



Nottingham City Council Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday, 10 July 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 Appointment of Vice-Chair**
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Minutes** 3 - 10
To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2024
- 5 Committee Terms of Reference** 11 - 24
Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer
- 6 Priority Education Investment Area (PEIA) Update** 25 - 26
Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer
- 7 Early Years Entitlements and Wraparound Childcare Provision** 27 - 38
Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer
- 8 Children's Services Improvement**
Verbal update from the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
- 9 Draft Work Programme** 39 - 46
Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

10 Future Meeting Dates

To agree to meet on the following dates at 09:30am at Loxley House, Nottingham:

11 September 2024

13 November 2024

15 January 2025

12 March 2025

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.

Citizens are advised that this meeting may be recorded, including by members of the public. Any recording or reporting on this meeting should take place in accordance with the Council's policy on recording and reporting on public meetings, which is available at www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk. Individuals intending to record the meeting are asked to notify the Governance Officer shown above in advance.

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 15 May 2024 from 9.33 am - 11.53 am

Membership

Present

Councillor Naim Salim (Chair)
Councillor Fozia Mubashar
Councillor Georgia Power
Councillor Michael Savage
Councillor Maria Watson
Councillor Adele Williams

Absent

Councillor Samuel Gardiner
Councillor Ethan Radford

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Cheryl Barnard	- Executive Member for Children, Young People, and Education
Ailsa Barr	- Director of Children's Integrated Services
Nick Lee	- Director of Education Services
Paul Lefford	- Nottinghamshire Police
John Matravers	- Service Manager, Safeguarding Partnerships
Kate Morris	- Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer
Sam Morris	- Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement
Damon Stanton	- Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer

38 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Sam Gardiner – Unwell
Councillor Ethan Radford – Council Business

39 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.

40 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2024 were confirmed as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

41 Tackling Child Exploitation Strategy

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education attended the meeting to introduce the report presenting the Tackling Child Exploitation Strategy to the Committee. Also in attendance to provide additional detailed information was Ailsa Barr, Director for Children's Integrated Services, John Matravers, Head of Safeguarding, Quality and Assurance and Chief Inspector Paul

Lefford, Nottinghamshire Police. During the presentation the following points were highlighted:

- a) The Child Exploitation Strategy has been developed by the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Children's Safeguarding Board partners and a range of other stake holders to create a single, whole system response to child exploitation aiming to reduce exploitation, and extra familial harm and protect communities.
- b) The Strategy reflects the need for a cross boarder approach and the language used has been amended to reflect the need to see children as children and to ensure that all children under 18 are treated as children first and foremost. This change in language is important to ensure the victims of exploitation are not made to feel implicit in their exploitation, and to remove possible suggestion of blame on the child. Guidance from the Children's Society has been important in creating this shift in language as has feedback from children.
- c) The Tackling Child Exploitation (TCE) Steering Group is driving the work of the Strategy and meets quarterly. On the group there are representatives from the children's safeguarding partners. The Steering Group regularly considers the work of the Strategy using the reflection tool specifically developed to assess progress on imbedding the 8 principles into local safeguarding practices. The tool also helps the group to identify areas for additional focus and improvement.
- d) Work to implement the Strategy is based on principals from research in practice tackling child exploitation which sets out how to work with children and their families and gives a basis for strategic oversight of practice and planning across the Partnership. The 4 P's, Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare, developed from the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2023 have also been adopted and integrated into the work of the strategy supporting the creation of a whole system response.
- e) As awareness of exploitation is increased, partner organisations and the public become more confident in reporting issues and the number of reported cases will increase. This initial increase in numbers is confirmation that awareness is increasing and that the messages from the partnership are being communicated efficiently.
- f) In response to the development of the Strategy, Nottinghamshire Police have restructured teams to better respond to child exploitation issues, with more Police staff embedded into Social Care teams, and an additional Disruption Team created to work with partners proactively around the nighttime economy and target centres of concern. There are improved links into strategic multi-agency meetings and increased representation on multi-agency investigation teams.
- g) Joint training has been developed so that all partners have access to the same training materials, and can benefit from experiences of other organisations and

practitioners when learning. A multi-agency joint training event has been developed to tie in with National Exploitation Awareness Day.

During discussion the following questions were raised and additional information provided:

- h) Committee members asked whether the right resources for relationship and sexual education are available to schools to help keep children safe. Schools are one of the most important partners in ensuring the greatest number of children are reached and have information and resources to help keep themselves and their peers safe. Some awareness sessions are carried out in schools to inform children of how to spot signs of potential exploitation, how to act to avoid it, what to do and how to report it if they have concerns. Schools work with parents and carers to share information with some schools having a wider reach than others. Work has also started with reaching into early years settings. It is not currently possible to say what percentage of the population is being reached through schools, and increasing reach is a key part of the Strategy.
- i) Committee members asked what the Partnership did once exploitation had been identified. When a child comes to the attention of the partnership a multi-agency approach and assessment is launched to ensure that the child and their family have the most appropriate support in place. Each organisation sets out what support they can offer and a unique package is put into place for the child and family.
- j) Committee members questioned why the Strategy document was only 2 pages long given its importance. The Strategy document presented to the Committee in the published papers is the public facing, easy access document, and there are internal operational documents that underpin that. The performance against targets is managed and overseen by the TCE Steering Group with each partner organisation reporting regularly on progress. The Steering group then reports up through the Safeguarding Partnership governance structure with ultimate oversight held by the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council Safeguarding Children's Board.
- k) Committee members questioned the number of children referred through the national referral mechanism. The information was published by the Home Office and states that the Council had referred just 25 children during 2023. There was a consensus that this was too low for it to be an accurate representation of children in the City suffering from exploitation. It was explained that over the last year 175 multi agency meetings were held to assess cases of exploitation and 69 risk meetings were held. From these only 22 met the thresholds for referral through the national referral scheme. The Partnership is not complacent and recognises that more children are at risk than are identified and work to encourage and empower communities and individuals to report concerns.
- l) Committee members requested more information on what information was available for communities, how awareness was being promoted and what work was being done to involve community organisations in implementing the

Strategy. National Exploitation Day is in its infancy but more work is being done to promote it annually and to bring awareness to the general public. The Partnership is working with the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to identify funding for activities, and literature and materials will be produced in a range of languages and easy read formats. This campaign is in its infancy, but the Partnership has a strong track record of delivering consistently strong messages. Work is already well underway with the nighttime economy, hotels, taxi drivers and others in a position to notice concerns early.

- m) Committee members asked how the partnership ensured that children not in school were kept safe. Exclusion from education does increase the risk that some children may be more vulnerable to exploitation and an Education Sub-Group has been developed within the Partnership. Given the fractured nature of the education system with numerous different trusts operating in the city it has been difficult to have one education representative that can speak for all trusts, so this Education Sub-Group allows educators from across the city to have a voice that is fed into the rest of the Partnership. All children excluded from education are identified at this sub-group. The Council is notified of all children on school roll and works to develop vulnerable learner pathways to identify additional support needs earlier and allow earlier intervention with those at risk of exploitation. This along with better joined up working with police and social care staff alongside educators is working to reduce the risk.
- n) Committee members asked what was being done to improve the performance around return home interviews for children who had been missing. Since the Ofsted inspection this element of the service has been improved. And those interviews have increased from 40% complete within three calendar days to 82% within three calendar days. There is a challenge with a small team that work Monday to Friday, but improvements have been made and sustained. The diversity of the team has been questioned but again with a small team with specialist skills it can be difficult to find representation for a wide range of communities. A number of different measures are used to assess the effectiveness of the interviews, including repeat missing figures and a quality assurance process that scrutinises how data is presented.
- o) Committee members asked what co-production of resources and service development was taking place. A training package has recently been put together that is delivered through a VR headset and is a series of scenarios shown from the child's perspective. Children and their families were heavily involved in the production of this material and has helped those who have participated to understand situations from a child's perspective. The child's voice is sought at all stages through involvement with them to ensure that the Partnership and its approach is child friendly and child orientated. It remains the case however that some children are not ready to share their experiences until much later in their life.
- p) Committee members asked about unaccompanied asylum seekers and how the Partnership helped to protect them and ensure settled status by the time they reached adulthood. Any child who comes to the country and is placed in Nottingham is taken into care and work is undertaken to ensure that their asylum claim is progressed and that settled status is achieved in childhood.

Where this is not possible the Leaving Care Teams takes up the work and provides support until the person is aged 25.

- q) Committee Members asked to what extent did schools consider the impact of exclusion on risk of a child being exploited when making decisions to exclude. Schools do need to understand the risk, and decisions around exclusion need to be trauma informed. More work needs to be done with schools across the City to develop this understanding and approach to decision making although some schools have started to develop a better understanding. Work is also underway in terms of making Nottingham a Child Friendly City.

Resolved to:

- 1. Request that the Committee receive a list of the Key Performance Indicators and other measurables which the Steering Group will be using to measure success, and to ensure public accountability, that these be reported back to the Committee at a future meeting.**
- 2. Recommend that the Council and partners ensure that they are using the appropriate mechanisms and support available to children identified at risk of exploitation. The Committee's view was that the number of NRM's made by the Council and Police were too low for them to be an accurate representation of the likely number of children suffering from exploitation. These figures are outlined in table 9 of the NRM statistics provided by the Home Office.**
- 3. Request that the Committee receive the meaningful data from the missing from home interviews once they have been reported in July.**
- 4. Request that the Committee receive the waiting times for children who are referred to services as a result of exploitation.**
- 5. Request that the Committee receive further information on how many children in care are leaving without settled status and the reasons why.**
- 6. To request that the Committee receive examples of partnership working with the County Council in respect of services and service delivery.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 to allow a technical issue to be resolved prior to the start of the next item. The meeting reconvened at 11:14.

42 Children's Services Improvement

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education introduced the item updating the Committee on the most recent Ofsted monitoring visit in April 2024 looking at Children in Care services. Ailsa Barr, Director of Children's Integrated Services was also in attendance to give additional detail. Members noted that the letter highlighting the findings of the visit had been published this morning. They highlighted the following points:

- a) Inspectors felt that the improvements seen in other areas within Children's Services inspired confidence that changes within the Children in Care Team workforce would lead to improved practice, once the recent investment had matured.
- b) The most recent monitoring visit found that additional funding, management and social work positions have built on improvements since the last visit and have helped to stabilise the workforce. Staff feel more supported and the frequency and quality of supervision is showing signs of improvement.
- c) There is still some inconsistency in practice, with better quality practice being seen in fieldwork teams. Investment into the Children in Care teams is very recent and the impact of that is yet to flow through to data although there is a good level of confidence that this improvement will be seen.
- d) Changes to social workers and higher work loads in the Children in Care Teams does impact on relationship building between social workers and children. Although visits meet statutory requirements for frequency they are not informed by individual need. The recent investment in the Children in Care team will help to address this.
- e) Creative planning and support around risk management is present throughout the fieldwork teams, with child centred decisions being evident following thorough assessment. More work needs to be done to ensure that routine assessments are updated, within the Children in Care Teams, when a child's situation changes, and that specialist assessments are more routinely undertaken to inform risk management and planning.
- f) There are ongoing challenges around the number of foster carers meaning that children are sometimes moving into residential care rather than a family setting, this is seen nationally and is not unique to Nottingham City. Work is underway with the County Council and other neighbouring authorities to establish a regional fostering network.
- g) Children are positive and encouraged to engage with their education planning meetings. Some children do face moving schools due to placement sufficiency issues meaning it is sometimes not possible to prioritise education placement.
- h) Work by senior leaders with health colleagues has helped develop an improvement in the process around health checks for children coming into care. More work needs to be done to ensure that these changes are consistent.
- i) The next monitoring visit will likely focus on front door services again. 6 monitoring visits is usual for an improvement journey, with a full inspection typically taking place 6 months after the final monitoring visit, however these would depend on other activity being undertaken by Ofsted.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- j) Committee members asked how the impact of the improvements was being measured. The performance dashboard has recently been improved to better allow managers to monitor performance against targets for all aspects of work, including timeliness of assessments and reviews. It can be used to assess overall team performance. The information on the dashboard only provided quantitative data, and does not address the quality of the data, which is why a separate programme of work runs alongside it. This is then sampled by the inspectors as part of the monitoring visits.
- k) Committee members asked for more information about unregistered homes and what additional checks, if any, were carried out to ensure they were suitable for placements. Unregistered homes are homes that are not registered with Ofsted. However, Ofsted still inspect them, and when a child is placed in an unregistered home the Authority perform a number of stringent checks before placement and throughout the placement, and social workers will be in touch with the child more often than those placed in registered homes. As part of the market sufficiency work the Council is currently working with a number of homes to help them qualify for registration.
- l) Committee members asked for additional details about the Health Checks and monitoring done on their timeliness. The timeliness of the health reviews is monitored with health colleagues and the amount of time a review is overdue is also recorded, although the details of this breakdown is not available at committee. This delay in health checks is a national issue, and the Council is working hard to mitigate against delays. Health colleagues are linking in with other Local Authorities to learn what works best in other areas to bring back ideas to be adapted to Nottingham's needs.
- m) Committee members asked what the service was doing to improve the use of the child's voice in the development and improvement of services. Over the next 6 months or so there will be an increased focus on participation of the child. There will be a continued push to include children in planning and reviewing their care. Work will be undertaken to increase the reach of the Child in Care and its work will be promoted more widely.
- n) Committee members asked what support and monitoring was done when a child is placed within a Special Guardianship Order (SGO). When a child leaves care into a SGO the Special Guardian becomes the parent of the child, and there is no legal requirement for ongoing monitoring. Extensive assessments are completed prior to the order being made at Court. There is a requirement to continue to offer support for the SGO, and the team responsible is liaising with other local authorities around examples of best practice that can be adapted for Nottingham City to develop a clear offer and more coherent set of services. Consideration is already taking place around staffing restructure to support the coordination of these services.
- o) Committee members asked if the same level of support and monitoring was in place for children in placements away from Nottingham as those placed within Nottingham. Where a child is placed into an SGO outside of Nottingham some responsibilities transfer to the host authority, and it becomes the responsibility of the SGO family to access those. Some stay with the City, the more

therapeutic based services, for example, and the workers link with services in the host authority and refers into those. The SGO family can ask for a reassessment of needs if necessary. After three years all responsibility transfers to the host authority.

Resolved to request further details and data on child health assessments.

43 Recommendation Tracker

The Chair presented the Recommendation Tracker to the committee highlighting that there had been a number of responses.

The committee noted the update to the Recommendation Tracker.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

10 July 2024

Committee Terms of Reference

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To ensure that the Committee has clarity regarding its purpose and objectives, and rules of operation so that it can operate efficiently and effectively, contributing to good governance at the Council.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note:
- a) its Terms of Reference for the municipal year 2024/25
 - b) that Article 11 (Overview and Scrutiny) of the Constitution sets out the rules within which it must operate; and
 - c) that its operation, and the approach of scrutiny Councillors should be in-line with the agreed Overview and Scrutiny Protocol

3 Background information

- 3.1 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee was established by the Council as one its Overview and Scrutiny Committees, specifically to carry out the statutory overview and scrutiny functions in relation to matters affecting children and young people.
- 3.2 The Terms of Reference for the Committee are attached.
- 3.3 Article 11 (Overview and Scrutiny) of the Constitution sets out the rules within which all of the overview and scrutiny committees must operate, including that:
- a) The core purpose of overview and scrutiny is to contribute to policy development and ensure that the Council's Executive is publicly held to account for its decisions and actions.
 - b) Each scrutiny committee is responsible for developing its own work programme to fulfil its terms of reference and this work programme should be focused on issues of importance to the Council, relevant partners or the city as a whole.
 - c) Scrutiny committees cannot make decisions or overturn the decisions of others but aim to support improvement by making evidence based reports or recommendations to the Executive and individual Executive members on any of the functions of the

Executive and on any matters which affect the city or citizens. The committees can also make recommendations to partner organisations.

- d) In order to collect evidence to support their reports and recommendations, scrutiny committees can require any member of the Executive Board, the Chief Executive and/or any Corporate Director or Director to attend a meeting to discuss any decision they have taken, the extent to which the actions taken implement adopted Council policy, or performance within their remit.
- e) Within two months of receiving a report or recommendation(s) from a scrutiny committee, the Executive is required to consider the report or recommendations; respond to the committee on what action, if any, is to be taken in response to the report or recommendations; and if the report is published, to publish the response.
- f) Scrutiny committees can also invite other individuals and organisations to attend meetings to discuss issues of local concern and/or answer questions, and make reports and recommendations to other individuals and organisations. However, these organisations and individuals are under no obligation to attend or respond to recommendations.
- g) The call in process enables scrutiny committees to examine and make recommendations on a decision made by the Executive that has not yet been implemented.

- 3.4 Article 11 (Overview and Scrutiny) also sets out the following key principles for how overview and scrutiny should be carried out:
- All overview and scrutiny activity should, as far as possible, be politically neutral.
 - All overview and scrutiny recommendations should be based upon evidence which councillors should consider with an open mind.
 - All overview and scrutiny activity should be constructive and focussed on improvement.
 - Overview and Scrutiny activity should be conducted in public wherever possible.
 - All reviews should be conducted fairly with all members of the Committee given the opportunity to ask questions and to contribute and speak.
 - Those assisting the Committee by giving evidence should be treated with respect and courtesy.
 - Reviews should adhere to the agreed scope, purpose and intended time limit.
 - Overview and scrutiny committees should endeavour to reach consensus whenever possible.
 - The relationship between the Executive and Scrutiny should be based upon mutual respect for the others' role. Any disputes will be escalated to the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Leader for resolution with support from the Monitoring Officer if necessary.

- 3.5 In support of these principles an Overview and Scrutiny Protocol has been developed with input from both the overview and scrutiny function and the Executive. This protocol sets out that ensuring good scrutiny is a whole council responsibility and that scrutiny councillors, the Executive and senior officers all have a role to play in working together to create the right culture and conditions for success.

4 List of attached information

4.1 Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

4.2 Overview and Scrutiny Protocol

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 Nottingham City Council Constitution

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

8.1 Damon Stanton, Scrutiny & Audit Support Officer
damon.stanton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Terms of Reference

Description

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (the Committee) is a politically balanced Non-Executive Committee of Council. It is established to discharge functions conferred by the Localism Act 2011 and other relevant legislation in relation to matters affecting children and young people. The Committee is accountable to Council and will report annually to Council on its activities during the previous year.

The Committee will offer constructive review, feedback and challenge to the Council's Executive and other relevant local decision makers on their decisions, actions, policy, strategy and performance.

Purpose

The purpose of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is to:

- (a) hold local decision-makers, including the Council's Executive and relevant Boards of the Council's group of companies, to account for their decisions, actions, performance and management of risk
- (b) review existing policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on Nottingham children and young people
- (c) contribute to the development of new policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on Nottingham children and young people
- (d) explore any matters affecting Nottingham and/ or its children and young people
- (e) make reports and recommendations to relevant local agencies with respect to the delivery of their functions, including the Council and its Executive
- (f) review decisions made but not yet implemented by the Council's Executive in accordance with the Call-in Procedure.

Objectives

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will:

- (a) develop and manage a work programme to ensure all statutory and other roles and responsibilities are fulfilled for matters relating to children and young people to the required standard and which covers review and development of key strategic issues, policies and strategies relevant to Nottingham and its residents, and which adds value through the examination of issues of local importance and concern, in accordance with the scope and approach set out in Article 11 – Overview and Scrutiny.
- (b) to work with the other scrutiny committees to support effective delivery of a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme
- (c) monitor the effectiveness of its work programme and the impact of outcomes from overview and scrutiny activity
- (d) regularly review the decisions, actions and performance of the Council's Executive and other relevant local decision makers, including the Council's group of companies, in order to fulfil its role in holding those decision makers to

account. Where relevant this role will be co-ordinated with those of the Audit Committee and the Companies Governance Executive Committee.

- (e) receive petitions relating in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme
- (f) consider any relevant matter referred to it by any of its members and consider any relevant local government matter referred to it by any Nottingham City Councillor.

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has no decision making powers but has the power to:

- (a) require members of the Council's Executive, and certain other local decision makers, to: provide information to the Committee, to attend meetings, and answer questions posed by the Committee in relation to their Executive role
- (b) invite other persons to attend meetings of the Committee to provide information and/ or answer questions
- (c) make recommendations and provide reports to relevant decision makers, and in particular the Council's Executive, on matters within their remits. The Council's Executive and other relevant decision makers have a duty to respond in writing to such recommendations within two months of receipt.

Further detail on the rules and procedures relating to Overview and Scrutiny can be found in Article 11 - Overview and Scrutiny.

Membership and Chairing

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has 8 members.

Members of the Executive are excluded from membership of the Committee.

Executive Assistants responsible for assisting on a Portfolio within the remit of this Committee are excluded from membership of this Committee.

The Chair of the Committee will be appointed by Full Council at its Annual General Meeting. The Chair cannot be a Chair of the Board of a company in the Council's Group of companies that relates to matters within the Committee's remit.

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee may choose to appoint co-opted members to the Committee. Voting arrangements for co-optees will be in accordance with the scheme of voting rights for co-opted member of overview and scrutiny committees set out in Article 11 – Overview and Scrutiny.

When the Committee plans to consider a matter that relates to an education function which is the responsibility of the Executive, the statutory education co-optees* must be invited to be full and equal members of the Committee with voting rights for that specific item.

*Church of England Diocese representative (if the local authority maintains one or more Church of England schools)/ Roman Catholic Diocese representative (if the local authority maintains one or more Roman Catholic schools)/ Parent Governors representatives (if the local authority maintains one or more schools).

Substitutes

Substitute members are permitted for this Committee.

Quorum

The standard quorum for Council committees applies to this Committee.

Frequency of Meetings

The Committee meets between six and eleven times a year.

Duration

There is no limit on the lifespan of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

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Overview and Scrutiny Protocol

Vision for Overview & Scrutiny in Nottingham

Overview and Scrutiny in Nottingham will ensure effective democratic accountability and support effective scrutiny. This will support and add real value to decision making. This will be achieved by a Councillor-led Overview and Scrutiny function which is held in high regard by its partners and stakeholders and which will add value for the citizens of Nottingham.

This vision recognises that Overview and Scrutiny is a core component of the governance structure of the Council, and that Scrutiny Councillors, the Executive and senior officers will all work to create the right culture and lead the way in making the vision a reality. Ensuring good Scrutiny in Nottingham is a whole council responsibility.

To achieve this Scrutiny will follow the nationally agreed 'Four Principles of Good Scrutiny';

- a. Provides constructive "critical friend" challenge;
- b. Amplify public voice and concerns;
- c. Be led by 'independent minded people' who take responsibility for their role
- d. Drives improvement in public services;

<https://www.cfgs.org.uk/revisiting-the-four-principles-of-good-scrutiny/>

Conditions for Success

To succeed, the Council recognises that the following conditions need to be present:

1. Parity of Esteem between the Executive and Scrutiny

Scrutiny is a whole Council responsibility. The Council recognises that Overview and Scrutiny Committees have an important role to play in supporting high quality decision-making and policy development. There is collective responsibility to enable Overview and Scrutiny to function effectively.

Parity of Esteem means that the value and benefit of Overview and Scrutiny is recognised and held in high regard. This means creating a strong organisational culture that recognises the critical role of independent Scrutiny in the governance process is essential to adding value and creating efficient and effective services. Without recognition of this, Councillors and officers involved in Scrutiny are not empowered to exercise their duties as they should, resulting in poor accountability.

The Council will strive to encourage and support a mix of more experienced and new Councillors as members of the Overview and Scrutiny committees.

2. Clear Purpose and Focus

Scrutiny activities should be well planned and timely. The focus of items coming before the Overview and Scrutiny Committees should be sufficiently focused so that the Committee are clear what they are looking at and there is an understanding about what they are hoping to achieve. There must be clarity on what Scrutiny wants to do and confidence in it being a good use of the Committees' valuable time, that it can add value, that it can influence outcomes and make an impact.

The Council recognise that good topics for Overview and Scrutiny to consider are those that;

- are critical to the effectiveness of the Council
- are a big priority or concern to their communities
- pose a significant risk or threat to the Council and the community
- present a significant opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny to make a meaningful contribution

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, the Statutory Scrutiny Officer and a Senior Governance Officer will meet with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive on a monthly basis to identify new and emerging areas where Scrutiny can support Executive decision making in relation to emerging priorities and policy. Where appropriate meetings with Portfolio holders and other relevant stakeholders will be convened to support and inform the development of matters that have come to the attention of the Committee or are on the work programme. This will ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committees are focussing their attention on matters where they can add most value and provide valuable support to policy development and executive decision making.

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer will attend CLT on a monthly basis to update Senior Leadership team on the work being undertaken by the Committees and to receive suggestions on future areas that the Overview and Scrutiny committees may wish to factor in to their work programme.

When considering and setting the work programme, including making changes the Committee will have regard to the flow chart attached at appendix 1 to ensure that the Committee's work is prioritised effectively.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees are in charge of its own work programme and there will occasionally be times when Scrutiny and the Executive do not agree on which items the Overview and Scrutiny Committees should consider but with meaningful engagement such occasions will be rare.

Scrutiny Committees must review work programmes to identify a clear order of priority for all topics being considered. It is acknowledged that it is not possible for Scrutiny to look at all items of interest, and it is important that committees do not overreach.

The Chair is responsible for ensuring that that the Committee remains focussed on the items in the work programme and that prioritisation is appropriately apportioned.

Once the work programme is established it must be published and shared with internal and external organisations, so they are clear on upcoming topics and have plenty of time to prepare.

3. Evidence Based Questioning, Conclusions and Formulating Recommendations that Add Value

The Scrutiny process should be impartial and driven by the evidence. Scrutiny should focus on the big issues facing the Council and the Communities they serve. Items before the Overview and Scrutiny Committees should not be politically motivated, parochial, repetitious or used as an opportunity to showcase. At the conclusion of an item the Chair should summarise the representations made and draw together the conclusions of the committee based on the evidence available to it and, where appropriate, set out the recommendations of the committee based on those conclusions and evidence that are clear, feasible, deliverable and provide value for money by securing benefits that outweigh the costs of implementation.

It should be noted that the Scrutiny process is not meant to be an “expert” review. If expert input is required that should be sought by the Committee as part of their evidence gathering process.

When Scrutiny is making recommendations, it must consider the impact that they will have and the resource implications, obtaining advice from relevant Executive Councillors and officers where necessary.

Recommendations will be sent to the relevant decision maker and I

Recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be recorded to enable it to be reviewed, tracked and assurance sought about what action has been taken as a result. In accordance with the spirit of the legislation when asked the individual or body who the recommendation has been directed to is responsible for responding with reasons for why they have/have not accepted recommendations and if the recommendations are accepted to provide evidence of how the recommendations have been implemented.

Scrutiny must add value and not duplicate the other forms of performance management, review or inspection. Equally, decision-makers must seek to ensure that Scrutiny is involved in a timely manner, at a point where the outcome can be influenced, to ensure and to ensure any involvement is meaningful. Decision makers should give meaningful consideration to recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

4. Councillor Leadership and Engagement

Councillors have a unique perspective to bring to the Overview and Scrutiny process, a different point of view which brings something distinct to both policy development and scrutiny of Executive decisions.

Committee Members set their own work programmes, work on a cross party basis and can look at things from angles that might not be apparent to Executive Councillors or senior officers.

To be successful, Councillors and officers must engage with Scrutiny in a positive way. In order to support this presentations and supporting information should be provided to the Committee at least 48 hours in advance so that committee members can come fully prepared and ready to ask questions/explore issues.

5. Reflecting the Concerns of Residents

When carrying out its work Scrutiny should take into account the concerns of residents, and where they can add value and make an impact. This may include, if appropriate and at the discretion of the Chair, speaking at a formal meeting of a Committee, or by way of an informal meeting, visit, submission of written information etc established for the Committee to gather evidence to inform their thinking and scrutiny.

The views and ideas of citizens, service providers and other agencies with an interest in the subject under review are all valuable in effective Scrutiny. Scrutiny should involve stakeholders and take account of views of service users and the public, with particular efforts to engage groups that are harder to reach. Constructive engagement and clear lines of communication should enable a two-way flow of information between Scrutiny and all those involved, including feedback of results.

Reflecting citizens' concerns will entail Scrutiny taking a wider view than Council policies and services. In particular, Scrutiny has a legitimate interest in scrutinising organisations and projects that receive public funding to deliver goods and services, including Council owned companies. This should be recognised by the Council and, where relevant, consider the need to provide assistance to Scrutiny Councillors to obtain information from organisations the Council has contracted to deliver services.

6. Mutual Respect and Good Faith

While Scrutiny should be constructive and challenging, it will only be successful if all partners work together considerately, within a climate of non-partisan working. To support non-partisan working political groups should respect the independence of Scrutiny and must not seek to influence its work.

Scrutiny must be forensic and challenging but Councillors must also collaborate to support decision-makers to do their work better. Councillors must listen and engage constructively, irrespective of political group, putting the values of Scrutiny into practice.

Decision-makers have to be open to scrutiny and create a culture which enables effective scrutiny to happen.

7. Clear Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships

To facilitate good Scrutiny, the roles of all participants in the scrutiny process must be clear and understood by all.

In summary:

Overview and Scrutiny Chairs are responsible for leading and co-ordinating the work of the Scrutiny Committee so that Scrutiny functions in a positive, constructive and

non-partisan manner which provides a good environment for the constructive challenge of decision-makers.

Overview & Scrutiny Councillors must contribute time and effort to the development of the Scrutiny work programme to ensure that the items selected adequately reflect of the needs of the Citizens of Nottingham, focus on the bigger picture, and are prioritised effectively.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee members are required to attend Committee meetings, come prepared and be ready and willing to contribute to committee meetings by asking meaningful questions; they must be independent minded and not pre-judge issues coming to Scrutiny nor use the meeting to promote narrow or parochial interests. Overview and Scrutiny Committee members are also expected to prioritise associated training, briefing and evidence gathering sessions.

The senior political leadership of the Council set the tone of how successfully Overview and Scrutiny will be able to work. Executive Councillors should act as a champion for the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees both within and outside the organisation. They will create a culture which enables effective Scrutiny to happen, and will ensure that any recommendations of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee are responded to and agreed recommendations implemented. In accordance with the legislation Executive members, and executive assistants on sufficient notice will provide requested information and prioritise and make themselves available to attend Overview and Scrutiny Committees and come prepared and willing to answer questions.

Officers should provide impartial and high quality advice and evidence to Scrutiny Committees and may be asked to provide information and/or attend Overview and Scrutiny Committees to explain policies or to answer questions on service delivery. Where officers are asked to appear at Overview and Scrutiny Committees they are there to answer questions and their evidence should, as far as possible, be about questions of fact and explanation relating to policies and decisions.

All Councillors are expected to act in accordance with the highest standards of probity in public life, and in accordance with the Councillor Code of Conduct at all times.

8. Transparency of the Scrutiny Process and Access to Information

Scrutiny should be a transparent process and encourage open and honest discussion. Processes and reports should be clear and accessible to the public. Formal meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees are subject to Access to Information Procedure Rules as set out in Article 13 of the Constitution.

All formal Committee agendas published on the Council's website. Work programmes are published on each O&S Committee's agenda.

An annual Scrutiny Report will be presented to Full Council outlining Scrutiny activity in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee terms of reference, as set out at Article 9 of the Constitution. The Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

may by exception request additional reports be taken to Council to highlight areas of specific concern or make recommendations about particular issues.

To be effective, a Scrutiny Committee must receive relevant information in a timely manner. This is supported by legislation which gives the Committee rights to access information that relates to Scrutiny work, even where information is exempt from publication. The legislation is attached at Appendix 2 and reference in Article 13 of the Constitution.

9. Training and Development

All Councillors and Senior Officers will be required to attend training in relation to Overview and Scrutiny to ensure that the role of Overview and Scrutiny is understood and the role and value that Overview and Scrutiny plays in supporting good decision making and policy development.

If training for specific matters due to come before the Overview and Scrutiny Committees is required and sufficient notice is provided this will be arranged.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

10 July 2024

Priority Education Investment Area (PEIA) Update

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide information and an update to Scrutiny Committee on the partnership work between the Department for Education (DfE), Nottingham City Council and Multi Academy Trusts operating schools in the city, on local education priorities identified and being supported with additional government funding as an identified Priority Education Investment Area.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked if it wishes to make any comments or recommendations on the information provided at the meeting.

3 Background information

- 3.1 Nottingham was confirmed as one of 24 Priority Education Investment Areas (Priority Areas) in March 2022, in the Schools White Paper: Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child.
- 3.2 Priority Areas are a subset of the 55 Education Investment Areas (EIAs) announced by the DfE in the Levelling Up White Paper (Feb 2022), and comprise of the 12 existing DfE Opportunity Areas and 12 other EIAs that have particularly low attainment and high rates of disadvantage.
- 3.3 The stated ambition of government that underpin the establishment of EIA's and Priority Areas is that by 2030:
 - 90% of pupils are meeting the expected standard in reading, writing, and maths combined at Key Stage 2, with an increase of over a third in the lowest performing areas.
 - National GCSE average grade in both English language and in maths is increased from 4.5 in 2019 to 5.
- 3.4 In order to drive this ambition and the programme in Nottingham a local governance board was established by the Regional Director of the DfE working with the Local Authority, Multi Academy Trusts operating in the city and the two local universities. The Board has met on a monthly basis since July 2002 and is chaired by Professor Jane McNeil, Pro Vice Chancellor Education at Nottingham Trent University. Board membership is made up of CEO's of Multi Academy Trusts covering primary and secondary phases and special schools, the CEO of the

Nottingham Schools Trust (representing LA Maintained schools) the Director of Education Services at NCC, the DfE's Regional Director, senior representatives from the two city Universities, and professional leads from research schools covering pedagogy and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

- 3.5 The Committee last received an update on the PEIA in November 2023 which outlined Nottingham's priorities and the actions taken to date on delivering against those priorities. A number of partners will be present to update the Committee on progress made since then.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 None

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

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

10 July 2024

Early Years Entitlements and Wraparound Childcare Provision

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Committee about the delivery of the national childcare reforms outlined in the Chancellor's Spring Budget 2023 which were designed to support early education and help parents with childcare so they can return to work more easily.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:

- 1) To make any comments or recommendations on the information provided.
- 2) To consider future scrutiny of the issue.

3 Background information

- 3.1 The announcement of the national, large-scale, childcare reforms in the Chancellor's Spring Budget 2023 are designed to support early education and help parents with childcare so they can return to work more easily. The development of these transformative reforms are a national requirement and an extension to the LA's statutory duties, they are not optional.

- 3.2 The key deliverables of these reforms are to:

- 1) Working parents of 2 year olds being able to access 15 hours childcare from April 2024.
- 2) Working parents of children aged 9 – 23 months being able to access 15 hours childcare from September 2024.
- 3) Working parents of children aged 9 months to primary school age being able to access 30 hours childcare from September 2025.
- 4) All primary school aged children being able to access before and after school provision, from 8am to 6pm, during term time, from September 2026.

3.3 The attached report further highlights the progress made to date, the associated financial information, and a summary of issues.

4 List of attached information

4.1 Report provided by the Director of Education.

4.2 Letter from the Department for Education.

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 and Audit Support Officer
damon.stanton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Meeting Title	Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee
Report Title	Delivery of the national childcare reforms for the early years entitlements for children under 5 years of age and wraparound childcare provision for school aged children
Meeting Date	10 th July 2024

Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People Nick Lee, Director of Education
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Cheryl Barnard
Report author and contact details:	Kathryn Bouchlaghem, Head of Service – Early Years Kathryn.bouchlaghem@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Headline Detail

The announcement of the national, large-scale, childcare reforms in the Chancellor’s Spring Budget 2023 are designed to support early education and help parents with childcare so they can return to work more easily. The development of these transformative reforms are a national requirement and an extension to the LA’s statutory duties, they are not optional.

In addition to ensuring the continued delivery of the existing early years entitlements, the key deliverables of these reforms are to ensure:

- Working parents of 2 year olds being able to access 15 hours childcare from April 2024
- Working parents of children aged 9 – 23 months being able to access 15 hours childcare from September 2024
- Working parents of children aged 9 months to primary school age being able to access 30 hours childcare from September 2025
- All primary school aged children being able to access before and after school provision, from 8am to 6pm, during term time, from September 2026

All aspects of delivery programmes related to these agendas will be risk managed, to assess likelihood and impact, with actions built in to mitigate against negative risks.

It is essential that we utilise this national policy with a local “One Council” approach in the broadest sense. This is an opportunity for Nottingham to establish a solid childcare and early education infrastructure. Our grassroots expectations for this infrastructure, underpinned by the fundamental principle of incorporating the needs of children with SEND, should support parental choice for working parents, local employers and the local economy. It directly links into Early Help and Family Hub priorities and collaborative working with our schools and private, voluntary and independent childcare providers, who also support the wider family.

Progress to Date

Taking the lead in the delivery of these reforms, the Early Years Team have:

- Refreshed childcare sufficiency supply and demand data to identify priority wards for targeted development.
- Supported schools and childcare providers in the private, voluntary and independent sector to deliver the 15 hours childcare provision from April 2024 for working parents of 2-year-olds, with over 700 local 2 year olds accessing this new entitlement in the city during Summer Term 2024.
- Undertaken preliminary work with schools and providers around existing wraparound provision. This will be accelerated during the 2024-25 academic year following a national shift in the timescales for this reform, which now expects that parents should see an expansion in the availability of wraparound care from September 2024.
- Initiated support to schools and childcare providers for the further expansion of the early years entitlements due September 2024 and September 2025.
- Been instrumental in securing the capital and revenue funding available to support the reforms and making the funding available to the sector.

Associated Financial Information

These reforms have been supported through the provision of additional finance to the LA;

- c£491k of capital funding to support the creation and expansion of early years entitlement places and wraparound childcare places. Approval to disseminate this to the sector under a grant application process is currently going through PLT and Capital Board approval processes.
- Revenue funding for early years entitlement places is being provided through Dedicated Schools Grant funding. This is ordinarily based on January Census data but due to the introduction of two new entitlements in 2024, this is being based, for this year only, on two additional data submissions in Summer and Autumn 2024.
- c£1.759m revenue funding for wraparound childcare places available over the next 2 financial years. Costed Delivery Plan, approved by the Section 151 Officer, is currently with the Department for Education's Delivery Partner, Childcare Works, for final approval.
- Anticipated that by the end of Summer 2024, a package of available capital and revenue opportunities will be established and open to applications from schools and childcare providers.
- Any grant funding awarded will not exceed the amount allocated to the LA and awarding processes will ensure clarity that any additional or ongoing costs, over and above any agreed grant award, will be the responsibility of individual providers, not the LA.

Summary of Issues

Delivery of these national childcare reforms to date has been managed through re-aligning priorities within the existing Early Years Team. However, there are a number of issues that could present challenges to the successful ongoing delivery of this work:

- Tight timescales on implementation, particularly the acceleration in the timescale for wraparound places from September 2024. Whilst we can deliver some 'quick wins' by formalizing existing arrangements, the majority of new wraparound places will be delivered during the 2024-25 academic year.

- Significant and large-scale data returns, not all scheduled or expected, required from government, the complexity of which often requires tasks being reprioritised at short notice, the engagement of time and expertise of other departments and LA authorisation from relevant senior finance personnel, in order to meet short deadlines.
- Critical work with colleagues around understanding processes linked to Dedicated Schools Grant allocations, including setting annual provider hourly rates for early years entitlement places based on budget allocations, liaison with, and approval by, Schools Forum and necessary sector consultation periods. From 2024-25, there is also the expectation of a new requirement for LA's to inform childcare providers of early years funding rates for the forthcoming financial year within 8 week of the LA budget allocations being announced.

Recommendation(s):

1. To utilise this national policy with a local "One Council" approach to establish a solid childcare and early education infrastructure in the city, engaging priorities of wider teams and fostering collaborative working to ensure a comprehensive offer to all of our youngest children and their families, ultimately improving outcomes for our citizens.

2. For officers to be identified to support the championing and embedding of this work cross-divisionally, ensuring Corporate Directors and Executive Members are updated accordingly and necessary support is available to inform and update the Section 151 Officer of required approvals.

3. To ensure ensure the national allocations and funding formula are applied affordably within the LA and to the sector in a thorough and financially robust and transparent way to ensure required deadlines are met.

1. Background

- Details of the LA's statutory duties to secure free early years provision for all eligible children to ensure that there is sufficient childcare for working parents can be found in [The Childcare Act 2006](#) (updated 2016).
- The latest national overview on the childcare reforms can be found in a letter sent to all Directors of Children's Services, dated 21st May 2024, from Susie Owen, Director for Early Years, Childcare, Families and Analysis and Sophie Taylor, Director for Vulnerable Children's Strategy and Educational Engagement, at the Department for Education (attached).

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21st May 2024

Dear Directors of Children's Services

Childcare Reform Update

We are writing to you to express our gratitude for the work your teams have already undertaken to deliver the Childcare Reform Programme, and to seek your continued support as we move into the next phase of delivery on both the early years entitlement expansion, and the national wraparound programme.

Early Years Entitlement Expansion

Thank you for all the work that led to the successful delivery of phase 1 of the early year entitlements expansion in April and for the ongoing preparations for phase 2 in September. Thanks to the hard work of your teams, working closely with parents and providers, over 200,000 two-year-olds are already benefitting from 15 hours of funded early education, supporting parents to more easily manage their career and help with the cost of childcare. Your support in ensuring that funding rates were shared with your local providers as early as possible was greatly appreciated and enabled providers to plan and feel confident ahead of the childcare expansion. We are continuing to work with your teams on the details of the earlier announcement that local authorities will have an eight-week window to communicate hourly funding rates to providers. Thank you in advance for your teams' help on this issue, it is greatly appreciated.

We also wanted to highlight the importance of working with your providers to make sure that they check the eligibility of all their working parent entitlements codes well ahead of a child starting their place. Ahead of the September start, we are aware that some providers in your area will close for the summer holidays, so where parents have confirmed taking up a place, we expect providers to have validated these codes via DfE's ECS system before they close for the summer. This is an important step to ensure that parents are accessing public funding for a place to which they are entitled, but it also allows government to monitor national and local level sufficiency. We are currently working on plans to be able to share a dashboard with you through the View your Education Data (VYED) portal, which will allow you to see at an LA-level how many codes have been issued to parent's resident in your local authority and how many of these codes have been validated and checked against the ECS system. We are also considering how to share LA-level information on code validation publicly, given the high level of public interest in the childcare reform programme. This will be after the term in question has started, and we will ensure you have notice of any such publication.

National Wraparound Programme

The National Wraparound Childcare programme is a key element of the wider programme, enabling parents of children of all ages to make choices about when and how much they work. Local authorities play a crucial role in delivering this part of the

childcare reform programme, and we are writing to seek your support to help ensure delivery is on track.

You and your teams have made huge steps in your preparation for delivery of the wraparound programme, and we recognise the hard work, at pace, that this has taken.

September 2024 is a significant milestone, as this is when most new places should start to be delivered. The data we have received from local authorities so far indicates that the pace and trajectory of place delivery is likely to be slower than that originally anticipated, despite the hard work of your teams. This is important because places that are delivered later in the programme will have less time to grow parental demand. There is a risk that some local authorities will 'time out' and miss this window of opportunity, meaning new childcare places will not have adequate time to embed, assure parents of availability, build demand, and become financially viable once government support ends.

That is why it is so important that your wraparounds leads and supporting staff continue to receive adequate time, priority and support to frontload delivery of new and expanded places in September 2024. Your wraparound teams will need the support from others across your organisation to deliver the system change required, including data experts, comms input, and school engagement support. We would value your help in enabling these cross-team connections to be made, where it is not already happening as effectively as it could be.

We also understand that funding timescales are impacting the scale and pace of delivery, in that some local authorities are understandably hesitant to commit any funding until the grant funding for this year has been paid. Our commitment to fund local authorities to deliver this programme is set out in the Memorandum of Understanding and [grant determination letter](#), alongside our expectations for use of the funding. In order to prepare adequately for September delivery, we would urge you to consider spending in advance of receiving this funding. We can assure that you will receive the funding you require, up to the maximum allocations, providing you return a satisfactory delivery plan that demonstrates value for money. We have provided clear guidance on what will be considered good value for money. If you assess yourself as being within these parameters, you can be confident that you will receive your funding. In addition, all LAs have received capacity funding. As this is unringfenced, any unspent capacity funding can be used for delivery as required.

We aim to confirm acceptance of the delivery plan, the value and date of the grant payment, within 4 weeks of the plan being submitted to Childcare Works. We hope that this will enable you to distribute funding to providers as early as possible. We will make the grant payment 4-6 weeks later. Plans that do not meet the core requirements as set out in guidance are likely to take longer to approve, but DfE and Childcare Works will work at pace with local authorities to improve the delivery plan and minimise funding delays.

Here are some of our key upcoming milestones for you to be aware of:

- **May – 14th June** – LAs to submit Delivery Plans for programme funding
- **June – August** – Upon Delivery Plan approval, LAs receive grant funding – the earlier the delivery plan is received, the earlier funding will be received

- **September** – Programme launch: additional wraparound childcare places available for parents to access in all areas of the country
- **October** – First Management Information (MI) data collection return

For more detail about the National Wraparound Childcare programme, please see the attached information sheet and our published [programme handbook](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the DfE team at wraparound.programme@education.gov.uk or with Childcare Works at childcareworks@mottmac.com.

Thank you again for everything you and your local authority have accomplished so far. We appreciate your ongoing support, and your continued commitment to delivering this programme.

Kind regards



Susie Owen

Director for Early Years, Childcare, Families and Analysis



Sophie Taylor

Director for Vulnerable Children's Strategy and Educational Engagement

National Wraparound Childcare Programme

Information sheet for Local Authorities

The national wraparound childcare programme is part of the childcare reforms announced at the 2023 Spring Budget.¹ The government's ambition is that by 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm, so that parents can access employment and increase labour market participation. To support this ambition, the government announced that it will provide £289 million of start-up funding over two academic years to support LAs and PVI's in England to introduce or expand childcare provision on either side of the school day, which parents of primary school-aged children will be able to pay to access. The programme funding aims to remove all barriers to setting up new provision or expanding current provision, including removing the financial risk of setting up new provision, even where demand from parents may not yet be guaranteed.

Collective vision of the programme

This programme will be **local authority-led**, with LAs leading the strategy and delivery of the programme locally, as this builds on their existing duty to ensure that there is sufficient childcare in their local area. It will also be **school-centred** with provision delivered by a variety of childcare providers to best meet the needs of local communities and families.

For this programme to be successful, it needs to be **cohesive and collaborative** across LAs, PVI's and parents, **purposeful** with **strong leadership, senior buy-in** and **shared motivation**, and **deliverable** by drawing on **dedicated, skilled LA wraparound staff**. Further to this, the programme should be **reflective of the community** by building on existing assets and understanding on the local community, **high quality, inclusive and sustainable** for future families once programme has ended.

Delivery model

LAs have received 'capacity funding' to use internally to build capacity within their teams. LAs will also receive funding to expand and set up new provision and ensure sufficient places are available ('programme funding'). Parents will still be expected to pay for provision as this programme aims to increase the **availability** of childcare, rather than subsidise childcare, but support with costs will be available to eligible parents via Universal Credit childcare (support for up to 85% subsidy of their costs) or Tax-Free Childcare (covering 20% of costs up to £2k a year).

¹ [Chancellor unveils a Budget for growth - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-unveils-a-budget-for-growth)

By providing funding upfront, we aim to minimise the financial risk of setting up or expanding provision. We initially expect our funding to ensure sufficient supply of wraparound places to meet current local demand, but over time as approaches are tested and refined and other government interventions encourage parents to enter the labour market, we expect to see increased take-up/demand for places. The hypothesis is that this leads to provision being self-financing and sustainable in the longer term.

As outlined in the [programme handbook \(p.16\)](#), local authorities should take 7 key steps to deliver this programme: (1) ensure **strong local leadership** through a **robust governance structure**, (2) allocate a **designated wraparound lead** and ensure **appropriate resourcing**, (3) **plan for delivery** (supply and demand mapping) (4) submit a **costed delivery plan** detailing how the funding will be used to expand existing places and create new places, (5) **allocate funding** to providers, (6) work collaboratively with providers to **set up provision** and (7) continue to **promote the programme** to providers and parents. If you have any questions, please contact wraparound.programme@education.gov.uk

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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

10 July 2024

Draft Work Programme

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the Committee's work programme for 2024/25 based on areas of work identified by the Committee at previous committee meetings, the informal meeting of the Committee to scope its work programme for the year ahead and any further suggestions raised at this meeting

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the work that is currently planned for the municipal year 2024/25 and make amendments to this programme as appropriate

3 Background information

- 3.1 The purpose of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is to carry out the statutory overview and scrutiny function in relation to matters affecting children and young people.
- 3.2 The Committee is responsible for setting and managing its own work programme to fulfil this role.
- 3.3 In setting a programme for scrutiny activity, the Committee should aim for an outcome-focused work programme that has clear priorities and a clear link to its roles and responsibilities. The work programme needs to be flexible so that issues which arise as the year progresses can be considered appropriately.
- 3.4 Where there are a number of potential items that could be scrutinised in a given year, consideration of what represents the highest priority or area of risk will assist with work programme planning. The Scrutiny Prioritisation Process has been attached to assist Members on those considerations with the Committee advised to focus on two items per meeting so that due consideration can be given.
- 3.5 The current work programme for the municipal year 2024/25 is attached.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Scrutiny Prioritisation Process

4.2 2024/25 Committee Work Programme

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 Nottingham City Council Constitution

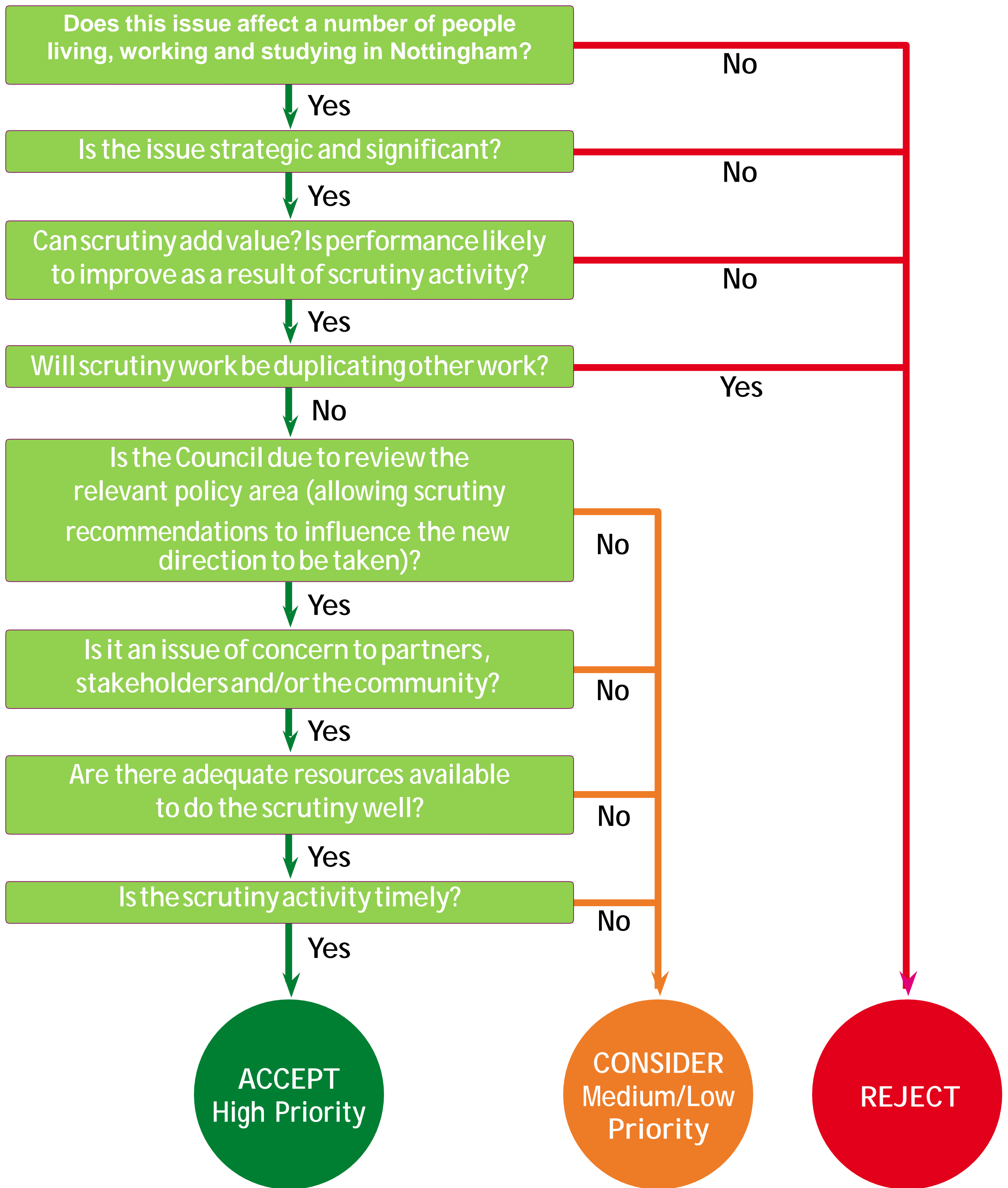
7 Wards affected

7.1 NA

8 Contact information

8.1 Damon Stanton – Scrutiny & Audit Support Officer
damon.stanton@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Nottingham City Council Scrutiny Prioritisation Process



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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 2024/25 Work Programme

Chair: Councillor Naim Salim

Vice Chair: TBC

Wednesday at 9.30am

Date	Items
15 May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Exploitation To scrutinise current arrangements in preventing child exploitation including cross partnership working and strategy development.• Children's Services Improvement To scrutinise progress in the Council's improvement journey following an OFSTED monitoring visit.
10 July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priority Education Investment Area To hold partners to account.• Early years Extended Entitlement and Wrap Around Care• Children's Services Improvement To receive a verbal update from the Executive Member on progress made in the Council's improvement journey.
11 September 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nottingham City Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report To consider the safeguarding partnership annual report.• Transformation/savings delivery plans• Children's Services Improvement To scrutinise progress in the Council's improvement journey following an OFSTED monitoring visit.

Date	Items
13 November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative education provisions for permanently excluded children • Provisions for children without a school place / fair access • Children’s Services Improvement To receive a verbal update from the Executive Member on progress made in the Council’s improvement journey.
15 January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of the 25/26 Budget proposals on Children’s Services and Education* To scrutinise the proposed budget and its impact on service provisions • Children’s Services Improvement To scrutinise progress in the Council’s improvement journey following an OFSTED monitoring visit.
12 March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership response to SEND reforms • Impact of attainment • Placement Sufficiency • Children’s Services Improvement To receive a verbal update from the Executive Member on progress made in the Council’s improvement journey.
Special meeting if required	

Date	Items
April TBC	

Standing items

- Children’s Services Improvement – every meeting
- Nottingham City Council Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report – September
- Placement Sufficiency - March
- Impact of attainment – March
- Child Exploitation Strategy – 12-18 months to assess the performance of the Strategy

Topics for work programme

- Child Fostering – how can the Council champion and develop its own foster carers
- Youth Justice
- Police & Crime Commissioner – response to children living in households involving domestic violence / prevention of youth crime
- Child Poverty Strategy – how can the Council help prevent child poverty – mitigating the impacts of the removal of the household support fund

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WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

COMPLETED ON

SIGNED (CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE)

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