



Nottingham City Council Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 26 November 2020

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

Place: To be held remotely via Zoom - Councillors and colleagues attending the meeting will be provided with access details.
The meeting will be livestreamed on the Council's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil>

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

Director for Legal and Governance

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

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|----------|---|---------|
| 1 | Apologies for absence | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interests | |
| 3 | Minutes | 3 - 12 |
| | To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2020 | |
| 4 | Youth Justice Service Inspection | 13 - 20 |
| 5 | Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People | 21 - 22 |
| 6 | Impact of Covid-19 on education and attainment | 23 - 26 |
| 7 | Work Programme | 27 - 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

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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 24 September 2020 from 10.00 am - 12.12 pm

Membership

Present

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

Absent

Councillor Maria Joannou

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Cheryl Barnard - Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
Councillor David Mellen - Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Schools and Communications
Helen Blackman - Director of Children's Integrated Services
Lisa Desouza - Senior Educational Psychologist
John Dexter - Education Services
Nick Lee - Director of Education
Catherine Underwood - Corporate Director for People
Jane Garrard - Senior Governance Officer

7 Apologies for absence

Councillor Maria Joannou (personal)

8 Declarations of interests

None

9 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2020 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

10 Impact of Covid-19 on Children's Services

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People, and Helen Blackman, Director for Children's Integrated Services gave an update on work to manage the impact of Covid-19 on Children's Services. They highlighted the following information:

- a) In response to feedback from parents about concerns of isolation, financial worries and lack of play and social opportunities for children, the Early Help Service has worked to enhance the virtual and telephone offer for families, expand communications to ensure that families are kept informed about the support that is available and provided resource packs for those unable to access things online.
- b) Some parents have also raised concerns about managing child behaviour at this time and issues relating to mental health and domestic abuse. In response to those concerns parenting programmes have been adapted for delivery online, with 1:1 support as required. Within four weeks delivery of group parenting programmes moved online but group size is restricted to 6 parents to allow all participants to engage fully. This has reduced the number of parents who can access a session but it has been possible to hold more sessions due to reduced travel time. Services have been in weekly contact with 129 women who have been referred to access the Freedom Programme.
- c) The Family Intervention Project has continued to provide a service in people's homes supported by the use of personal protective equipment. However, it has been challenging to provide services outside of the home due to lack of access to physical buildings.
- d) It has been a challenging time for care leavers particularly those who were reaching the end of their period in care and needing to move to new accommodation. Some care leavers asked if their placements could continue until things become more settled and this has been facilitated.
- e) The Youth Justice Service has continued to provide socially distanced face to face visits for the high risk cohort, with virtual contact for medium and low risk cases. Major projects such as implementation of the SkillMill and embedding trauma-informed practice has continued.
- f) Capacity to deliver online health and dental assessments for children in care has been a challenge.
- g) There have been delays in the court process for securing permanence for some children with a plan for adoption, particularly in situations when all parties aren't in agreement and courts want to make sure that all parties have a fair opportunity to engage. While courts are now operating again there are significant backlogs. Despite this, plans have continued to be progressed and children placed with adoptive families.
- h) Feedback has been sought from children and families on their experiences. This has found that some parents and children have really liked the virtual services as it doesn't require travel and childcare to be arranged and enables young people to connect with others in a way that they feel comfortable, but it has been

challenging to deliver some services online, particularly where there are confidentiality issues such as in cases of domestic abuse. Some parents have also commented that they miss the social aspect to face to face services.

During the subsequent discussion the following points were raised:

- i) If the 'new normal' is that more services will be provided online, then it is crucial to ensure that all citizens have the means to engage with online services, both in terms of equipment and internet connection. There are some areas of the City e.g. Aspley where internet access not via a mobile phone is very low. Education Services have made a good start on addressing this issue with the provision of laptops and dongles to enable pupils to access online learning while they were unable to attend school (1200 laptops and tablets were issued in the first phase in addition to 200 devices provided to children in care, and a second phase is being managed through schools) but this is a challenge for many services provided by the Council, and partners in the City.
- j) When families who need to access Children's Integrated Services are unable to do so online, the vast majority have been able to be contacted by telephone, although it is acknowledged that this isn't ideal, and if necessary face to face visits have taken place socially distanced on a door step or in a garden. Officers are confident that the most vulnerable families that social care are aware of have been able to access necessary services. Outdoor contact will be more challenging to do in winter months when the weather is poorer.
- k) While services want to try and retain the benefits of working virtually, it is recognised that this is not appropriate for all services and all individuals, and therefore it will be important to take a flexible approach to service delivery going forward.
- l) Detailed reinstatement plans have been developed to enable a return to previous service delivery models as soon as possible but this must be done safely. Services constantly have to adapt to changing Government guidance e.g. youth services are opening up and utilising outdoor space but this will be kept under review as rates of Covid-19 in the City change.
- m) Youth workers and Children's Centre workers have not stopped working during this period, they have just had to be more creative in how they engage with people.
- n) Communications will be kept open so that families have regular opportunities to give feedback as things change.
- o) The first lockdown was done in a period of emergency and crisis and decisions about services had to be taken very quickly. Since then, lots of lessons have been learnt and there is better understanding now of how services can be delivered and service user experience which will inform future decision making in the event of a second lockdown situation.
- p) It appears that things are not going to return to the 'pre-Covid normal' for some time and services cannot stay in 'survival mode' and need to continue to drive

improvement forward and be aspirational about what can be delivered. This is a new challenge, particularly in the context of the transformational work taking place.

- q) There is additional support in the system to deal with a potential increase in mental health issues. 40 schools are signed up to the Mental Health Support Teams in School programme and there are two dedicated teams in place. The #YouHaveBeenMissed campaign has been launched and the Early Help Team is commissioning a behavioural and emotional support pathway to help contact young people at an early stage.

Resolved to refer the issue of digital access to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for inclusion in its work programme to look at current digital access across the City; how this impacts on access to services particularly given the likelihood that there will be a continued emphasis on virtual/ online provision for the foreseeable future; and what can be done to address these issues.

11 Reopening of schools and impact of closure

Councillor David Mellen, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Schools and Communications, Nick Lee, Director for Education and John Dexter, Education Services spoke to the Committee about the re-opening of schools following their closure to the majority of pupils in March, and the impact of that closure. They highlighted the following information:

- a) Many children were away from school for six months and during that time many did not have the appropriate space, technology or environment at home to facilitate learning. There will have been learning loss but the scale of this isn't yet known.
- b) Some children will have also been without outdoor space for a period of time which limited their ability to play and exercise.
- c) Some children will have had regular contact with their school while they have been unable to attend in person but this has not been consistent and it is known that some pupils had no contact with their school.
- d) Many children will have been pleased to return to school with the benefits of normality, structure and socialisation, but for children who were already anxious about attending school the six month gap may have made this worse. It is important to recognise the need for balance between education and wellbeing.
- e) In anticipation of school closures, children known to social care were risk-assessed to identify vulnerable individuals and their needs.
- f) The Council has a good relationship with, and understanding of the schools which form part of the Nottingham Schools Trust but the Council has been reliant on the willingness of other schools to engage with the Council during this time. In order to support this the Council established a network of link officers attached to each school to facilitate communication, information sharing and the management of practical issues such as provision for pupils entitled to free

school meals. This arrangement has been well-received by Ofsted and the Department for Education and will be continued in order to manage the issues than are likely to remain for the foreseeable future. Schools have also fed back that this work has been valuable.

- g) The Council has supported the early years sector to open as many private settings as possible because the early years offer is vital to the City's ambitions for its children.
- h) The summer programme recognised the need to have opportunities for the huge numbers of children who had not been in school since March. There was a particular focus on Year 6 pupils who would be transitioning to secondary school and a range of activities took place outside over four sites. Activities reflected issues raised by the Educational Psychology survey and work to address these issues continues into the autumn term. It is hoped that all schools will engage with this because there are some concerns about the potential for behavioural issues and it will be crucial to have a graduated response to intervention through the Routes to Inclusion scheme rather than a move towards exclusions.

Lisa Desouza, Senior Educational Psychologist, gave a presentation about a survey carried out by the Educational Psychology Service to seek the views of children and young people in the Covid-19 pandemic in order to understand their views and experiences, and inform current and future provision of services. She highlighted the following information:

- i) Many children were happy at home citing reasons such as being with their family and less pressures but a significant proportion were unhappy/ upset at being at home missing the calmness and safety of school and missing social contact with friends and teachers.
- j) While many children were initially happy at home, over time some of those children became lonely and missed their friends and teachers. Some children also said they were concerned about missing school work and being anxious about having to catch up when they returned to school.
- k) Some children were anxious about the return to school and for some this may result in school avoidance and require extra intervention. Children need reassurance that they have experienced a gap in learning and that is ok to be nervous but that they will cope, in order to give a sense of control over the situation.
- l) The survey identified that the following issues would be important in supporting the transition back to school: provision of clear information; getting back to a routine; realistic expectations about a return to learning; starting by reviewing old learning to build confidence; and having opportunities to play and be with friends.
- m) Issues raised in the survey responses demonstrate the links between attainment and wellbeing and the need for an initial 'recovery curriculum' that promotes structure, routine, calmness and a connectness to others and a love of learning rather than prioritising catching up on missed work.

- n) The learning for policy makers is that all children's experiences will be different, and schools and the local authority need to be flexible; it is important to consider the wellbeing of teachers as this will impact on students; a 'recovery curriculum' for schools should prioritise safety, a sense of control, connectness, calm and a sense of hope of what can be achieved together.
- o) There are Mental Health Support Teams supporting schools and the Department for Education has a Wellbeing in Education Programme to support schools with training on emotional wellbeing. There are also a range of other online resources available to support schools in addressing mental health issues amongst pupils.

During the subsequent discussion the following points were raised:

- p) Given the loss of learning, it will be challenging for pupils in years 6, 11 and 13 to engage with, and do their best in assessments over the forthcoming year. Secondary schools did open to the then year 10 and 12 pupils in July so they have had more time in school than other year groups but this is a concern. Some councillors suggested that it would be appropriate for assessments to be delayed or be based on teacher-assessment. It has already been decided nationally that there will be changes to assessments in some subjects e.g. poetry will not be assessed in English assessments and Ofqual is carrying out a consultation on the approach to assessments but there has been no national decision taken yet on how the 2021 assessment process will be managed. It is understood the Chief Executives of Academy Trusts, alongside other local authorities are putting pressure on the Department for Education in relation to this.
- q) While some colleges and universities may be willing to offer pupils a place at lower grades than usual given the circumstances, if they have experienced learning loss then they may struggle when they get there and this could actually have a negative impact. Universities and colleges may need to adapt their courses to reflect this position.
- r) While the position in relation to assessments remains unclear, for now it is important to encourage schools to have a settled programme and encourage good attendance to minimise any further learning loss.
- s) Schools have to submit returns to the Department for Education on attendance and the local authority has access to this information. The most recent data shows approximately 83% attendance at secondary schools, 87% attendance at primary schools and 70/80% attendance at special schools. This mirrors the national picture. Attendance rates were slightly higher previously and this reflects that schools are now being affected by closures as a result of Covid-19 cases. So far 12 schools have been affected by Covid-19, but attendance will also be affected by usual seasonal illness.
- t) 'Safer Street' projects have been piloted in some schools and it would be good to roll it out across the City but it needs to work alongside schools in relation to their entry and exit points. The evidence is that it will be popular but there are logistical difficulties related to Covid-19 issues. If there are specific issues with road safety relating to a particular school they can be picked up by the local authority link officer for that school.

- u) All schools have been open throughout the coronavirus pandemic and there has been a lot of learning with regards operational issues and lots of good practice has been developed. The Council's Health and Safety Officer has supported schools with interpreting Government guidance and this has received good feedback from schools. The Director for Education stated that he was confident that the local authority was putting support in place to support application of safe practice by schools.
- v) An important issue is to improve communications with parents and particularly those communities for whom English is not a first language so that they fully understand all the necessary information.
- w) There are no plans from Government for provision of food vouchers for pupils entitled to free school meals during October half term. Issues around free school meals have regularly been raised in the Service's meetings with the Department for Education throughout the pandemic. The Council's catering system does have ways of distributing food and vouchers through schools for schools who buy this service but it would be at an additional cost. There has been a lot of activity locally to mobilise food for people in need during the lockdown period and to support the summer programme and the groups that co-ordinated that may be able to look at provision during October half term.

Resolved to:

- 1) recommend that the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Schools and Communications write to the relevant Minister regarding the risks of holiday hunger during October half term for pupils entitled to free school meals; and**
- 2) recommend that the Director for Education contact local co-ordinators of food sharing groups regarding risks of holiday hunger, particularly amongst pupils entitled to free school meals, during October half term and how this could be addressed locally.**

12 Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People, and Helen Blackman, Director for Children's Integrated Services updated the Committee on progress in implementing the action plan arising from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). They highlighted the following information:

- a) A range of work has taken place to ensure that survivors have the appropriate support, including clearly communicating the support that is available, signposting to appropriate services and listening to survivors.
- b) There is now a dedicated Information Officer to support individuals in accessing their records as it is recognised how important this is to people.

- c) The Council has improved how it responds to victims and survivors by offering a written apology and taking a more empathetic approach. The Council is working with counterparts at Nottinghamshire County Council to ensure a whole system response.
- d) Having listened to the feedback from survivors, and based on a needs assessment, a new service is being developed to support victims of violence and sexual abuse. It is proposed that sexual violence and abuse commissioning is mainstreamed into the existing domestic violence and abuse governance structures.
- e) Partners, including the two local authorities, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and relevant clinical commissioning groups, have agreed to come together as a system and commission delivery of an Adult Sexual Violence Hub and Therapy Support Service for Nottinghamshire. This Service will begin in January 2021.
- f) Work is ongoing in relation to reviewing the risks posed by current and former foster carers, including those from independent fostering agencies. All agencies have been written to but completion of the work has been delayed by Covid-19. A strong methodology for dealing with repeated concerns has been developed to ensure that they are appropriately scrutinised, and there has been a lot of learning about erring on the side of caution. An external consultant has been engaged to provide external assurance on how the Council is responding on this issue.
- g) The NSPCC was commissioned to review practice against the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework and while individual agencies are responding, a partnership-wide feedback event to consider feedback had to be postponed due to Covid-19. The review identified lots of strengths but also areas for improvement, which now have to be implemented across the safeguarding partnership.
- h) The Council is working with the National LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) Network to promote clearer scrutiny of allegations of sexual abuse of children in care by individuals in a position of trust or a peer. The Independent Reviewing Officers' Annual Report will also provide an independent view in relation to how the system is responding to allegations.
- i) As outlined at the Committee's meeting in July, a lot of work is taking place to refresh the Service's quality assurance framework and ensure practice standards reflect lessons learnt, for example ensuring the voice of the child is embedded throughout.

During the subsequent discussion the following points were raised:

- j) There are a number of actions that still need to be completed, including delivery of the Adult Sexual Violence Hub; and completion of the review of risks posed by foster carers. The outstanding actions will be integrated into the overall improvement plan for the Service.

- k) It was questioned whether it is appropriate to incorporate the outstanding actions into the overall improvement plan rather than keeping it separate to ensure a specific focus on it. In response, it was stated that one of the areas of learning from the Inquiry is that these issues relate to everything that Children's Services does and therefore the work needs to be embedded throughout the Service rather than standalone as a separate piece of work. This will magnify, rather than lose focus on the issues. The Corporate Director stated that she is confident that there will be a clear line of sight on IICSA going forward.

Resolved to:

- 1) schedule a review of implementation of the outstanding actions from the action plan arising from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse for a future meeting; and**
- 2) consider the Independent Reviewing Officers' Annual Report for assurance at a future meeting.**

13 Work Programme

Resolved to include the following issues on the Committee's future work programme:

- i. progress in implementing outstanding actions from the action plan arising from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse;**
- ii. arrangements for children and young people with no recourse to public funds;**
- iii. citizenship registration for children and young people;**
- iv. impact of Covid-19 on attainment by Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority pupils; and**
- v. how the Council engages with children and young people from Traveller families.**

14 Future meeting dates

The Committee agreed to meet on the following Thursdays at 10am:

- 26 November 2020
- 28 January 2021
- 25 March 2021

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**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
26 November 2020**

Youth Justice Service Inspection

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To scrutinise action being taken in response to the findings and recommendations of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) Inspection of Youth Justice Services.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) review the action being taken, and progress being made in responding to issues raised and recommendations made in the report of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation Inspection of Youth Justice Services;
 - b) seek assurance regarding ongoing and future work to address these issues; and
 - c) consider next steps in the scrutiny process.

3 Background information

- 3.1 The Youth Offending Team supervises 10-18 year olds who have been sentenced by a court, or who have come to the attention of the police because of their offending behaviour but have not been charged but instead dealt with out of court. The Team is a statutory multi-disciplinary partnership with staff from social care, education services, police, the National Probation Service and local health services and based in Children's Integrated Services.
- 3.2 The Youth Justice Service was inspected by HMIP and rated across three broad areas: the arrangements for organisational delivery of the service; the quality of work done with children and young people sentenced by the courts; and the quality of out-of-court disposal work. The report was published in March 2020. While the report noted a number of strengths and some areas assessed were rated as 'Outstanding' or 'Good', overall the Service was rated as 'Requires Improvement'. The report can be viewed at <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/nottcityyjs/>
- 3.3 The report made the following six recommendations for improvement:

The Youth Justice Service Management Board should:

1. review the out-of-court process, making sure that cases are presented on time, and that decisions are consistent, based on an assessment of the child or young person, and are agreed by a multi-agency panel;
2. ensure the partnership reviews the number of very young children known to the Youth Justice Service, and that policies and practices do not result in children entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily;
3. develop victim and restorative justice processes to ensure full consideration of the wishes and needs of victims, and opportunities for restorative justice are applied in every relevant case.

The Youth Justice Service heads of service should:

4. improve staff's access to clinical supervision and reconsider the use of mandatory interventions while promoting a trauma-informed practice approach to working with children and young people;
 5. seek the views of children and young people, their parents/ carers and other stakeholders, so that they can inform future service delivery;
 6. review the quality assurance processes and improve the effectiveness of management oversight in all cases.
- 3.4 Attached to this report is an update on action that has been taken following the Inspection.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Briefing on Youth Justice Service Inspection and Actions

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 HMIP *An Inspection of Youth Offending Services in Nottingham City* March 2020

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All

8 Contact information

8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer
jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
0115 8764315

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Meeting Title	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Report Title	Youth Justice Service Inspection and actions
Meeting Date	26 th November 2020

Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Catherine Underwood Helen Blackman
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Cheryl Barnard
Report author and contact details:	Wilf Fearon Acting Head Of Service Early Help Wilf.Fearon@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Overview

- Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) supervise 10–18-year olds who have been sentenced by a court, or who have come to the attention of the police because of their offending behaviour but have not been prosecuted through a court process – instead, they had a response to address the risk of offending without the use of court.
- YOTs are statutory partnerships, they are multidisciplinary and are required to have on their Boards senior representatives from local authority social care and education services, the police, the National Probation Service and local health services.
- Inspections are conducted by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP), along with Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)
- In December 2019, Nottingham City’s Youth Justice Service (YJS) was subject to a full joint inspection of the service and its partnerships.
- The overall rating for the service at its recent inspection was Requires Improvement (RI).
- The full inspection report is available to read here:
<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/nottcityjis/>.
- There has been some good progress against key elements of the plan but some have been delayed, partly due to the significant change in how we are delivering services in a Covid 19 context. Where there are delays but work is in progress the original dates have been outlined and these will be formally reviewed at the Youth Justice Service Management Board on 16th November 2020

Recommendations from the inspection

- The Youth Justice Service Management Board should:
 1. review the out-of-court disposal process, making sure that cases are presented on time, and that decisions are consistent, based on an assessment of the child or young person, and are agreed by a multi-agency panel
 2. ensure the partnership reviews the number of very young children known to the YJS, and that policies and practices do not result in children entering the criminal justice system unnecessarily
 3. develop victim and restorative justice processes to ensure full consideration of the wishes and needs of victims, and opportunities for restorative justice are applied in every relevant case.
- The Youth Justice Service Heads of Service should:
 4. improve staff’s access to clinical supervision and reconsider the use of mandatory interventions while promoting a trauma-informed practice approach to working with children and young people
 5. seek the views of children and young people, their parents/carers and other stakeholders, so that they can inform future service delivery

6. review the quality assurance processes and improve the effectiveness of management oversight in all cases.

Action being taken following the inspection

- Following inspection, YOTs are required to produce an improvement plan to be accepted by HMI Probation, in liaison with the Youth Justice Board (YJB).
- Nottingham City's Youth Justice Service Partnership Improvement Plan includes seven key objectives, based on the six recommendations from the inspection, plus a requirement for the Board to review the existing YJ Management Board action plan.
- Underneath the seven key objectives sit a number of actions to ensure delivery of the priorities, all of which have a due date and a RAG rating to ensure progress is tracked.

Action taken so far (RAG rated 'green')

- A joint Out-of-Court Disposal (OOC) Protocol has been agreed and signed by Nottinghamshire Police and the City and County YJS. This includes:
 - Knife crime guidance changes which have been agreed by the Chief Constable.
 - Increased contact with victims - achieved by the improved capture of victim consent to be contacted by YJS in relation to victim impact and/or restorative justice approaches.
 - A management quality assurance sign-off, which now requires ratification by the YJS Board.
- A multi-agency OOC Panel has been convened weekly, with full representation from Education, Social Care, Health, Police, YJS and Play and Youth.
- Representation from Children's Social Care and Education on the YJS Board is in place.
- An Assessment, Planning, Intervention and Review (APIR) process has been implemented for OOC cases, including management oversight and quality assurance.
- Opportunities for Restorative Justice have been incorporated into management supervision guidance, and a specialist case manager function has been included.
- The YJS 'Risk of Harm, Re-offending and Safety and Wellbeing policy' has been reviewed in relation to the use of interventions in accordance with the principles of being a trauma aware service. This was cascaded by managers via email due to Covid-19.
- A Management Oversight Policy has been written to address:
 - The need for countersignature of assessments and plans, including assessment and review of risk of harm
 - Contingency planning in relation to risk and safety and well-being
 - The escalation procedure in relation to decisions made by Social Care.
- A single, current plan is being worked on that aligns the existing YJS and Board plan with the HMIP findings. **(Original due date 18th May)**. This alignment has now been completed and was signed off in the 17th August YJS Board meeting. There are still a number of actions to complete as outlined in this report.
- A Family Intervention Project practitioner will support engagement with parents. This has been actioned and a FIP practitioner is now reviewing case work to look at where mediation would help. The offer to families includes conflict mediation, parenting support and further training is planned for YJS staff in January 2021 on "reducing parental conflict". This was due by 31st October and has started.

Work in progress (RAG rated 'amber')

- Further exploration is needed of Police Early Intervention data alongside the Serious Youth Violence (SYV) stocktake to ensure this informs action and planning regarding disproportionality. National comparative data has not been available for the last two quarters, but once available this will form part of the next updated Board report. **(Original due date 17th August)**. This work is now underway. On 8th September HOS and Principal Analysis and Insight Officer and Senior Community Safety Manager met to share data. There is still a delay on the national data, but local analysis has started.
- The YJS has commissioned the TIPE/iCoN programme over the next 12 months to support the move to becoming a trauma aware service. This will include how best to engage with the wider workforce to

adopt trauma aware principles. Sessions have started via remote delivery. **(Due date 31st July)**. This training was delayed, but started in June with one final day of the 8 day programme to complete. The trainer had to self-isolate. There is an ongoing programme planned in which regular, monthly clinical supervision will be provided.

- Referral Order Panel and intervention feedback processes have been reviewed to ensure the voice of the parent and child is captured outside of assessment processes. This has been affected by lockdown, but digital solutions are being scoped. **(Original due date 30st September)**.
- The process of ensuring children's voices are heard will start with a Task and Finish group, which will include the NCC Participation Lead and Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) youth ambassadors, helping to create Snap surveys for better digital engagement. Staff have undergone Snap Training to enable us to do surveys to capture child and parent voices, but full roll out is delayed by iPad delivery problems. We expect to start snap surveys by end of December 2020. Delayed from 30th October 2020. We have an ongoing process of capturing the individual voices of young people and parent carers in the self-assessment of the asset plus but the group work that would help focus and inform the thematic learning is restricted by Covid. A pilot has been started in the EVR Hub to do an 8 weekly review with families and young people, with learning shared in the team meetings to help shape our responses.
- To ensure a cohesive approach between the YJS and Social Care to meet the needs of the child, a joint supervision document has been trialled but has not yet been finalised. This has started led by YJS managers before the September 30th completion date, but there have been some delays in embedding this with alternate children social care management. This is a gradual roll out which was intended to start with remand and bail cases held within Social Care locality and Children in Care teams. YJS have piloted this in individual cases where joint supervision has taken place led by the YJS Practice Specialist. A proposed template which has been used now needs to be agreed for wider roll-out. **(Original due date 30th September)**.
- IT systems are being reviewed to ensure the case management system is adequate. This work is underway and is referenced in the HoS report for the YJ Management Board on 16th November 2020.

Actions at risk of not being completed (RAG rated 'red')

- The YJS has secured the support of Board members to explore the possibility of commissioning an approved provider who currently undertakes victim and restorative work with a neighbouring YJS. Planned discussion regarding commissioning has been reconsidered due to budget and other options are being explored. **(Original due date 31st July)**. Since this point two Case managers have been identified who can take a lead on RJ and victim approaches in combination with the existing processes via Victim Care and the YJS Police. The arrangements for the implementation and delivery of this work are linked to the ongoing discussions regarding the YJS structure.
- Discussions have started on a review of the YJS structure and a leadership meeting has been arranged for further discussion, a change proposal document has also been circulated to the leadership team for feedback. **(Original due date 18th May)**. Changes to the YJS structure have been discussed with managers and specialists; however, implementation is currently on hold due to sickness absence of one team manager. It also needs to be noted, to support the implementation of this plan we need to successfully recruit to the Service Manager role to ensure the leadership team has the necessary capacity and resilience, to fulfil the needs of the service. Recruitment to the Service Manager post will take place in the new year.

Covid 19 has impacted all services, during this period the YJS has continued to have contact with all young people open to the YJS. High risk and high safety and wellbeing cases have been prioritised to ensure the service is managing safety concerns and maintaining the confidence of partners and the community. Equally the EVR Hub has continued to offer a prevention service and to work alongside Play and Youth service to ensure those young people at risk but not on a statutory orders are also being offered effective support. The attached chart shows the numbers of young people the YJS has worked with since December 2019.

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
26 November 2020**

Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To hold the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People to account for delivery of aspects of the Council Plan 2019 to 2023 and budget savings that relate to children and young people.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) scrutinise delivery of children and young people aspects of the Council Plan 2019 to 2023 and budget savings for 2020/21; and
 - b) identify if there are any issues that it wishes to focus on for further scrutiny, and include in its work programme.

3 Background information

- 3.1 On 11 November 2019 Council approved the Council 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 this Committee leads on scrutiny of issues that relate to children and young people.
- 3.3 This year the Committee identified that it wished to include consideration of budget issues within the annual scrutiny process. Council agreed the 2020/21 Budget in March 2020 and an Interim Budget 2020/21 was approved by Council in October 2020.
- 3.4 Councillor Cheryl Barnard is the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People. She has been invited to attend the meeting to discuss:
- performance over the last year and how the Covid-19 pandemic is impacting on delivery of Council Plan priorities for this and future years;
 - how the Covid-19 pandemic is impacting on savings agreed by Council in March 2020 and the management of budget pressures and variances;

- the implementation of savings agreed by Council in October 2020; and
- looking ahead to next year's budget and service planning.

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 Council Plan 2019 – 2023

6.2 'Budget 2020/21' report to, and minute of the City Council meeting on 9 March 2020

6.3 'Interim Budget 2020/21' report to, and minute of City Council meeting on 5 October 2020

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer
Jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
0115 8764315

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
26 November 2020**

Impact of Covid-19 on education and attainment

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To review progress in managing impact of Covid-19 on schools, provision of education and attainment.

2 Action required

2.1

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 and in September schools reopened full-time for all pupils. The Committee was interested in the impact of this and the ongoing need for schools to temporarily require children in 'bubbles' that have cases of Covid-19 to stay away from school, on children and young people and the provision of education and attainment.
- 3.2 In September the Committee received evidence from a Senior Educational Psychologist about the findings of a survey carried out to seek the views children and young people to understand their views and experiences of the pandemic and to inform current and future provision of services.
- 3.3 The Committee also discussed concerns regarding the potential for holiday hunger for pupils in receipt of free schools meals and recommended that:
- a) the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Schools and Communications write to the relevant Minister regarding the risks of holiday hunger during October half term for pupils entitled to free schools meals: and
 - b) the Director of Education contact local co-ordinators of food sharing groups regarding risks of holiday hunger, particularly amongst pupils entitled to free school meals, during October half term and how this could be addressed locally.

4 List of attached information

4.1 Report from the Director of Education Services 'Reopening of Schools – Autumn Half Term Update'

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 the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 24 September 2020

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer
jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
0115 8764315



Report to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

Re-opening of Schools – Autumn Half Term Update

Covid-19 Partial Closures and Pupil Attendance

Partial Closure

On the final day of the first-half term (16th October) 41 city schools were reporting Covid-19 related partial closure (groups of pupils, class bubbles or whole year groups) affecting 57 pupil groups.

4469 pupils were self-isolating as a result (9.5% of city pupils)

By the 19th October a further 7 schools had reported the need for pupils to self-isolate during the half term holiday period which meant that 48 of the city's 104 state funded schools were managing positive Covid-19 cases.

In total 56 different schools reported the need to institute partial closure (groups of pupils, class bubbles or whole year groups) during the first half term of full re-opening.

Attendance

All schools have been requested by the DfE to complete a daily attendance portal. The LA has full access to this portal in order to have an oversight of city attendance. Unfortunately compliance with the request has been mixed and despite repeated requests to the DfE to ensure all schools and academies do complete remains incomplete. However, on the 16th October from those schools that did complete a return attendance in the city stood at:

Secondary 63.5% (10/18 reporting)
Primary 75.8% (53/75 reporting)
All Through 76.8% (1/1 reporting)
Maintained Nursery 90.9% (1/1 reporting)

Special schools 70.5% (3/5 reporting)
AP Free Schools/PRU's 79.7% (1/2 reporting)

EHCP Pupils (of responding schools) 65.8%
Pupils open to Social Care (of responding schools) 68.6%

Pre-Covid19 attendance would be typically around 94% secondary 96% primary.

Concerns raised by school leaders in managing the return

A number of concerns have been flagged by school leaders in managing in the current context. The headline concerns are:

- Concerns about having enough staff to keep schools functioning– absences due to (normal) illness, Covid related illness and self-isolation, and family responsibilities. Impact on school budgets at the cost of supply staff.
- Fatigue and well-being of staff – particularly noted in terms of the impact on school leaders. Who are having to manage operational, strategic and human resource issues at a pace and scrutiny (particularly parental) that is exceptionally challenging
- Lack of clarity on assessment/examination expectations and arrangements. Whilst the need to ensure that pupils are academically prepared to manage assessment and exams this has been balanced by the need to develop a “recovery” curriculum, that supports pupils managing with the impact of Covid-19 on their education and well-being. The lack of clarity from government in relation to arrangements does not help schools support pupils fully.
- Delay/lack of full resourcing required to secure sufficient digital access to hardware and connectivity. Whilst legislation has been introduced to ensure that schools have a suitable blended learning offer, full access for all pupils to digital platforms remains a concern.
- Impact of increasing levels of food poverty on learning

Responses and support made available

- Through sponsorship secured from Vodaphone all children attending Nottingham Schools Trust schools will be offered unlimited mobile data packages if they do not have access to reliable internet connectivity at home, should they be required to learn at home for any period of time.
- Expert support from Microsoft working with Greenwood Academies Trust has been shared with LA and academy schools on the use of virtual learning platforms
- The Well-being return to school programme has been rapidly implemented within Nottingham. Led by the Educational Psychology Team and Mental Health in Schools service in partnership with Challenge Nottingham resources and training for wellbeing are being rolled out across all city schools. <https://challengenottingham.co.uk/time-for-wellbeing>
- Following the unsuccessful opposition motion for the provision of free school meal support during the half-term and Christmas holiday periods, the City Council made available a local voucher offer for eligible parents in the second week of the October half term. Planning to ensure a response for the Christmas period is underway and will be communicated to parents and schools as soon as possible.
- All issues continue to be addressed directly with the Department for Education through a weekly Directors teleconference.

Report Author:

Nick Lee, Director of Education Services.
5th November 2020

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
26 November 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
Tel: 0115 8764315
Email: jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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"> • Impact of Covid-19 on education and attainment To review progress in managing impact of Covid-19 on schools, provision of education and attainment.

Date	Items
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Justice Service Inspection To scrutinise action being taken in response to the findings and recommendations of HMIP Inspection of Youth Justice Services • Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People To review delivery of aspects of the Council Plan 2019-2023 that relate to children and young people • Work Programme 2020/21
28 January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech, language and communication services To review support for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs • How the Council works to support young people To review how well the Council's co-ordinates support for young people across services and the impact on the lives of young people • Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder with responsibility for schools To review delivery of aspects of the Council Plan 2019-2023 that relate to education • Work Programme 2020/21
25 March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse To review progress in implementing outstanding actions from the action plan arising from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse • Children's Integrated Services Improvement Programme To scrutinise progress in implementation of the Improvement Plan.

Date	Items
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 236 1854 331">• How the Council works to support children and their parents To review how well the Council's co-ordinates support for children and their parents across services and the impact on their lives <li data-bbox="629 371 1037 403">• Work Programme 2021/22

Issues to be scheduled:

- **Impact of Covid-19 on attainment by BAME pupils**
- **How the Council engages with children and young people from Traveller families**
- **Independent Reviewing Officers' Annual Report**
- **Children with no recourse to public funds**
To review arrangements for children and young people with no recourse to public funds
- **Citizenship registration for children and young people**
To explore support for registering citizenship for children and young people
- **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
- **Discussion with local academy trusts about city wide and/or academy specific issues**

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