



**NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**  
**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Thursday, 30 January 2020

**Time:** 10.00 am (pre-meeting for all 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

- |          |   |         |
|----------|---|---------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  |         |
| <b>2</b> | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</b>  |         |
| <b>3</b> | <b>MINUTES</b>  | 3 - 10  |
|          | To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 26 September 2019              |         |
| <b>4</b> | <b>OFSTED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>                                   | 11 - 16 |
| <b>5</b> | <b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>   | 17 - 18 |
| <b>6</b> | <b>SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES</b>                                | 19 - 26 |
| <b>7</b> | <b>SCRUTINY OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR EARLY YEARS,<br/>EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT</b> | 27 - 28 |
| <b>8</b> | <b>WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20</b>   | 29 - 34 |

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

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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 26 September 2019 from 10:02am to 11:57am**

**Membership**

Present

Councillor Carole McCulloch (Chair)  
Councillor Salma Mumtaz (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Azad Choudhry  
Councillor Maria Joannou  
Councillor Jane Lakey  
Councillor Chantal Lee  
Councillor AJ Matsiko  
Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos  
Councillor Maria Watson

Absent

None

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

Councillor Cheryl Barnard - Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People  
Helen Blackman - Director of Children's Integrated Services  
Clive Chambers - Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance  
Jane Garrard - Senior Governance Officer  
Adrian Mann - Governance Officer  
Councillor David Mellen - Leader of the Council  
Alison Michalska - Corporate Director for Children and Adults  
Catherine Underwood - Director for Adult Social Care

**10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**11 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None.

**12 MINUTES**

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2019 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

### **13 INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

Councillor David Mellen, Leader of the Council, and Alison Michalska, Corporate Director for Children and Adults, presented a report on the published findings of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). The following points were discussed:

- (a) IICSA was established as a statutory inquiry in March 2015 and launched thirteen investigations into a broad range of institutions. It was announced that inquiry would look into the failures to protect children in the care of the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Councils in November 2015. A significant number of allegations of historical abuse in children's homes were made, including physical and sexual abuse, dating back to the 1940s. Across this period, the homes had been operated by both Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council, amongst other organisations. As a result, there have been a significant number of both criminal and civil cases;
- (b) the initial scope of the inquiry was to investigate children's homes, in response to disclosures of allegations of sexual abuse since 1967 at the Beechwood children's home, and the barriers to the disclosure of these allegations. It then expanded to cover the disclosure of allegations of child sexual abuse by foster carers, and the disclosure of allegations of sexual abuse carried out by children in care against other children in care. The investigation in Nottingham ran from 1 to 26 October 2018 and collected a wide range of evidence, including statements from survivors and both senior Council officers and elected members. The Council invested a great deal of staff time into participating with the investigation, to ensure full openness and transparency;
- (c) IICSA published its findings on 31 July 2019. It put forward two specific recommendations to the Council, to be responded to within six months. Firstly, the Council should assess the potential risk posed by its directly employed current and former foster carers, in relation to the sexual abuse of children. The Council should also ensure that current and former foster carers provided by external agencies are assessed by those agencies. Any concerns that arise should be referred to the appropriate body or process, including the Disclosure and Barring Service, the local authority designated officer or equivalent, the fostering panel and the Police;
- (d) secondly, the 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 the City's Safeguarding Children Partnership;
- (e) a draft Action Plan has been produced to address these recommendations for agreement by the Safeguarding Children Partnership on 30 September, and to be approved by the Executive Board at its meeting in October;
- (f) in relation to the first recommendation, the records of all staff who worked at Beechwood have been reviewed and all of the decisions made at the time in

relation to allegations were reassessed to modern standards. On these terms, some cases had not been resolved in a satisfactory way – and some of the staff involved in these cases were still employed in the sector. Any member of staff who was found to have been at fault in the past is no longer employed by the Council;

- (g) the same methodology will be used to carry out a systematic review of all allegations made about the conduct of foster carers (including any who are now de-registered), to assess the robustness of the decisions and the appropriateness of the responses by modern standards. The Council will write to all current and historical private fostering agencies that have been responsible for placing Nottingham children, or that have registered offices in the area. The allegations of any children fostered in the area will be reviewed as part of the process, regardless as to whether or not the child was in the Council's care. The Designated Officer database will also be reviewed. The Council is working to employ directly as many foster carers as possible, with just under 50% of carers coming from a private agency, currently;
- (h) the Beechwood home was a large institution where around 50 children in care were placed at the same time. Now, Council-run homes have a maximum of 4 children at any one time, which provides the children with a safer environment and better care, with a good ratio of staff to children;
- (i) frameworks and contracts are in place with all private care providers, which are regulated heavily by Ofsted. Children in the Council's care are only placed with private providers with a strong Ofsted rating, and contracts are reassessed if the rating ever drops. Council officers visit private providers regularly and always meet with the child in private – every child has a designated key worker who is responsible for their welfare, and who visits them several times per week. Independent reviewing officers also maintain regular contact with the children. The children have access to reporting apps and also to mentors, independent advocates and support officers beyond their key worker and independent reviewing officer, and can raise issues with any adult with a corporate responsibility for their care – including the teachers at their school;
- (j) in relation to the second recommendation, the intention is to commission an independent review by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) into the practices and response regarding peer abuse between children in care, which will be agreed with partners on 30 September. The NSPCC has been involved closely with IICSA and has national credibility, so it is well suited to carry out the audit and make recommendations on suitable actions;
- (k) all children in care are encouraged to participate fully in their regular reviews. They are able to provide written evaluations, but often prefer to give verbal feedback to their allocated social worker. The children are able to participate in their own Children in Care Council and have growing access to advocates. Work is being done to establish peer support groups, to encourage care leavers to act as mentors to following children in care. The system works best when it enables the children to be able, and confident, to speak for themselves;

- (l) each foster carer has their own safe caring policy, which is produced on the basis of the particular needs of the child, and each child is briefed on what they can expect from a given placement. A household-based risk assessment is carried out for every foster carer and a detailed assessment of a foster carer's suitability is carried out by an external body. Both the child and the carer have their own, separate social worker, as a point of contact and support;
- (m) the Council is also reviewing and challenging various practices that were not highlighted by IICSA. Although the Council had (and will continue to have) many individual and private meetings with survivors to apologise for the failures to protect them, a general, public apology was not made at the time – though it is now felt that such an apology should have been given. A revised internal Reporting Protocol is in place to ensure that senior people are informed of incidents and become involved more quickly, and there are quarterly updates to all partners on any allegations and the actions taken. The statutory independent reviews to identify allegations will be used to create an annual report to elected members on the total number of allegations and the following responses;
- (n) all allegations are risk-assessed immediately and responded to within 24 hours. They are investigated through a multi-agency approach under safeguarding, in partnership with the Police, with a designated officer in place to coordinate the case. Complaints relating to an aspect of care (which should not be confused with allegations of abuse) are managed under a clear, statutory complaints process, with an initial acknowledgement sent within 10 days;
- (o) given the potential trauma involved, support is provided to citizens in accessing the records of their time as a child in care – particularly as records from the 1960s and 1970s can be minimal, as they were often destroyed six months after a child in care became an adult. A dedicated officer is in place to compile the personal records of people who have been in care, and to go through the individual record with the person concerned;
- (p) a major objective of current practice is to ensure that there is a single point of access, so that a complaint can be made effectively through as many routes as possible, including Children and Families Direct, Adult Services, NHS Mental Health Pathways, Victim and Survivor Support, and the Partnership Information Sharing Protocol. It is now much easier for survivors to raise their cases through the NHS via their GP, and there is dedicated support to assist survivors to register with a GP and find the right routes to the help that they need. Survivor Support produces literature to raise awareness and meets with survivors and survivor groups;
- (q) officers have been meeting with survivor groups since May 2016, though the groups may feel that the relationship in its current form has run its course. Dialogue with survivors is vital in commissioning future services and very specialist provision is needed in some areas. LimeCulture – a national Community Interest Company with a focus on sexual violence and safeguarding – has also been appointed to talk to survivors to identify any gaps in the current service provision;

- (r) the current needs assessment for survivors will be completed in the autumn and will inform the next commissioning of related services for 2021. An overall budget of around £2million is used to cover support for survivors of a range of abuse, including children in care. A separate fund of around £30,000 per year is available to help survivors in accessing the wider funding required to support their needs, and can include the creation of individual budgets. Unfortunately, funding from the Government does not meet the full extent of the needed services;
- (s) in addition to the publication of the Action Plan in October, the Council will continue to support the Police investigations actively, as well as any civil claim processes in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council. The primary objective is that victims are supported and that perpetrators are identified and, whenever possible, brought to justice. The number of people who may have experienced abuse but have not come forward with an allegation is unknown, but the means of doing so is in the public domain and as many calls as possible have been made to support people in telling their stories. The safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the care of the Council is, and always will be, the highest priority. The Council must never become complacent, and should always be open and listen.

**RESOLVED to receive an update on the progress in fulfilling the IISCA recommendations and associated Action Plan in January 2020.**

#### **14 REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY - ADOPTION EAST MIDLANDS**

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, presented a report on the creation of the new East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency (RAA). The following points were discussed:

- (a) the Department for Education published 'Adoption – A Vision for Change' in March 2016 with the aim to join up individual, smaller adoption agencies around the country into larger, combined agencies with shared resources, to provide more options for children and adopters. Since 4 April 2019, Nottingham City Council has joined with Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Derbyshire County Council to form an East Midlands RAA. The RAA is designed to prepare both children and adopting families for the adoption process, and to ensure that all placements made (including fostering, fostering to adopt, and adoption) are both timely and sustainable. The RAA is in its early stages, but it is working well with partners to ensure that the process for the children in care is effective and efficient;
- (b) the transfer of staff from the member authorities to Nottinghamshire County Council has gone well and personnel are integrating into the new working arrangements – though they remain in close contact with all of the member authorities. Clear governance arrangements are in place, though there have been some teething IT issues in setting up the integrated systems. There is on-going liaison with the other East Midlands authorities, which are working towards establishing a RAA in early 2020;
- (c) a grant from Government was made to help develop and establish the RAAs. The RAA is then funded from the member authorities' individual budgets, with funding

pooled in some areas. The creation of the RAA has resulted in a reduction in the duplication of services and enabled opportunities for savings and reinvestment, with the improved coordination of the effective deployment of scarce resources;

- (d) 18 matches have been made as of 23 September 2019, with one further awaiting confirmation from the Agency Decision Maker. Of these, two were sibling groups and two were relinquished babies. The RAA as a whole takes the lead on preparing those carrying out the fostering or adoption, with the Council leading on working with the children to be fostered or adopted;
- (e) the Council has around 625 children in its care and assesses the needs of all of them very carefully, with Adoption Orders given for children when this represents the best outcome – whatever the age of the child. In some cases, a Special Guardianship Order is used. There are up to 100 children in the adoption process at any given point and 38-47 children are adopted each year. The average time from the making of the Adoption Order by the Courts to the date of actual placement with a family is 234 days, currently, so there is still potential for improvement;
- (f) a permanent placement is always the preferred outcome and all potential matches are reviewed by an independent panel and are authorised by an external person. The rate of disruption to placements is low, with only two occurring over the last four months. Generally, it is much easier to find an effective placement for a baby than it is for older children or siblings that should be kept together. The particular care needs of some children can make finding an effective placement particularly difficult;
- (g) the RAA expands the geographical area for potential placements and, given the compact nature of the City, careful consideration is given to where it is in a given child's best interests to be placed. The progress of placements is tracked very carefully and close, ongoing support and training is provided to adopting and fostering families by four support services working together, across the region. Adopters are assessed and prepared so that they can provide a permanent home for children and help to address their trauma. The adopted children also have support needs that can continue for many years after they become an adult. Support is also provided to the birth families of adopted children.

The Committee concluded that the implementation of the new RAA and its initial outcomes had been positive so far, but that it was too early to assess its effectiveness fully. The Committee decided to review performance against expected outcomes after a year of operation.

**RESOLVED to review the progress of the East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency from April 2020.**

**15 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer, presented the proposed work programme for the 2019/20 municipal year.

**RESOLVED to:**

- (1) consider the report on the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services at the meeting to be held on 28 November 2019;**
- (2) consider the issues relating to 16/17-year-old children in care with semi-independent living arrangements at the meeting to be held on 30 January 2020.**

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<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>30 JANUARY 2020</b>
<b>OFSTED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE</b>

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To scrutinise action taken to address areas identified for improvement by Ofsted in its review of children's social care services and preparedness for the next inspection.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) review the extent to which the need for improvement identified by Ofsted has been met;
  - b) identify whether there is further work to be done to address the issues identified by Ofsted and seek assurance regarding plans to undertake that work; and
  - c) identify whether any further scrutiny of these issues is required.

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 Ofsted carried out an inspection of children's social care services in November 2018 and the report was published in January 2019. The report noted that there were areas of good practice across the services and a range of services had improved since the previous full inspection in 2014, but that there were also areas where improvements were required to ensure that all children get the right support at the right time. Overall, the services were found to be 'requires improvement to be good'. A briefing on the inspection and its findings, including details of areas identified as needing improvement is attached as an appendix and the inspection report can be viewed via this link <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50048229>
- 3.2 The Committee has previously explored work relating to some of the areas identified as needing further improvement, including social worker capacity. This meeting is an opportunity to take an overall look at progress in responding to the issues raised by Ofsted through its inspection.
- 3.3 Given that services were found to require improvement, it is anticipated that there will be a re-inspection within the next year. It is therefore timely for the Committee consider whether it wishes to review and seek assurance in relation to any particular aspects of children's social care

services in advance of that anticipated inspection. Any issues identified could be included on the Committee's work programme.

**4 List of attached information**

4.1 Briefing on the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services

**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 Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care Services (January 2019)

**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

## 30 January 2020

### Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services

#### **Background**

Nottingham City Children's Services were inspected in November 2018 by Ofsted. The inspection period was conducted over a three week period. There were between 4 and 6 inspectors on site in Nottingham for two weeks. Over this period they tracked and sampled cases across all of our services to reach their judgements.

Our inspection found that children's social care services in Nottingham City required improvement to be good (RI). Whilst the inspectors felt that services had improved since our previous formal inspection in 2014 they identified a number of areas for further improvement.

A key under-pinning issue identified by inspectors was that the needs of families in the City are very complex. Given this context, they felt that there was insufficient social work capacity in the system to deliver good services to all children, young people and families. Whilst they were positive about the steps that the Council has taken to 'grow our own' social workers and implement an innovative induction programme for newly qualified social workers they felt that there was more to do. It is important to note that this local challenge should be seen in the context of a national shortage of social workers and challenges for all local authorities to recruit and retain social workers in a very competitive market.

#### **Strengths**

1. Clear leadership vision – the inspectors felt that political and officer leadership was evident and that this vision was understood by front-line workers across the Directorate.
2. Effective strategic partnerships were evident – these partnerships enable us to deliver good multi-agency work, challenge and be challenged by an effective partnership and work together to achieve changes to the whole system to benefit children and families.
3. Ongoing investment in early intervention and services at the edge of care – inspectors felt that this was key to families being able to access proportionate support to meet their needs. These services are critical in managing demand for more costly, specialist services.
4. Effective arrangements to identify and assess children at risk through our Children and Families Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (C&FD MASH) – we have an effective team who screen requests of service and referrals to ensure that families get the right help at the right time. Partners being present in this team means that information can be shared in a timely manner to safeguard children.
5. Effective oversight and multi-agency work with vulnerable children and young people at risk of exploitation – Inspectors reviewed arrangements to support young people who had experienced or were at risk of sexual or criminal exploitation. They felt that work was effective to safeguard these young people.
6. Stability of placement for the majority of children in care – we generally have circa 610-620 young people in the care of Nottingham City Council at any time. A key element in delivering improved outcomes for young people is to ensure that they are in secure

placements; where they can form bonds and attachments with their carers, with school and in their wider community.

### **Areas for Improvement**

1. Where children are cared for by someone who is not their parent or close relative this is considered to be a 'private fostering arrangement'. There are requirements of the local authority to oversee and monitor these arrangements. Inspectors felt that there needed to be more oversight of these cases in Nottingham City.
2. Inspectors identified a small number of children living in neglectful situations where they felt action to safeguard them should have been more timely.
3. Plans to address concerns needed to be more accessible for families, clearer about what professionals were worried about and what action needs to be taken, by when and by who.
4. Work to promote and support the educational achievement of our children in care was identified as a priority. This is led by our Virtual School for Children in Care. Whilst they reflected that there had been recent improvements and investment in roles to support this, the inspectors felt that there was more to do.
5. Social Workers manage complex risks on a day to day basis. Supervision and management oversight is critical to ensuring that they have the support and direction they need to manage these risks effectively. Inspectors felt that the quality of supervision needed to improve.
6. Inspectors identified some cohorts of young people and care leavers where appropriate accommodation was not available. This meant that some young people were being left in police custody overnight and we had utilised B&B accommodation for some care leavers.
7. Inspectors felt that there was more to do to ensure that plans to achieve permanence for children were progressed more quickly, particularly plans for children to be adopted.

In response to the inspection, we have been required to provide an Improvement Plan to Ofsted.

We have already started to deliver key elements of our Improvement Plan to take action in relation to the recommendations.

The Improvement Plan is monitored in an annual conversation with Ofsted. We also monitor progress against this plan with the Lead Member in quarterly Children's Continuous Improvement Board meetings, with Councillors in the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and with partners at Children's Partnership Board and Corporate Parenting Board.

Given our RI judgement, we are likely to receive an interim focussed inspection or Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) within 12-18 months. A full re-inspection of our services will be due circa November 2021.

**Sophie Russell, Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement**

20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>30 JANUARY 2020</b>
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE</b>

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To review academic attainment by children and young people for the 2018/19 academic year.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to review progress in work to support schools in improving educational attainment

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 Every year, the Committee receives data on academic attainment by children and young people in the City for the previous academic year. The purpose of this is to review the progress being made in improving levels of attainment, in support of the pledge included in the Council Plan 2019 to 2023 to close the gap of GCSE attainment to within 5% of the national average. As a separate item on this meeting agenda, the Portfolio Holder for Early Years, Education and Employment has been invited to speak about delivery of aspects of the Council Plan relating to education, including this pledge.
- 3.2 The Director of Education Services will be attend the meeting to give a presentation on the latest data.
- 3.3 Arising from this review the Committee may wish to identify specific issues relating to levels of attainment that it wishes to explore further.

**4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 None

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

- 5.1 None

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

- 6.1 Reports to, and minutes of meetings of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in January 2018 and January 2019.

Council Plan 2019 to 2023

**7 Wards affected**

7.1 All

**8 Contact information**

8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer  
[Jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)  
0115 8764315

<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>30 JANUARY 2020</b>
<b>SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE</b>

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To review progress in improving support to children and young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) consider whether it is satisfied that the Council is fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to supporting children and young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities; and
- b) identify whether any further scrutiny of these issues is required.

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 Many children will experience some kind of difficulty in learning at some time during their school life. Most will receive the help they need from their nursery, school or college. Some children may need extra or more specialised help. A child has Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) if they have learning difficulties or a disability that needs special educational provision. In most cases the special provision that is needed can be made within a mainstream school, but for some children and young people it may be agreed that a special school would be most appropriate for their needs.
- 3.2 Nottingham City Council's SEN Service is available for children and young people aged 0-19 years with special educational needs and their families who live in the City and/or attend a City school; children with special educational needs who are looked after by Nottingham City Council but live elsewhere; schools; colleges; early providers and other educational establishments.
- 3.3 The Children and Families Act 2014 introduced changes to support for children with special educational needs and disabilities, extending provision from birth to 25 years of age, and replacing statements and Learning Disability Assessments with Education Health and Care Plans. The Department for Education produces statutory guidance called the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice that must be followed by local authorities, schools, health partners and other organisations when working with children and young people.

- 3.4 In June 2018 the Committee reviewed work that was taking place to implement requirements of the Act and areas of priority focus going forward. A further briefing on progress in implementing the Act is attached.
- 3.5 It is anticipated that a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Area Review will be forthcoming. An outline of work to prepare for this Review is attached and it is timely for the Committee to consider whether it wishes to review and seek assurance in relation to any particular aspects of work to support children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in advance of that anticipated review. Any issues identified could be included on the Committee's work programme.

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

- 4.1 Update on Progress in Implementing the Children and Families Act 2014
- 4.2 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Area Review – Inspection Preparation

#### **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 Children and Families Act 2014
- 6.2 Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice
- 6.3 Report to, and minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting on 19 June 2018

#### **7 Wards affected**

- 7.1 All

#### **8 Contact information**

- 8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer  
[jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)  
0115 8764315

## **Nottingham City – update on progress in implementing the Children and Families Act 2014**

The Children and Families Act was introduced in 2014. Chapter 3 of the Act relates to Local Authority and local area duties and responsibilities in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The main aims of the Act are to:

- Improve outcomes for children and young people 0-25 and their families
- Replace Statements of special educational needs with Education, Health & Care plans (EHC plans)
- Replace school action/plus with SEN Support
- Ensure that settings implement a graduated response to meet the needs of all young people with SEND
- Provide rights to a Personal budget
- Ensure that the local area co-produces services and strategic developments with children, young people and their families in decision
- Offer impartial mediation and advice
- Provide and independent Information Advice Support (IASS) to young people and families
- Publish the local offer of support and services
- Ensure joined up service delivery through joint commissioning with partners in particular health services
- Ensure young people are appropriately prepared for adulthood

Nottingham City has made significant progress in implementing the reforms and completed the transfer of Statements of SEN to EHC plans in advance of the deadline and supported a neighbouring local authority in completing theirs. In addition:

- Nottingham issued between 98-100% of new EHC plans within the statutory 20 week timeline. This compares very favourably to national figures.
- Nottingham City has significantly more personal budgets than the national average.
- During the 2018-19 academic year, over 60% of the EHC Plans we maintained (and which required a review within that academic year), were amended following review. A large proportion of these amendments included updating outcomes in response to progress, ensuring their relevancy to a student's changing needs. For the 2018-19 academic year, 99% of plans that required amending were amended within 8 weeks, with over 55% of these being turned around within a week of them being requested by casework. Only 1% (7 cases) were outside the 8-week deadline, all due to waiting on information from other services or because parents requested a delay.
- Nottingham City employ Engagement and Advice workers whose role is to gather the views and aspirations of young people and their families as part of the EHC assessment process and to enable EHC plans to be co-produced.
- There has been significant joint SEND services and social care's Whole Life Disability Service (WLDS) to dovetail the timing of social care assessments with that of EHC Reviews. WLDS staff are aiming to prioritise attendance at reviews for students at key transition points, particularly Year 11+ students who are moving settings and those who will imminently transition to adult services. This is to enable EHC Plans to be updated with the most recent social care information before 31 March deadline to ensure that young people have a smooth transition to adulthood.
- SEN Services continues to work closely with health and social care partners including delivering practice improvement days.

### **Context**

There are 46,869 children and young people attending schools in Nottingham. Of these, 6398 children and young people have some kind of SEND (13.7% of the school population)

As of January 2019, 1012 children and young people had an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan. This number continues to rise in line with the national picture.

Nottingham City has a range of good quality provision available for young people with SEND. This includes 5 special all of which are good or outstanding. In addition, There are 5 Focus provisions in Nottingham. These are specialist resources in mainstream schools. 3 cater for young people with Autism and 2 for young people who are profoundly deaf. 585 young people attend specialist schools and specialist post 16 settings and 40 young people attend Focus Provision.

The remainder of young people with SEND have provision made for them in mainstream early years, schools and post 16 settings. Nottingham City provides additional funding for these young people without the need for an EHC plan. Currently 905 children and young people receive this additional high needs funding and inclusion funding.

The 5 year SEND strategy was co-produced with young people and families and published in September 2018 and has been reviewed by the SEND Accountability Board. Targets within the plan are on target to be met. These include:

- Development of additional provision for young people with Autism – this provision will open in September 2020 on the Nethergate Academy site
- Support mainstream schools to improve provision for young people with SEND
  - Additional funding has been ringfenced to support young people in mainstream schools and a review of the high level needs funding system has been completed. A new system will be piloted with schools in Spring 2020.
  - Routes to Inclusion (R2i) is being rollout to all schools in the City. R2i is a toolkit to support children with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) issues. The toolkit was developed with primary SENCOs and launched with primary schools in October 2018. It aims to guide teachers and SENCOs through a systematic process to identify and support children with SEMH, starting with universal provision, various identification tools, assessment tools and evaluation tools. R2i is the process schools are asked to follow before they seek external support for a child with SEMH. The toolkit has been rolled out to primary schools and work has begun with secondary schools in the City.

Nottingham City and the local area are working closely together to ensure that they are prepared for the Local Area Review (LAR). The SEND LAR is an inspection of how all partners in Nottingham City effectively:

- Identify children and young people with SEND
- Assess and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND
- Improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND
- Lead, manage and govern arrangements for SEND in the local area

The 'local area' is the geographical area of the local authority. The inspection will look at the contribution of all partner agencies (in particular education, health and social care) AND will consider children and young people who are resident in that area but receive their support outside of that area. The inspection is expected imminently.

## NOTTINGHAM CITY

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### BRIEFING NOTE: SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES (SEND) LOCAL AREA REVIEW – INSPECTION PREPARATION

DATE: 30 JANUARY 2020

#### 1. SEND LOCAL AREA REVIEW (LAR)

- The SEND LAR is an inspection of the how all partners in Nottingham City effectively:
  1. **Identify** children and young people with SEND
  2. **Assess and meet the needs** of children and young people with SEND
  3. **Improve outcomes** for children and young people with SEND
  4. **Lead, manage and govern** arrangements for SEND in the local area
- The ‘local area’ is the geographical area of the local authority.
- The inspection will look at the contribution of all partner agencies (in particular education, health and social care) AND will consider children and young people who are resident in that area but receive their support outside of that area.
- The inspection will be conducted by inspectors from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).
- We will have 5 days notice before the inspection starts. The inspection will last for 5 days. The inspection team will:
  1. Look at how agencies work together in partnership.
  2. They will meet with groups of partners to get their views.
  3. They will undertake visits to settings and providers.
  4. They will speak to children, young people, parents and carers.
- The inspection leads to a published report that will give an assessment judgement about how well the local area is performing and identify areas for improvement. The report may require the local area to consider actions it should take in light of the report and prepare a formal ‘statement of action’.
- Safeguarding - how children with SEND are helped and protected so that they are kept safe.
- Request information about children and young people who have SEND who are:
  - Children in need
  - Children who have a child protection plan
  - Children looked after and care leavers
  - Subject to youth justice services
  - Eligible to adult care services

- Look at any relevant serious case reviews and their outcomes

## **2. OVERVIEW OF INSPECTION THEMES IDENTIFIED IN PUBLISHED OUTCOME LETTERS**

- Implementation of the SEND Reforms from 2014 to now
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy
- Joint commissioning arrangements
- Child and parent voice, co-production
- Local offer
- Outcomes and data – improvements
- Exclusions – schools
- Quality of EHC plan - assessments and reports
- SEN Support
- Post 16 opportunities – destinations and independence
- Health involvement and evidence of effective multi-agency work
- Inclusive leisure opportunities

## **3. LAR PREPARATION**

- Nominated Officer identified
- Local Area self-evaluation in place since 2016 - annually reviewed
- Created Improvement Plan from issues/risks
- Draft set up presentation
- Reviewed evidence library
- Bite size briefings – published 7
- Review of developments in Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and joint commissioning arrangements
- Data dashboard created for Children's Integrated Services & SEND
- Practice Improvement Days undertaken with Children's Social Work teams, IROs, Early Help, Targeted Family Support Team, CAMHS
- Portfolio Holder Briefings with Education, Children's Social Care, Adults & Health
- Constructive meetings with Health partners
- Meeting with Adults Social Care and alignment with Whole Life Disability Strategy
- Head Teacher Briefings
- Agenda item at termly SEND Accountability Board meetings
- Regular strategic meetings with Corporate Director for People (Children & Adults) and partnership leads
- Positive meeting with DfE SEND Advisor

## **4. ISSUES AND RISKS IDENTIFIED FROM SELF-EVALUATION**

- Overview from the partnership to track and report on outcomes for children and young people who have SEND

- CCP restructure
- Exclusions
- KS4 & 5
- WLD - Transition Assessments
- Preparing for Adulthood Employment Pathway

## **5. ONGOING PREPARATION AND WORK**

- SEND strategic meetings with Corporate Director for People (Children & Adults) and partnership leads to ensure issues are shared and addressed
- SEND Accountability Board meeting
- Develop partnership outcomes framework to track outcomes for children and young people with SEND
- Draft Employment Strategy
- Meeting with Clinical Commissioning Partnership
- Ensure all providers and staff are fully briefed and prepared for the SEND LAR / inspection by end Jan 2020 at the latest
- Re-issue bite size briefings including additional briefings on joint commissioning and health

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<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>30 JANUARY 2020</b>
<b>SCRUTINY OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR EARLY YEARS, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE</b>

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To hold the Portfolio Holder for Early Years, Education and Employment to account for delivery of aspects of the Council Plan 2019 to 2023 that relate to early years and education.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) scrutinise plans for delivery of the early years and education aspects of the Council Plan 2019 to 2023; and
  - b) identify if there are any issues that it wishes to focus on, and include on its work programme.

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 On 11 November 2019 Council approved the Corporate Plan 2019 to 2023, setting out priorities that will lead plans and decisions for the next four years.
- 3.2 Overview and scrutiny has an important role in holding the Executive to account and scrutinising performance and progress in the delivery of the Council Plan. Therefore, a programme of scrutiny sessions with Portfolio Holders has been established. The majority of these sessions are carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, but the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee leads on scrutiny of issues that relate to children and young people.
- 3.3 Councillor Neghat Khan is the Portfolio Holder for Early Years, Education and Employment. She will be attending the meeting to discuss plans for the early years and education aspects of that Portfolio.

**4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 None

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

5.1 None

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

6.1 Nottingham City Council Corporate Plan 2019 to 2023

**7 Wards affected**

7.1 All

**8 Contact information**

8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer  
[jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)  
0115 8764315

<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>30 JANUARY 2020</b>
<b>WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE</b>

**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  
Tel: 0115 8764315  
Email: [jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 2019/20 Work Programme**

Date	Items
<p><b>16 July 2019</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Take up of entitlement to early years childcare funding</b> To review levels of take up of early years childcare funding and identify opportunities to increase take up.</li> <li>• <b>School Exclusions</b> To review the rate of school exclusions in Nottingham and steps in place to try and reduce levels of exclusions.</li> <li>• <b>Work Programme 2019/20</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>26 September 2019</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Regional Adoption Agency</b> 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> <li>• <b>Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse</b> 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> <li>• <b>Work Programme 2019/20</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>28 November 2019</b></p> <p><b>CANCELLED</b></p>	
<p><b>30 January 2020</b></p>	

Date	Items
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</b> To review progress in improving support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).</li> <li>• <b>Ofsted inspection of Children’s Services</b> To scrutinise action taken to address areas identified for improvement by Ofsted in its review of Children’s Services and preparedness for the next inspection.</li> <li>• <b>Educational attainment</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder for Early Years, Education and Employment</b> To review plans for delivery of aspects of the Council Plan 2019-2023 that fall within the Early Years and Education aspects of this Portfolio.</li> <li>• <b>Work Programme 2019/20</b></li> </ul>
26 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People</b> To review plans for delivery of aspects of the Council Plan 2019-2023 that fall within the Children and Young People Portfolio.</li> <li>• <b>Semi-independent living arrangements for 16/17 year olds in care</b> To review semi-independent living arrangements for 17/17 year olds in care</li> <li>• <b>Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse</b> To review progress in fulfilling the recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and implementing associated action plan</li> <li>• <b>Children and Young People’s Plan (tbc)</b></li> </ul>

Date	Items
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Work Programme 2020/21</b></li> </ul>

#### 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**

#### Additional evidence gathering

#### Informal meetings

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

#### Items to be scheduled for 2020/21

##### May 2020

- **East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency**  
To review performance against expected outcomes for the first year of operation and plans for the future
- **Youth Offending Service Inspection (tbc – depending on publication of report)**  
To scrutinise action being taken in response to the findings and recommendations of the HMIP inspection of Youth Offending Services

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