

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
7 JANUARY 2015
NOTTINGHAM CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRESS ON ACTION PLAN ARISING FROM OFSTED INSPECTION MAY 2014
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Purpose

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the Annual Report 2012-13 of the NCSB but more importantly review the progress of the action plan which was developed in response to the OfSTED inspection in May 2014 where the NCSB was found to be 'requiring improvement'.

2. Action required

To explore the issues identified by the OfSTED inspection and what action is being taken to improve those areas found to be 'requiring improvement'.

The Committee needs to consider programming at an appropriate timeframe in order to effectively comment on future NCSB Annual Reports.

3. Background information

OfSTED Inspection 2014

Following an unannounced three-week inspection of 'services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers' in March 2014, OfSTED Inspectors concluded that Nottingham children remain safe. However, the Authority is not yet delivering good protection and help and care for children, young people and families.

The Council and Safeguarding Children Board received a judgement of 'Requires Improvement' in its first inspection under the new OfSTED framework. The purpose of the report is to enable the Committee to challenge the areas of improvement identified by Inspectors and establish how the Council's commitment to driving standards within the services for children in need of help and protection is achieved.

The full OfSTED report has been attached as an appendix to the report but is also available via the following link: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/nottingham>.

The new inspection framework introduces a tougher test under which authorities have to achieve higher standards in order to attain the top ratings of 'Good' and 'Outstanding'.

The Committee should take special note of the comment 191 in the OfSTED report relating to the lack of robustness of the governance arrangements as the NCSCB independent chair does not report directly to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

191. In contrast, while the overview and scrutiny function receive a copy of the NCSCB annual report, **the governance arrangements are not sufficiently robust and the panel do not hear directly from the NCSCB independent chair on safeguarding issues or other priorities of the NCSCB.**

In previous years, the NCSCB independent chair would report directly to the Young Nottingham Select Committee on an annual basis (January) as it was included in the Committee's terms of reference. In 2011, the Overview and Scrutiny structure moved away from regular standing panels/select committees, and this annual review (not a legal requirement) was not included in the terms of reference for the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could have requested this topic for review at any time.

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children's Board (NCSCB)

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children's Board was formally established in April 2006 in response to the requirements of the Children Act 2004 and its accompanying guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2006). The scope and the role of local SCBs is to focus on the broader remit of safeguarding and prevention in addition to child protection. The Annual Report 2012-13 measures progress against each of the following objectives:

- To coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area of the authority; and
- To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose.

The Independent Chair, Paul Burnett, presented the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board (NCSCB), Annual Report 2012 - 13 report, to the Health and Wellbeing Committee on 8 January 2014 (you can view the report via this link agenda item 11 - <http://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?CommitteeId=185&MeetingId=3743&DF=08%2f01%2f2014&Ver=2>).

A further report was submitted to Children's Partnership Board on 10 December 2014, and can be viewed via the following link:

[http://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/documents/s17534/8%20NCSCB REPORT.pdf](http://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/documents/s17534/8%20NCSCB%20REPORT.pdf)

The NCSCB set a Business Plan¹ for 2011 – 14 in order to align with the Nottingham City Children and Young People's Plan. An Implementation Plan for 2012 – 13 was agreed at a development session in January 2012 to ensure a focus on the following key areas for the year²:

- To develop joint working between Nottingham City Adults Safeguarding Protection Board (NCASPB) and the NCSCB and ensure appropriate governance in the light of national and local policy and structural change.
- Ensure Sexual Abuse, including Child Sexual Exploitation is effectively managed by partner agencies;
- Ensure safeguarding practice and processes are in place for children and young people who go missing, including those who are missing from education;
- Ensure Domestic Violence is acknowledged and managed as a priority safeguarding concern;
- Review all planning and commissioning of services for children and young people to ensure they take into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

During 2012/13, the NCSCB undertook a review of governance arrangements³ along with the Nottingham City Adults Safeguarding Partnership Board (NCASPB). The purpose of this was to ensure effective coordination of the safeguarding agenda, develop consistency in approach and develop efficient ways of working across the boards and all agencies working within them. As a result of this review, new structures were agreed for both boards and a shared NCSCB / NCASPB Business Plan for 2013 / 14 was developed to reflect the individual and shared priorities of both boards. The new structure was implemented from September 2012, with the first meeting taking place in September 2012 and a new business plan operational from 1 April 2013.

Relationship to the Children's Partnership Board

The NCSCB and the Children's Partnership Board are linked together through the Independent Chair of the NCSCB who reports twice yearly to the CPB on the work of the NCSCB and the work of the partner agencies in safeguarding children. The Chair will also present the NCSCB Annual Report to the Children's Trust. The Independent Chair receives all

¹ Information taken from the NCSCB Annual report 2012-13, paragraph 3.1

² Information taken from the NCSCB Annual report 2012-13, paragraph 3.4

³ Information taken from the NCSCB Annual report 2012-13, paragraph 3.7

minutes, agendas and papers for all meetings of the Trust and can make representation on matters arising.

The Director of Children's Services is a member of the NCSCB and reports on CPB matters to all NCSCB meetings. The NCSCB seeks to provide challenge and scrutiny to the work of the CPB ensuring that in the commissioning, planning and delivery of services, the safeguarding of children is paramount in the Trust Board's decision making.

Relationships to the Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health & Wellbeing Board meets every other month with additional meetings called if required. The NCSCB is named as a key report for the Health & Well Being Board and this is undertaken through the Corporate Director of Children & Families, with further development of an effective interface between the boards underway.

4. List of attached information

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2012-13

Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, and Review of the effectiveness of the local safeguarding children board, 14 May 2014

Report to be submitted via Paul Burnett, Independent Chair of NCSCB (circulated with final agenda)

Report to be submitted via Alison Michalska, Corporate Director for Children and Adults (circulated with final agenda)

The response of Nottingham City Council and the NCSCB to the OfSTED inspection.

5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

None.

6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report

None.

7. Wards affected

City-wide.

8. Contact information

Rav Kalsi
Senior Governance Officer
Rav.kalsi@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
0115 8763759