



## Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

### Corporate Director of Children's Services

July 2017

#### My ADCS Presidency

As you may be aware, on 1st April 2017 I officially became President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services, which is a national leadership association in England for statutory Directors of Children's Services.

I am honoured to have the opportunity to represent colleagues at a national level and to give voice to some of the challenges facing children, young people and their families and the local authorities working so hard to support them. I look forward to the year ahead which is made even more special as this year ADCS celebrates 10 years since its creation.

In my [inaugural speech](#) I outlined the Association's priorities for the coming year and what I hope will be the golden thread throughout my presidency and beyond. I look forward to working towards the delivery of these priorities and to supporting a national conversation on what a country that works for children might look like.

We need a country that works for all children! It is estimated that there are 4 million children living in poverty – that's almost one third of the total child population. We need a country that is preparing its children to thrive, not just survive; that ensures that children are kept safe and that they have accessible, inclusive educational opportunities. If the Government wants to achieve its ambition to create 'a country that works for everyone', we must first start with one that works to get the best for our children.

My other key presidential policy priorities for the coming year are:

- Commissioning more placement capacity closer to home to reduce distant placements to enable us to meet the needs of children and young people better.
- Education policy – it is time to reset the role of the local authority!
- To mobilise knowledge and learning from improvement and innovation and share it across the sector.

It will be a huge privilege to drive and influence this and other work over the coming 12 months; I look forward to working with you during my presidency and to championing a country that works for all children.

#### Feedback from our Foster Carers!

Foster Care Fortnight (8-21 May) provided another great opportunity to drive home the message about how important it is for us to find people who can provide stable, loving homes for our children and young people in care.

Our fantastic fostering team went out and spoke to people in supermarkets, libraries and in Old Market Square. We held a successful information evening with the Bishop of Southwell at St Nic's Church on Maid Marian Way. We've

had huge billboards around the city and even an advert running on Smooth Radio – all asking people to ‘Make a Difference: foster with Nottingham City Council’.

But, of course, the best promotion is hearing from our foster carers themselves. Our council’s Twitter feed has been full of videos from amazing people like Will, Sue, Mavis, Graham, Andrea, Sylvia, Mandy and Dave. It’s their voices that often make the biggest impact.

If you get chance, take a few moments to watch and share some of these voices at MyNottingham on Twitter. They’re also on our YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b7muo9fnhg>

And, most importantly, if you’ve ever considered fostering, then why not make the decision to find out more today. It’s all on our website: [www.fosteringnottingham.com](http://www.fosteringnottingham.com)

## **Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse**

Within my newsletter last year, I spoke about the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and the Nottingham context. I also held briefings for members of staff who have worked within Children’s Social Care historically.

IICSA have been continuing to request information from Nottingham City Council around current and historical policies, procedures, guidance, investigation reports and civil claims. To date we still do not have any indication of the time period that they are interested in as part of their investigation.

Starting in June, initially for four weeks a Truth Project will be held in Nottingham. These sessions will allow victims and survivors of child sexual abuse to share their experiences with the Inquiry.

In March 2017 the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) announced that it was inviting applications from individuals or institutions who wish to be designated as a core participant in the investigation. Applications were submitted by Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Police due to their respective roles in relation to the matters to which the Inquiry relates. A preliminary hearing was held on 11th May 2017 where we were confirmed as core participants.

For more information on IICSA please visit their website <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/>

## **Association of Directors of Childrens Services (ADCS) Blogs**

In my role as President of ADCS, I regularly have to write blogs on a variety of issues – I thought that you might like to read my most recent one:

Looking After Each Other - <http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/looking-after-each-other>

Foster Care – The heart of our system - <http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/foster-care-the-heart-of-our-care-system>

A Country that works for children - <http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/a-country-that-works-for-children>

Keep calm, its only Ofsted - <http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/keep-calm-its-only-ofsted>

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