



NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Thursday, 26 September 2019

Time: 10.00 am (pre-meeting for Committee members at 9:30am)

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

Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources

Senior Governance Officer: Jane Garrard **Direct Dial:** 0115 8764315

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|----------|--|----------------|
| 1 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 2 | DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS | |
| 3 | MINUTES | 3 - 10 |
| | To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 July 2019 | |
| 4 | INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE | 11 - 14 |
| 5 | REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY - ADOPTION EAST MIDLANDS | 15 - 18 |
| 6 | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME | 19 - 24 |

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 ATTENDING MEETINGS ARE ASKED TO ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING TO BE ISSUED WITH VISITOR BADGES

CITIZENS ARE ADVISED THAT THIS MEETING MAY BE RECORDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. ANY RECORDING OR REPORTING ON THIS MEETING SHOULD

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NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held in the Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 25 July 2019 from 10:05am to 11:56am

Membership

Present

Councillor Carole McCulloch (Chair)
Councillor Salma Mumtaz (Vice Chair)
Councillor Jane Lakey
Councillor Chantal Lee
Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos
Councillor Maria Watson

Absent

Councillor Azad Choudhry
Councillor Maria Joannou
Councillor AJ Matsiko

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Neghat Khan	- Portfolio Holder for Early Years, Education and Employment
Nick Lee	- Director of Education Services
Adrian Mann	- Governance Officer
Peter McConnochie	- Head of Access to Learning
Alison Michalska	- Corporate Director for Children and Adults
Naomi Skelton	- Early Learning Specialist
Catherine Smith	- Early Years Programmes Manager
Zena West	- Senior Governance Officer
Michael Wilsher	- Inclusion Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Azad Choudhry	-	on leave
Councillor Maria Joannou	-	on leave
Councillor AJ Matsiko	-	Council business

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

3 APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Salma Mumtaz as Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for the current municipal year (May 2019 to April 2020).

4 MINUTES

Subject to the following amendments, the Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2019 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair:

- (a) under 'Colleagues, partners and others in attendance', Peter McConnochie's role is amended to 'Head of Access to Learning';
- (b) under item 39, four references to 'excellent' Ofsted ratings are amended to 'outstanding';
- (c) under item 41(a), 'September 2017' is amended to 'September 2010'.

5 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee noted its Terms of Reference (as approved at the Council meeting of 20 May 2019) and their implications for its operation during the year.

6 TAKE-UP OF EARLY YEARS FUNDING

Naomi Skelton, Early Learning Specialist, and Catherine Smith, Early Years Programmes Manager, presented a report on the current position relating to the take-up of early years funding in Nottingham. The following points were discussed:

- (a) currently, 15 hours of free childcare or early education for two-year-old children is available per week for 38 weeks for families in England receiving some forms of support. The same provision is available to all families with three and four-year-old children, rising to 30 hours per week for certain working families. The latest participation rates for this provision across the City (for the Autumn Term 2018) reflect the old ward structure, so the data is being re-formatted for the new ward configuration. Take-up of the provision for two-year-olds was 73.4%, which compares positively with the national figure, but uptake at a national level has decreased;
- (b) Early Years is working with the Department for Work and Pensions to make contact with the families of all two-year-old children eligible for the free childcare by phone, by letter, through the Council's Ask LiON website, and face-to-face. This is to ensure that all parents with eligible children know about the scheme, and to discover why some families do not wish to take up their entitlement (or whether they do take advantage of the scheme with a provider based outside the City area). The Families Information Service (FIS) reviews the applications for the scheme and returns data on how and when families apply for places;
- (c) the fact that the provision is free will be advertised more strongly, with an emphasis that placements represent early education – not just childcare. 'Small Steps, Big Changes' (SSBC) family mentors are carrying out engagement work in some wards, while the FIS does outreach at activities and sessions at Children's Centres and distributes information leaflets. A balanced level of detail needs to be provided on the leaflets to ensure that they are both informative and engaging,

and work is underway to ensure that the most important information relating to the schemes is available on a single leaflet. Children in care or with special educational needs and disability are reached through their care providers, including social workers and family support;

- (d) currently, a marketing project is focused on the Clifton wards (where take-up is comparatively low) and a number of stakeholder events are underway. New training processes are being put in place and a review is underway on what information is marketed, and how. A consultation will be held with councillors to identify the best places to advertise the provision and eligibility criteria in a given ward, and colleagues can join councillors at ward events to circulate leaflets and information. Ward maps will also be produced to identify the current location of providers;
- (e) the Committee suggested that advertising could be set up at bus and tram stops, including through scrolling text on the associated electronic information boards. The literature distributed through the FIS should be circulated to libraries (including in languages other than English) and provided to families as part of information packs on pregnancy from midwives. Although some migrant families may not qualify for certain forms of financial support, their children will still be eligible for this scheme, so the family support workers need to ensure that these parents are reached, supported and informed. Outreach should also be carried out with the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee forum, to help these vulnerable children. It is vital that any information on websites is kept up-to-date;
- (f) the Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there is sufficient childcare provision in place, so there are systems for assessing sufficiency, planning and intervention, to make sure that the provision is sustainable. Provider scoring is carried out every six months and reviews are carried out to assess where providers are located across the City, how much space they have and what the take-up is. Data is fed back through the FIS on whether parents who want a place for an eligible child are able to find space at a provider that is sufficiently local and accessible. Engagement is underway to encourage providers to work together in partnership across a locality to support parents, so that a provider that is full can refer a parent to another local provider that has space, rather than putting the family on a waiting list. Where providers have closed, as has been the case in the St Ann's Ward recently, they need to inform the Council, so that additional support can be offered to families in the area seeking places;
- (g) schools funding claims are being transferred onto the Early Years Portal so that all claims can be managed on one system, and schools are being encouraged to check the eligibility of all of their attending children. Improved cross-service working has been introduced as part of the 'Best Start' initiative and the SSBC programme, while ongoing improvements are underway on the use of information systems to ensure that the data collected reflects accurately actual participation. To ensure sustainable provision and to address national issues affecting providers as businesses, support and guidance is available through the Council's Provider Support Framework.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) encourage all councillors to attend the Early Years funding sessions, and to review and offer feedback on the new programme information leaflets;**
- (2) request that provider details, including their locations on ward maps, is forwarded to councillors for sharing in their wards, and that this information is advertised accurately on the Ask LiON website;**
- (3) encourage the exploration of cross-service working with adult education, to support and offer community learning to the parents of children taking advantage of the free childcare and early education provision;**
- (4) encourage outreach with foreign national families and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee forum, to ensure that any eligible children in these communities have access to the available provision.**

7 SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS AND THE TIMPSON REVIEW

Peter McConnochie, Head of Access to Learning, and Michael Wilsher, Inclusion Officer, presented a report on the pupil exclusion rates for Nottingham schools, the measures in place to seek to reduce exclusions, and the recommendations of the Timpson Review of Exclusions. The following points were discussed:

- (a) the permanent exclusion rate in Nottingham is twice as high as both the regional and national average, while its fixed-term exclusion rates are one-third higher. This position has not changed significantly in recent years. The national data for exclusions is two years behind current and is taken from census returns, while the local 'live data' is not always reported consistently by schools. Steps are being taken to address this through updated data sharing agreements and ICT-based links with school systems;
- (b) fixed-term exclusions are used more regularly in Nottingham than in the rest of the local region and across England as a whole. In total, 40% of all pupils who receive a fixed-term exclusion have been excluded multiple times (and this figure does not reflect pupils put on part-time timetabling or who are sent home temporarily with no formal, legally required record of a fixed-term exclusion). The rate of exclusions from secondary schools (at 7.44 pupils in every hundred) is well above the national average (at 4.62 in every hundred). Exclusions from primary schools are marginally above average (at 0.88 per hundred pupils in Nottingham, relative to 0.62 nationally). However, fixed-term exclusions from special schools are below the national average (at a rate of 4.55 in Nottingham, compared to a rate of 5.09, nationally);
- (c) the local data for permanent exclusions is more current. Although the rate of exclusions has been rising nationally, Nottingham is still well above the average, having the 10th highest number of exclusions per 100 pupils of 152 Local Authorities in 2016/17 (with 101 secondary exclusions and 26 primary exclusions). A significant proportion of pupils excluded have either special educational needs and disability (SEND) or are in receipt of free school meals (FSM), or both. A number of exclusions sometimes occur when an academy school moves between trusts, or when a school is in special educational measures;

- (d) the Committee requested that the data was provided to show the breakdown of the gender and ethnicity of the children excluded, and that the number of SEND and FSM pupils excluded was differentiated. It recommended that the demographic data on the pupil population of each school was reviewed as part of the process of understanding the exclusion rates;
- (e) the 'Inclusion Model' has been introduced by the Council to encourage schools to not exclude pupils, where possible. Ten of seventeen secondary schools are part of the model and have seen reductions in their exclusion rates, but the highest three excluding schools have not signed up. Meetings are held with the head teachers of all of the schools that are part of the Model, and the other schools are invited to attend. Individual meetings are also held with the heads of schools that are not part of the Model;
- (f) since the start of the 2017/18 academic year, there have been 215 permanent exclusions from Nottingham schools. The majority of the pupils excluded were boys and the most common reason for exclusion was persistently disruptive behaviour. The highest number of exclusions occurred in Year 10, followed by Year 8. To support schools, a scheme designed to address and mitigate disruptive behaviour is being rolled out. Work is also being carried out to improve the capacity of school staff to recognise early indicators that a child may have SEND characteristics, so that support can be offered before a formal SEND statement is put in place;
- (g) the Committee suggested that, in the cases of pupils excluded due to persistent disruptive behaviour, support should also be offered to the parents to help them better manage the behaviour of their child more generally, as this could assist in improving their behaviour at school;
- (h) the Timpson Review was commissioned by the Secretary of State for Education in March 2018 to review school exclusions, to explore how head teachers use exclusion practice and why some groups are disproportionately excluded, alongside examining the practice of off-rolling pupils from schools. The review was published in May 2019 and contains 30 recommendations that focus on expanding school responsibility, increasing the role of the Local Authority as a partner and facilitator of local support forums, the development and oversight of in-school units and Alternative Provision (AP), and tackling off-rolling in partnership with Ofsted;
- (i) some ethnic groups are associated with a lower likelihood of being permanently excluded, including Bangladeshi and Indian children who are around half as likely to be excluded as White British children. Children from other ethnic groups are more likely to experience exclusion, in particular Black Caribbean, Mixed White and Black Caribbean, and pupils from Traveller communities. Key groups disproportionately excluded also includes children with SEND, those receiving support from social care and students in receipt of FSM. The analysis produced for the Review shows that 78% of permanent exclusions were pupils who either had SEND, were classified as in need or were eligible for FSM – 11% of permanent exclusions were to pupils who had all three characteristics;

- (j) the Government has made six key commitments following the Timpson Review: to make schools accountable for the outcomes of permanently excluded children; to establish a practice programme which embeds effective partnership working between schools, Local Authorities, AP and others; to work with sector leaders to rewrite national guidance; to call on all partners to review information on children who leave school and to use the data to understand trends; to work with Ofsted to define and tackle the problem of off-rolling; and to extend support for AP;
- (k) the Education Directorate in Nottingham has begun to review the implication of the recommendations with schools and academies locally. The current school cohorts have been reviewed to identify the children at the greatest statistical risk of exclusion, and the 'Inclusion Model' is focusing on the schools in the areas that have the highest populations of children from groups that are disproportionately excluded. 48% of the children most at risk of exclusion have contact with the Priority Families Team already, while 57% have had contact with at least one Council service and one-third have had contact with at least two. There are 449 pupils who have at least five of the eight factors related to a high risk of exclusion, and these pupils may need additional support. Information relating to high-risk pupils has been shared with the schools, which have a duty to identify these pupils and provide appropriate additional support;
- (l) a 'Fair Access' panel is in place and termly inclusion meetings are held with head teachers, in addition to monthly inclusion forums. The Education Directorate is being restructured so that it can respond effectively to every exclusion, with weekly exclusion review meetings now in place and reviews undertaken by the Education Improvement Board, and address issues of off-rolling. The cost and outcomes of AP are under review, while joined-up working is in place with social care, to enable early intervention into schools when needed;
- (m) any exclusion is at the discretion of a school's head teacher, and any challenge to a school's exclusion practices can only be made through Ofsted. However, the Council is able to assist families with children at risk of exclusion, while councillors can support any appeals made by a family against an exclusion and challenge schools on their exclusion rates. Fundamentally, although the Council has no control over whether or not a child is excluded, the Council is responsible for children not in school. The 'Inclusion Model' represents a drive to reduce exclusions and a new escalation process will be put in place from September to challenge schools considering the exclusion of a pupil. In light of the Timpson Report, every effort will be made to engage and build positive relationships with schools and central Government to address the findings.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) encourage councillors to engage with any schools in their wards that have high exclusion rates and to help to publicise the negative effects of exclusions;**
- (2) support Children's Services to engage with the consultation to support the recommendations of the Timpson Review, and to seek to re-establish community between school head teachers;**

- (3) request further information on the breakdown of demographic and characteristics data on the pupil population of each school; the gender and ethnicity of the children excluded; the number of SEND and FSM pupils excluded, individually; and the statistics for pupils from the Traveller community;**
- (4) strongly encourage schools to provide early support to the children most at risk of exclusion following the positive work carried out on understanding risk factors, and for schools to widen their definition of risk factors;**
- (5) invite the Priority Families Team to attend a future meeting of the Committee.**

8 WORK PROGRAMME, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY

Zena West, Senior Governance Officer, presented the proposed work programme for the 2019/20 municipal year, as per the agenda. The Committee aimed to review the findings of the Independent Inquiry into child sexual abuse and the current situation relating to children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities at its November meeting, and to consider the promotion of academic excellence and the future resourcing of the Education Improvement Board at its January meeting.

9 FUTURE MEETING DATES

RESOLVED to meet on the following Thursdays at 10:00am:

- 26 September 2019
- 28 November 2019
- 30 January 2020
- 26 March 2020

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
26 SEPTEMBER 2019
INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To scrutinise action being taken by the Council in response to the findings and recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) consider the findings and recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, with a focus on Nottingham;
 - b) scrutinise the Council's initial response and action being taken and planned in relation to the Inquiry's findings and recommendations; and
 - c) identify the scope and timescales of future scrutiny.

3 Background information

- 3.1 The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse was established in 2015 to consider the growing evidence of historical institutional failures to protect children from child sexual abuse, and to make recommendations to ensure the best possible protection for children in the future. The Inquiry included looking into historical failures to protect children in the care of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Councils.
- 3.2 The Inquiry published its findings into the extent of any institutional failures to protect children in the care of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils from sexual abuse in July 2019.
- 3.3 Background information on the Inquiry and its findings, with a focus on the Nottingham context, and next steps is attached. This includes a web link to the report.
- 3.4 Representatives of Children's Services will be attending the meeting to answer questions from the Committee.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Briefing on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

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 Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse 'Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils' July 2019
www.iicsa.org.uk/publications/investigation/nottinghamshire-councils

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer
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Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)

September 2019

Background

- The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) was established as a statutory inquiry on 12 March 2015 to consider the growing evidence of historical institutional failures to protect children from child sexual abuse, and to make recommendations to ensure the best possible protection for children in future.
- The inquiry launched 13 investigations into a broad range of institutions identified on the basis of the Panel's criteria for selection of investigations.
- In November 2015, Justice Goddard (the then chair of the Inquiry) announced that the independent investigation into child sexual exploitation would look into the historical failure to protect children in the care of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Councils.
- A significant number of allegations (including physical and sexual abuse) of historical abuse in children's homes, previously operated by Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City councils and other organisations, have been made, dating back to the 1940's.
- Currently, there are a significant number of actions, both criminal and civil, that are under way:
 1. *Operation Equinox* which is the overarching umbrella for a variety of operations including:
 - *Operation Daybreak*, which was launched by Nottinghamshire Police in 2011.
 - *Operation Xeres*, investigating similar allegations in north Nottinghamshire, launched in 2015.
 2. *Civil Claims against both the County and City Councils.*

Scope of the Inquiry – The Nottingham Context

1. Institutional responses to disclosures of allegations of sexual abuse in relation to Beechwood since 1967 to the present and the barriers to disclosure of such allegations.
2. A case study into the institutional responses to disclosure of allegations of child sexual abuse in foster carer and the barriers to disclosure of such allegations.
3. A case study into the institutional responses to disclosures of allegations of sexual abuse carried out by children against other children in the care of the Councils, and the barriers to disclosure of such allegations.

Progress

- The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse requested a variety of information from both Councils since January 2016. The requests were in relation to current and historical policies, procedures, guidance, investigation reports, civil claims, allegations against staff and foster carers and case records.
- The Public Hearing ran from 1st – 26th October (with a one week break).

Publication of Findings

On 31st July 2019, IICSA published its findings into the extent of any institutional failures to protect children in the care of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County councils from sexual abuse.

There were two recommendations for the City Council, for which we will need to publish our response within six months of the publication of this report:

1. Nottingham City Council should assess the potential risk posted by current and former foster carers directly provided by the council in relation to the sexual abuse of children. They should also ensure that current and former foster carers provided by external agencies are assessed by those agencies. Any concerns which arise should be referred to the appropriate body or process, including the Disclosure and Barring Service, the local authority designated officer (LADO) or equivalent, the fostering panel and the police.
2. Nottingham City Council and its child protection partners should commission an independent, external evaluation of their practice concerning harmful sexual behaviour, including responses, prevention, assessment intervention and workforce development. An action plan should be set up to ensure that any recommendations are responded to in a timely manner and progress should be reported to City's Safeguarding Children Partnership.

As part of the wider cross-cutting learning from the 14 strands of the Inquiry, they will return to a number of issues that have emerged during this investigation, including but not limited to:

- Harmful sexual behaviour.
- The barriers to disclosure of sexual abuse by children, including those in care, and proactive steps to reduce those barriers.
- The approach to civil litigation, including the role of insurers.

The full report can be found

www.iicsa.org.uk/publications/investigation/nottinghamshire-councils

Next Steps

- An action plan has been developed in response to the findings of the report.
- We continue to work in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police to actively support the ongoing criminal investigations, help to identify perpetrators and whenever possible, bring them to justice. We also work in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council to progress Civil Claims and with Nottinghamshire CCG to help victims access the support they need.
- The safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the care of the City is and always will be the highest priority.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
26 SEPTEMBER 2019
REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY – ADOPTION EAST MIDLANDS
REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review the implementation of Adoption East Midlands, the Regional Adoption Agency for the East Midlands area, and the extent to which it is meeting, or has plans in place to meet, the key aims and objectives of regional adoption agencies.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) review the implementation of Adoption East Midlands; and
 - b) identify whether any further scrutiny is required and if so, the scope and timescales.

3 Background information

- 3.1 Background information on Regional Adoption Agencies and the establishment of Adoption East Midlands is attached. Representatives of Children’s Services will be attending the meeting to answer questions from the Committee.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Briefing note on the Regional Adoption Agency

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 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer

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0115 8764315

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

26 September 2019

Regional Adoption Agency

In March 2016 the Department for Education published Adoption – A Vision for Change. In this document they stated the intention that all individual local authority and voluntary adoption agencies be combined into Regional Adoption Agencies (RAA) by 2020.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/512826/Adoption_Policy_Paper_30_March_2016.pdf

The principles and aims of RAAs as enshrined in the Vision for Change are:

- To provide all children with an adoptive family that meets their needs.
- To ensure that those affected by adoption receive the information, support and advice that they need to understand their adoption journey.
- To ensure that families are well prepared, enabled and supported to care for the children with plans for adoption.
- Early identification of children for whom adoption is the right option
- Timely placement of children including sibling groups and older children
- Sustainable placements with timely and appropriate support as needed
- A sufficient range and number of adopters to meet children's needs
- A range of different adoption placement types e.g. foster to adopt
- A well performing and improving service, evidenced in the adoption scorecard, productivity and timeliness families.

In line with the Government agenda for the regionalisation of adoption, we are one of nine Local Authorities and three Local Voluntary Agencies who will be members of the East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency, the aim of which is to bring adoption resources together across the region leading to improvements in adoption planning for children.

Nottingham City Council has worked with Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to form Adoption East Midlands (AEM) which went live on 3rd April 2019. 16 employees from Nottingham City Council Adoption and Post Adoption team have transferred under TUPE regulations to Adoption East Midlands. Whilst the 16 colleagues remain based at Isabella Street, Nottinghamshire County Council are the host authority. Importantly the responsibility for the child, their care plan and support needs remains with Nottingham City Council.

Nottingham City Council is committed to finding adoptive families for children who can no longer remain within their birth family. In 2018/19, we successfully placed 49 children for adoption, ensuring that they left care to a forever family. This is undoubtedly the best outcome for children who cannot return to their home. This commitment and success will be further enhanced by being a part of the RAA. Each of the four Councils have different areas of expertise and best practice and over the last

12 months work has been undertaken to combine services, streamline processes and share best practice. It is intended that this will lead to efficiencies, speeding up the adoption process and saving money across the Councils. As an example there are currently five Adoption Panels across the D2N2 area.

Adoption East Midlands, as a minimum, will provide the following adoption services:

- Tracking children for whom adoption is considered to be the best plan for permanency.
- Recruitment of adopters to meet the needs of AEM children for whom adoption is the plan for permanence. Experience in Nottingham City has shown that many of our children are placed at a distance from the City in order to find the best matched family. Adoption East Midlands will be recruiting across a larger area, which means that we will have a much greater pool of prospective families to meet the needs of our children.
- Support after adoption has moved over to AEM this includes Letterbox contact, and management of the adoption support fund to access therapeutic provision for children and families.

Governance

A monthly Partnership, Performance and Quality Assurance Board (PPQ) has been established that will govern the work of Adoption East Midlands. The board consists of Directors and Assistant Directors of Childrens Services, the Head of Adoption East Midlands, with Health and Virtual schools representatives by invitation.

In addition a regular finance performance working group has been established to oversee the combined budget and jointly manage any emerging financial risks.

For further information on the RAA please note the two Executive Board reports detailed below:

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/documents/s74126/The%20Development%20of%20the%20Regional%20Adoption%20Agency.pdf>

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/documents/s79989/The%20Development%20of%20a%20Regional%20Adoption%20Agency.pdf>

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
26 SEPTEMBER 2019
WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20
REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the Committee’s work programme for 2019/20 based on areas of work identified by the Committee at previous meetings 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 2019/20 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 provide robust scrutiny of issues and services relevant to the wellbeing and safeguarding of children and young people, in the light of recommendations from the Council’s Ofsted Inspection April 2014, and the Jay and Casey Reports (Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham).
- 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. Changes and/or additions to the work programme will need to take account of the resources available to the Committee.
- 3.5 The work programme for the municipal year 2019/20 is attached at Appendix 1.

4. List of attached information

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 2019/20 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 None

7. Wards affected

7.1 All

8. Contact information

8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer
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Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 2019/20 Work Programme

Date	Items
16 July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 331 1805 432">• Take up of entitlement to early years childcare funding To review levels of take up of early years childcare funding and identify opportunities to increase take up. <li data-bbox="629 472 1845 572">• School Exclusions To review the rate of school exclusions in Nottingham and steps in place to try and reduce levels of exclusions. <li data-bbox="629 612 1039 639">• Work Programme 2019/20
26 September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 715 1984 863">• Regional Adoption Agency To review the implementation of Adoption East Midlands, the Regional Adoption Agency for the East Midlands area, and the extent to which it is meeting, or has plans in place to met, the key aims and objectives of regional adoption agencies. <li data-bbox="629 903 1989 1058">• Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse To consider the findings and recommendations of the report arising from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse; and scrutinise action being taken/ proposed to be taken by the Council in response. <li data-bbox="629 1098 1039 1125">• Work Programme 2019/20
28 November 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 1201 1756 1302">• Special Educational Needs and Disabilities To review progress in improving support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). <li data-bbox="629 1342 1240 1369">• Ofsted inspection of Children's Services

Date	Items
	<p>To scrutinise action being taken to address areas identified for improvement by Ofsted in its review of Children's Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme 2019/20
30 January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational attainment To review academic attainment for the 2018/19 academic year; and consider the future of the Education Improvement Board in contributing to improving levels of attainment. • Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder for Early Years, Education and Employment (tbc) To review plans for delivery of aspects of the Council Plan 2019-2023 that fall within the EarlyYears, Education and Employment Portfolio. • Work Programme 2019/20
26 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme 2019/20

To schedule

- Educational support for children and young people from traveller communities
- Support for Special Guardians and children subject to Special Guardian Orders
- Performance of the Virtual School
- Priority Families Team

Visits

Informal meetings

- Briefings for the Chair with Portfolio Holders on current and emerging issues

Items to be scheduled for 2020/21

In July the Committee requested data on pupils excluded from school: gender; ethnicity; SEND; FSM; from Traveller community

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