

Nottingham Children's Partnership Board

Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care

20th March 2019

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Strengths (1)

- Clear vision across the service.
- Highly respected and visible leaders.
- Staff have a strong commitment to the City.
- Relatively low turnover of social workers and successful recruitment and development of newly qualified social workers.
- Impressive and responsive front door/MASH arrangements. Robust and timely multi agency responses keep children safe.
- Early intervention, edge of care services, targeted family support effective at supporting children in their own families.



Strengths (2)

- Thorough and timely assessments and good quality direct work by staff with families.
- Strong response to new and emerging complex/high risk safeguarding issues.
- Children in Care live in stable homes, siblings are supported to stay together.
- Children in Care report good relationships with their social workers and they are listened to and their views taken into account.
- Effective strategic partnerships.
- Wide array of family support services, play and youth services which identify early the children in need of help.



Significant areas of improvement since our last inspection

- **Fostering service**
- **CiC services**
 - Effective specialist support for UASC,
 - Stronger staff teams, manageable caseloads for staff
- **Care leavers**



Inspectors Concerns

- Capacity of Social Workers to manage the high demands and complexity of need in the City.
- Capacity of front line and middle managers.
- The Virtual Schools is not yet ensuring a good education for all Children in Care.
- Not all plans for children are clear enough as to what is expected of the family and not always progressed in a timely way.
- The number of young people detained overnight in Police cells.
- Levels of child and family poverty and resultant neglect.



Areas for Improvement

- Management oversight of private fostering.
- Quality of planning for children and their review.
- Timely action for children living with sustained neglect.
- Quality of management oversight and supervision of social workers to progress children's plans.
- Quality/consistency of return home interviews for children who go missing.
- Educational progress and achievement of children in care.
- Availability of sufficient and suitable emergency accommodation for vulnerable young people and children with complex needs.
- The progress and timeliness of permanence plans for children inc. fostering for adoption.



Next Steps

- Improvement plan developed and due to be submitted March 2019.
- Ofsted Annual Challenge Conversation (May 2019).
- Focussed visit or JTAI expected within the next 18 months.
- Full inspection expected in next 3 years.
- Next inspection is likely to be SEND Local Area Review by the end 2019/20.



Link to report on Ofsted website

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/892>

