



**Nottingham City Council
Executive Board**

Date: Tuesday, 19 November 2024

Time: 2.00 pm

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: Phil Wye **Direct Dial:** 0115 8764637

Agenda	Pages
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Declarations of Interests	
3 Minutes Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2024, for confirmation	3 - 14
4 Joint SEND Commissioning Strategy for 2024-2027 Report of the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education	15 - 42
5 Exclusion of the Public To consider excluding the public from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, under Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraph 3, on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information	
6 District Heating Strategy - Future of District Heating Options Appraisal Report of the Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and	43 - 114

Culture

All items listed 'under exclusion of the public' will be heard in private for the reasons listed in the agenda papers. They have been included on the agenda as no representations against hearing the items in private were received.

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

Executive Board

Minutes of the meeting held at Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 22 October 2024 from 2.00 pm - 2.35 pm

Membership

Present

Councillor Ethan Radford (Vice Chair)
Councillor Cheryl Barnard
Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis
Councillor Sam Lux
Councillor Linda Woodings

Absent

Councillor Neghat Khan (Chair)
Councillor Kevin Clarke
Councillor Jay Hayes
Councillor Corall Jenkins

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Jill Colbert	- Corporate Director for Children and Education Services
Nicki Jenkins	- Interim Corporate Director for Growth and City Development
Tony McArdle	- Lead Commissioner
Colin Parr	- Corporate Director for Community, Environment and Residents Services
Phil Wye	- Governance Officer

Call-in

Unless stated otherwise, all decisions are subject to call-in. The last date for call-in is 30 October 2024. Decisions cannot be implemented until the working day after this date.

48 Chairing Arrangements

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Ethan Radford chaired the Board meeting in his capacity as Vice-Chair.

49 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Kevin Clarke – work commitments
Councillor Jay Hayes – leave
Councillor Corall Jenkins - unwell
Councillor Neghat Khan – other Council business

Beth Brown
Ross Brown
Roz Howie
Shabana Kausar

50 Declarations of Interests

None.

51 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

52 Formal Adoption of Greener, Healthier, Happier - Nottingham - Greenspace Strategy

Councillor Sam Lux, Executive Member for Carbon Reduction, Leisure and Culture, presented the report providing details of the new Greener, Healthier, Happier Nottingham Greenspace strategy (GHH) and seeking adoption of the strategic action plan and its aims and objectives contained within the strategy. The GHH strategy has been produced during a significant period of change and challenges for the Council. As a result, the GHH has been designed to ensure that it reflects the Council's revised strategic values and the aims of the Council's Improvement Plan.

The strategy lays out a framework for a programme of ambitious service improvements and hopes to deliver a Greener, Healthier, Happier, Nottingham. The report highlights a strategic framework to define a 'direction of travel' for the city in determining how it delivers its green space assets during its lifetime.

The strategy has been enabled through the Future Parks Accelerator programme (FPA) supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF), the National Trust (NT) & the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DHLUC).

Resolved to

- (1) approve the Greener, Healthier, Happier, Nottingham Strategy and the accompanying Volunteering Strategy, including their visions, aims & objectives and the strategic action plans as detailed in Section 2 of the report;**
- (2) note there is no direct financial cost in adopting this strategy and that future transformational changes and improvement projects will be subject to future reports and NCC approval processes;**
- (3) adopt Natural England's Urban Greening Factor recommendation of 40% as a stretch target for greenspace within the city with the current amount of 38.1% as a baseline measure;**
- (4) note the Statutory Duty and the subsequent delivery and implementation of the Environment Act 2021 (as detailed in the background section of the report) including Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG);**
- (5) approve the proposal to continue the governance and oversight of the Strategy process by the Open & Green Spaces Champions Group.**

Reasons for decisions:

- As custodian of Nottingham's open and green spaces, Nottingham City Council (NCC) has a responsibility to protect and maintain its green assets. The strategy through its Vision, Aims and Objectives provides the strategic direction with definitive outputs and outcomes to ensure the delivery of a Greener, Healthier, Happier Nottingham.
- The strategy is a framework that will help inform how the Council delivers its greenspace assets during its lifetime. This report highlights that specific required strategy transformational changes and additional required resources will need to seek approval through the necessary NCC approval procedures. Adopting the strategy will support external funding from both the public and private sectors and is the ambition for achieving transformational change.
- Partnerships & Volunteering help scale presence and support existing resource enhancing outcomes. Although the strategy itself is not requiring financial support future action plans will have a requirement for funding. Sourced through income generation, sponsorship and BNG contributions and other grant monies available;
- To raise understanding and awareness of future changes to the greenspace landscape through the management, maintenance and development of green space in the city. The strategy acknowledges NCC's commitment through adoption to delivering Natural England's recommended 40% Urban Greening Factor as agreed by the Open & Green Spaces Champions Group.
- In noting the statutory duty, BNG offers a whole council approach across all departments collaborating to deliver our legal obligations. Plans for determining the Best Value approach to our future delivery are being considered.
- The Open and Green Spaces Champions Group consists of a multi-service membership made up of internal and external stakeholders with defined Terms of Reference chaired by the Portfolio Holder. This group will hold the strategy to account making recommendations for compliant, efficient, and effective implementation.

Other options considered:

- Not to adopt the strategy - rejected - 3 years of detailed Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) work, auditing, consultation and partnership collaboration have been undertaken to create this strategy and the volunteering strategy. It gives the City a clear framework to grow, protect and sustain our greenspaces. Not to pursue its adoption removes a clear plan for the service and negates access to additional external funding.
- Not to respond to data and insight gathered through the FPA programme and engagement with local residents that has led to the development of the Volunteering strategy and the emerging Tree and Woodland Strategy which will ensure community led solutions are fully explored and developed - rejected as would result in no plan to engage with local residents nor the opportunity to build capacity.
- Not to agree to the implementation of the now mandatory BNG legislation and understand its impact on the Planning and Greenspace & Natural Environment Services - rejected - The Council will not be able to undertake the additional duties imposed by the Environment Act 2021 and fail to discharge a vital statutory duty.

- Not to identify and investigate different delivery models for Greenspace Development will lead to Best Value opportunities being missed. Rejected - The FPA programme has considered various delivery models for all service areas that will be further interrogated as part of the delivery of the outputs of the strategy.

53 Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan Publication Draft

In the absence of Councillor Jay Hayes, Executive Member for Housing and Planning, Councillor Linda Woodings presented the report on the Greater Nottingham Publication Draft Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) which has been prepared in partnership with Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils, and sets out a coherent and consistent strategic planning framework across the four local authority areas.

The Strategic Plan sets a strategic planning framework for Nottingham City to 2041, including the broad scale and location of housing and economic growth over that period, together with supporting infrastructure and how environmental matters will be considered. The Strategic Plan will be part of the statutory Development Plan that all local planning authorities must prepare by law. The document is at the 'Publication' stage of the plan preparation process and is the first formal stage in the production of the document (i.e. Regulation 19); it follows several stages of informal consultation.

Resolved to

- (1) approve the Publication Draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan for consultation in so far as it relates to Nottingham City, to allow a period of public representations;**
- (2) delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Transport to make any minor editing changes such as typographical, formatting, or changes to imagery necessary to the Publication Draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and any supporting evidence documents prior to consultation.**

Reasons for decisions:

- Production of a Local Plan is a statutory requirement. If no planning framework is in place, the government's default presumption in favour of sustainable development will apply to relevant planning applications.
- It would be possible for Nottingham City Council to publish a separate Local Plan, without aligning with the surrounding District's Local Plans. However, the 'Duty to Cooperate' introduced through the Localism Bill requires councils to demonstrate at Examination that they have worked with neighbouring councils in addressing cross boundary planning matters, and by preparing a joint Strategic Plan, this duty is met. Furthermore, working with partner Councils in Greater Nottingham has resulted in significant cost savings, achieved through commissioning one consistent evidence base, and there will be one examination rather than four.

Other options considered:

- Production of a Local Plan is a statutory requirement. If no planning framework is in place, the government's default presumption in favour of sustainable

development will apply to relevant planning applications. Not preparing a plan is therefore not considered to be a reasonable option.

- An alternative option would be for Nottingham City Council to publish a separate Local Plan, without aligning with the surrounding District's Local Plans. However, the 'Duty to Cooperate' introduced through the Localism Bill requires councils to demonstrate at Examination that they have worked with neighbouring councils in addressing cross boundary planning matters, and by preparing a Strategic Plan, this duty is met. Furthermore, working with partner Councils in Greater Nottingham has resulted in significant cost savings, achieved through commissioning one consistent evidence base, and there will be one examination rather than four.

54 Housing Strategy - Homes Fit for the Future

In the absence of Councillor Jay Hayes, Executive Member for Housing and Planning, Councillor Linda Woodings presented the report outlining the vision, priorities, and actions for improving the quality, supply, and affordability of housing in the city.

The strategy covers all tenures - social housing, the private-rented sector and owner-occupied homes. It considers how the council and its partners can make the most impact to improve the housing offer and tackle the above issues within a housing market where it has varying degrees of responsibilities and powers depending on tenure. The population in Nottingham is projected to increase by over 56,000 people by 2041 which will put further pressure on the housing market. A degree of strategic direction and intervention will be needed to ensure that the right number and type of homes are built in the right places to meet current and future demand. Partnership working will be key to achieving the vision and responding to housing need in the city, and the strategy provides a framework for organisations to work together to address the city's housing issues.

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Resolved to

(1) approve and adopt the Housing Strategy;

(2) note the consultation findings relating to the recent period of public consultation on the draft Housing Strategy;

(3) delegate to the Corporate Director of Growth and City Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Planning the responsibility for agreeing the Implementation Plan and monitoring the outcomes within.

Reasons for decisions:

- Although it is not a statutory requirement for a local authority to have a housing strategy, it is held as good practice to have one and given the council's financial constraints, it is evident that it cannot achieve the Council Plan's aim for 'Better Housing' in isolation. The council will increasingly take on the role of a strategic enabler rather than a direct delivery lead and much of the work that will happen to improve the housing offer for the city will be delivered by partners. It is important that the council provides a vision for housing in the city, identifies the priorities for the next few years and gives a lead for the many partners with whom we work.
- The Housing Strategy sits alongside several statutory strategies that are a requirement of a Strategic Housing Authority such as the Homelessness Strategy and the Local Plan, and discretionary tools such as private rented sector licensing and the Supported Housing Improvement Programme (SHIP). Having a Housing Strategy in place enables the council to demonstrate how individual interventions fit within the overall strategic city-wide approach which supports the case for the delegation of further powers to the authority.
- The previous housing strategy is now out of scope in terms of time period covered and the local and national context has changed significantly since 2018 when it was published, so a renewed strategy is necessary. The new strategy lays out up-to-date data covering the local housing market, and relevant changes in national policy that effect local decision making.
- As the largest landlord in the city, managing over 24,000 properties, the council's housing and policy decisions directly affect a significant number of residents. Nevertheless, it is important to recognise that the Housing Strategy is a cross-tenure approach, encompassing much more than the council's own homes and activities. This strategy provides an opportunity to take a holistic view of all housing tenures, addressing the needs and challenges across social housing, private rentals, and homeownership. By doing so, the strategy ensures a unified approach that strengthens the overall housing system and benefits residents across the city.

Other options considered:

- To not adopt a Housing Strategy: rejected as the document provides a clear direction for housing in the city and provides an opportunity for progress to be tracked.

55 To create a Special Educational Needs Provision at Glade Hill Primary School and the Fernwood Secondary School

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young people and Education, presented the report regarding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provisions at both Glade Hill Primary School and the Fernwood (secondary) School, which were identified as priorities in Phase 1 of the Council's SEND Capital Strategy 2023-28, to support the Council's statutory sufficiency duties in relation to

the delivery of suitable specialist educational provision for children and young people with complex SEND.

Nottingham is experiencing considerable growth in the number of young people identified as having SEND and there is an urgent, significant and increasing need for additional capacity to meet this demand. The Council is committed to supporting schools and settings within the city to offer high quality, inclusive education.

The development of provision at Glade Hill Primary School and The Fernwood School, will offer access to good and outstanding specialist educational provision for local pupils. The developments set out within the SEND Capital Strategy are aspirational for pupils with SEND residing in Nottingham and are supported by local parent carer forums and schools. Nottingham City Council's Educational Division has robust financial management of its High Needs funding block, enabling the opportunity to deliver SEND projects at a scale not replicated by comparable Local Authorities. The provisions are also positive for the council's general fund, ultimately reducing reliance on home to school transport by avoiding the need to place pupils in costly out of area independent provision, reducing longer distance transport provision.

Resolved to

- (1) approve the total allocation of funding of £1,850,000.00 comprising £1,791,835 from the High Needs Capital Fund and £58,165 Education S106 funding contribution, to create a specialist SEN provision at Glade Hill Primary School and to amend the capital programme accordingly;**
- (2) approve the total allocation of funding of £2,750,000.00, comprising £2,209,946 from the High Needs Capital Fund and £540,054 Education S106 funding contribution, to create a specialist SEN provision at The Fernwood School and to amend the capital programme accordingly;**
- (3) authorise the procurement of necessary contracts and consultants to develop and deliver the projects using the SCAPE framework and delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Children & Education Services to award any procured contracts, complying with the Council Constitution and the relevant regulations, subject to costs being contained within the financial envelope;**
- (4) authorise the procurement of the construction contract for the expansions utilising the SCAPE framework to carry out the building works and to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Children & Education Services to award any procured contracts, complying with the Council Constitution and the relevant regulations, subject to costs being contained within the financial envelope;**
- (5) procure external legal resources using compliant frameworks and to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Children & Education Services to award any procured contracts, complying with the Council Constitution and the relevant regulations, subject to costs being contained within the financial envelope.**

Reasons for decisions:

- High Needs Capital funding is intended to support the Council to fulfil its sufficiency duties in relation to the availability of suitable specialist school places for young people with complex SEND. More specialist places are required to address the existing cohorts as well as to make provision for the identified growing need. The proposals align with strategic priorities and will deliver additional capacity which is accessible for pupils in high areas of need, evidenced by the data set out in the strategy.
- In continuing to get value for money from the High Needs budget, the SEND Capital Strategy is key to achieving this. It is essential that there are sufficient local places for the growing number of high needs pupils, to avoid the need to place pupils in costly out of area independent provision, while also helping to reduce the resultant requirement for longer distance transport provision.
- The LA has a robust medium term financial plan for the High Needs revenue budget, to budget for the high needs place and top-up funding associated with the creation of additional specialist places. Revenue funding has been identified to ensure ongoing running costs for both new SEN provisions. Remodelling of the high needs block was undertaken in November 2023 which confirmed affordability of all Phase 1 schemes in the SEND Capital Strategy.
- The need for SEN provisions at both Glade Hill Primary School and the Fernwood (secondary) School, were identified as priorities during Phase 1 of the SEND Capital Strategy 2023-28, which was consulted on and approved by Executive Board in September 2023. The LA has been working in successful partnership with both schools to develop specialist provisions within the mainstream schools and for the local area.

Other options considered:

- The schemes proposed in this report are two of the six schemes identified in Phase 1 of the SEND Capital Strategy. Risks of not investing the funds: there will be fewer specialist places for the growing numbers of children and young people identified with complex SEND. There is currently insufficient provision in primary and secondary settings.
- Without this investment, there will be an increase in revenue costs, as the number of out-of-city placements would increase.

56 New Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge over the River Trent

In the absence of Councillor Neghat Khan, Executive Member for Strategic Regeneration, Transport and Communications, Councillor Ethan Radford presented the report on the delivery of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Trent linking the Waterside Regeneration area with the Hook and Lady Bay area which is included as part of the existing approved Transforming Cities Fund programme.

This is a high-profile scheme that will open up new safe routes for people living and working in Nottingham to travel in a more sustainable way for both commuting and leisure. The new bridge will also become a significant new landmark in the Trent Valley.

Subject to approvals, the main delivery contract will be signed in January 2025, with enabling works starting shortly after. The bridge will be constructed on site in the Summer of 2025 and lifted into place at the end of the year, with the remaining steps, ramps and public realm areas being completed in Spring 2026.

Resolved to

- (1) note that planning approval has been secured for the scheme, and that a scheme order, under S106(3) of the Highways Act 1980, has been submitted to the DfT, and no objections have been raised;**
- (2) note the progress of procurement activities, to deliver the scheme, up to the value of £18m, pursuant to the approval by the Executive Board on 16th June 2020 as part of the Transforming Cities Fund (2) Programme, and that these activities have been delegated to the Corporate Director of Growth and City Development;**
- (3) amend the current capital programme to reflect the reallocation of funding approved by Executive Board on 16th June 2020, to the value of £18m;**
- (4) note that approval to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Growth and City Development to enter into, and secure the necessary land and highway agreements/ acquisitions, with third-party landowners and enter into any necessary licenses with statutory agencies both within and outside of the City boundary, was granted by Executive Board in December 2021;**
- (5) approve that the City Council will maintain the pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Trent, the bridge over Trent Basin and all connecting ramps and steps as a highway asset;**
- (6) note that delivery of the scheme is to remain subject to compliance with the Department for Transport's assurance process for the programme and award of remaining allocated funding covering the cost of the scheme.**

Reasons for decisions:

- The new pedestrian and cycle bridge is a key scheme included in the existing approved Transforming Cities Fund programme.
- The scheme now has planning approval, a completed design that is currently being costed, and a scheme order S106(3) of the Highways Act 1980 (build over navigable water) has been submitted to the DfT, and no objections have been raised.
- The main components of the scheme are to construct a pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Trent, a smaller bridge over the Trent Basin, connecting ramps and steps and access paths, and improvements to surrounding paths.
- The maximum budget for the delivery of the scheme is £18m, and only when an affordable fixed price is obtained, in December 2024, and the S106 Scheme Order has been confirmed by the Secretary of State, will the Corporate Director of Growth and City Development exercise their delegated authority to enter into contracts.

Other options considered:

- To do nothing – Rejected Failure to progress to construction will prevent spend to date being capitalised and will result in a revenue pressure of around £3.8m. This will also have a negative impact on the Council's reputation.
- Reduce the specification of the bridge – Rejected. This will not only result in extensive redesign, which will be costly, but will also cause slippage to the programme, which will be deemed as unacceptable by the DfT.

57 The Disposal of Investment Property Assets from the Property Trading Account and Surplus Operational Assets

Councillor Ethan Radford, Executive Member for Skills, Growth, Economic Development and Property, presented the report regarding property assets proposed for disposal that have been reviewed in accordance with the "Asset Rationalisation Programme" and endorsed as being suitable for disposal as they will provide capital receipts to the council.

The Council is currently facing significant budget gaps due to issues facing councils in general across the country including increased demand for children's and adults' social care, rising homelessness presentations and inflation. This has meant substantial savings need to be made between 2024-25 to 2027-28 to enable balanced budgets to be set. In addition, the Council has been granted Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the Government of up to c£66m which is repaid in part using capital funds from disposals.

Resolved to

- (1) make the assets detailed in the exempt appendix surplus to the requirements of the Property Trading Account/operational service area (as applicable) and available for disposal;**
- (2) delegate approval of the final terms of sale to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development;**
- (3) appoint sales agent(s) or any other required consultant via a procurement compliant process (tender/framework/quotation) to facilitate the disposals process. Any expenditure will be subject to the Spend Control Board process;**
- (4) delegate the approval of any licences/agreements or required legal agreements to facilitate a sale, to the Director of Economic Development & Property where not already captured by the Scheme of Delegation.**

Reasons for decisions:

- Disposals will generate significant capital receipts which can be used by the Council as outlined in the budget strategy. They will also mitigate potential future financial risks arising from capital and revenue expenditure required to meet the Council's statutory, maintenance and repairing obligations and remove resource-

intensive assets from the Council's ownership. Sales will also remove any costs associated with voids/re-letting and refurbishment.

- The properties identified in the exempt appendices have been identified as suitable for sale via a detailed review process. The proceeds will allow the Council to meet its requirement of repaying EFS in year as well as a range of other items such as the repayment of borrowing, transformation, and approved projects. The disposal of income and non-income producing assets will deliver a programme of capital receipts to repay these items.
- Delegating the approval of any required asset management activity and/or method of sale to the Director of Property is required to ensure any required actions to facilitate a sale are undertaken quickly and efficiently. Such asset management actions would include rent reviews/lease renewals/assignments etc. The most appropriate method of sale will be determined depending on the asset type, value and the market at the prevailing time.
- Delegating approval of the final terms of sale to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development will ensure disposals can be progressed at pace without having to refer decisions back to the Executive Board.
- Any expenditure will be subject to the Spend Control Board process to ensure disposals can be progressed at pace without having to refer decision back to the Executive Board. All decisions will be in line with the Council's Spend Control Board process, and this has been endorsed by the S151 Officer.

Other options considered:

- Not to sell the assets - This option has been rejected as retention of the assets could present a financial risk to the Council in terms of capital expenditure for repairs, maintenance and compliance works or due to a potential fall in revenue income. Retaining the asset would also forego potentially significant capital receipts. The option to dispose will remain under review and if market conditions or due diligence reveals that the asset should be retained, reviewed, or sold later this decision will be recommended to the Corporate Director for Growth & City Development.
- Capital expenditure is required on most assets proposed for disposal, largely to ensure compliance with the Council's contractual and statutory obligations. This expenditure is necessary to preserve existing income streams and protect the value of an asset.
- Required expenditure includes repairs to buildings for which the Council is liable, and compliance with statutory requirements, most notably works to satisfy minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES) and obtain valid Energy Performance Certification (EPC).
- In the absence of a valid EPC certificate, the Council is prevented from letting assets which fail to meet required EPC legislation. EPC requirements are becoming increasingly stringent, with the next major uplift in standards being implemented on 1st April 2028 (delayed from 2027).
- Failure to expend monies may result in fines, loss of income, reputational damage and incur void costs and impairment in capital value.
- It is also anticipated market sentiment will turn negative on non-EPC compliant assets in advance of the 1st April 2028 deadline (delayed from 2027).
- Currently no provision to implement EPC compliance works exists within the Capital Programme and urgent budgetary provision is required to comply with impending legal requirements. It is considered unlikely that Capex on EPC and

repair works will generate increased rental income, as compliance with contractual lease obligations and legislation is expected.

58 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, under Schedule 12A, Part 1, Paragraphs 3 and 5, on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

59 New Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge over the River Trent - Exempt Appendix

Councillor Ethan Radford, Executive Member for Skills, Growth, Economic Development and Property, presented the exempt appendix, which was noted by the Board.

60 The Disposal of Investment Property Assets from the Property Trading Account and Surplus Operational Assets - Exempt Appendix

Councillor Ethan Radford, Executive Member for Skills, Growth, Economic Development and Property, presented the exempt appendix, which was noted by the Board.

Subject:	Joint SEND Commissioning Strategy for 2024-2027
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Jill Colbert - Corporate Director for Children and Education Services Roz Howie – Director Commissioning and Partnerships
Executive Member(s):	Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
Report author and contact details:	Melody Hinds – Commissioning Officer melody.hinds@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Other colleagues who have provided input:	
Subject to call-in: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No The Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee has approved exemption from call-in on 31/10/24 due to the immediate and pressing deadlines faced by both Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council regarding their respective SEND Local Area Re-Inspections and Inspections. This exemption is necessary to ensure that the councils remain compliant with critical legal obligations and to prevent negative repercussions that would arise from a delay in publication of the strategy.	
Key Decision: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Criteria for Key Decision: (a) <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision and/or (b) Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Type of expenditure: <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital If Capital, provide the date considered by Capital Board Date: There are no direct financial implications of the Joint Commissioning SEND Strategy.	
Total value of the decision: £0	
Section 151 Officer expenditure approval Has the spend been approved by the Section 151 Officer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/a Spend Control Board approval reference number:	
Commissioner Consideration Has this report been shared with the Commissioners' Office? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Any comments the Commissioners wish to provide are listed below.	
Wards affected: All	
Date of consultation with Executive Member(s): 19/11/24	
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome: Clean, Green and Connected Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Keeping Nottingham Working <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon Neutral by 2028 <input type="checkbox"/> Safer Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/> Child-Friendly Nottingham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Living Well in Our Communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keeping Nottingham Moving <input type="checkbox"/> Improve the City Centre <input type="checkbox"/> Better Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Serving People Well <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):

The Children and Families Act (2014) and Code of Practice for SEN (2014) places explicit duties on local authorities and Integrated care boards (ICBs) for developing joint commissioning arrangements for education, health and care provision for children and young people with SEN or disabilities. The duty includes the joint arrangements for commissioning services to improve outcomes for 0 to 25-year-old children and young people with SEND, including those with Education Health and Care (EHC) plans.

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027 (attached as appendix 1) empowers the Council and its key stakeholders to effectively navigate the evolving SEND landscape and enhance the confidence of parents and carers in the associated processes and provisions.

This strategy outlines local joint commissioning approaches and details how partners collaborate to commission services that improve health, social, and educational outcomes while reducing inequalities for children and young people with SEND in Nottinghamshire. A person-centred approach ensures that the voices and aspirations of children, young people, and their families are integral to the commissioning process.

A new strategy is crucial for meeting the standards of the Local Area SEND Inspection and is integral to strengthening SEND governance and leadership within the SEND system.

Agreement is being sought to approve the content of the strategy and to approve the publishing of the strategy.

Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?

No

Recommendation(s):

1. To consider and comment on the draft Joint SEND Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027.
2. To agree the proposed strategic direction set out in the draft Joint SEND Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027.
3. To agree to the publishing of the Joint SEND Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027. Subject to any changes required by this committee with delegation to the Director of Education to approve any amendments required before publication.

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice (2015). In developing a joint commissioning approach, Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire County, and the ICB can ensure full compliance with national SEND legislation. Working collaboratively enables all parties to meet the requirements of local area SEND inspections, which focus on how well services work together to improve outcomes for children with SEND.
- 1.2 By commissioning a joint SEND strategy, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, and the ICB can create a more efficient, integrated, and consistent system of support for children and young people with SEND across both regions.
- 1.3 A single, integrated strategy ensures that the needs of children and young people with SEND are met holistically in a multi-disciplinary approach across education, health and social care which can ensure that services are well-coordinated, reducing overlaps and gaps in provision. Thus, strengthening the SEND local offer.

- 1.4 Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County share a significant number of families whose children move between these areas. A joint strategy would promote consistent SEND services, eligibility criteria, and support structures across the two regions. This consistency would reduce confusion for families who might otherwise encounter differing policies and processes when accessing SEND services in different areas.
- 1.5 SEND children often require complex healthcare services in addition to educational support. By including the ICB in the commissioning process, the health needs of children and young people with SEND can be more effectively integrated with educational plans. This ensures that their physical and mental health needs are aligned with their learning objectives, promoting better overall well-being and improving long-term outcomes for SEND children and their families.
- 1.6 A joint SEND strategy enables stronger and more coherent engagement with key stakeholders, including parents, carers, schools, healthcare providers, and third-sector organisations. By working together, Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire County and the ICB can create a more transparent process, improve communication, and involve families more meaningfully in the planning and evaluation of SEND services.
- 1.7 The demand for SEND services is increasing national and locally. A joint commissioning strategy allows for better planning and forecasting to meet this growing demand. It ensures that resources are allocated efficiently and that services are developed to cater to the increasing number of children and young people with SEND, particularly in the context of changing demographics and increased diagnoses of SEND needs such as autism or speech, language, and communication difficulties.
- 1.8 SEND children often face inequalities in accessing education, healthcare, and social support. A joint strategy ensures that all children, regardless of whether they live in Nottingham City or Nottinghamshire County, receive equitable access to services. By working together, the councils and the ICB can identify areas where certain groups or localities may be disadvantaged and implement targeted interventions to address these disparities.

2. **Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

- 2.1 Learning from the Nottinghamshire County Council SEND inspection, which noted “Partnership leaders do not work together effectively in order to meet their statutory requirements for joint commissioning fully”, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Authorities and the Integrated Care Board have been taking steps to ensure a more joined up approach to meeting the needs of our children with SEND.
- 2.2 This strategy has been developed including the Voice of the Child who have developed a set of statements expressing what they need from our services. The strategy also recognises the need for on-going engagement and co-production.
- 2.3 The multi-year Joint Commissioning Strategy will be supported by an annual delivery plan, included as an appendix to the strategy. For 2024/5, 5 priority areas for Joint Commissioning have been identified:

- Speech, Language and Communication Needs services
- Sensory Occupational Therapy support service / pathway
- Integrated sleep support pathway
- Integrated Occupational Therapy pathway
- Integrated Data Dashboard

2.4 The Joint Commissioning Strategy and delivery plan will be reviewed and monitored regularly by the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Strategic Commissioning Group, and by the Nottinghamshire SEND Executive Leadership Group, who will also identify priorities for the annual delivery plans.

3. **Other options considered in making recommendations**

3.1 The Executive Board could determine to not develop a new Joint SEND Commissioning Strategy. However, Nottingham City's SEND Local Area Inspection is imminent and a system approach to SEND Commissioning is a requirement under the Ofsted Local Area Inspection Framework.

3.2 Learning from Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Area Inspection evidences the necessity of a joined-up strategy as crucial aspect of improving SEND governance and the leadership of the SEND system.

4. **Consideration of Risk**

4.1 Upcoming changes to SEND legislation, the introduction of new government policies, or revisions to the SEND Code of Practice may alter the requirements for SEND services. All parties should monitor developments in national SEND policy and legislation closely and the flexibility built into the strategy should allow for adaptation to new legal requirements.

4.2 The wider SEND market will be involved and consulted when making plans around future provision to ensure that commissioners are aware of any circumstances which may impact on the ability of the market to meet needs and take this into account when considering delivery models going forward.

5. **Best Value Considerations, including consideration of Make or Buy where appropriate**

5.1 A joint commissioning approach enables the potential pooling of resources and funding. This could lead to economies of scale, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively and efficiently. Combining efforts helps eliminate duplication of services, reduces administrative overhead, and allows for better investment in specialist services.

5.2 Any services commissioned, where Nottingham City Council is contributing financial resources, will be subject to a commissioning review which best value considerations will be included before seeking approval through the relevant governance processes.

6. **Commissioner comments**

6.1 Commissioners have approved the report

7. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

- 7.1 Should any joint commissioning activities stem from this strategy they will each require a financial analysis at that point in time to determine the efficiencies made or benefits derived. The financial implications arising at that time should be considered, included and assessed as part of any future report. Best value for money can be achieved by working collaboratively and economies of scale can be enjoyed by all parties whilst still delivering a quality outcome.

Donna Munday ACMA, CGMA
Senior Commercial Business Partner – High Needs
Children Services and Education
Sadrul Alam – Strategic Business Partner – interim

8. Legal colleague comments

- 8.1 This report seeks comments on the Joint SEND Commissioning strategy and, once finalised, authorise its publication.
- 8.2 As set out above, the Council has statutory duty pursuant to section 26 Children and Families Act 2014 to make joint commissioning arrangements and the strategy is put forward to discharge this requirement.
- 8.3 Any contractual arrangements entered into pursuant to the strategy will be subject to their own individual authorisations.

Tom Button, Contracts and Commercial Team Leader.

9. Other relevant comments

N/A

10. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

- 10.1 N/A

11. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

- 11.1 Improved local health outcomes contributes to socio-economic factors such as healthy life expectancy, employment and local economic development.

12. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)

- 12.1 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to the NHS Constitution when exercising their public health functions under the NHS Act 2006. In making decisions relating to public health, functions we consider the NHS Constitution where appropriate and consider how it can be applied in order to commission services to improve health and wellbeing.

13. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 13.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No
An EIA is not required because individual EIAs will be undertaken for any commissioning activity undertaken.

Yes

14. **Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

14.1 Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No
A DPIA is not required because the strategy is intended to be a public document and does not contain any personal identifiable information.

Yes

15. **Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)**

15.1 Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No
A CIA is not required because there are no proposals which have a significant carbon impact. Any specific commissioning activity will consider the need for a carbon impact assessment.

Yes

16. **List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

Draft Nottingham and Nottinghamshire SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027

17. **Published documents referred to in this report**

17.1 Children and Families Act 2014

17.2 SEND Code of Practice 2014

17.3 SEND Code of Practice 2015

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire SEND Joint Commissioning Strategy

2024-2027

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FINAL DRAFT



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Introduction and background

Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) are dedicated to improving and transforming education, health, and care services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to ensure all children get the best possible start to life.

This strategy sets out the joint commissioning arrangements between our organisations. Acknowledging the influence of previous years, this strategy reflects adaptations necessitated by the development of the Integrated Care System, the Covid 19 pandemic, the establishment of new Directors of Children Services regional commissioning arrangements, and the new local area SEND Inspection framework published in December 2022, and has been informed by several national and local documents including:

- **[The Children and Families Act \(2014\)](#)**: Which introduced SEND reforms, mandating agencies to collaborate across education, health, and care domains for joint outcomes.
- **[The NHS Long Term Plan \(2019\)](#)**: Which emphasises the importance of integrating health and social care services to provide holistic support for individuals with SEND.
- Nottinghamshire's SEND Strategy 2024 - 2027 (to add once drafted): Which builds upon Nottinghamshire's long-standing commitment to inclusion which enables children and young people with SEND receive appropriate support and are able to access education that meets their needs
- **[Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(Special Education Needs and Disability 0 – 25 years\)](#)**: supports a local understanding of the needs of children and young people with SEND in Nottinghamshire
- **[Nottingham City Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 0 – 25 years, May 2024](#)**: supports a local understanding of the needs of children and young people with SEND in Nottingham
- **[Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Joint Local Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health 2016-2024 \(healthandcarenotts.co.uk\)](#)**: Which sets out a collaborative commitment to commission mental health services for children and young people that are holistic and inclusive.



- [Nottinghamshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2022 - 2026](#): Which emphasises the need for early identification intervention and ensuring that health, education and social services work collaboratively.
- [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Nottingham 2022 - 2025](#): Which emphasises the need for early identification and intervention ensuring that health, education and social services work collaboratively.
- [Health and Care Act 2022](#) which introduces clear responsibilities and accountability for delivering joined-up services to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

The Local Authorities and ICB have adeptly responded to the challenges of recent years, and to the national and local requirements within the documents set out above, fostering positive changes such as enhanced inter-organisational communication and engagement with service users. These adaptations are crucial for implementing the Strategy, especially as both the City and County Councils and the ICB face financial challenges. It is vital to work collaboratively to avoid duplication, ensure value for money, and improve outcomes for children and young people.

The overarching vision of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire SEND Partnership Assurance and Improvement Groups is to prioritise the safety, health, and happiness of children and young people with SEND, aiming for a high quality of life and opportunities for personal growth, independence, and societal contribution. ***We want to champion and improve the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND, and to ensure that they are listened to and heard; they are the healthiest they can be, are safe and feel safe, accepted, valued, able to enjoy, have fun, and are prepared for their futures.***



Central to everything we do is the voice of children and young people, and our motivation is the positive impact this strategy will have upon their experiences. Children and young people have helped to develop these child-centred first-person statements about what they need from our services:



I need to be listened to and heard



I need to be the healthiest I can be



I need to be safe and feel safe



I need to be accepted and valued by people I trust



I need to be prepared for my future



I need to enjoy life and have fun



2.

What is joint commissioning?

Commissioning is the process of understanding the needs of a population or group and using available resources to meet those needs through procurement and contracting processes. Joint commissioning is where the process is done in partnership to increase efficiency and enable joined up services. This commissioning is done on a strategic level, looking at the needs of the population with partners and determining the most effective way to deliver services to meet those needs. Although the process can include pooling budgets, joint funding is not an essential component of effective joint commissioning.

Children and young people with SEND need services across health, social care, and educational services, therefore it is important commissioners work together to plan provision. Effective joint commissioning ensures that children and their family's needs are understood and that the services to meet them are known about, accessible at the time they are needed, with smooth transitions. Effective joint commissioning should see a reduction in duplication, maximising the impact of the combined commissioning budget.

In Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, a person-centred approach ensures the voice of children, young people and their families is listened to and has an impact on the commissioning process. Commissioners will also engage with the market to ensure it understands and can develop to meet the needs of the population they seek to serve. Existing and potential providers are key strategic partners in a successful joint commissioning process.



The stages of the joint commissioning cycle

Joint understanding: The needs of children and young people with SEND and their families are identified, assessed, and shared with service planners and providers to ensure a shared understanding of need to inform commissioning plans. Wherever possible plans should be co-produced rather than consulted on (See section 4 for details of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire approach to co-production).

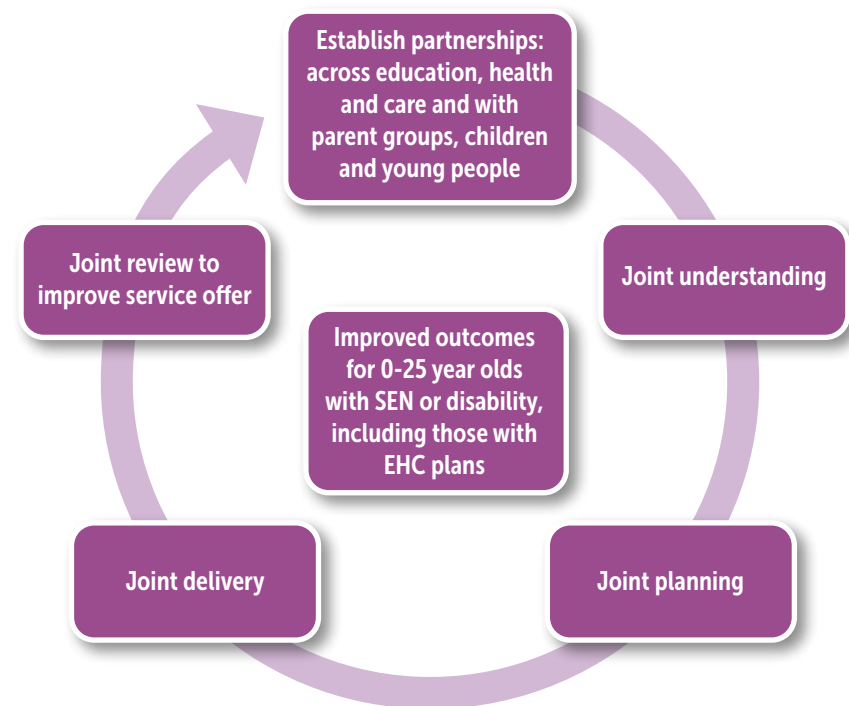
Joint planning: This process uses the intelligence from assessment of need to inform and develop a commissioning strategy to address gaps in service provision. The strategy should ensure key outcomes are identified, informed via a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and detail how they will be measured. (See section 3 for details of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire approach to understanding need).

Joint delivery: Services are procured, mobilised and contracts are put in place to deliver the service/s.

Joint review: Services are continually reviewed to see if they have met the outcomes of the specification. This includes feedback from service users and their families, as well as engagement with providers, to help improve current service delivery and feed into future needs assessment.

Figure 1 below provides a summary of the stages of the joint commissioning process.

Figure 1: Joint Commissioning Cycle (DfE SEN Code of Practice, January 2015)



The stages of the joint commissioning cycle

- Our commissioning will be person centred rather than service centred, including commissioning for outcomes.
- We will have collaboratively designed pathways so that our services are joined-up, designed around needs and children and young people can move easily between them.
- Our services available for children, young people and their families will be easy to understand, access and navigate.
- We will have reduced duplication in the system, maximising effectiveness and efficiency of services and ensuring value for money.
- We will have reduced demand for specialist services through greater prevention and self-management and reducing deterioration.
- Children and families receive timely access to services when they need them.



3.

Understanding need

The aim is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the needs of children and young people across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, providing insight into future education, health, and wellbeing needs to facilitate long-term change. This understanding will serve as the cornerstone of effective commissioning, ensuring that services are responsive, inclusive, and effective in meeting the diverse educational, health, and social needs of the local population.

The approach to comprehensively understanding requirements for commissioning incorporates insights from the following:

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): Data based on local population needs and use of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire JSNAs will be used to identify current and future health, education, and social care needs, informing decision-making and prioritising areas requiring intervention or improvement.

Voices of those with lived experience: Actively engaging children, young people and their families, through surveys, focus groups, and engagement sessions to understand their lived experiences and if their needs are being met.

SEND Data Dashboard: Harnessing health, education, and social care data dashboards to capture and monitor key data related to children and young people, enabling analysis of trends and identification of service gaps. This includes working closely with providers to capture and share both quantitative and qualitative information.

In summary, informed decision-making through a comprehensive assessment of local needs will optimise resource utilisation to enhance outcomes for children and young people efficiently, equitably, and sustainably. This will be achieved through strong foundations across Integrated Care System partnerships involving children, young people and their families in the commissioning process to enhance service improvements and collaboration to monitor improvements in education, health, and care outcomes resulting from commissioned provision. Partners across the system are committed to reviewing data on a quarterly basis to drive the continuous improvements needed and to make the strategy a 'live' document that responds to the needs of children, young people, and their families with an operational delivery plan.



Co-production principles for joint commissioning of services and provision for children and young people with SEND

Background

Section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places duties on local SEND partnerships in relation to children and young people with SEND, in carrying out their responsibilities under the Act.

The SEND Code of Practice (originally published in 2015) provides guidance to local area partnerships, regarding the expectations of core principles that are underpinned within legislation related to SEND. Local area partners must take into consideration:

- the views, wishes and feelings of the child or young person, and their families.
- the importance of the child or young person and their families, participating as fully as possible in decisions, and being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decision.

- the need to support the child or young person, and their families, to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood.

Further co-production should take place as far as possible at two levels for children and young people with SEND and their families:

- **At an individual level**, children and young people with SEND, and their families, must be involved in discussions and decisions about their individual support.
- **At a strategic level**, children and young people with SEND, and their families must be involved in discussions and decisions about local provision.



Approaches to co-production

The [Ladder of Participation](#) originally developed by Sherry Arnstein sets out the different stages of engagement with children and young people with SEND and their families:

Doing with – co-production or co-design

Doing for – engagement, consultation and informing

Doing to – education or coercion

Although not suitable in all circumstances, co-production and co-design represent the greatest involvement of children, young people and their families. Importantly, co-production involves an equal and reciprocal partnership. It can be described as ‘starting with a blank piece of paper’, as opposed to presenting young people and their families with a draft service specification and asking for feedback. The latter is not co-production or co-design but rather consultation or informing. Co-production or co-design takes longer and requires more resources.

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire local area SEND partnerships are ambitious to achieve co-production and have identified the following issues and challenges to overcome:

- Being able to identify the specific cohort of children and people (aged 0-25) with SEND.
- Current ICB commissioning arrangements for children and young people and adult services (0-25) do not clearly outline co-production requirements for health service providers to co-produce services.
- Measuring success of co-production – tangible/intangible

- Identifying the appropriate levels of engagement and co-production and developing a local area definition for co-production and other engagement activities.
- Access to a wider audience or service user groups to ensure voices are captured and heard.

Our approach to co-production in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

- We will listen to the views of children, and young people with SEND and their families and to work with them to improve our services and provision.
- We will keep children, young people with SEND and their families, and other stakeholders informed throughout our improvement journey.
- We will engage with families, children, and young people with SEND to identify and take every opportunity to co-produce.
- We will facilitate a cultural change for staff across the local area towards the value of co-production.
- We will embed co-production principles into the organisations’ long term strategic planning.

Aligned to the Nottingham City Strategic Council Plan aim, to achieve UNICEF accreditation as a Child Friendly City (CFC), and adopting a child rights-based approach, the voice of the child has been recognised whilst writing this strategy. Not only do children and young people deserve to be heard but the communication they receive should be clear, understandable, and responsive to their views. Article 12 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child is a right to express that opinion and to have that opinion considered in any matter or procedure affecting the child.

5.

Key joint commissioning achievements 2020-2023

Progress has been made by the partnership in joint commissioning for children and young people with special educational needs and difficulties. Outlined below are the key successes that have been achieved in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire:

- **Improved governance for joint commissioning – the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Strategic Commissioning Group for Children and Young people has been established** - The purpose of group is to share, review and influence collective commissioning intentions; and to explore and test collaborative commissioning opportunities for population needs.
- **Successful Joint commissioning a Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) for children/ young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families** - IASS is a streamlined and holistic service across the Integrated Care System (ICS) providing consistent advice in a timely manner.
- **Improved our understanding across the partnership about the criteria and process for Children’s Continuing Care** - The ICB now publishes a single Children and Young Peoples Continuing Care Policy across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and this is regularly reviewed to reflect any changes in approach ([Most recently reviewed in March 2024](#)). Work is ongoing to develop an ambitious new model for joint commissioning to meet the health, care and therapeutic needs of children and young people with complex mental health needs.
- **Improved integration of services for children with communication needs under the age of five** - commissioners within Public Health and early childhood services collaborated with a local provider of speech language and communication interventions to develop an integrated care pathway for children, young people and families. This revised pathway sees the integration the of early intervention service (‘Home Talk’) into the Community Children and Young People’s Service (CCYPS), creating a single pathway for families. The service is now delivered by a single team, enabling movement along the pathway between early intervention and specialist services, providing the right care at the right time for service users.



- **Enhanced services to support the social, emotional, and mental health of children and young people with SEND** – a new team within Nottinghamshire’s Children’s Disability Service provides children and young people with a learning disability and/or autism with the most complex needs with a designated key worker, targeted at supporting young people when they have been admitted to hospital with a mental health crisis. A joint ICB/ Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)/social care Dynamic Support Register (DSR) is operational which has oversight of young people with a learning disability and/or autism diagnosis whereby there are concerns around their emotional wellbeing. Young people at risk of being admitted into a hospital setting or local authority care are identified and offered robust multi-agency support.

- **Improved early mental health support for children and young people** - 12 mental health support teams (MHST) in schools are now jointly commissioned and fully operational across the city and county. By January 2025 we estimate that 45% of schools and 72,000 children will have access to support from a MHST.
- **Children’s Communication Aids Panel** continues to be jointly funded across the City and County Councils and the ICB, supporting the provision of specialist communication aids for children and young people that meet their needs, with a seamless transition to adulthood. It creates equity and transparency around the process and provision and successful collaboration has reduced the collective financial impact.



6.

Our joint commissioning principles

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS Collaborative Planning and Commissioning Framework sets out how we will work together as commissioners across the system to achieve the vision of delivering **integrated health and care** within the ICS. **This includes how we will work together on the SEND agenda**, joining up strategic leadership and the transformation of health, education, and care to improve outcomes for our population, ensuring decision making is led and integrated at the appropriate population level, with an emphasis on subsidiarity.

Our values:

- We will be open and honest with each other.
- We will be respectful in working together.
- We will be accountable to and challenge one another, doing what we say we will do and following through on agreed actions.

Why are we taking this approach?

- We will deliver improved outcomes and reduce health inequalities, driven by an understanding of the needs of our population.
- We will optimise the use of our collective resource by reducing duplication, moving away from services commissioned and delivered in silos, making it easier for people to access the right support or care to meet their needs.
- We will enable providers to work collaboratively to deliver improved quality and efficiencies.

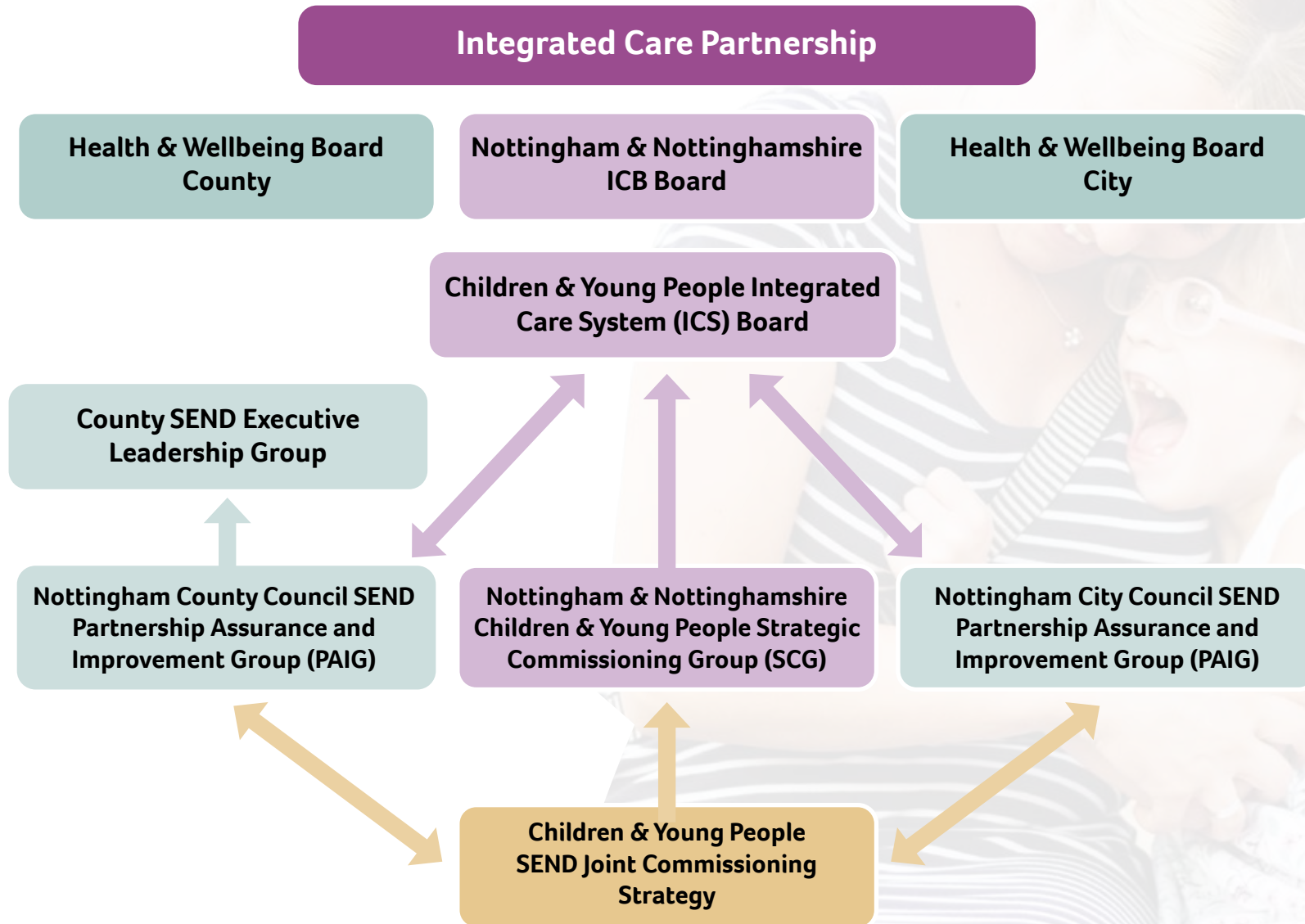
What will we do together?

- We will work with our population to ensure they are involved in decision making at all stages of planning and delivery.
- We will work as health and care partners, considering the opportunities for person centred integrated delivery for every decision we make.
- We will focus on early intervention and prevention to support people to avoid increasing levels of support / cost.
- We will use the best available evidence to support our decision making.
- We will allocate resources using processes that are simple, fair and transparent.



7.

Governance



Appendix 1 – SEND joint commissioning delivery priorities for 2024–2025

The commissioning priorities and associated actions described below are aligned to the priority area identified by the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Strategic Commissioning Group. This delivery plan will be monitored and reviewed by the SEND Partnership Assurance & Improvement Groups (PAIG) and the Strategic Commissioning Group, who will also be responsible for the development of subsequent annual delivery plans. Progress and impact will be monitored utilising data and intelligence highlighted within the system children and young people’s dashboard, accessible by all colleagues within the partnership.

Joint commissioning priorities	Why is this a joint commissioning priority?	How will we know when this has been achieved?	What outcomes will this achieve?
Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) services	There are currently gaps in SLCN provision in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, meaning that children and young people with SEND and communication needs are unable to access support unless their need is such that they require specialist intervention. The ambition of jointly commissioning a service allows for earlier identification and earlier intervention of communication needs which will reduce deterioration and requirements for specialist services, reduce long waiting lists into specialist services and support children with SEND receiving earlier support from professionals that care for them.	<p>Joint commissioning of a single seamless pathway</p> <p>Joint performance monitoring and system-wide oversight.</p> <p>Formal contractual arrangements in place and service specifications which align.</p> <p>Service design and improvement developments which are co-produced.</p> <p>Increased positive feedback from those accessing services and professionals.</p> <p>Reduction in wait times for specialist services.</p>	<p>A more holistic and equitable support offer for children and young people with SLCN in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>A reduction in wait times to access specialist services.</p> <p>An increase in service provision for those that do not meet the thresholds for specialist intervention prior to deterioration.</p> <p>Enhancement of skills and competencies in professionals working with children and young people with SLCN in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>Metrics: <i>Number of CYP accessing the services.</i> <i>Feedback from CYP and families.</i> <i>Percentage of CYP transitioning smoothly between different service tiers.</i> <i>Percentage of CYP waiting more than 18 weeks for SLT treatment.</i> <i>Average waiting time for SLT treatment.</i></p>

Joint commissioning priorities	Why is this a joint commissioning priority?	How will we know when this has been achieved?	What outcomes will this achieve?
Development of a sensory support service / pathway	<p>There is currently a lack of locally commissioned sensory therapy support in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>Sensory processing needs are recognised as significant barriers to children and young people’s learning as well as their daily living and their mental and emotional health along with wellbeing. Therefore, there is a need for collaborative working across organisations, to develop services and pathways that support these needs.</p> <p>There is currently financial spend across Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and the ICB to support individual children and young people with sensory processing difficulties access services privately due to lack of locally commissioned provision, particularly where this is outlined as a requirement in an Education Health Care Plan.</p>	<p>Joint commissioning of a single seamless pathway</p> <p>Sensory support provision in place for children and young people with sensory processing difficulties.</p> <p>Self-management resources and guidance available to support families, children and young people with sensory processing needs through the development of the local “Minds of All Kinds website”.</p> <p>Service design and improvement developments which are co-produced.</p>	<p>Local services will meet the needs of the local SEND population, in an area where they currently do not. Families, children and young people with SEND will have improved outcomes.</p> <p>Families, children, and young people will have access to resources that will support self-management of their needs.</p> <p>System spends on individually commissioning sensory support will be reduced.</p> <p>Metrics: <i>Number of CYP accessing the services.</i> <i>Number of services included in the seamless pathway.</i> <i>Feedback from CYP and families.</i> <i>Percentage of CYP transitioning smoothly between different service tiers.</i></p>

Joint commissioning priorities	Why is this a joint commissioning priority?	How will we know when this has been achieved?	What outcomes will this achieve?
Development of an integrated sleep support pathway	<p>Current sleep support is available across the System; however, families and professionals have shared that it is difficult to navigate.</p> <p>Families and professionals are not always aware of the support that is available or how to access it.</p> <p>There is a high existing cost to the System through potential over-prescribing of melatonin, sometimes for children and young people for whom it is not effective, or where other non-medical interventions could have been more appropriate.</p>	<p>Integrated service model developed and shared with families and professionals across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>Reduction in gaps in current provision and an equitable service offer across all localities in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire that meets the needs of individual children and young people.</p> <p>Equitable access to training and education for professionals working with children and young people with sleep difficulties.</p> <p>Service design and improvement developments which are co-produced.</p>	<p>Holistic care will be available for families, children, and young people with sleep difficulties in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>Increased professional knowledge around supporting sleep in children and young people with SEND / complex needs in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire through increased training availability.</p> <p>Reduction in spend across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire on individual training packages.</p> <p>Equity in provision across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>Reduction in wait times to access sleep support services.</p> <p>Metrics: <i>Number of CYP accessing the services.</i> <i>Number of services included in the seamless pathway.</i> <i>Feedback from CYP and families.</i> <i>Percentage of CYP transitioning smoothly between different service tiers.</i></p>

Joint commissioning priorities	Why is this a joint commissioning priority?	How will we know when this has been achieved?	What outcomes will this achieve?
<p>Development of an integrated / seamless Occupational Therapy (OT) pathway.</p>	<p>There are currently numerous OT services in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. This is complex and difficult to understand / navigate for both families and professionals.</p> <p>This has led to some duplication in provision and some gaps in service offer, meaning that needs are sometimes not adequately met.</p> <p>Families, children and young people share that they do not understand why there are numerous professionals involved in their care, share frustrations around duplication and that professionals don't communicate their needs where sometimes they receive conflicting advice.</p>	<p>Resource developed and shared that outline the roles and responsibilities of the currently commissioned services.</p> <p>Joint OT assessments as standard and reduced number of professionals involved with a family.</p>	<p>Families and professionals report a greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the OT services in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of assessments carried out to enhance service user experience and increase communication between teams.</p> <p>Reduce duplication in service offer so that resource and capacity can be re-invested into reduction of gaps in service provision.</p> <p>Timely access to necessary OT services.</p> <p>Improved developmental outcomes and quality of life for CYP requiring OT.</p> <p>Metrics: <i>Number of CYP accessing the services.</i> <i>Feedback from CYP and families.</i> <i>Percentage of CYP transitioning smoothly between different service tiers.</i> <i>Percentage of CYP waiting more than 13 weeks for OT treatment.</i> <i>Average waiting time for OT treatment.</i></p>

Joint commissioning priorities	Why is this a joint commissioning priority?	How will we know when this has been achieved?	What outcomes will this achieve?
Integrated System Data Dashboard	<p>The local population of children and young people with SEND in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire is not understood as there is a lack of joint data and intelligence across the System.</p> <p>There are a range of challenges within the SEND System that are not understood due to their currently being no combined system data or intelligence mechanism.</p> <p>There is currently no System oversight of SEND service provision, due to a lack of combined data and intelligence, which limits assurance.</p> <p>A system dashboard will act as an intelligence tool informed by whole system data to put data closer to the centre of strategy and decision making. This will allow key people to keep track of progress of critical metrics</p> <p>A system wide dashboard will also allow for faster, automated reporting, allowing for key decisions and targets to be made at speed to help cohorts in need.</p>	<p>The production of a System-wide dashboard based on metric collaboration presenting gaps, trends, opportunities, and cohorts.</p> <p>Ongoing development to ensure the dashboard is current and accurate.</p>	<p>System understanding of the local population and demographics of SEND cohort in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>Mechanism for oversight and assurance of SEND service provision.</p> <p>Mechanism for identification of areas priority for improvement through data and intelligence evidence.</p> <p>Dashboard will enable stakeholders to keep a track on school attendance, exclusions and suspensions, ultimately enabling better focus on the right cohorts to improve academic record.</p>

Some useful links

[SEND Glossary](#)

[Ladder of Participation](#)

[Child Friendly Nottingham - Nottingham City Council.](#)

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I need to be listened to and heard.



I need to be the healthiest I can be



I need to be safe and feel safe



I need to be accepted and valued by people I trust



I need to be prepared for my future



I need to enjoy life and have fun



*“We will be open, honest,
respectful and
accountable”*



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