a formal discussion and meeting with lead inspectors in the region. Alongside self-evaluation, this helps local authorities to critically evaluate their own performance and articulate what they think is working well for children in their area.

The conversation covered progress and developments over the last year in three major areas of the improvement work in the Directorate:

- Improvement priorities for Children's Social Care and Early Support (Pages 7 – 11)
- Improvement priorities for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (Pages 12 – 14)
- Improvement priorities for Education and Learning (Pages 14 – 20)

## 2. **Information required to take a decision**

There is no formal decision required

## 3. **Implications for the Council**

- **Working with People**  
Not applicable

- **Working with Partners**  
Not applicable

- **Place Based Working**  
Not applicable

- **Improving outcomes for children**  
The work outlined in this report is a major priority for the authority in achieving its ambitions for children, young people and families in Improving Outcomes for Children. The ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) in June 2019 confirmed the significance progress made in Kirklees as well as highlighting further development areas which were addressed in the Annual Conversation. It also addresses partnership working and how Children's Services is developing its place based working approach.

- **Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**  
Not applicable

## 4. **Consultees and their opinions**

This report is to Children's Services Scrutiny Panel in its capacity of reviewing the work in the Directorate.

## 5. **Next steps and timelines**

This report represents ongoing work across the Directorate and is reviewed on a regular basis including at Portfolio briefing, Improvement Board

## 6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

For Children's Services Scrutiny Panel to receive this report and review its contents and provide feedback.

**7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

**8. Contact officer**

Paul Harris – Children's Services Improvement Manager (Tel 01484 221000 ext 78122 / paul.harris@kirklees.gov.uk)

**9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Appendix 1 – Annual Conversation with Ofsted Self-Assessment

**10. Service Directors responsible** – Mel Meggs, Elaine McShane, Jo-Anne Sanders and Tom Brailsford.