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**Nottingham  
City Council**

## **Nottingham City Council Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

**Date:** Wednesday, 15 May 2024

**Time:** 9.30 am

**Place:** Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG

**Councillors are requested to attend the above meeting to transact the following business**

**Director for Legal and Governance**

**Governance Officer:** Damon Stanton

**Direct Dial:** 0115 87 64345

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 3 Minutes** 3 - 14  
To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2024
- 4 Tackling Child Exploitation Strategy** 15 - 28  
Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer
- 5 Children's Services Improvement - TO FOLLOW**  
Report of the Director for Children's Integrated Services
- 6 Recommendation Tracker** 29 - 34  
To note the responses received to the Committee's recommendations

If you need any advice on declaring an Interest in any item on the agenda, please contact the Governance Officer shown above, if possible before the day of the meeting.

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## Nottingham City Council

### Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 28 March 2024 from 9.32 am - 11.42 am

#### Membership

##### Present

Councillor Naim Salim (Chair)  
Councillor Samuel Gardiner  
Councillor Georgia Power  
Councillor Ethan Radford  
Councillor Michael Savage  
Councillor Adele Williams

##### Absent

Councillor Fozia Mubashar  
Councillor Maria Watson

#### Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Cheryl Barnard - Portfolio Holder for Children Young People and Education  
Karla Banfield - Head of Commissioning  
Ailsa Barr - Director of Children's Integrated Services  
Veronica Fairley - Supporting Families Co-ordinator  
Roz Howie - Interim Director of Adult Health, Social Care and Commissioning  
Kate Morris - Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer  
Damon Stanton - Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer  
Catherine Underwood - Corporate Director for People

#### 30 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Fozia Mubashir - Personal  
Councillor Maria Watson - Other Council Business.

#### 31 Declarations of Interest

In the interests of transparency Councillor Georgia Power highlighted that she worked for the Children's Society. This did not preclude her from speaking on any item.

#### 32 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2024 were confirmed as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

#### 33 Children in Care Placement Sufficiency

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Portfolio Holder for Children Young People and Education introduced the report on Children in Care Placement Sufficiency. Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director of People Services, Ailsa Barr, Director for Integrated

Children's Services, Karla Banfield, Head of Commissioning, and Roz Howie Interim Director of Adult Social Care and Commissioning attended and gave a presentation highlighting the following points:

- a) Whilst all work possible is done to prevent children coming into care, the Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient placements for those that do. The Council uses a mix of placement types, from in-house residential provision, all rated good or outstanding by Ofsted, fostering, short term respite care and supported accommodation, as well as external residential placements where necessary.
- b) The Council works with other regional local authorities and with the D2N2 partnership to provide best value placements that focus on the best outcomes for children and young people. The Sufficiency Strategy, originally drafted in 2023 is updated annually to address the changes in demand for placements and works to ensure that placements available for children and young people are right first time.
- c) Issues around placement sufficiency are not unique to Nottingham, it is an issue recognised nationally and the need for reform is highlighted in the findings for the Competition and Markets Authority Children's Social Care Market Study from 2022. This national completion for placements is exacerbated in Nottingham by the higher levels of deprivation seen in many parts of the city.
- d) The strategy was rewritten in 2023 updating it as the market emerged from the pandemic and the periods of lockdown and is being updated annually, taking into account market changes, partnership working, regional networks and the Voice of the Child. This is the first time that Care Leavers have been specifically included within the strategy. Colleagues within Commissioning are working closely with Children's Services, creating an action plan and updating the strategy to best fit the current market and demand.
- e) Since the last strategy was published there has been further work around market development in Nottingham, with additional fostering placements and residential placements and specific work with health partners around placement for children with complex needs. Work with the D2N2 partnership has ensured that both Councils are able to maximise benefits of the established commissioning framework.
- f) There are a number of challenges that the strategy aims to mitigate. There are still gaps in provision, particularly for children and young people with complex needs. A number of pilots are being run and the outcomes assessed before bringing them into fulltime use. Commissioning intentions reflected in the strategy will include a drive towards quality and stability in placements to reduce demand, block commissioning through frameworks and maximising use of internal services to drive efficiencies. Commissioning colleagues are in regular dialogue with providers and will continue to do so.

During discussion the following questions were asked, and responses highlighted:

- g) Members asked how the Council would achieve best value whilst still relying on external providers for placements. There are a number of different activities undertaken to ensure that the Council balances best value with best outcomes for children and young people. Block buying through frameworks established with partners helps to drive efficiencies and provide better placements, particularly work with Health colleagues for young people with complex needs. Commissioning staff liaise with the smaller local providers around the type of provision that is needed for the City and looking to increase the level of long-term foster carers. The challenge is to ensure the right placement for a young person, the first time.
- h) Committee members asked what work was being done with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) around increasing placements for young people with complex needs and highlighted that these placements needed to feel like “homes” rather than “beds”. This is one of the current pilots being trialled by the City. The ICB commission the specialist placements, at present two, which are in a home setting with specialist care and wrap around support which are in a home setting. They are currently short-term placements with wrap around care and support in place which aims to stabilise the placement. This is currently a pilot scheme, due to come to an end later this year. Learning will be taken from the pilot and full consideration to a further roll out will be given.
- i) Committee members asked what was done to monitor the quality of placements which were outside the local area. The same approach is used to monitor the effectiveness of out of area placements as is used to monitor placements within the local area. There is a dedicated contracts team that monitors the provision and placement through the frameworks. Colleagues are also regularly in touch with counterparts in the area where external placements are to ensure local information is gathered too. Ofsted ratings can be made available for the individual placements.
- j) Committee members asked how successful the drive to recruit more foster carers had been, and what work had been done to increase the retention rate. Over the last year the Council has approved nine new foster carers with further families making their way through the assessment and approval process who will go before the Foster Approval Panel in the new financial year. This is up from five additional families the previous year. A new, regional fostering recruitment hub has been launched in partnership with D2N2. The regional fostering hub is in collaboration with 4 local authorities. This pilot project is currently funded by the DfE and the benefits will be monitored for the duration of the pilot. If it is deemed successful work will take place to see how it can be sustained and expanded in future years. In terms of retention of existing foster carers there have been no “regretted” resignations since June 2023. This means that where foster carers have left the authority it is for positive reasons, such as adopting or receiving a special guardianship order for the children they are caring for. Carers report feeling more supported and significant work has gone into improving support for existing carers.
- k) Committee members asked how the sufficiency strategy took into account the aim to spend money in Nottingham to grow the Nottingham economy. The primary job of the strategy is to ensure sufficient placements are available to

the Council for children and young people with as many placements as possible being local to ensure children can maintain familiar relationships where possible. The commissioning team is forming good relationships with providers who are interested to know what provision the City requires within the local area, collaborative work is underway to ensure the kind of provision that is needed is developed within the city and the local area.

- l) Committee members asked whether there were plans to extend the inhouse provision, and what the barriers to doing so would be. Providing in house provision is a balancing act between the benefit and the risk. Most local authorities have some in house provision and compared to many Nottingham City Council has a larger than average inhouse estate. The process from the decision being taken to create new inhouse provision to that provision being available for use can be around 2 years. One significant barrier can be the recruitment of a registered manager, which all authorities are struggling with nationally. The average cost of external provision is not very different to the cost of in-house provision and providing inhouse services comes with additional risk and financial investment.
- m) Committee members asked how complexity of need impacts cost of placement, and whether inhouse or external placements were preferable in cases of most complexity. Each young person's need is assessed and a suitable placement for need is essential. On occasion, both inhouse and externally, the correct placement can only be found by increasing staffing ratios, which usually means, for example, a two or three bed placement becomes a one bed placement. This increased the cost of the placement as the other beds are not able to be used. This is the case both inhouse and for external provision and so costs would not be reduced by using solely inhouse provision.
- n) Committee members asked whether the recent round of budget cuts had impacted the work to recruit and support foster carers. The Regional Fostering hub, set up alongside the D2N2 partnership, has DfE funding and so has not been impacted by the recent budget cuts. The current financial situation is not having a negative impact on the plans to increase inhouse fostering provision. Services still have sufficient resource to offer the therapeutic support to foster families.
- o) Members asked how the report of the CMA highlighted the significant profits of placement providers but that there was not a significant difference in cost between inhouse and external provision. The CMA report is referring to the large national providers who are making significant profit on placements. Commissioners are spending time working with local and independent placement providers to ensure the council achieves best value. These smaller and independent providers charge less on average whereas the large national providers are outliers in terms of cost.
- p) Committee members asked whether the balance of provision for the City was right. The data within the published report is the most up to date data, but does come from 2022, when the strategy was last refreshed. The old Strategy reflected the provision that was right for the City at that point, as the Country

was emerging from successive lockdowns and the Covid Pandemic. The City's need has changed and the landscape has moved on since the last strategy was published which is why the strategy is being refreshed, and will be refreshed annually to reflect the changing need of the city moving forward. Part of the work to refresh the strategy includes a deep dive into data sets to get a far better understanding of the market.

- q) Committee members asked whether the Authority used independent fostering agencies to increase fostering provision. The Council does work with independent fostering agencies. Following the pandemic there was a national reduction in the number of carers. Commissioning teams and Children's services colleagues regularly liaise with independent foster providers around the services the Council can provide for carers, additional support offered and discussions around specific children requiring care and possible matches to carers. This market engagement has helped to improve placement availability and relationships with the independent foster providers, but there is still work to do to approach more providers that the Council has identified as ones they would like to work with.
- r) Committee members asked how the Commissioning team identified providers they wanted to work with. The team look at a variety of factors, including Ofsted ratings, how local to Nottingham they are, their reputation in the sector as well as with other local authorities. The Team have identified a small number of providers they would not work with and although there is no formal rating system other providers are welcomed to approach the Council to start dialogue.
- s) Committee members asked whether unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people had specific access to translators. Yes, translation services are available for the young people and where they are not placed with a family that speaks their language, for the placement too. Colleagues also work hard to ensure that unaccompanied asylum seekers are helped to connect with communities from their home countries when they arrive in the City. These factors are all built into the work programme behind the Sufficiency Strategy.
- t) Committee members questioned whether the Authority had an open book relationship with the larger providers in the city. The Council is looking at open book relationships with large providers across both adult and children's social care. Work is being undertaken to look at best practice from other authorities and how that can be built into new contracts and used to hold providers to account.

The Chair thanked the Portfolio Holder for Children Young People and Education, the Corporate Director of People Services, the Director for Integrated Children's Services, the Head of Commissioning and the Interim Director of Adult Social Care and Commissioning for attending the meeting and answering the questions that Committee members had posed.

**Resolved:**

- 1) In respect of the quality of local provision outlined in the Strategy, that the ratings for the providers who are not located in the city are shared with the Committee.**
- 2) Recommends that a comparative analysis is carried out to ascertain the outcomes between internal and external provision.**
- 3) Recommends that when the Strategy is reviewed, work with community groups is included and expanded on.**

### **34 Review of the Early Help Strategy**

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Portfolio Holder for Children Young People and Education introduced the report on the Early Help Partnership Strategy. Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director of People Services, Ailsa Barr, Director for Integrated Children's Services and Veronica Fairly, Supporting families Co-ordinator gave a presentation outlining the strategy and the work currently under way. They highlighted the following points:

- a) Early help support is mainly delivered through the four Family Hubs which act as a single point of access for whole family support and services from conception up to 19 and up to age 25 for children with special education needs or disabilities. The hubs provide a range of services which aim to provide holistic support, clear referral pathways and links to partner organisations. There are four hubs in total, located in Bestwood, Broxtowe, Meadows and Hyson Green.
- b) The Early Help Partnership Strategy was launched in October 2023 as a way of improving partnership working and ensuring a multi partner response to need across the city. The strategy has a number of aims and priorities around building resilience for families, embedding a whole system approach and joined up partnership working.
- c) The five main priorities of the Strategy each had a subgroup working to push forward and establish their work. Priority 1 is to embed a whole system approach with work being undertaken to agree practice guidance, ensure access to all materials in a variety of formats and in the 5 most prevalent languages used in the city. Additional work is ongoing to ensure partnership access to electronic records and information, and to standardise language and documentation.
- d) The second priority is around partnership working, with work taking place to develop an updated communication and marketing strategy. The website has been launched and has had an encouraging number of visitors, and work to refine the collective Core Offer continues with partners. Work is focusing on how to communicate with the harder to reach families, with advertising being placed in a range of public places, such as GP surgeries, and community centres. All Councillors have received details of the family hubs offer and how citizens can access the services.



- e) The third priority is around workforce development across the partnership and developing a cross partnership training plan. A Strategic Steering group has been established and a number of subgroups have been set up to ensure that services across the partnership are aligned. Work is underway to share various training resources across the partnership to allow collaborative and joined up working where all practitioners feel supported and informed.
- f) The fourth priority is around measuring the impact of the Early Help Partnership and creating an audit tool. Work is ongoing with partners to develop and agree key performance indicators, and develop a consistent approach to gathering feedback from service users.
- g) The fifth priority is around funding and identifying sustainability options for the Partnership and how funding can be pooled. Work is happening to develop a sustainability strategy for 2025. The Council and partners are applying for a variety of funding streams to collaborate and maximise value.
- h) Although the partnership is established a vast array of work is underway to maximise the benefits of this collaborative partnership way of working. Recruitment is underway for grant funded vacancies to support the work of the Family hubs. There is further work needed to align the inhouse Early Help services with the wider Early help system and KPIs need to be agreed and monitoring implemented.

During discussion the following questions were asked and responses given:

- i) Committee members asked whether this Partnership was an expansion of the Priority Families work, and whether it was modelled on work found elsewhere in the Country. The development of the Partnership was a response to demand for services as the City came out of lockdown and is an expansion of the work done around the Priority Families programme. The way Early Help services are delivered across the Country differs from authority to authority, with no two Councils approaching it in exactly the same way. This particular model, with practitioners from partners embedded across different organisations has been developed by the City in response to the needs of the citizens. It has been possible to adopt elements of best practice from a number of different authorities operating similar models, but the Nottingham model is further progressed than many authorities at present.
- j) Committee members highlighted that although the services offered are for 0-19 and in some cases 25, the family hub spaces are very much geared towards young children and lacked space that would appeal to teenagers. They highlighted that there was dedicated space within the Councils property portfolio that was already geared towards older children and teenagers. This is a recognised issue and the process to update and diversify the appeal of the spaces within the Family Hubs is underway. Consultation has taken place with teenagers and young people to establish what they would like to see in the dedicated space that would make them feel comfortable.
- k) Committee members queries some of the statistics within the report, highlighting that they included numbers of young people identified to be at risk

of criminal exploitation, but did not include numbers of those at risk of sexual or financial exploitation.

- l) Committee members questioned how the Authority defines at risk as only a small number of the identified young people were referred to the national referral mechanism. The National referral mechanism has very strict criteria for referral but an internal review is underway around how the Council uses it to consider whether more referrals should be made and the outcome of those referrals that are being made with the aim being that every child who should be referred, is.
- m) Committee members raised concerns that the report highlights that the cost of living crisis is having a more acute effect on private renters, and that the recent budget agreed to cut advice services for the private renting sector. Work is already underway to explore options to deliver the advice services in a different way and to continue to effectively distribute the energy vouchers. The Council is working with the voluntary sector to ensure support is available, but it will look different to how services have previously been delivered.
- n) Committee members asked whether the Council had applied for Pathfinder status and if not, what was being done to learn from the first phase. Unfortunately, due to the Ofsted rating of Children's service the Council was not able to apply for Pathfinder status. Officers are meeting with counterparts from Lincolnshire Council, that has Pathfinder status, and although the two authorities are very different it is still possible to take learning from the work done. Officers will also be looking further afield to other Councils such as Telford and Sunderland for more similar authorities with Pathfinder status as well as Wolverhampton.
- o) Committee members asked for more detail on the work being done to develop the KPI's for measuring the effectiveness of the Early Help Partnership, and whether they would be shared with the committee. Work is underway with partners to establish a standard set of KPIs. Discussions have taken place with other authorities but as no authority runs the same model direct comparison is difficult, but there have been some good ideas and thoughts around good practice. The Subgroup is working on the initial draft of the KPI's being careful to ensure that the right targets are being set and the right metrics are being measured. These KPIs will then be signed off by the Steering group and can be shared with this committee. These KPIs will be under review to ensure that the right data is being gathered and that they give an accurate indication of the impact of the Partnership.
- p) Committee members highlighted that support for children and young people with mental health issues were often very hard to access. They asked how the Early Help Partnership work would help to support families around access to mental health support. CAMHS is a mental health service commissioned by the Council through the ICB. There is work underway within the Council to better link these services with school services. The way funding is currently structured it is more beneficial for CAMHS to remain outside the partnership but for the system to have well developed pathways for referral and joint working with CAMHS. In some cases, there are long waiting times for referral

to these specialist services and within the Partnership work is being undertaken to establish additional support for families waiting for referral. There is some very good practice in schools that is being used to help shape the services available to support children and parents.

The Chair thanked the Portfolio Holder for Children Young People and Education, the Corporate Director of People Services, the Director for Integrated Children's Services and the Supporting Families Co-ordinator for attending the meeting and for answering the questions Committee members posed.

**Resolved:**

- 1) The Strategy (page 18) outlines that 232 children out of 5383 of those assessed were at risk of child criminal exploitation (CCE). The Committee recommends that this also includes sexual and financial exploitation.**
- 2) That the KPI's proposed to monitor the Strategy are shared with the Committee.**
- 3) Recommends that there is a review of the statistics outlined on page 10 of the Strategy.**
- 4) Recommends that the Council explores how it can make its buildings and services more teenage friendly.**
- 5) Recommends that the Council uses existing service provisions to support families with the cost of living crisis and child poverty.**

### **35 Children's Services Improvement**

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education updated the committee on the work being undertaken as part of the Children's services improvement plan. She highlighted the following points:

- a) Since the last update to the Committee there has not been a further monitoring visits by Ofsted, however preparatory work for the next one, which will focus on the Children in Care Service, is under way. The visit will take place in mid-April, and the report with comments will be available from mid-May. This visit will be one of the more challenging areas for the Council as there is a higher reliance on agency staff within this area, and caseloads are still high.
- b) Improvement specialists are working with managers looking at funding from the DfE to increase staffing levels, and to make agency staff into permanent team members. Resources are being redistributed to address current need and work continues to address the rising cost of external residential care placements.
- c) Children's Services recently held its annual practice conference, designed by the workforce, and supported by the DfE. Content was delivered by a wide

range of colleagues including frontline staff. Feedback has been positive with staff finding the content helpful.

During discussion the following questions were asked, and answers given:

- d) Members asked how the Council is working to convert agency staff into permanent colleagues. Managers are in regular contact with agency staff to discuss converting their contracts into permanent colleagues. These are both informal and formal discussions which have been successful in a number of cases.
- e) Members asked about the timelines and when the bulk of the transformation work would be complete leading to a more stable service with a Good or better Ofsted rating. Transformation work will continue throughout the services as an ongoing thread of work. There will always be changes within the service as it responds to changing pressures and challenges within the area. Following the completion of the monitoring visits Ofsted will likely complete a full inspection. The monitoring period is likely to continue until September 2025 so a full inspection would be anticipated after that point.

The Chair thanks the Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education, the Corporate Director for People and the Director for Integrated Children's Services for attending and for answering the questions put to her by the committee.

The Chair extended thanks and well wishes to the Corporate Director for People on the news that she would be moving on from her role with Nottingham City Council. He thanked her for her hard work through what had been a difficult time for Nottingham.

**Resolved that in light of Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People leaving the Council, the Committee recommends that the Council considers the establishment of a Corporate Director for Children and Young People (as Statutory Director for Children's Services), and a Corporate Director for Adults Social Care (as Statutory Director for Adult Social Services) given the large areas of responsibility and share of the budget**

### **36 Recommendation Tracker**

The Chair introduce the Recommendation Tracker to the committee noting that there were a number of responses outstanding. He asked that responses were received in a timely manner and that outstanding responses be presented at the next Committee meeting.

### **37 Work Programme**

The Chair of the committee introduced the Work Programme, highlighting that as this was the last meeting of the municipal year there were no further items. Work to collate the 24/25 work programme was underway. The Chair asked that any suggested items be forward to the Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee - 28.03.24

Members requested that an item around the cost of living crisis and child poverty be considered for the 24/25 work programme. The Chair would scope this item further with officers to determine how best an item can be scheduled into the Committee's Work Programme.

The Committee signed off the 23/24 work programme.

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## **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

**15 May 2024**

### **Tackling Child Exploitation Strategy**

#### **Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

#### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To scrutinise the Council's response in tackling child exploitation, including the Child Exploitation Strategy 2024-26, how the Strategy is implemented through the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Partnerships and the Tackling Child Exploitation Steering Group.

#### **2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
  - 1) To make any comments or recommendations on the Strategy or implementation of the Strategy, and partnership working in tackling child exploitation.
  - 2) That future scrutiny of the issue is considered including bringing the item back to Committee to assess performance after 12-18 months.

#### **3 Background information**

- 3.1 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee had previously considered child exploitation and had made a number of recommendations:
  - 1) That the Child Exploitation Strategy is co-produced with partners and that it seeks to embed trauma informed practice and engagement with all frontline workers who may have contact with children and young people.
  - 2) Review implementation of the Child Exploitation Strategy and, when it does so, invite representatives of Nottinghamshire Police to attend.
- 3.2 Child exploitation occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person into an activity that results in financial or other advantage for the perpetrator or facilitator.
- 3.3 The Council's vision is to reduce child exploitation in Nottingham, to keep children safe, so they can lead healthy lives. The Council is committed to taking new, innovative, and evidenced based approaches, focusing on

harm reduction in its communities, preventing victimisation and repeat victimisation, ensuring the lived experiences of the child sits at the centre of its approach.

- 3.4 The Council's Child Exploitation Strategy 2024-26 states its commitment is to: "Create a single whole system response, working in partnership to reduce child exploitation and extra-familial harm and protect our communities. All partners understand that anyone under 18 facing these harms, or causing harm to others, must be seen and treated as children and young people first and foremost and our success in tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm is evaluated against this fundamental principle."
- 3.5 The Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships are working collaboratively to implement the Child Exploitation strategy. It is being driven through the "Tackling Child Exploitation(TCE) Steering Group (this group is cross Local Authority and Safeguarding Childrens Partnerships), which meets on a quarterly basis.
- 3.6 This steering group includes representatives from the Police, Children's Social Care, Youth Justice Service, Early Help, Education, the ICB, Health Providers, and the National Probation Service.
- 3.7 The aim is to raise the profile of child exploitation to protect and safeguard children from harm achieve this by developing and maintaining effective local responses and through the delivery of an effective multi-agency strategy and delivery plan delivered by key partners through the Tackling Child Exploitation Steering Group. This includes the implementation of timely and effective risk management and the implementation of a comprehensive range of child centred interventions for children who are at risk or are victims of sexual and/or criminal exploitation.
- 3.8 The steering group has committed to introduce the multi-agency principles for Tackling Child Exploitation (Research in Practice with The Children's Society and Safer Lives at the University of Bedfordshire 2023). The 8 principles underpinning our response to the exploitation of children and young people are:
  - Putting children and young people first
  - Recognise and challenge inequalities, exclusion, and discrimination
  - Respect the voices, experiences and expertise of children and young people
  - Be strengths-based and relationship-based
  - Recognise and respond to trauma
  - Be curious, evidence-informed and knowledgeable
  - Approach parents and carers as partners wherever possible
  - Create safe spaces and places for children and young people



3.9 The attached report sets out in more detail the background, further information and action taken, and the next steps.

#### **4 List of attached information**

4.1 Report from the Director of Children's Integrated Services

4.2 Tackling Child Exploitation Strategy

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

5.1 None

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

6.1 None

#### **7 Wards affected**

7.1 All

#### **8 Contact information**

8.1 Damon Stanton, Scrutiny & Audit Support Officer  
[damon.stanton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:damon.stanton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

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<b>Meeting Title</b>	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report Title</b>	Tackling Child Exploitation Strategy: So that our children and young people feel: <b>“understood, believed, and treated like a human being. I feel my worker is interested in me and on my side. I know they don’t judge or blame me.”</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	May 15 <sup>th</sup> 2024

<b>Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):</b>	Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People Ailsa Barr, Director for Children’s Integrated Services
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	Councillor Cheryl Barnard
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	John Matravers john.matravers@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

<b>Summary of issues:</b> Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee recommended in March 2023, the following:  1. That the Child Exploitation Strategy is co-produced with partners and that it seeks to embed trauma informed practice and engagement with all frontline workers who may have contact with children and young people. 2. Review implementation of the Child Exploitation Strategy and, when it does so, invite representatives of Nottinghamshire Police to attend.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b> 1. That the planned approach of the Safeguarding Childrens Partnerships be noted 2. The strategy and performance against this strategy is brought back to Scrutiny Committee in the next 12 months.

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Child exploitation is a serious and growing crime. While the exploitation of children has been happening for a long time, the ways in which this now happens has evolved and increases the risks to our children.
- 1.2 Our vision is to reduce child exploitation in Nottingham, to keep children safe, so they can lead healthy lives. We commit to taking new, innovative, and evidenced based approaches, focusing on harm reduction in our communities, preventing victimisation and repeat victimisation, ensuring the lived experiences of the child sits at the centre of our approach.
- 1.3 Exploitation is a form of abuse.

- 1.4 Child exploitation occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person into an activity that results in financial or other advantage for the perpetrator or facilitator.
- 1.5 Specific types of exploitation include:
- Modern slavery (including human trafficking)
  - Sexual Exploitation
  - Criminal Exploitation
  - Radicalisation
- 1.6 Multiple types of exploitation can occur alongside one another or as part of other forms of abuse.
- 1.7 The two most prevalent forms of child exploitation are Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation.
- 1.8 Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity
- (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
  - (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.
- 1.9 The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual.
- 1.10 Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur using technology
- 1.11 Child criminal exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity:
- in exchange for something the victim needs or wants.
  - for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator.
  - through violence or the threat of violence.
- 1.12 The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual.
- 1.13 Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. The criminal exploitation of children is not confined to county lines but can also include other forms of criminal activity such as theft, acquisitive crime, knife crimes and other forms of criminality.
- 1.14 Children and young people who are criminally exploited are more likely to be arrested and criminalised for criminal behaviour, than those individuals or groups who are exploiting them. This is because they are more likely to be easily detected and often do not recognise that they are being exploited or are experiencing threats to their safety or that of their families. In such circumstances, children and young people should be considered as children who have/are experiencing abuse and exploitation first and consideration given to protecting them as victims

## **2. Information and Action taken**

- 2.1 Our Child Exploitation Strategy 2024-26 (attached) states our commitment is to: “Create a single whole system response, working in partnership to reduce child exploitation and extra-familial harm and protect our communities. All partners understand that anyone under 18 facing these harms, or causing harm to others, must be seen and treated as children and young people first and foremost and our success in tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm is evaluated against this fundamental principle.”
- 2.2 The Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships are working collaboratively to implement our Child Exploitation strategy. We are driving this through the “Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Steering Group (this group is cross Local Authority and Safeguarding Childrens Partnerships), which meets on a quarterly basis.
- 2.3 This steering group includes representatives from the Police, Children’s Social Care, Youth Justice Service, Early Help, Education the ICB, Health providers and the National Probation Service
- 2.4 We aim to raise the profile of child exploitation to protect and safeguard children from harm. We shall achieve this by developing and maintaining effective local responses and through the delivery of an effective multi-agency strategy and delivery plan delivered by key partners through the Tackling Child Exploitation Steering Group. This includes the implementation of timely and effective risk management and the implementation of a comprehensive range of child centred interventions for children who are at risk or are victims of sexual and/or criminal exploitation.
- 2.5 The steering group has committed to introduce the multi-agency principles for Tackling Child Exploitation (Research in Practice with The Children’s Society and Safer Lives at the University of Bedfordshire 2023) and we set the context for child exploitation for both the City and the County. We agreed that we would adopt the TCE multi-agency principles to underpin our strategic planning and practice moving forward. The 8 principles underpinning our response to the exploitation of children and young people are:
- Recognise and respond to trauma
  - Be curious, evidence-informed and knowledgeable
  - Approach parents and carers as partners wherever possible
  - Create safe spaces and places for children and young people
- 2.6 We hold regular workshops to address the TCE Strategic Partnership Assessment, where we break into discussion groups to groups focusing on the narrative journey of child exploitation both nationally and locally. This involves all partners assessing themselves against the 8 principles using the [Research in Practice Partnership](#)

[Reflective Tool](#) This then informs and populates our action plan which includes short and long term planning to support partnerships in improvement activities across all organisations individually and collectively.

- 2.7 There is strong commitment from both Senior Leadership Groups for the Safeguarding Children’s Partnerships to deliver this piece of work jointly and to multi-agency practice that has a shared purpose and direction with a focus on relationships and a strengths-based vision.
- 2.8 The 8 practice principles are central to our approach. Delivering these so that they are understood and embedded is our challenge and opportunity to impact positively on the lives of our children and young people. You will note for example that principle 5 is to “recognise and respond to trauma.”
- 2.9 Principle 6 is that we all must “Be curious, evidence-informed and knowledgeable” Each of the principles and the 4P’s model (Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare) demonstrate our commitment to working together to “create a single whole system response, working in partnership to reduce child exploitation and extra-familial harm”
- 2.10 There is a new Children at Risk of Exploitation Team (CaRE) in the police and the ambition for this being a multi-disciplinary team covering both city and county is an example of our commitment and ambition. Representatives from both LA childrens services team spend time each week co-located at Oxclose Lane Police Station.
- 2.11 Rob Griffin Assistant Chief Constable for Nottinghamshire Police and Strategic Leadership Group Chair for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council’s Safeguarding Children’s Partnership has stated the following:

*“Working Together 2018/2023 highlights the threat that children may face from outside their families that may make them vulnerable to abuse or exploitation. Until recently the neighbouring local authorities of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council have provided their own response to tackling child exploitation alongside their statutory partners. However, as the chair for the Strategic Leadership (SLG) for both Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire I am pleased to introduce Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire’s Safeguarding Children’s Partnerships joint commitment to tackling child exploitation.*

*The commitment and our practice are underpinned by the multi-agency practice principles for responding to child exploitation and extra familial harm (Research in Practice with The Children’s Society and Safer Lives at the University of Bedfordshire 2023) which are evidence-based drawing on academic research, practice wisdom and lived experience. They also support our partnerships commitments to multi-agency practice that has a shared purpose and direction with a focus on relationships and a strengths-*

*based vision of how we provide the right help, at the right time, to the right children and their families across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire.*

*Alongside this piece of work within Nottinghamshire Police force we have brought together our child exploitation expertise in to one Children at Risk of Exploitation Team (CaRE) and there is a commitment to this being a multi-disciplinary team covering both city and county.*

*This feels like an exciting time for both Safeguarding Partnerships and hopefully one of the first of many opportunities for us to bring together capacity not only in terms of resource but our passion, commitment, and dedication to safeguard children in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County against abuse and exploitation.”*

- 2.12 This is priority area of work and we can already start to see changes in culture and practice across our city and county. We have a commitment and determination to drive this transformation for our children, young people and their families
- 2.13 The impact of applying these principles to the work we do will be critical in impacting and improving the lived experience of our children and families. This does entail a significant shift in some cultures that exist, and the strategy will be crucial in developing, delivering, assessing, and revising our work with exploitation.

### **3. Next Steps**

- 3.1 Our collective aim is to create a whole system response that understands risk, and identifies when exploitation occurs, protects and supports children who are at risk of or subject to, child exploitation and disrupts and pursues those who target children for the purpose of abusing them
- 3.2 We recognise that identifying, understanding, tackling, and preventing the exploitation of children is a complex task that requires a coordinated collaborative approach from partners and work with the victim/survivor, their family, and the community.
- 3.3 All partners have committed to undertake and complete the strategic assessment over the next 12 months. This work is already well underway. Each of the 8 commitments will involve separate workshops to deliver our strategy.
- 3.4 The Strategic Group will be responsible for ensuring training is provided across the partnership to enable practitioners to be skilled in identifying exploitation, and knowledgeable about how to respond appropriately to safeguard children and young people. This will include in person awareness raising events, e-learning utilising existing platforms and access to virtual reality training that is already in place for Childrens Services.
- 3.5 A programme of training is to be designed and delivered to all staff across services working with children and young people. The partnership will ensure that this is delivered in an effective way through identifying training that can be cascaded, as

well as appropriate online training modules. The Strategic Group will be responsible for approaching relevant Safeguarding and Community Safety Boards to identify funding to support the rollout of appropriate training for the workforce.

Training for the workforce should include:

- Recognising the signs of child exploitation in children and young people
- Awareness of vulnerable locations across the area
- Understanding the association between Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation
- How to share intelligence relating to child exploitation concerns
- Procedures relating to safeguarding and protecting children and young people from child exploitation. Nottingham City Childrens Services has thorough operating procedures in place for its colleagues.
- Knowledge of thresholds and processes for accessing available support and interventions for those at risk of child exploitation.
- Understanding the link between Missing children and exploitation.
- Preventative child exploitation interventions for those within Early Help Services
- Intensive safeguarding child exploitation interventions for those within Youth Offending and Social Care Services

- 3.6 The partnership will also be responsible for raising awareness regarding child exploitation amongst children and young people themselves, so we can prevent young people from becoming exploited at the earliest point. Preventative programmes should be delivered in schools, and where possible to parents and professionals.
- 3.7 Presentations have already taken place with Designated Safeguarding Leads from the education sector.
- 3.8 The Strategic Group will be responsible for approaching relevant Safeguarding and Community Safety Boards to identify funding to support the delivery of awareness raising programmes for children and young people. For example, this will include the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.9 We shall build on the opportunity of co-locating services within the CaRE team based in Oxclose Lane, Nottingham.
- 3.10 There are 3 statements written below that we have challenged ourselves with in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire.

*“Our local strategy, policies and practices for child exploitation and extra-familial harm make it explicitly clear that anyone under 18 facing these harms, or causing harm to others, must be seen and treated as children and young people first and foremost. All partners understand this and our success in tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm is evaluated against this foundational Principle.”*

*“Any language that could contribute to labelling or victim-blaming is robustly challenged in our local partnership, and we continuously reflect on how our use of language is interlinked with our perception of children and young people, and how this impacts on the services and support children and young people receive.”*



*“We are confident that the child and young person-centred approach is implemented and practised in a consistent way across our partnership. Leaders and staff in all agencies ensure children and young people are not blamed or held responsible for the harm they face. Children and young people are seen holistically.”*

- 3.11 These are exacting standards that our children and young people expect from us, and we demand from ourselves. We have made progress over the last year but more needs to be done at pace to ensure that all organisations and agencies policies and practices, behaviours and cultures support the above statements.
- 3.12 Each partner has committed to holding itself individually and collectively accountable to the 8 principles that the above statements support. There is much work still to do but there is a collective will and desire to deliver on our strategy, to change practice, behaviour and culture to impact on and improve outcomes for all of our children and young people.

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# Our Child Exploitation Strategy 2024-26

## Our aim

To create a single whole system response, working in partnership to reduce child exploitation and extra familial harm and protect our communities. All partners understand that anyone under 18 facing these harms, or causing harm to others, must be seen and treated as children and young people first and foremost and our success in tackling child exploitation and extra-familial harm is evaluated against this foundational Principle.

### Our priorities



**Pursue**  
Relentless disruption and targeted action



**Prevent**  
Stopping the problem at the source



**Protect**  
Building the highest levels of defence and resilience



**Prepare**  
Tackling child exploitation together

## Our Objectives

Implementing the below '4 P' approach to work collaboratively with statutory partners and the voluntary sector to enable a multi agency response to safeguarding children at risk of Exploitation.

### Pursue



Work together across the system to pursue those responsible for child abuse in the form of criminal and sexual exploitation through prosecution, disruption, and the use of civil orders to protect the vulnerable.

Ensure good use of all available intelligence including the voices of children, young people, parents and carers to identify, understand and prioritise child exploitation and inform effective decision making.

Effectively target those who exploit and maximise opportunities to disrupt their criminality and bring offenders to justice.

### Prevent



Prevent and reduce the risk of exploitation posed to children by working with safeguarding partners, including parents, to identify and support those vulnerable to exploitation at the earliest opportunity.

Use a range of communication and technology to ensure we deliver key messages and create safe physical and virtual spaces in a manner that is most effective and accessible to the community. Raising awareness and a common understanding and approach to recognising and tackling child exploitation.

Identify and deliver contextual safeguarding in relation to place based risk and high-risk locations by engaging a wide range of partners within local communities with a particular focus on Family Hubs, Schools and local councils.

Raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation amongst professionals, public, parents, carers and communities to enable effective identification and reporting mechanisms.

### Protect



Work creatively and effectively as a partnership using innovative practice to protect children, young people and communities from exploitation, violence and abuse. Including transitional safeguarding.

Protect children, young people and communities from exploitation, violence and abuse. Provide support using data, intelligence and lived experience to inform the local profile and in-depth needs assessments.

Commit to practice that listens to the voices and experiences of children and young people and places them at the centre focusing on a culture of protection and support not blame.

Utilise local and national best practice to maximise opportunities to bring offenders to justice and protect young people at risk of exploitation.

### Prepare



Work together to ensure an effective partnership structure, governance and response to child exploitation that delivers the right support at the right time.

Host an annual child exploitation conference and prepare our staff across the partnership with the skills and training to respond effectively to exploitation concerns.

Effective communication strategy to raise awareness in our communities around early identification and spotting the signs of child exploitation.

Commit to being a learning partnership to improve practice including listening and learning from children, young people, parents and carers.

## Our Governance

#### Executive Oversight

Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Senior Leadership Group

#### Strategic

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding, Assurance and Improvement Group (SAIG) and Nottingham City Business Management Group (BMG)

#### Tactical

Tackling Child Exploitation Steering Group ( Cross Authority and Cross Partnership)

#### Operational

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City multi-agency sexual exploitation (MASE), criminal exploitation (CCEP) and missing panels (Hotspots) and neighbourhood safeguarding and disruption meetings (NSD)

## Our Performance

### Pursue

Monitor the number of convictions and prosecutions for exploitation related offences involving children.

Monitor and increase the use of criminal and civil orders to target and disrupt those who present the highest risk to children in our communities.

### Prevent

Evidence partner and parent confidence in recognising and responding to child exploitation at an early stage through consultation and feedback.

Evidence safe spaces in communities and impact on the reduction of risks.

### Protect

Quality assurance of interventions such as panels and risk assessments including the voices of children, young people, parents, and carers.

Individual case studies and reviews that focus on reducing and managing risks including the voices of children, young people, parents, and carers.

### Prepare

Deliver annual Exploitation Conference on Child Exploitation Day.

Measure progress against TCE Strategic Self-Assessment Action Plan.



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## Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Action and Recommendation Tracker

Date of meeting		Recommendation/Action	Progress/response	Status
28 September 2023	R	Request that a review is done to assess how the Council can make what it offers to care leavers living outside of the City more equitable.	This is a national issue that would require a national response. Nottingham City attended a regional event where issues such as council tax rebates were discussed as a common issue. Areas offered the rebate to their own care leavers who reside in their own LA area, but similar to NCC could not secure reciprocal arrangements with other areas to ensure their care leavers were able to be offered rebates if residing out of the LA area. Current financial pressures would not enable the authority to subsidise the council tax for a care leaver residing out of area.	COMPLETE
28 September 2023	R	Review how the Council actively encourages agency staff to join us on a permanent basis. This could be done through a formal process.	All agency staff are written to advising them of the benefits of converting to permanent establishment. This offer is repeated every month until the worker either converts or leaves the authority.	COMPLETE
28 September 2023	R	Investigate how the Council can communicate its services better such as through the use of a newsletter.	Reminder sent to the Education Team for a response.	
28 September 2023	R	Publish basic information in different languages	Reminder sent to the Education Team for a response.	
26 October 2023	R	That the Partnership continues to focus on recognising the voice of the child, and ensure that the Council and Partners continue to improve on how they communicate with children with language barriers.	The Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership provide an annual report to the Committee. Members can assess progress made on recommendations at the next annual update.	COMPLETE
26 October 2023	R	That the Partnership continues work to disseminate information and videos to a wider range of organisations outside the partnership.	The Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership provide an annual report to the Committee. Members can assess progress made on recommendations at the next annual update.	COMPLETE
26 October 2023	A	Request an item at a future meeting on alternative education provision of permanently excluded children, as well as the outcomes of the Education Priority Investment Area funding once	This will be requested as part of the Committee's Work Programme for 2024/25.	COMPLETE

A = Action

R = Recommendation

## Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Action and Recommendation Tracker

		the funding has ended;		
26 October 2023	A	Investigate if comparison data is available with other local authorities on demand for the service and share this with Committee members. (Youth Justice).	Comparator data provided as appendix 1 to the recommendation tracker at the Committee meeting held on 15 May 2024.	COMPLETE
26 October 2023	A	To share the recruitment video shown at the meeting with Councillors so they can share it on their social media platform	Link: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_CcGaWrNr0&amp;feature=youtu.be#xd_co_f=YTbkNmM1N2ltZjMwOC00ZmVmLTgxMTAtYjJhZjdjYzIzMjE2~">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_CcGaWrNr0&amp;feature=youtu.be#xd_co_f=YTbkNmM1N2ltZjMwOC00ZmVmLTgxMTAtYjJhZjdjYzIzMjE2~</a>	COMPLETE
30 November 2023	A	Receive the public first report on school attendance absenteeism	Committee received this via email.	COMPLETE
30 November 2023	A	receive further information on support available for parents travelling with children to school	A companion pass is available under certain eligibility criteria. Parents/carers are asked to contact the School Transport team by email or telephone to discuss directly with the team to confirm if they are eligible. However, it is noted that this not specifically highlighted within the current policy or on the School Transport web page. The policy is currently being reviewed so this omission will be addressed in the renewed policy and sign posted on the website page.	COMPLETE
30 November 2023	A	receive the new Inclusion Strategy for at Committee for consideration.	Currently under development – this will be scheduled in the Forward Plan	ONGOING
25 January 2024	A	Request that ward Councillors are consulted on budget proposals that impact directly on their ward.	Councillors will be consulted on future budget proposals.	COMPLETE
25 January 2024	A	Request that the Director of Education shares the outcomes of discussions that will take place with schools in the City on the budget proposals.	NCC Budget proposals have been added as an item for Summer Term school leader briefings – feedback from these sessions will shared	ONGOING

A = Action

R = Recommendation

## Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Action and Recommendation Tracker

25 January 2024	A	Request that Officers provide the Committee with a breakdown of the risks associated with the budget proposals and relevant Equality Impact Assessment.	EIA'S and risks will be shared along with the budget proposals going forward.	COMPLETE
28 March 2024		<p>Placement Sufficiency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In respect of the quality of local provision outlined in the Strategy, that the ratings for the providers who are not located in the city are shared with the Committee. (A)</li> <li>2) That a comparative analysis is carried out to ascertain the outcomes between internal and external provision. (R)</li> <li>3) That when the Strategy is reviewed, work with community groups is included and expanded on. (R)</li> </ol>	Reminder sent to the Commissioning Team for a response.	
28 March 2024		<p>Early Help Strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Strategy (page 18) outlines that 232 children out of 5383 of those assessed were at risk of child criminal exploitation (CCE). The Committee recommends that this also includes sexual and financial exploitation. (R)</li> <li>2) That the KPI's proposed to monitor the Strategy are shared with the Committee. (A)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) This is being reviewed and explored alongside point 3 at a meeting on 3/5/24 with relevant Data colleagues.</li> <li>2) The KPI proposal was submitted to the Early Help Partnership Strategy Steering Group 17/4/24 and will be submitted to SMG for approval alongside other documentation after the next Strategy Steering Group in June 2024. It will then be shared with the Committee.</li> <li>3) This is being completed at the meeting 3/4/24 with relevant Data colleagues.</li> <li>4) A meeting is being held on 7/5/24 with Family Hubs Managers and colleagues from Youth and YJS services</li> </ol>	COMPLETE

A = Action

R = Recommendation

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Action and Recommendation Tracker**

		<p>3) That there is a review of the statistics outlined on page 10 of the Strategy. (R)</p> <p>4) That the Council explores how it can make its buildings and services more teenage friendly. (R)</p> <p>5) To use existing service provisions to support families with the cost of living crisis and child poverty. (R)</p>	<p>to discuss and agree on how to be more inclusive and accessible for our young people within the Hub buildings.</p> <p>5) Ongoing work is occurring to ensure services are identified and accessible through the family Hubs, including DWP, debt management, budget support, food banks, employability teams and charities etc. Financial resilience is a key feature of whole family working.</p>	
28 March 2024	Children's Services Improvement	<p>1) That in light of Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People standing down, the Council considers the establishment of a Corporate Director for Children and Young People (as Statutory Director for Children's Services), and a Corporate Director for Adults Social Care (as Statutory Director for Adult Social Services) given the large areas of responsibility and share of the budget.</p>	<p>A decision has been made that 2 new posts will be created to fulfil the statutory duties – a Director of Children Services and a Director for Adults Social Services.</p>	COMPLETE



First Time Entrants (FTEs) into the Criminal Justice System; FTEs are people who enter the CJS from the first time. To enter the CJS, someone must receive a “substantive outcome”, defined as a court order or a caution, for a criminal offence. Therefore, those who are subject to community resolutions, Outcomes 20-22s or any of the outcomes related to civil offences, by definition, do not enter the CJS. FTE data is usually only available for those below the age of 18 (estimated to be roughly 40% of the people entering the CJS for the first time) and the official KPI is the proportion of young people aged 10 to 17 years old who live in the area who become a FTE.

These data are taken from the Police National Computer (PNC) and from YJS submissions to the Youth Justice Board (this changed in Q1 2023 as noted below) used for benchmarking local services against their statistical neighbours (YJS Family), the Core Cities and the national to reflect positions in the league table of YJSs in England and Wales.

Reporting period	Data period and YJ Board	Rate	Comment
Quarter 3 2022	<b>Oct 21 – Sept 22 (reported at May 2023 YJ Board)</b>	<b>486</b>	Nottingham’s FTE rate for 10 to 17 year olds remains the highest in England & Wales with Nottinghamshire being in the bottom quartile. Whilst the percentage change for this period has risen 10.4% from the baseline, and this is an increase from last quarter’s 6% rate, this is still considerably lower than the 24.3% rate for the whole of Nottinghamshire, suggesting this is a county-wide issue, rather than one solely affecting Nottingham city.
Quarter 4 2022	<b>Jan 22- Dec 22 (reported at August 2023 YJ Board)</b>	<b>455</b>	Between January 2022 and December 2022 there were 132 FTEs reported by the Police National Computer, and based on the 2021 Census for children aged between 10 - 17 (29,032), Nottingham’s rate of 455 remains the highest in England & Wales. Whilst the percentage change for this period has risen 1.71% from the baseline, this is a reduction from last quarter’s 10.4% rate, and is lower than the 7.2% rate change for the whole of Nottinghamshire.
<i>From Q1 2023/24, FTE data is being sourced from the quarterly case level data submissions, as MoJ have changed the quarterly data from the PNC to an annual publication. As such, comparisons from Q1 23/24 against earlier periods should be made with caution, as they are two different data sources.</i>			
Quarter 1 2023	<b>Jul 22 - Jun 23 (reported at November 2023 YJ Board)</b>	<b>520</b>	Between July 2022 and June 2023 there were 151 FTE extracted from the quarterly case level data submitted to the YJB and based on the 2021 Census for children aged between 10 - 17 (29,032), Nottingham’s rate of 520 remains the highest in England & Wales. The 8.6% percentage increase from the baseline is at odds with the picture in the PCC area of Nottinghamshire for the same period, and this would warrant further analysis and investigation should the comparative data be made available.
Quarter 2 2023	<b>Oct 22 – Sept 23 (reported at February 2024 YJ Board)</b>	<b>475</b>	Between October 2022 and September 2023 there were 138 FTE extracted from the quarterly case level data submitted to the YJS. Based on the 2021 Census for children aged between 10 and 17 (29,032), Nottingham’s rate of 475 remains the highest in England & Wales. The mean is 178.5. There is a -11.5% reduction from the selected baseline, which is in keeping with the reduction within the PCC area of Nottinghamshire for the same period, albeit at a lesser rate. The FTE reduction is greater by at least 10 percentage points in comparison with the YJS family and Core cities groups, and the national rate.
Quarter 3 2023	<b>Jan 23 – Dec 23 (reported at May 2024 YJ Board)</b>	<b>434</b>	Between January and December 2023 there were 130 FTE extracted from the quarterly case level date submitted to the YJB and based on the 2022 Census for children aged between 10-17 (29,977), Nottingham’s rate of 434 remains the highest in England & Wales. The median across all other LA is 169.53. There is a -17.7% reduction from the selected baseline, which is in keeping with the reduction within the PCC area of Nottinghamshire for the same period, albeit at slightly greater rate. The FTE reduction is greater by than the -11.4% reduction shown by YJS Family and -9.1% reduction shown by Core cities, and the --6.8% national rate.

links for publicly available data:

National: [Youth Justice Statistics: 2022 to 2023 \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Regional comparator: On [Youth justice statistics: 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) you will find links for [RPubs - Children – Local level mapping tool \(2022 – 2023\)](#), [RPubs - Outcomes – Local level mapping tool \(2022 – 2023\)](#)

This is a screenshot of the outcomes data from the above (basically FTE), sorted by the rate – you will see we are at the top

