

Public Document Pack



Nottingham City Council Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 24 September 2020

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

Place: Meeting to be remotely via Zoom - meeting participants to be given access details. The meeting will be livestreamed on the Council's YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil>

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

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Director for Legal and Governance

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

1	Apologies for absence	
2	Declarations of interests	
3	Minutes	3 - 10
	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2020	
4	Reopening of schools and impact of closure	11 - 16
5	Impact of Covid-19 on Children's Services	17 - 24
6	Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse	25 - 34
7	Work Programme	35 - 40
8	Future meeting dates	
	To agree to meet on the following Thursdays at 10am:	
	• 26 November 2020	
	• 28 January 2021	
	• 25 March 2021	

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

Nottingham City Council

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held remotely via Zoom and livestreamed on the Council's YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil> on 30 July 2020 from 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Membership

Present

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

Absent

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Cheryl Barnard	- Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
Tajinder Madahar Catherine	- Head of Service, Children's Social Work
Underwood	- Corporate Director for People
Jane Garrard	- Senior Governance Officer

1 Apologies for absence

None

2 Declarations of Interests

None

3 Minutes

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2020 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

4 Impact of Coronavirus on Children's Services

Councillor Barnard, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People, and Tajinder Madahar, Head of Service for Children's Social Work presented a report about the impact of the current coronavirus outbreak on the delivery of Children's Services and the impact that this has had on children and their families in the City. They highlighted the following information:

- (a) The coronavirus outbreak has reduced the ability to support children and families in the usual ways and it has been challenging to maintain services and protect children and young people.
- (b) The importance of protecting the welfare of children and young people has been the key priority in decision making and immediate action was taken to carry out risk assessments for all children in care to look at their individual circumstances and what support they needed during this period.
- (c) Staffing has been a challenge due to staff sickness and shielding, although this has not been as high as initially anticipated, and at times it was necessary to redeploy staff from across the service.
- (d) Colleagues were supported by the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) and guidance on ways of working.
- (e) Initially there was a significant decrease in enquiries to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and resulting social work assessments by the Duty Service. One of the reasons for this was the level of contact by schools and health services. Referrals have now largely returned to pre-Covid levels and it is anticipated that there may be an increase in referrals once all pupils return to school in September and teams are working closely with education colleagues to manage this.
- (f) While the number of referrals reduced overall, there was no major reduction in the number of children with Child Protection Plans.
- (g) Requirements for people to stay at home can be problematic for people at risk of harm from others in the home setting and there are concerns about risks of domestic abuse and violence which is one of the main drivers for social care referrals. Referrals relating to domestic violence and abuse have returned to pre-Covid levels but there could be hidden cases that are not yet known. Teams are working with partners to identify this and provide support.
- (h) Independent Reviewing Services have had to take place virtually, either by telephone or video link.
- (i) Early Help and Child Mental Health Services have provided online resources for use by children and families, and prioritised contacting families identified as most in need of intervention.
- (j) It has been challenging to deliver youth and play services, and the focus has been on those at risk of exploitation and anti-social behaviour. 278 young people were identified as most vulnerable and colleagues have been in regular contact with them.
- (k) It has been necessary to make substantial adjustments to respite services, with no residential breaks. The Short Breaks Service and Crocus Fields Services have worked together to provide some sitting services, shopping collection etc for those most in need.

- (l) Some children and carers in the fostering service have found this to be a positive time allowing strong attachments to be formed, but others have found it very challenging particularly where there are health concerns and there has been an increase in placement breakdown.
- (m) The main impact on adoption services has been delays at some stages of the court process.
- (n) Residential care homes have continued to operate but there have been staffing challenges due to staff sickness and shielding so it has been necessary to redeploy colleagues from other services.
- (o) Some services are closed to maintain health and safety and meet Government guidance. These include aspects of services at Crocus Fields, Children's Centres, Contact and Play and Youth Services.
- (p) Colleagues have worked closely with education services to support vulnerable children in relation to education. This has focused on both academic issues and also the protective benefits and wellbeing aspects of being in school. Cases where vulnerable children were not in school are most often related to family circumstances. There will be a 'summer offer' targeted at the most vulnerable children and a focus on mental health support. Teams are working with schools to maximise the number of children returning to school in September.
- (q) The Council has not enacted all of the available temporary regulatory flexibilities introduced by the Department for Education. Decisions about this have involved the Portfolio Holder and senior managers.
- (r) There are a number of risk areas including the high number of children with Child Protection Plans and the anticipated increase in referrals in autumn as children become more visible again; differences in how social work teams have operated which has reduced the ease of peer support and advice and reflective practice; increased activity online has increased the risk of data breaches; and the impact on improvement work required by Ofsted.
- (s) Partnership working has been vital during this period.
- (t) The staff response to challenges has been excellent and overall the transition to more online working has gone well.
- (u) The full impact of the coronavirus outbreak has yet to emerge, with anticipated hidden harm and the financial impact on families and communities.

During discussion the following points were made:

- (v) Some of the Pupil Premium funding has been used to purchase laptops for those without access to online learning.
- (w) It is important to be prepared for a potential 'second wave' of coronavirus cases.

- (x) The Council is working with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to ensure that the right support is in place and child-focused.
- (y) The Summer Hubs will involve mental health support, and Youth and Play Services are focusing on those that find school difficult and will find it most challenging to return.
- (z) Now that restrictions have been eased, it would be beneficial for Youth and Play Services to encourage young people to get outside into a different environment rather than just staying indoors.
- (aa) Some young people have said that they prefer virtual rather than face-to-face contact because it fits better with their lives and is the way that they communicate with other people.
- (bb) Funding is a challenge and while there has been some funding for particular services, overall funding for local authorities has been insufficient. The cost of Children's Social Care Services is putting significant pressure on the Council's budget. There are risks that the Council will have to only provide the statutory minimum services and additional preventative work will be lost.
- (cc) The numbers of children currently with Child Protection Plans is reasonable given the context of the City, and an early intervention approach is likely to result in more children in care. Ofsted did comment on the high numbers of children in care. The most important thing is to ensure that services are working with the right young people and that those young people are getting support from the relevant partners, recognising that everything doesn't have to be provided by Children's Social Care Services.
- (dd) Children eligible for free school meals have received food vouchers and some schools have engaged with social eating projects.
- (ee) In terms of feedback from staff, initially there was concern about being supported with guidance and PPE, which has been resolved. Working at home has worked well for some staff but there is an evidence base of the benefits of co-located working and a desire for more time in the office to enable staff to get together for peer advice and support due to the nature of the work. This is being considered as part of the recovery plan. Many colleagues have worked very hard with little break, which is not sustainable. The Director of Children's Integrated Services is meeting with the workforce to take on board their feedback.

Resolved to recommend to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People that children, young people and families are asked about their experiences and perspectives of services during this period to inform decision making on current service provision, restoration of services and planning for any future lockdown/ new restrictions situations.

5 Children's Integrated Services Ofsted Focussed Visit and Improvement Programme

Councillor Barnard, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People, and Tajinder Madahar, Head of Service for Children's Social Work, presented a report updating the Committee on the outcomes from Ofsted's Focussed Visit in February 2020 and associated improvement programme. They highlighted the following information:

- (a) Ofsted's Focussed Visit looked specifically at arrangements for children in need and those subject to a child protection plan, with a focus on children at risk of neglect as these had previously been identified by Ofsted as areas of concern.
- (b) Focussed Visits do not result in a rating but Ofsted issued two Priority Actions which is significant.
- (c) The Service is committed to addressing the issues and strong oversight and support has been put in place to progress improvement work.
- (d) Following the Visit, swift action was taken to review the areas of concern. Ofsted don't formally sign off action plans but their feedback on the improvement plan was sought. An ongoing dialogue with Ofsted is taking place, with informal conversations held every week.
- (e) A Children at the Heart Improvement Board has been established, chaired by the Interim Chief Executive and involving councillors, senior officers and partners including schools, health and the police. The role of the Board is to hold to account and challenge progress on improvement, but also support improvement work.
- (f) Working with partners is vital for the improvement work because although the Priority Actions were directed at the Council they relate to services delivered in partnership with other service areas within the Council and partners external to the Council.
- (g) Regional colleagues are supporting the Service to reflect and learn, and the Council is also working with the Local Government Association and Department for Education. Through the Department for Education, the Council is getting improvement support from the Partner in Practice Scheme. As part of this the Council is getting substantial support from Essex County Council to help strengthen practice and services.
- (h) One of the key areas to address is stabilising the workforce. Workforce gaps have been filled through use of a recruitment agency and this has provided short term capacity, and work is now taking place to recruit substantive post-holders.
 - (i) The Nottingham practice model and standards have been relaunched and everyone is being trained to these standards. A strengths-based approach is being taken.
 - (j) Ensuring that the voice of the child is at the heart of services is being re-energised. Work is taking place to test that this is in place.

- (k) The performance and quality assurance framework is being improved to include a strong moderation process and make sure that learning from audits is fully understood and used to inform best practice services.
- (l) Going forward there will be a refreshed social worker recruitment campaign to try and attract permanent social workers that want to stay in the service and develop as part of a great team. Part of this will include developing an attractive and supportive workforce development offer.
- (m) The role of Principal Social Worker is being created, who will be an expert practitioner able to provide advice, leadership and mentor colleagues.
- (n) Standards are being developed so that everyone knows what 'good' looks like. This will inform management standards that set out a clear and consistent understanding of expectations.
- (o) Work is also planned to look at the other associated factors that enable social workers to do the best job that they can, for example good IT support, good business administration support.
- (p) This is a really major programme of cultural and practice change and there are a number of risks to its delivery.
- (q) The current coronavirus outbreak has impacted on improvement work and it has been challenging to deal with both really significant issues at the same time and ensure a continued strong focus on progressing improvement activity.
- (r) The Council's financial situation is also a risk and lack of workforce capacity relates to lack of funding.
- (s) Most activity remains on target but some areas are slipping behind.
- (t) It is anticipated that Ofsted will visit in autumn 2020 with a full inspection in 2021. It is important that the Council can demonstrate improvement and get quality assurance, but learning from Essex County Council is that improvement takes a long time.
- (u) It is vital that the Council ensures that it meets its statutory responsibilities, otherwise the Government will intervene.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- (v) The Council has provided short-term funding to deliver improvement but it will be challenging when this ends and there are risks to the delivery of long-term sustained improvement.
- (w) Nationally, there are issues with funding for children's social care and the Council is involved in lobbying for more funding.
- (x) The 'Grow Your Own' social worker scheme has been really successful. The most recent cohort has all just passed and are at various stages of registration so

agency workers will need to be retained until they are able to practice. There is already interest in the next phase and the Service wants to continue doing it, but its launch is affected by budget challenges.

- (y) It is important that new social workers are supported to develop and work in an environment of best practice and there needs to be quality control in place to ensure this is happening. Ofsted found that over time not all social workers are kept on a journey of continued improvement and the Council now needs to make a commitment to do this. Workshops are being held for newly qualified staff and qualified staff to increase knowledge, develop skills and provide a safe environment to reflect.
- (z) While many staff are working at home, managers are keeping in touch with teams on MS Teams, holding reflective sessions and auditing cases to identify areas for improvement.
 - (aa) Lessons are being learnt from Essex County Council about the importance of good auditing.
 - (bb) The Council has an online performance system showing performance by case, practitioner and service area. Performance is monitored closely to identify areas of concern and practitioners are held to account in 1:1s and in team supervision sessions. Statutory reporting to the Department for Education takes place regularly.
 - (cc) It is anticipated that Ofsted will be looking at the experience of children during the coronavirus outbreak and how services have responded. The Service is confident that it will be able to show how Nottingham has responded, that robust decision making is in place and services are in place.
 - (dd) The Service will also be able to show that it is focussed and committed to improving practice and increasing capacity. There are some examples of this already coming through in practice and colleagues should be able to articulate the changes in relation to their work, but it is still early days so it won't be possible to demonstrate this across all work by autumn.
 - (ee) It will be important to get feedback from children and families on changes as evidence of improvement.

The Committee requested that outcomes of the Ofsted assurance visit in autumn 2020 and progress on the improvement plan be reported back to the Committee.

6 Work Programme 2020/21

Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer, introduced the report asking the Committee to identify issues that it would like to focus its work on during municipal year 2020/21. The Committee discussed the following issues for inclusion in its work programme for the year:

- (a) reopening of schools to all pupils and the extent of learning loss and support for addressing this;
- (b) outcomes of the Ofsted assurance visit regarding Children's Services;
- (c) findings of the Committee's recommendation to survey families about their experiences and perspective of services during the period of the coronavirus pandemic to review how this is being used to inform decision making;
- (d) progress in implementing the action plan related to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation; and
- (e) impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the mental health of children and young people.

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
24 September 2020**

Re-opening of schools and impact of closure

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review the return to school for all pupils in September 2020 and the impact of school closures as a result of the coronavirus outbreak and how these are being addressed.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to identify the focus for further scrutiny.

3 Background information

- 3.1 In response to the coronavirus outbreak, in March the Government announced that schools would close to pupils except for vulnerable children or children of key workers. In July, some schools started to reopen for other pupils on a limited basis. It was subsequently announced that schools would reopen full-time for all pupils from September.
- 3.2 The Director for Education and supporting colleagues have been invited to attend the meeting to give the Council's perspective on the impact of school closures during 2020 and how the Council has been, and continues to support schools on re-opening, planning for any further closures and addressing the impact on pupils of closures.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the Committee take a further look at work to support pupils and improve educational attainment at its meeting in November. The Committee will need to identify the specific focus it wishes to take for this meeting.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Report from Corporate Director for People

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
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Report to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

Re-opening of Schools and Impact of Closure

Background

The government announced that schools would close from the 23rd March 2020 but would still provide places for vulnerable children or children whose parents or guardians are key workers. The vast majority of schools in Nottingham City remained open for these children.

Prior to the formal closure, planning had already commenced to ensure that in Education we had the resources available to support schools in their response to the pandemic and, that in Children's Services all high priority children were explicitly identified within the vulnerable cohort. Those children who were considered to be most at risk were identified with good information shared with schools on current risks and clear plans to ensure children remained visible.

Work streams were put in place to risk assess, plan for and identify higher risk children with children in settled care and work to track and support education for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan. However the early priority was around children subject to child protection (CP) plans and children in need (CIN) within social work teams.

In total, 1887 Nottingham children and young people were identified within children's social care as being within the priority vulnerable pupil cohort. It became apparent fairly quickly that a number of vulnerable children lived in households where adults had health risks or where the children did. This reduced the number of children presenting at school initially. Throughout lockdown we worked closely with schools around the support for these young people.

Attendance by Groups on 17th July (last available data):

Headline Measure (as of latest data)	Cohort	Open / Attending	Open / Attending %
Total EHCP Children	1077	111	10.3%
Total Y10 Pupils	2905	123	4.2%
Total Social Care Children	1887	238	12.6%
Total Core Year Groups	17743	2857	16.1%
Total Nursery Pupils	3023	357	11.8%
Total Vulnerable Children	2200	398	18.1%
Total Pupils	46767	5046	10.8%
Total Y12 Pupils	792	53	6.7%
Schools	119	70	58.8%
Total Reception Pupils	3619	734	20.3%
Total Y6 Pupils	3770	765	20.3%
Total Y1 Pupils	3634	825	22.7%

*

The Impact of Closure

Nottingham City Educational Psychology Service undertook a survey to seek the views of children and young people in the Covid-19 pandemic to:

- Understand the views and experiences of young people both in and out of school
- Inform the current provision of children and young people both in and out of school
- Inform future provision for children and young people returning school
- Inform the transition phases for children and young people returning school

They asked the children and young people of Nottingham City about their views and feelings about being at home or school during the pandemic; and what would help them to transition back into school.

Four surveys were sent out via Nottingham City Schools:

- To primary aged students that have been at home during the pandemic
- To primary aged students that have been in school during the pandemic
- To secondary aged students that have been at home during the pandemic
- To secondary aged students that have been in school during the pandemic

Total responses = 1006 Children and Young People, aged 5-18

Children and young people in Nottingham City were asked about their experiences in and out of school during the Covid-19 pandemic. Their answers showed some clear patterns, as well as variations. Key themes included: connectedness and relationships; emotional health; supported transitions back into schools; active learning, enrichment, and play; and academic worries.

The voice of children and young people summarised in the survey report:

- What our children have missed the most is their friends and teachers: they need to play and they need to connect!
- Children are generally eager to reconnect with peers and adults at school, however this brought about mixed emotions for many. Pupils may need support to rebuild old relationships and develop new ones.
- Our students missed the enrichment elements of the curriculum and asked for more of this when they go back to school!
- Some students have preferred to be at home because of the reduced pressure and demands: do we expect too much?
- Our students are worried about the pressure of GCSEs. They feel a reduced workload upon returning would help to ease them back into school.
- CYP are clearly anxious about safety when they come back to school. They want to know what the hygiene routines will be. CYP want to know that they will be protected from Covid-19.
- It is really important to our CYP that they are given clear information and know what is happening. They have many questions about coming back to school.

Key Messages presented in the report on the survey:

- Many pupils were worried about the ‘potential impact on learning’ of being at home. They felt a need to “catch up”, have “extra lessons” and “get back to school quickly”, fearing that they might “fail exams”. This view has also been reflected in the media. We suggest this ‘catch up’ narrative has permeated the lives and beliefs of young people in a way that potentially puts a high level of pressure upon them, giving a

- sense of missed opportunities and creates risks for their mental health and well-being.
- We suggest a need to shift away from this dominant narrative of ‘catch up’, which does not reflect the scale of the impact of the pandemic and which sits within a narrow construct of a National Curriculum. Instead, we advocate a narrative centered on a recovery curriculum, a focus on emotional health well-being, and the enjoyment of and motivation for life-long learning. We need to explore and celebrate what has been achieved during the pandemic and focus on the skills used or developed, as this is what is going to help our young people to grow and develop in the future.
 - Many pupils are anxious about coming back to school and they are going to find it difficult. Social anxiety, low confidence, and fear of pressure and expectations will all contribute to emotionally based school avoidance. Schools will need to seek training from outside professionals in how to support pupils who feel unable to return to school. New ways of learning throughout the pandemic using various technologies may need to be considered and utilised.

Impact on learning

A clear concern has been the impact on learning and educational achievement as a consequence of the disruption in schooling. Schools and the Education team have taken action to ensure that all children who were remaining at home had access to online learning and 1200 laptops were distributed in the city. However, even with IT access in place, the opportunity for children to learn at home will have varied widely. Many families in Nottingham face levels of deprivation which mean that the home environment may be unconducive to formal study, parents may struggle to support learning and families will have been managing the varied impacts of Covid-19 including bereavement and illness.

It is difficult to predict, but we can anticipate that children will experience a significant loss in learning and that this is most likely to be greater for children who already experience significant disadvantage.

Support for Schools to Re-Open

The Education team continued to support schools over the summer. It was vital that we continued this support as schools started to transition to re-open. Even before lockdown there were many children who were anxious about attending school. For some children and young people this is so difficult that they may even refuse to go. Due to the long period of time children and young people have had no or limited access to school, we were conscious that there might be even more anxiety about returning.

Targeted CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service), Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) and the Educational Psychology Service in Nottingham City worked together to deliver campaigns of support to parents and children and young people to relieve some of the anxiety they may be experiencing around returning to school. The aim was to relieve some of the anxiety that young people may be experiencing around returning to school.

The #You'veBeenMissed campaign offered advice over the phone as well as podcasts and videos. During July and August the teams visited outdoor summer schools to promote the service which offers support and signposting to resources for further help.

Podcasts were released each week to address the theme of worries that children and young people shared with us ([CAMHS Nottingham City YouTube Channel](#)). There were also ‘tips for parents’ to support around the preparation of returning to school.

Children’s Integrated Services (including Youth and Play) have provided a wealth of activities to support children around this work.

To address concerns about Covid-19 and the return to school, the Council’s public health team is working with the Education team to support schools and to ensure clear advice is provided, consistent with national guidance.

The Children’s Integrated Services and Education teams will also work with schools to support them in working with children to address any safeguarding issues which become apparent once children are seen and also to respond to any difficult behavior in order to avoid unnecessary exclusions.

In conclusion, the strong work between the Education team, Children’s Integrated Services and our local schools has been key to supporting children during Covid-19 to date, and we will continue this partnership as we progress into the Autumn term.

Catherine Underwood
Corporate Director for People

Nick Lee
Director of Education

Helen Blackman
Director of Children’s Integrated Services

Contact Officer:
Michelle Roe, Executive Officer

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
24 September 2020**

Impact of Covid-19 on Children's Services

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To:
- a) consider the findings of the Committee's recommendation to seek the views and experiences of children, young people and families of services during the coronavirus outbreak and how this information is being used to inform decision making; and
 - b) receive an update on any changes since the last meeting of the Committee.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) review current provision of Children's Services in light of the current coronavirus situation;
 - b) review implementation and outcomes of its recommendation to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People to seek the views and experiences of children, young people and families of services during the coronavirus outbreak; and
 - c) identify the focus and timescales for further scrutiny.

3 Background information

- 3.1 In light of the current coronavirus outbreak, the Committee identified the need to explore how this was impacting on the delivery of Children's Services and the impact that this was having on children and their families in the City.
- 3.2 In July 2020 the Committee received an initial briefing from the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, the Corporate Director for People and the Head of Service for Children's Social Work on how the Service has responded and changes to service provision and service delivery models. The Committee heard that initially there had been a decrease in enquiries to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and resulting social work assessments by the Duty Service and it was thought that one of the reasons for this was the reduced contact with children by schools and health services. By the time of the meeting in July, referrals had largely returned to pre-Covid levels and it was anticipated that there could be an increase in referrals once all pupils returned to school in September and

other restrictions eased. Therefore, the Committee requested a further update on demand for Children's Services and any changes in service provision, including progress on restoring services as restrictions allowed.

- 3.3 In July, the Committee recommended that children, young people and families are asked about their experiences and perspectives of services during this period in order to inform decision making on current service provision, restoration of services and planning for any future lockdown/ new restrictions situations. Initial findings of this work are being reported to the Committee at this meeting.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Report from Corporate Director for People and Director of Children's Integrated 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 Report to, and minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 30 July 2020

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

- 8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer
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0115 8764315

Report to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

Impact of Covid on Children's Services (Update)

Background

At July's Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee, a report was presented outlining the Impact of Coronavirus on services for children and young people. This report provides an update on any changes since this meeting.

At this meeting the Committee recommended that the service speak to young people and their families about their experiences and perspectives of services during this period with a view to using that information to inform decision making on:

- Current provision
- Restoration of services
- Planning for any future lockdown
- Restrictions

This report also provides an update on work to date.

Updates since the last Meeting

Early Help

During the pandemic, the Early Help team have put together alternative delivery models into practice to support families during challenges times of social distancing measures. We have ensured our service continued to offer the Right Support at the Right Time.

Following parent feedback about worries of isolation, lack of play opportunities for children, lack of social opportunities, financial worries and wanting to be kept informed about what is happening, Early Help have worked hard to:

- Enhanced the virtual offer and telephone contacts with families, Early Help created a virtual timetable full of activity ideas, videos, lunch recipes and online links to support the home learning environment.
- Expanded on communication and reach channels to the digital world, creating and setting up a Facebook Page for families and professionals, allowing key updates, messages, activities and ideas to be shared wider.
- Provided approximately 420+ resource and activity packs to vulnerable children and families to extend and build on their learning and development at home.
- Adapted the Peep Learning Together evidenced based Programme to allow families to access this virtually via weekly telephone calls, planned activities, support and advice to parents in order to empower them to make the most of everyday learning opportunities. At the time of writing (04/09/2020), 120 families have been invited to participate in this programme.
- Provided virtual Family Support Clinics, which use a whole family and holistic model in order to assess and offer advice and support across a spectrum of challenges they may be facing.

Parents also expressed concerns about managing children's behaviours when they were not in school, increase in parental Mental Health concerns, relationship concerns and increased Domestic abuse. Early and Targeted Help have:

- Continued to provide an allocated Family Support Worker to families with multiple support needs.
- Adapted the delivery of the Triple P Parenting Programme to offer virtual one to one support via Triple P Primary Care Sheets and Triple P online. At the time of writing (04/09/2020) 136 families have been contacted in order to access this support and 11 families have been offered Triple P online.
- Worked in conjunction with Professor David Daley (co-founder of New Forest Parenting Programme) to enable us to continue to deliver an evidenced based programme virtually. 48 families have been identified as requiring this support as their children display ADHD type behaviours.
- Supported and been in weekly contact with 129 women who have been referred to the service in order to access the Freedom Programme. We have completed safety plans and offered ongoing advice and support during this critical time. In addition to this, Early Help have completed bespoke one to one sessions in order to support statutory services and court proceedings.

Family Intervention Project (FIP)

FIP have continued to provide a service into people's homes following the usual safeguards being put in place. The main issue for FIP team has been accessing council or health premises to undertake one-to-one work with individuals outside the home. Multi-agency meetings have continued but using MS Teams. The team have also run successfully Family Group Conferences via Teams where some of the family members participated from a local school supported by one of the workers.

Parenting Team

Initially all group programmes were put on hold and delivery was via telephone on a one-to-one basis depending on need.

Within 4 weeks delivery had moved into video-conferencing either via MSTeams or Zoom, delivering both one-to-one sessions and to groups of not more than 6 parents.

The approach brings in significant costs savings for the council in the reduction in costs around venues and staff travel. Staff report being able to undertake more sessions with service users due to the time saved from travel and preparing venues..

Virtual delivery is not suitable for all families and 'post lockdown' we will continue to deliver some groups.

Placement Stability

A key and ongoing challenge during the pandemic has been the availability of placements for children in care and the increasing risk of placement breakdown during lockdown. Key performance measures show a decline in placement stability for children during this time and we know that finding a good 'match' for children during this time has led to an increase in the use of independent fostering and external residential placements to enable us to meet the child's needs. Throughout this time, we have continued to work to develop innovative solutions with carers and partners to prevent placement breakdown. Ongoing work through our work across the region and sub-region (D2N2 area) is working to address the challenges in local provision. Our Social

Impact Bond is being implemented during autumn 2020 to provide support on a payment by results basis to facilitate step-down from residential care, prevent placement breakdown and support reunification with family. We have also started a commissioning and sufficiency review to strengthen this work further.

Care Leavers

Our Leaving Care Service has continued to keep in touch with care leavers and visit our most vulnerable young people. Challenges were identified early in relation to the availability of housing options to support the transition of care leavers during this period. To address this, we have ensured that placements for our care leavers have been extended to respond to the delays in housing offers. Whilst contact has been maintained, there have been some challenges in visiting care leavers who are currently in prison due to the restrictions in access. This has impacted on our ability to visit and update Pathway Plans for some young people.

Youth Justice Service

Nottingham's Youth Justice Service (YJS) continued to provide socially-distanced, face to face visits for the high risk cohort, with regular virtual contact maintained for low and medium risk cases. The Exploitation and Violence Reduction (EVR) Hub, a preventative service based within YJS, continued to provide outreach support for young people on their caseload. The service moved key functions, e.g. the Out of Court Disposal Panel, to a virtual delivery to enable continued operation and partnership coordination throughout lockdown. The service have also continued to innovate and deliver key improvements following the HMIP inspection e.g. embedding their trauma-informed practice approach, continued implementation of the SkillMill project and roll out of a new Multi-Systemic Therapy programme to work with children at risk of involvement with youth crime and exploitation. They have also been successful in securing further Youth Endowment Funding to enable delivery of outreach support to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 and lockdown for young people.

Health Services

Some health services for Children in Care have been impacted by Covid-19, impacting on some measures including health and dental assessments. Whilst health assessments have been continuing through lockdown, these have been conducted virtually and capacity has been a challenge. There has been ongoing joint work with health colleagues to reinstate face to face health assessments but those children who have received a virtual Initial Health Assessment during lockdown will need to be seen and recovery plans will impact future capacity as clinics will need reflect new guidance regarding safe operating models. Dental treatment has been available in emergencies only during lockdown. Whilst we are now able to request dental appointments, there is likely to be some delays in accessing dental appointments as clinics respond to a significant backlog.

Courts

The lockdown and closure of Courts has led to delays in securing permanence for some children with a plan for adoption due to delays and changes in the courts. Backlogs for Courts are now an issue nationally, with significant delays in the dates available for final adoption hearings, particularly where they are contested by the birth family and where parties need to be present in Court. Monthly Adoption Tracking meetings to ensure planning and work is as prompt as possible have continued, chaired by the Director for Children's Integrated Services to maintain oversight for this cohort. Despite these challenges, we have continued to progress plans and place children with their adoptive

families during lockdown, working with adoptive parents and carers to manage this safely and effectively. Adopters and fostering families have to self isolate for a period before we can introduce them and they then work as a “bubble” together until the end of introductions. 14 children have been successfully placed with families during lockdown.

Feedback from Children and Families

Nottingham City Educational Psychology Service

Nottingham City Educational Psychology Service undertook a survey to seek the views of children and young people in the Covid-19 pandemic. Further detail on this survey is outlined within the ‘Re-opening of Schools and Impact of Closure’ report.

Early Help

Some parents have really liked the virtual and self-help parenting programme offer as they can manage their time & childcare needs around the programme. Early Help plan to continue offering some virtual/ self-help programmes in the future.

Some parents say they can't wait for face to face sessions to start as they feel the lack of socialisation opportunities has impacted on their child's social development and their own mental health.

The Freedom Programme has not been delivered during Covid due to the risks that the perpetrator or children may overhear confidential conversations. These parents have all expressed they want group sessions to re-start soon.

The Early Help Facebook page continues to be established, with increasing numbers of likes and followers – parents are influencing the themes of posts.

Early Help are currently planning an evaluation of the Early Help Covid offer with families to review how services are offered in the future.

Parenting Team

Initially all group programmes were put on hold and delivery was via telephone on a one-to-one basis. Within 4 weeks delivery had moved into video-conferencing either via MSTEams or Zoom, delivering both one-to-one sessions and to groups of not more than 6 parents.

Although we were concerned about how parents would engage with this method the feedback has been overwhelming positive. Surprisingly our engagement and retention rate from this approach has at least mirrored, if not improved, on our previous face-to-face offer. Parents report the following advantages:

- Ease of access i.e. don't need to travel to a venue
- Child care issues - easier to resolve in the home environment
- Delivery easier to accomplish around family work commitments – some groups and one-to-one sessions delivered in an evening or at weekends
- Parents less anxious at joining a virtual group than a live group

Feedback from families:

Thank you very much for the sessions I have had, I have learnt so many ways of parenting over the weeks. I have also learnt how to be calm and different skills of approaching a situation as and when it presents itself. Thank you for all the additional information on how to be a good parent, the communication skills I have gained from these sessions are amazing because the relationship I have with all the children has developed into something incredible. I will keep enforcing all the skills that I have learnt because this program has proven to be valuable. The last statement I would like to share with you is that I do not have to shout for my children to listen to me.

The support I have had from the parenting team has been very positive. I have found the sessions helpful, Helen was able to tailor the strategies and parenting advice to meet the needs of our family.

Helen talked to my son who never normally speaks to adults, over Zoom (MS Teams) to get his views, and to find out what he would like to be different. I think this has been key to the positive changes for our family. I am looking forward to taking part in a group webinar to be able to share learning and experiences with other parents as I think there is value in this. As a working parent, the Zoom (MS Teams) calls have enabled me to take part in sessions around my work and childcare commitments.

In conclusion, Children's Integrated Services were required to adjust considerably under Covid-19 restrictions and this clearly reduced the direct face to face contact services were able to offer to children and families. We have sought feedback to understand how this has been experienced. Whilst there has clearly been a gap in the reduction in face to face contact, and reinstatement of services is welcomed, we have also learned that using technology to engage also offers opportunities which are welcomed. We will be assessing how this may be incorporated appropriately into future practice.

Catherine Underwood
Corporate Director for People

Helen Blackman
Director of Children's Integrated Services

Contact Officer:
Michelle Roe, Executive Officer

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**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
24 September 2020**

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review progress in fulfilling the recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and implementing the associated action plan.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) review progress in completion of the action plan arising from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse; and
- b) identify whether any further scrutiny is required and, if so, the focus and timescales.

3 Background information

- 3.1 The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) 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.
- 3.2 The Inquiry included looking into historical failures to protect children in the care of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Councils. Findings from this aspect of the Inquiry were published in July 2019 and there were two specific recommendations to the Council.
- 3.3 This Committee considered the Council's response to these findings and recommendations and the development of an associated action plan in September 2019, speaking to the Leader of the Council and the then Corporate Director for Children and Adults. The action plan was subsequently approved by Executive Board in November 2019.
- 3.3 One year on, the focus of this meeting is to review progress in fulfilling the recommendations arising from IICSA and associated action plan. A paper reporting on progress against each action is attached as an appendix to this report and the Corporate Director for People will be attending the meeting to answer questions about this.

4 List of attached information

4.1 Report from Corporate Director for People

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 to, and minutes of the meeting of Executive Board on 22 November 2019

Report to, and minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2019

Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse 'Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils' July 2019

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

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Report to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

September 2020

- 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 non-recent abuse in children's homes previously operated by Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City councils and other organisations, were made, dating back to the 1940's. In response to this, Operation Equinox was launched by the Police which was an overarching umbrella for a variety of operations including Operation Daybreak and Operation Xeres. This Operation has since been disbanded.
- A number of civil claims have been made against both the County and City Councils.

Scope of the Inquiry – The Nottinghamshire Context

The scope of the Inquiry was set as follows:

- 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.
- A case study into the institutional responses to disclosure of allegations of child sexual abuse in foster care and the barriers to disclosure of such allegations.
- 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.

The Public Hearing

The Public Hearing ran from 01–26 October 2018 (with a one week break).

Publication of Findings

On 31 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,

- 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.
- 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 [here](#).

The Council was required to publish its response within six months of the publication of the report and this was done November 2019.

Progress against the Action Plan

Attached as Appendix A is our progress against our Action Plan.

Next steps and continuous improvement

In response to the Inquiry, there has been significant work undertaken to improve practice and ensure that children in care are kept safe. We have responded to the specific recommendations, but the Inquiry provided further insights into practice that we have sought to incorporate into local practice.

However, we must remain constantly vigilant to the potential harm that children in our care can be exposed to and can never be complacent. Learning tells us that it is vital

that we have a transparent and self-challenging system and of the importance of culture.

The key principles that underpin our approach are:

- **Listening to the voice of children both individually, and collectively** – the voice of the child is at the heart of our practice and we have a range of ways to ensure children and young people's experiences and voices can be heard.
- **Raising awareness** – through training and on-going communication with social workers, residential staff, foster carers and partner agencies.
- **Accountability and visibility** – through reporting on allegations using both the Significant Incident Briefing process and the other routes set out elsewhere in this report. These reports will help us to identify at an early stage patterns and trends and take action to address these.
- **Professional curiosity** – it is our responsibility to explore and understand what is happening, to challenge ourselves and our systems and not to make assumptions.

Nottingham Children's Services continuous improvement programme, building on our Ofsted Focused Visit action plan, has a strong focus on developing our best practice and our culture which sees children's voices and experiences at the heart.

Alongside the actions we take within our own services, we work with our safeguarding partners to strengthen our shared system. We continue to work in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police to actively support the ongoing criminal investigations, to help to identify perpetrators and whenever possible, to 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.

Our work with Survivors of abuse has been a very important area of focus and of learning for us and our partners. We continue to meet regularly with survivors, both individually and as a group, although group meetings have not been possible during Covid-19. A consequence of this has been the shared commitment to commissioning a new model of survivor support services in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. This has been strongly founded on the feedback from survivors. The new service will come into place in January.

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the care of the City is and always will be our highest priority.

Catherine Underwood
Corporate Director for People

Contact Officer – Michelle Roe

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Report to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

September 2020

An action plan was developed in response to the findings of the report. This was shared with the Inquiry, Victims/Survivors and partners.

Action 1: *To continue to work with victims and survivors to ensure that they have access to the right support both to services provided by the Council and to those not provided by the Council.*

- Nottingham City Council developed a leaflet detailing all services available to survivors. A copy of this can be found [here](#).
- The Corporate Director regularly attends the Survivor Support Group.
- During Covid, the Corporate Director has written to the Survivors Support Group to provide them with updates on behalf of commissioning partners
- Survivors can access our services through our ‘front door’ within either Adults or Children’s Services. Our staff are then able to signpost them to appropriate services e.g. Benefits and Housing Advice, or support them to access more specialist advice through Health and other partners.
- Discussions have been held at our Safeguarding Partnership and our Strategic Safeguarding Lead meets with survivors on behalf of the partnership.
- Our Adults Safeguarding Board have dedicated actions around support to survivors within their Safeguarding Board Action Plan.
- The Council has escalated support needs to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to ensure that survivors have access to appropriate support (e.g. personalised budgets).

Action 2: *Access to records for those formerly in care has not been well handled.*

- We have employed a dedicated Information Officer within the Information Compliance Team who is available to help support individuals with the process if requested.
- A letter is sent to victims/survivors of non-recent abuse, introducing our Information Officer as a named contact and offering support with the process.
- If there are no records available for an individual, the Information Officer would work with the individual to try and locate their records elsewhere (usually with another Local Authority).
- Feedback from victims and survivors has highlighted that they find the process helpful and more accessible. It helps for them to have a named point of contact.
- Information Compliance do not currently record statistics relating to historical sexual abuse requests as such, as they come under the wider heading of ‘personal information requests’. However, over the last twelve months Information Compliance have dealt with 83 cases for Children and Adults.

Action 3: *To complement our wider strategic work with survivors and their representatives, we will continue to offer to meet with individual victims and survivors (accompanied by their representatives if required) to offer an apology in person and in writing.*

Improvements have been made to the way that non-recent abuse claims are handled following the Inquiry including:

- A written apology letter is offered on settlement of every claim with the offer of a face to face meeting.
- A more empathetic handling of abuse claims, acknowledging that the handling of these cases demands a different approach to a standard public liability claim.

- Closer working relationship built with the County Council to improve joint working on claims which span both periods of cover i.e. claims jointly managed by City and County (an Information Sharing Agreement has been introduced)
- Regular claim review meetings with County and our legal provider.
- A system has been set up to ensure that the Corporate Director receives monthly updates on civil claims (new claims received and claims settled) which will ensure no apologies are overlooked.

Action 4: To consider with safeguarding partners the outcome of the needs assessment being undertaken by Lime Culture and use their conclusions to inform future commissioning of services to support victims of violence and sexual abuse.

- The Needs Assessment for Sexual Violence and Abuse Survivors in Nottinghamshire was published in October 2019.
- The *Support for Nottinghamshire Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Task and Finish Group* have proposed that Sexual Violence and Abuse commissioning be mainstreamed into existing Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse governance structures. This will be reviewed in September.
- The recommendations from the Lime Culture Sexual Violence Needs Assessment have been reviewed and are being managed and implemented by the joint *Support for Nottinghamshire Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Task and Finish Group*. The group have proposed to feed all key updates into the Crime & Drugs Partnership Board and Health & Wellbeing Board.
- The *Sexual Violence Action Network (SVAN)* have drafted an action plan on how they will contribute and implement the needs assessment recommendations.
- In June 2020 the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police Crime Commissioner, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group published an Invitation to Tender for a provider to deliver an *Adult Sexual Violence Hub and Therapy Support Service* in Nottinghamshire. The Service will be available for survivors living in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire aged 18 and over and will include:
 - The Sexual Violence Hub
 - The Therapy Support Service
 - The Sexual Violence Engagement Manager

The contract will be awarded by the end of September. After this time there will be a 3 month mobilisation period and the new contract will begin to deliver from 1st January 2021

Action 5: In partnership with Police and Crime Commissioners Office and Nottinghamshire County Council colleagues, Nottingham City Council will implement the outcome of the evaluation of the jointly funded Support for Survivors Service.

- Note actions detailed above within Action 4.
- The City Council, County Council, CCG and OPCC have confirmed their joint funding of the *Support for Survivors Service* and for the sexual violence hub as recommended in the needs assessment.
- The *Support for Nottinghamshire Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Task and Finish Group* will recommission the sexual violence support services for the City and County.

Action 6: Using the risk-based methodology developed to review the HR cases, NCC will assess the risks posed by current and former foster carers, including those from independent fostering agencies.

- In partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council, we have written to all agencies who we have placed a child with (since 2013) and those on the East Midlands Commissioning Framework. A seminar was held to provide further detail. This work was scheduled to be completed by April 2020 however as a consequence of the impact of Covid 19 the timescale for completion has been put back to the end of July 2020.

- Internally, more robust measures have been developed. The Head of Service now reviews and provides comment on all Schedule 6 notifications that relate to harm to a child.
- We have engaged an external consultant to undertake external assurance to ensure that we have undertaken the necessary actions around this work.
-

Action 7a: Nottingham City Council and our Safeguarding Partnership will commission an independent external evaluation of our practice using the Harmful Sexual Behaviour

- This evaluation was launched at a partnership event by the NSPCC in November 2019.

7b - NCC and our Safeguarding Partnership will consider the recommendations and practice improvements required from the evaluation of practice against the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework.

- Individual agencies responded to the review requirements. These were considered by the NSPCC who were due to facilitate a feedback event in Nottingham on March 30th 2020. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 this meeting could not proceed.
- A video conference was held with the NSPCC on 23rd June to discuss findings and agree how best to disseminate learning and recommendations to the safeguarding partnership. The findings of the audit were broadly positive about local practice.

7c - Commence implementation of the recommendations of the above review and report back to the Safeguarding Partnership.

The HSB audit dissemination event with the NSPCC took place on July 17th via Microsoft Teams and was well attended by safeguarding partners from Nottingham City. The NSPCC lead has provided us with amalgamated feedback from the session and is supplying a draft action plan based on this for a meeting with key stakeholders on the 14th September. This will then set the recommendations and actions to be signed off by the NCSCP.

Action 8a: To ensure that the scale of sexual abuse of children in care by individuals in a position of trust or any peer that they were placed with, is understood by senior managers and elected members, we will provide a quarterly update on any such allegations to the Safeguarding Partnership.

- This return includes any children abused in care by people within a position of trust or their peers. The return forms part of the performance framework, which goes to the Safeguarding Business Management Group and then the Safeguarding Partnership.
- This update is scheduled quarterly at these meetings.

Subsequent action: to set a protocol at regional LADO network and send a letter nationally
(As there is a risk that our children are considered by other LA LADO's)

- We have written to the National LADO Network recommending that when an allegation of "sexual abuse of children in care by individuals in a position of trust or any peer" is made that the LADO in the area where the allegation is made also notifies the LADO for the Local Authority who hold responsibility for that child, this applies to both victim and perpetrator.

Action 8b: We will also introduce a sub section within the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Annual Report that separately identifies allegations of sexual abuse of children in care by individuals in a position of trust or any peer that they were placed with.

- The IRO annual report is being written and will be complete by October 2020. This report will brought back to this Committee.

Action 9: Ensure that learning from all relevant sources, including complaints, and regulatory and inspection activity is regularly reviewed to continually improve our services.

- Our Children's Integrated Service has recently refreshed its quality assurance framework. The new framework contains specific measures relating to reports of concern regarding foster carers and significant information notifications relating to children's homes. This

information is shared with senior managers and the Portfolio Holder, and is led by our Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement. The quality assurance framework is complemented by other sources of learning, including the Complaints Service Annual Report and Independent Reviewing Officer's Annual Report. These reports are presented to the Corporate Parenting Board, as is the Annual Children in Care survey, which enables young people to contribute their views about the care that they receive. Learning is shared in a variety of ways, including the departmental learning and development programme, for example:

- Every Colleague Matters training was held in February 2020 ('learning from reviews' and 'learning from IICSA' session).
- Our Head of Children in Care has worked with survivors to develop training for foster carers, specifically drawing on learning from the Inquiry.
- Our Nottingham Practice Standards include the Voice of the Child.
- Within the Safeguarding Partnership we are asking for assurance from partners with regards to a number of different learning issues. There will be a self-assessment audit from the Partnership.

NEW - Action 10: Review the approach to responding to allegations of historical abuse (and in particular the role of the LADO).

- A meeting took place with Nottinghamshire County Council in March 2020 to review practice to ensure that there is consistency with regards to the response to historical abuse and the role of the LADO across both councils.
- Quarterly meetings between the City and County with regards to these matters take place and joint procedures are in place. These have been published on the joint City/County website.

Catherine Underwood
Corporate Director for People

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
24 July 2020**

Work Programme

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the Committee's work programme for 2020/21 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 2020/21 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 current work programme for the municipal year 2020/21 is attached at Appendix 1.

4. List of attached information

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 2020/21 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 2020/21 Work Programme

Date	Items
30 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of the coronavirus outbreak on Children's Services To hear about the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the delivery on Children's Services and review work to mitigate the impact on children and families and reinstate services • Children's Integrated Services Ofsted Focused Visit and Improvement Programme To scrutinise the action being taken in response to the issues identified by Ofsted in its focussed visit of Children's Services • Work Programme 2020/21
24 September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to schools To review the return to school for all pupils in September 2020 and the impact of closures as a result of the coronavirus outbreak and these are being addressed • Impact of the coronavirus outbreak on Children's Services To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider the findings of the Committee's recommendation to seek the views and experiences of children, young people and families of services during the coronavirus outbreak and how this information is being used to inform decision making b) receive an update on changes since the last meeting • Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse To review progress in fulfilling the recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and implementing associated action plan • Work Programme 2020/21
26 November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational attainment To review academic attainment for 2019/20 academic year and work to drive improvement, particularly

Date	Items
	<p>in the context of the coronavirus outbreak</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Offending Service Inspection To scrutinise action being taken in response to the findings and recommendations of HMIP Inspection of Youth Offending Services • Work Programme 2020/21
28 January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Integrated Services Ofsted Assurance Visit To hear about the outcomes of the Ofsted Assurance Visit and scrutinise the action being taken in response; and to review progress on implementation of the improvement plan. • Work Programme 2020/21
25 March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme 2021/22

Potential issues for inclusion during 2020/21:

- **Portfolio Holder Scrutiny**
Implementation, and impact of in-year budget savings and looking ahead to future budget pressures
- **Semi-independent living arrangements for 16/17 year olds**
To review the semi-independent living arrangements for 16/17 year olds in care
- **East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency**
To review performance against expected outcomes for the first year of operation and plans for the future
- **Discussion with local academy trusts about city wide and/or academy specific issues**

- **Take up of Early Years Entitlement**

To review action being taken to increase the take up of Early Years Entitlement with a focus on awareness of opportunities and cultural issues

Items to be scheduled for 2021/22:

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