



Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board
Corporate Director of Children's Services

March 2019

Councillor Mellen's Big Reading Challenge

Councillor David Mellen, Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years at Nottingham City Council, has completed his Big Reading Challenge – smashing his target of reading to more than 5,000 children in 50 days.

Since 28 January, Cllr Mellen has read to children in schools, libraries, theatres, bookshops, taxis and the main city council chamber. He has even read to children at the top of a windmill. His final total is 6,504 children.

The Big Reading Challenge has raised more than £5,000 to give books to children in the city through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library – an amazing scheme that delivers a free book every month to children from birth to five years old.

Reaching his fundraising target means Cllr Mellen has raised enough money to provide 2,500 free books for children – or the equivalent of a whole class of 40 children being able to receive a free book from birth to the age of five.

His final challenge on Monday 18 March saw him read to the whole of Mellers Primary School in Radford – 330 children – where Cllr Mellen is a former Head Teacher.

In 50 days, the final statistics for the Big Reading Challenge are:

- 6,504 children read to in Nottingham
- 166 stories read
- 75 locations
- £5,123 raised (to date)

The Imagination Library is proven to improve children's literacy levels so that they are 28% more likely to be ready to start school when they turn five. The scheme in Nottingham was set up in 2009 and is now running successfully in 10 of the city's 20 wards.

Although the fundraising target has been reached, donations can still be made – and every donation helps:

- £2 can pay for a child to get a new book
- £25 can pay for a child to get a new book each month for a year
- £125 pays for a child to get a book every month from birth until their 5th birthday

Donations can be made at www.gofundme.com/bigreadingchallenge

Building Brains with the Big Little Moments!

Earlier this month Small Steps Big Changes launched their new initiative called 'Big Little Moments', which aims to promote the importance of child development locally. The

aim of the initiative is to boost learning and play between parents/carers and children in response to the levels of literacy among local children – which falls below the national average.

Around 1,850 reception-aged children in Nottingham start school with a language delay each year – a figure that directly correlates with low levels of nurturing and support.

The moments are:

1. Reading a story
2. Using loving words
3. Making everyday moments fun
4. Talking to the bump
5. Making time to play
6. Listening and responding
7. Saying what they see
8. Saying what they're doing
9. Singing songs and rhyming rhymes
10. Answering all their questions
11. Giving hugs and high-fives
12. Having skin-to-skin contact with your new baby
13. Saying 'well done' with stories and play
14. Making waiting time, play time
15. Turning screen time into talk time

For more information, please see:

<http://www.smallstepsbigchanges.org.uk/biglittlemoments>

Family Support Pathway 2018/20 – Threshold for Support and Safeguarding

We are pleased to launch the refresh of the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board Family Support Pathway 2018/20.

It sets out the threshold for access to support and services for professionals working with children and families, to promote welfare, safeguard and achieve positive outcomes, so that children and young people are safe from harm, inside their home, outside their home and online. It is a framework to provide a pathway and practice guidance to ensure children and families receive the right help at the right time.

Further information about the revised Family Support Pathway is available on the [Children's Partnership Board website](#).

Our successful schools expansion programme continues

Another of our primary schools has been boosted by a new £1.8m expansion – increasing its space for pupils by 210 places. Six new classrooms, toilet blocks, a staff room and storage space have been created at Glade Hill Primary in Bestwood Park.

The expansion at Glade Hill is part of our ambitious plan to increase the number of school places in Nottingham, with £42m invested since 2009 to provide 5,000 additional primary places once all year groups are full by 2022.

Our schools team works really hard to ensure the right number of places is available for the right number of children. Our ambition is for every child to go to a 'good' school close to home.

Structure Change - Early Help, Play and Youth Services

In January, Aileen Wilson retired from her role as joint Head of Early Help Services (covering CAMHS, Children's Centres, Play and Youth, Priority Families / FIP, Youth Justice Services). Aileen joined the Children's directorate in 1999 and over the past 20 years has worked in many different service areas, building a huge range of expertise and relationships both with staff and across the wider children's partnership.

With Aileen's departure, Wilf Fearon has been appointed as acting Head of Service for Early Help, which will continue to be a shared post with Shelley Nicholls. Wilf and Shelley are currently working together to ensure it is 'business as usual' whilst they decide who has lead responsibility on specific Early Help areas. They will provide more details in due course. One change that has been agreed is that the Children in Care CAMHS team will move under Clive Chambers' area of responsibility.

Alison Michalska
Corporate Director for Children and Adults
(March 2019)