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Nottingham
City Council

Nottingham City Council Children's Partnership Board

Date: Tuesday, 28 September 2021

Time: 4.00 pm

Place: Remote - To be held remotely via Zoom -
<https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil>

Councillors and Board Members are requested to attend the above meeting to transact the following business

Director for Legal and Governance

Governance Officer: Emma Powley

Direct Dial: 0115 876 4891

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If you need any advice on declaring an interest in any item on the agenda, please contact the constitutional services officer shown above, if possible before the day of the meeting

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**NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**MINUTES of the meeting held remotely via Zoom -
<https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil> on 29 June 2021 from 4.35 pm - 6.37 pm**

✓	Cllr Cheryl Barnard (Chair)	Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, NCC
✓	Cllr Eunice Campbell-Clarke	Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Schools
	Cllr David Mellen	Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Schools & Communications, NCC
✓	Catherine Underwood	Corporate Director for People, NCC
	Sue Fielding	Department for Work and Pensions
	Helen Blackman (Helen Watson Acting)	Director of Children's Integrated Services, NCC
✓	Nick Lee	Director of Education, NCC
✓	Jon Rea	Engagement and Participation Lead Officer, NCC
	Charlotte Reading	NHS Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Group/ Chief Nurse
	Amanda Payne	Futures Group representative
	Phil Briscoe	Further Education representative (Nottingham College)
	Sophie Russell	Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement, NCC
✓	Maria Ward	Maintained Primary School Governor
	Julie Burton	National Probation Service Nottinghamshire representative
✓	Tracy Tyrell	Nottingham CityCare Partnership
	Sarah Fielding	Nottingham Schools Trust and Virtual School
✓	Supt. Matthew Healey	Nottinghamshire Police
✓	Nicky Bridges	Primary Schools' representative (Robin Hood Primary)
	Helene Denness	Public Health, NCC
	Michelle Strong	Secondary Schools' representative (Bulwell Academy)
✓	Karla Capstick	Small Steps Big Changes representative (Director)
✓	Karla Banfield	Strategic Commissioning Manager, NCC
	Cheryl Steele	Special Schools' representative (Rosehill School)
✓	Stephen McLaren	Voluntary Sector
	Claire Perry	Voluntary Sector (Children & Young People's Provider Network)

✓ Indicates present at meeting

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Gary Eves	Nottingham CCG
C Steele	Rosehill School
Jacquie Thomas	Practice Development Manager
John Dexter	Director of Education
Katherine Crossley	Project Officer, Children and Families
Jacquie Thomas,	Practice Development Manager
Wilf Fearon	Early Help Head of Service
Kathryn Bouchlaghem	Early Years Manager
Lisa Lopez	Commissioning Manager, Children and Families
Emma Powley	Interim Governance Officer (NCC)

34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Helen Watson
Sarah Fielding

35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

36 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 March 2021 were confirmed as a true record.

37 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2021-24

Sophie Russell, Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement, delivered a brief presentation updating the Partnership on the Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2021. The following points were highlighted and questions responded to;

- a) The general themes of the previous plan remained in place but with additional emphasis being placed around the prioritisation around ensuring Children, Young People and families are heard and included.
- b) Focus remained on the continuation of key priorities of ensuring that Children, young people and families in Nottingham will be:
 - Happy and Healthy
 - Safe and Supported
 - Learning and Achieving
- c) One of the significant proposals in the plan was to improve the Governance structure; there are currently a large number of meetings and efforts were being made to explore how, as a partnership, the Governance structure could be more effective and streamlined.

- d) Work would be undertaken to establish sub-groups for each themed area of work, chaired by partner agencies.
- e) Sub-group meetings were to take place quarterly to bring together the work and programmes being delivered, identify gaps and overcome barriers. They will work to develop and drive clear action plans to make a positive difference for children, young people and families in Nottingham.
- f) Each sub-group would feed back into the Children's Partnership at each meeting and contribute to the supporting strategies and frameworks to ensure that participation and engagement, development of the workforce, joint commissioning and a clear performance framework underpin all of our work.

Partners welcomed the achievement and the ambition of the plan and were pleased to see the inclusion of voluntary and community sectors in the plan. It was explained that the plan be considered as a shared partnership plan, which would be a live/fluid document that would look towards establishing a more holistic approach.

Resolved to note the Nottingham City Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2024

38 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION STRATEGY 2021-25

Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead Officer gave a brief presentation on the refreshed Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2021-25.

The following points were highlighted and responses provided to questions:

- a) The Strategy had been created to help improve opportunities for children and young people to be heard and to enable them to have more influence over the decisions affecting their lives and the world they live in.
- b) Sharing views and ideas contribute to a safe, healthy and happy childhood and by listening and involving children and young people, lessons could be learned about how best to support them to help them achieve good outcomes in life; this would also help children and young people develop the skills and experience they need when transitioning into their adult lives.
- c) Using different approaches for various situations is a necessity in supporting Children and Young People;
 - i) Individually, an awareness is needed to ensure that children and young people are listened to and their opinions valued, especially children and young people with SEND, looked after children and those in receipt of services due to vulnerability.
 - ii) Socially there is a need for a culture that listens and offers encouragement
 - iii) Informally, group settings and meetings need structured activities and engagement to demonstrate positive outcomes and to ensure that all voices are heard.
- d) The aims of the participation strategy and the partnership approach included gaining a better understanding of how to support participation of vulnerable children and young

people, to increase use and availability of technology to improve virtual participation and to improve the partnership culture of participation to give young people a voice in decisions that affect them

- e) Improvements were need to the previous arrangements and as such a partnership level steering group could be established to oversee the strategy and provide the correct apparatus for dealing with accountability.
- f) Engagement with schools and colleges would be improved with a better connection with school governors to highlight the work and benefits of the Participation Strategy
- g) There was a shift from a Council-centric approach and an enthusiasm to grow partnership networks through engagement.

Resolved to note the Children and Young People's Participation Plan 2021-2023.

39 CREATION OF A SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION PATHWAY FOR NOTTINGHAM CITY

Kathryn Bouchlaghem –Early Years Manager outlined the presentation on the Creation of a Speech, Language and Communication Pathway for Nottingham City

The presentation included the following information:

- a) Following the LGA peer review carried out in 2019, one recommendation had need to create a Speech, Language and Communication Pathway. Work had been undertaken with some assistance from Leicester City Council and attempts had been made to galvanise partnership working.
- b) Local Needs analysis of children not developing their speech language and communication skills had an impact on attachment, attainment, mental health, leisure, wellbeing and later achievements.
- c) There has been a collaborative approach with the Youth Justice System to identify what the emerging needs are. It was not about intervention nor was it a council lead initiative- it has been 2 years of work with all partners from all agencies and a collectively desire to compile a workable Speech, Language and Communication strategy.
- d) One of the main benefits would be to measure participation for kids and families and the potential to have earlier identification for support.
- e) Nick Lee, Director of Education updated the Board on the Creation of a Speech, emphasised the need to drive the engagement of this strategy at family and community levels to get recognition and a full understanding of the best way to proceed. Extensive work would need to be done in order fully train the workforce with regards to the requirements of the Speech, Language and Communication Pathway.

The Board discussed the proposed timetable, noting that the document was to be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval for consultation in July 2021. It was agreed that the timeline be re-visited to ensure that there was adequate time prior to it going out to consultation.

Resolved that a revised timetable be put together prior to it being signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

40 PLAY AND YOUTH UPDATE

Jacquie Thomas, Practice Development Manager, Children and Families and Wilf Fearon - Early Help Head of Service, updated the Board and gave a presentation.

The following information was highlighted

- a) A new structure had been put in place; Play and Youth Services had seen significant cuts and in comparison to previous years, the service was considered very small.
- b) Age group covered was 5-19 years old delivering directly to Children and Young People (CYP).
- c) Work has been underway with CYP in the community and to establish a safe space. The team had still been able to deliver directly with CYP –it's been very difficult but it has been made easier through collaborative working with multi agencies.
- d) Efforts have been made to get a seamless service and a purpose built safe space provided to maximize delivery and they continued to run a model of 'open access' so that CYP can drop in at a time that has been specified.
- e) At present 25 sessions are being delivered across the City. Emphasis has been placed on building and establishing relationships and to provide some continuity for CYP.
- f) There have been challenges with regards to safe delivery specifically during Covid but there has been a retention of face-to-face contact during the pandemic.
- g) Achievements listed included working more closely with partners which included being able to deliver the summer programme which was challenging
- h) Focus was on CYP with specific needs and especially those suffering with anxiety and depression in part due to Covid with some having been involved in anti-social behaviour.
- i) Specific concerns raised by CYP included drug and alcohol misuse, sexual health service and fitness. A number of self- assessments had been undertaken alongside workers observation to establish how CYP can be best helped.
- j) There had been an increase in young female attendance which was a positive and targeted youth work continued to evolve and change to keep current and up to speed.

The Chair thanked Jacquie and Wilf for their continued work and recognised the importance that the team had played specifically over the pandemic and when there had been grief amongst young people particularly when a life had been lost to suicide.

Resolved to note the updates and progress made by the Play and Youth Team

41 SUPPORTING FAMILIES: FAMILY HUBS IN NOTTINGHAM CITY

Due to technical issues, this item was deferred to the next Board meeting of the Children's Partnership Board to be held on the 28 September 2021.

42 SMALL STEPS, BIG CHANGES (SSBC) - PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Karla Capstick, Programme Director - Small Steps Big Changes (SSBC) gave presentation to the Board on Small Steps, Big Changes (SSBC) - partnership update.

The following points were highlighted and questions responded to;

- a) The programme was lottery funded for 10 years, with 4 years still remaining. Focus was in four wards and the programme offered support to families from pregnancy to the child's fourth birthday.
- b) The four wards (Aspley, Bulwell, St Ann's and Hyson Green and Arboretum) were selected due to the high levels of babies being born annually and high levels of need, with child outcomes not at a suitable level.
- c) There were 3 key child development outcomes aimed for that SSBC children would have including:
 - i) Healthy and positive social and emotional development
 - ii) Effective and age appropriate communication and language skills
 - iii) Good nutrition
- d) Reference was made to cross partnership system change and aspirations with regards to the legacy left and sustainability beyond the lifetime of the funding. It was noted that the programme was a long term investment without immediate results; the first SSBC children being at an age where they were about to start school.
- e) As part of the legacy of the programme, there had been a continued commitment to influence not only at a local level, but at a national level too. This included evidence from the SSBC being submitted to the Health and Social Care Select Committees and the House of Lords Life Beyond Covid Committee

The Board recognised the value of partnership working and it was noted that during the pandemic, partnership and multi-agency working had become more important and in many cases strengthened with a commitment to continue cohesion post Covid.

Resolved to note the presentation and the update given.

43 KEY MESSAGES AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

None

44 WORK PLAN 2021-22

Resolved to note the forward plan with the inclusion of potential future items on;

- a) Supporting families: Family Hubs in Nottingham and**
- b) Update from Nottingham College**

45 MEETING DATES

The future meetings of the Children Partnership Board meetings were as follows:

28 September 2021
14 December 2021
29 March 2022

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Domestic Abuse Act 2021: Briefing

Introduction:

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) became law in April 2021. The act should help to transform the response of professional services (including Children’s Services, Adult Service, Housing, Police and the Judicial System) to domestic abuse.

The objectives of the Domestic Abuse Act are:

- To raise awareness and understanding about the significant impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families
- To improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection to victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice
- To strengthen the support for victims by statutory agencies

There are certain aspects of the act which hold particularly relevance for the Local Authority primarily Children’s Services and Housing.

Statutory Definition:

The definition recognises that domestic abuse can take many forms. These include physical violence, emotional harm, coercive and controlling behaviour and economic abuse.

The definition sets out that the victim and perpetrator must be ‘personally connected’ but this captures different types of relationships e.g. ex-partners or family members.

The definition is gender neutral to ensure that no victims are excluded from protection or access to services.

Under the new act, threats to share intimate images as well as non-fatal strangulation have become specific criminal offences

Children as Victims:

The act defines domestic abuse as occurring where the victim and perpetrator are aged over 16. Abusive behaviour directed at a person under 16 would be dealt with as child abuse rather than domestic abuse.

However, for the first time, a child who sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, domestic abuse and is related to the person being abused or the perpetrator, is also to be regarded as a victim of domestic abuse in their own right. This will help to ensure that locally-commissioned services consider and address the needs of children affected by domestic abuse.

The act sets out that the victim of domestic abuse must be over the age of 16. If abusive behaviour is directed to a child under the age of 16, this would be dealt with as child abuse NOT domestic abuse.

Coercive Control:

The offence of coercive and controlling behaviour has been extended. It is no longer a requirement that abusers and victims still be in a relationship or still reside together in order for this offence to be recognised as domestic abuse.

This is significant as research consistently shows that the risk of all types of domestic abuse including coercive and controlling behaviour increases significantly when the relationship ends.

This change has particular significance in the context of economic abuse. This type of abuse often continues, escalates and in some cases may even begin following separation. It can represent a major challenge for victims who are trying to rebuild their lives.

Legal Measures

Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme (aka Claire's Law):

The disclosure scheme allows police to disclose information about individuals with a history of violent or abusive behaviour to protect potential victims from harm.

There are two ways that a person can request disclosure; either through the 'right to ask' or 'right to know' avenues.

'Right to Ask' – where a person is concerned that a partner or potential partner has a history of abusive behaviour. Third parties can also make these requests where they are concerned someone is at risk. The police have to decide whether to disclose any history of violent and abusive behaviour on the basis that it could prevent future harm.

'Right to Know' – allows police to make a proactive disclosure to a potential victim if they believe it could protect that person. This could come about following information received from a criminal investigation or through a statutory or 3rd sector agency.

For Social Workers, this means that when they become aware that someone they are working with is experiencing or is at risk of experiencing domestic abuse, they should report their concerns to the police and can seek information as to whether the perpetrator has a previous history of domestic abuse. This can contribute to efforts to intervene and support the victim and their family

Special Measures in Court:

Perpetrators will no longer be able to cross-examine victims and survivors in family and civil courts

Survivors will be entitled to special measures such as screens or using video links when giving evidence.

GPs and other health professionals will no longer be able to charge a survivor for a letter to support a legal aid application

Management of Perpetrators:

The Act requires the government to introduce a national perpetrator strategy, which will include a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order to help prevent reoffending and provide immediate protection for survivors.

Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DVPN):

Police have been given new powers to issue civil Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (“DVPN”). These provide victims with immediate protection from offenders and require them to leave the home for up to 48 hours.

Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPO):

DAPOs will consolidate the various existing orders relating to domestic abuse (including domestic violence protection orders and non-molestation orders). These orders will allow courts to implement both prohibitions and positive requirements on perpetrators, as well as a monitoring requirement to ensure that perpetrators are complying with the terms of their order.

Breaching a DAPO, which is a criminal offence, carries a maximum penalty of five years’ imprisonment.

We are awaiting the guidance regarding DAPOs however it is intended that third parties e.g. Social Workers, will be able to apply for the DAPO to the Family Court. This will mean that Social Workers can apply on behalf of individuals they are working with where there are concerns that they are experiencing domestic abuse.

The new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order will be piloted before being implemented throughout England and Wales.

Housing and Accommodation

Local Authority Accommodation Duty:

Part 4 of the act places a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within refuges and other forms of safe accommodation. There has been government funding made available to support Local Authorities to fulfil this duty.

Within the draft Statutory Guidances, safe accommodation is defined as:

- Refuge accommodation
- Specialist safe accommodation
- Dispersed accommodation
- Move on or second stage accommodation
- Sanctuary Scheme
- Other forms of domestic abuse temporary accommodation

The Nottingham City Needs assessment is in draft form currently but will be shared with the Nottingham City Safeguarding Partnership Board in Sept 2021, it will be shared with MHCLG in Oct 2021. A ‘Nottingham City Safer Accommodation Strategy’ has been prepared alongside this which will also be shared in the same timescales.

Homelessness eligibility

The Domestic Abuse Act amends homelessness legislation to give victims of domestic abuse automatic priority need status for settled housing, without needing to fulfil the vulnerability test.

Governance:

Domestic Abuse Partnership Board:

All Local Authorities must appoint a multiagency domestic abuse partnership board. This board will be consulted to assess the need for accommodation based domestic abuse support in their area. The board will also be responsible for developing and publishing a strategy for provision of this support as well as monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the strategy. There will be a particular focus on ensuring that marginalised communities receive specialist services and support.

In Nottingham, the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board has replaced the existing Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy Group.

All Local Authorities will be responsible for reporting back to national government about this work. There will be a national oversight board chaired by a minister.

The new Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs, will sit on the national board.

Domestic Abuse Commissioner:

The act creates the role of domestic abuse commissioner. The commissioner has specific powers to help improve the response to domestic abuse and to hold both national government and agencies to account.

The commissioner will be responsible for publishing reports for Parliament with the aim of ensuring that needs of survivors and victims nationally, are identified and met.

All statutory agencies and government departments will have a legal duty to co-operate with the commissioner and respond publicly to any recommendations within 56 days. The duty to co-operate could include, for example, responding to requests for information from the commissioner.

Needs Assessment:

Under the new Act, there is a requirement for all Local Authority's to provide a statutory return annually alongside a needs assessment. This will identify the level of need in the Local Area and measure the effectiveness of service provision in meeting this need. The statutory return and needs assessment for 2021 is near completion – this was pulled together at very short notice and the requirements of the statutory return were not discussed with Local Authorities in advance and there was no discussion with software providers (such as Liquid Logic) to confirm whether the information required is currently captured. This means that for our current return there are gaps in data being provided – this is a national issue.

Data is collected from Children's and Adult Services, Housing Aid, Voluntary Partners (such as Juno Women's Aid and Equation), statutory partners such as Police and Health.

The needs assessment will inform government decision making around funding for each Local Authority which is assigned on a yearly basis to enable Local Authorities to meet their statutory duties.

The MHCLG Grant awarded to Nottingham City is £871,229 for Year 1.

Nottingham City's Needs Assessment is being completed by the Crime and Drugs Partnership in conjunction with partners. This will be available to the Safeguarding Partnership Board in September 2021. It is likely to highlight that there is insufficient Refuge provision in Nottingham City.

Further Information:

Domestic Abuse Act 2021:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted>

Domestic Abuse Act: Factsheet

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/04/29/domesticabuseactfactsheet/>

Useful Links:

Domestic and Sexual Violence Services in Nottingham:



DSVA Services in
Nottingham - Febru

Briefing Prepared by: Nicole Harris, Service Manager – North and Contact Centre, Children's Services/ Chair of Children's Domestic & Sexual Violence Subgroup

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Children's Partnership Board Forward Plan 2021/22

September 2021

- Domestic Abuse Act and Reducing Parental Conflict (Nicole Harris / Paul Martin)
- Partner Update – The Voluntary & Community Sector in Nottingham – supporting Nottingham's CYP and Families (Amy Goulden / Rich Bacon)
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (Janine Walker / Sara-Jane Brighthouse / Health rep)
- Feedback from the Youth Leadership Conference – (Jon & YP rep/s)
- Feedback from Inspections – CAMHS / Focused Visit

December 2021

- Corporate Parenting inc. recruitment of Foster Carers / Supported Lodgings (Tajinder Madahar / Sharon Clarke)
- Integrated Care Partnership and Children's Health Transformation – (CCG rep and Rich Brady)
- Children's Commissioning – next steps (Katy Ball / Karla Banfield / CCG?)
- Child Friendly Nottingham Update

March 2022

- Education Focus to include Attendance & Exclusions (Nick Lee / schools reps)
- Disproportionality in services for children and young people.
- Financial inclusion and resilience (DWP / Supporting Families)
- Child and Parental Substance Misuse (TBC)

Please contact Debbie Hemsley if you have any suggestions for future items for the forward plan:
Debbie.hemsley@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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