



Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

Corporate Director of Children's Services

September 2017

Recognition of achievement and positive press coverage following our Ofsted Pilot Inspection

I am proud to share with you some of the positive comments and congratulations we have received regarding the outcome of our Pilot Ofsted Inspection for Children's Services, which took place earlier this year. The outcome of the inspection was discussed at Exec Panel on 20th July, whereby the Leader thanked everyone in Children's Services for their continued hard work. He expressed his confidence in our services and was delighted that we are now recognised by Ofsted as Good.

The congratulations continued at the Labour Group meeting on 24th July, when Councillor Mellen presented the work across our service and inspection findings. The Chair commented that he is very reassured by the improvement in our services, and Councillors recognised that it was "a brave decision" to co-operate with a pilot approach and new methodology for inspection, acknowledging that we can then influence its development. The investment in MST and MST CAN was seen as being very good; ensuring that we make a lifelong difference for children and their families, whilst also making good financial sense and protecting more services for children too. There was a recognition that levels of need for all our services continues to grow, given the changes in welfare payments and austerity, and there was support of our work to maintain early help services locally. Labour Councillors wanted to thank the workforce for their hard work and drive to improve services for the city's children.

We have also recently received some positive press coverage, with an article featured in Community Care regarding our journey to good, and an article in Children and Young People Now which focusses on the changes to the Ofsted framework and the findings of the inspection team during their visit.

You can read these articles by following the links below:

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/2017/07/19/new-system-recruiting-social-workers-councils-journey-good/>

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2003950/ofsted-rates-council-good-in-trial-of-new-inspection-framework>

Budget Position for Children and Adults Services

Up and down the country, Children's and Adults' Services are facing unprecedented demand. This, at the same time as significant reductions in the level of resources available to Local Authorities, is creating budget challenges beyond anything previously experienced.

In light of these ongoing budget challenges, we are looking at opportunities for us to review how and why we work in certain ways to enable us to try and identify savings.

GCSE and A-Level Results Days

There have been changes to the way GCSE grades are issued this year – with pupils receiving a score of 9 to 1 rather than the traditional A* to G in English and Maths. Under the new system, a 4 is roughly equivalent to the old C grade. This has made direct comparisons a little more difficult but early indications would appear to suggest that, overall, Nottingham has performed similarly to previous years – some schools have done better than in 2016 and others have struggled.

We will continue to work with schools and academies in the city to help them improve, and further support the Education Improvement Board with its 10-year plan for Nottingham.

Introduction of 30 Hours Free Childcare from September 2017

In an increase to the existing 15 hours universal entitlement of free childcare for all 3 and 4 year olds, September sees the introduction of the 30 hours of free childcare for eligible working families. The Department for Education estimates that there are approximately 2,080 eligible children in the city, and the Early Years Team have been working with local provision to prepare for the introduction of this new local authority statutory duty.

Information for parents on the 30 hours can be found at www.asklion.co.uk/30hours, and parents can check their eligibility via the Childcare Choices website: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>. We would ask all staff working with parents to encourage them to check their availability, to encourage as much take-up as possible. Your support in reaching further families to inform them of this entitlement would be hugely appreciated.

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:

Youth services: our last line of defence - <http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/youth-services-our-last-line-of-defence>

ADCS Annual Conference - <http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/adcs-annual-conference>

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(September 2017)