



Nottingham City Council Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 29 July 2021

Time: 10.00 am (pre-meeting for all Committee members at 9:30am)
Due to current building limitations, any non-Nottingham City Council attendees are asked to arrive 15 minutes before the meeting start time to allow time to be taken to the meeting room.

Place: LB 31-32 - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG

Please see information at the bottom of this agenda front sheet about ensuring Covid-safety at the meeting.

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 - 8 |
| | To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2021 | |
| 4 | Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse | 9 - 20 |
| 5 | Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People | 21 - 22 |
| 6 | Work Programme | 23 - 28 |

In order to hold this meeting in as Covid-safe way as possible all attendees are encouraged to:

- Remain seated and maintain distancing between seats throughout the meeting. Please also remember to maintain distancing while entering and leaving the room and while in the building;
- Wear face coverings throughout the meeting;

- Make use of the hand sanitiser available and, when moving around the building follow signs about direction of travel, lift capacities etc.

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 at LB 41 - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 27 May 2021 from 10.02 am - 12.01 pm

Membership

Present

Councillor Carole McCulloch (Chair)
Councillor Jay Hayes
Councillor Jane Lakey
Councillor Chantal Lee
Councillor Maria Watson

Absent

Councillor Maria Joannou
Councillor AJ Matsiko
Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Cheryl Barnard	- Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
Nancy Barnard	- Governance and Electoral Services Manager
Evelyn Hailwood	- Principal Manager, Independent Reviewing
Nick Lee	- Director of Education Services
Peter McConnochie	- Head of Access to Learning
Helen Watson	- Interim Director of Children's Integrated Services

35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Maria Joannou (leave), Councillor AJ Matsiko (unwell) and Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos.

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

37 APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE CHAIR

Resolved to appoint Councillor Maria Joannou as Vice Chair for the 2021-22 Municipal Year.

38 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2021 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

39 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee noted their Terms of Reference.

40 PRIMARY SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Nick Lee, Director of Education Services, and Peter McConnochie, Head of Access to Learning, attended the meeting to give a presentation on exclusions from primary school and the support available to families and children when a child is excluded.

They highlighted the following information:

- a) Based upon 2018/19 data (the most recent available) the national rate of permanent exclusion has remained unchanged while the rate of fixed term exclusion has increased slightly. Persistent disruptive behaviour is the main reason for exclusions which peak nationally amongst 14 year olds (year nine). Those with Free School Meals and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are excluded at a higher rate than those without.
- b) In 2018/19 Nottingham was ranked 121st of 151 local authorities for permanent exclusions from primary schools and 99th for fixed term exclusions. This is below the rates of our statistical neighbours. The number of exclusions in Nottingham has reduced further since then with only four permanent exclusions from Nottingham primary schools last year and three to date this year. Work is done by schools, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) and with parents to avoid potential exclusions.
- c) Since the full return to schooling there hasn't been a spike in exclusions suggesting the supportive approach with a focus on wellbeing has been effective in supporting children back into learning.
- d) The two main reasons for exclusions in Nottingham are disruptive behaviour and physical assault which account for 80% of exclusions.
- e) Primary exclusions are male dominated with 93% of fixed period exclusions and 100% of permanent exclusions issued to male pupils over the last three years. During the same period 52% of permanent exclusions were issued to white pupils and 48% to BME pupils. Mixed and multiple ethnic groups have seen the highest rate of exclusions. The recent Timpson Review found a correlation between deprivation, SEND and exclusions.
- f) Exclusions are issued predominantly to older primary aged children and peak in year six.
- g) Those without SEND are more likely to be excluded and nationally those with an Education and Health Care Plan are also more likely to be excluded. However, in Nottingham, no primary children with an EHCP have been excluded in the last three years. If a child is referred to Denewood Learning Centre they will carry out assessments which can identify previously unidentified needs.
- h) Children from across the city are excluded from schools with some concentration in Aspley/ Broxtowe/ Bilborough and St Anns/ Bakersfield and Bestwood. There is a link to levels of deprivation with those areas with the highest levels of deprivation having higher levels of exclusions.
- i) Fair Access Protocols have avoided over 57 possible permanent exclusions over the last 3 years. Possible exclusions are tracked by the Council and schools are supported to take alternative actions. Routes to Inclusion and the Intensive Support Team operate in primary schools to support the reduction in permanent exclusions.
- j) If the Council is concerned about the rate of exclusions in a particular school this will be raised with the Portfolio Holder and the Regional Schools Commissioner.

- k) Following exclusions some children are supported with reintegration back into school while others continue in alternative settings including those accessing specialist placements as part of their EHCP. Reintegration has been impacted by Covid this year, but children are reintegrated at transition points.

In response to questions from the Committee and in the subsequent discussion the following points were made:

- l) For the first five days of a fixed term exclusion the school is responsible for providing work for the child. The Council does not have the capacity to monitor this but if the school did not provide work it would be in breach of exclusions law. It would be helpful if parents were aware of this responsibility and had more accessible information if their child is excluded.
- m) Transition points are not affected by exclusions. If a child already has a place at secondary school, they keep the place and work will be undertaken with families and schools to support the transition and avoid a second exclusion. SATs will be taken out of school if a child is excluded.
- n) Data is being gathered on the length of time it takes for an excluded child to be admitted to a learning academy, but this should take place within six days of the exclusion coming into effect. Covid has challenged this. It is more straightforward with younger children.
- o) When a new academy trust becomes responsible for a school it faces a challenge of driving improvement, often including pupil behaviour, but not at the expense of individual children. The level of churn at primary level is far lower.
- p) Parental responsibility is important and support is offered to parents but some children are on Child Protection Plans and some parents are not capable of managing their child's behaviour. SENCOs are responsible for family liaison. Work is being done to embed support around families based on the Priority Families work.
- q) The work of Small Steps Big Change is likely to have an impact but this will take time to come through. An example is that children with speech and language difficulties are more likely to be excluded and this is one of the issues being addressed but Small Steps Big Change.
- r) Children are not excluded from Denewood. If a child's needs can't be met they will be found alternative provision, often through an EHCP.
- s) Work around trauma informed practice is being pursued, providing information to teachers and SENCOs about the impact of trauma and how to support those who have experienced it to give them a broader understanding of roots of poor behaviour.

The Committee thanked the contributors for the informative presentation.

Resolved to recommend that Nottingham City Council produce guidance for parents whose children have been temporarily and permanently excluded, to be shared with schools and passed on to parents when required. The guidance should advise parents of school, local authority and others' responsibilities in relation to their child's education and signpost further sources of support and advice.

41 REVIEWING SERVICES FOR CHILD IN CARE/ CHILD PROTECTION

Councillor Cheryl Barnard, Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, Helen Watson, Interim Director of Children's Integrated Services and Evelyn Hailwood, Principal Manager, Independent Reviewing gave a presentation on the Council's Reviewing Services, comprising Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) working with Children in Care and Child Protection Co-ordinators (CPC) working with Children with a Child Protection Plan. They highlighted the following points:

- a) All IROs and CPCs are experienced and qualified Social Workers. The Service has a balance of male and female workers and reflects the diversity of the city population. They and their managers are independent of those delivering services.
- b) It is a legal requirement for every child in care to have an IRO appointed to them to monitor the performance of the Local Authority in relation to their case, participate in any reviews of the case, and ensure that that child's wishes and feelings are properly considered. The service must be delivered within the framework outlined in the national IRO Handbook.
- c) Effort is made to ensure children in care understand the role of the IRO. Each IRO has a personal introduction to every child they're working with and builds a relationship with them. Information is provided in a pack given to all children when they enter care which also contains practical items such as a toothbrush and toothpaste. Children are also supported to chair their own review meetings as much as possible.
- d) There are currently 689 children in care in Nottingham. Staff are watching our regional and statistical neighbours closely to understand the impact of Covid on the numbers coming into care as numbers have been rising with an increase of 4.2% compared with the previous year.
- e) The IRO handbook stipulates maximum caseloads per IRO of between 50 and 70 cases. Nottingham caseloads are marginally under the maximum recommended with an average of 69 cases each across 9.5 IROs.
- f) Reviews held within timescales are at 95% against a 90% target, and child participation in those reviews is at 92% against a 94% target and a 100% aspiration.
- g) Service developments underway include re-designing the conduct of children in care reviews to make them more child focussed, engaging with the Child in Care Council, introducing the coming into care pack and using case review forms to share learning within the service.
- h) The priorities for the service include building good relationships between IROs and young people to increase their confidence so they can chair and set the agendas for their review meetings, link individual IROs with particular social work teams to advise and support with care plans, visiting every child before their 20 day review to understand their wishes and feelings, and to widen understanding of the service across the wider social care community.
- i) 623 children are currently subject to a child protection plan which is a higher number than our statistical neighbours. The core business of the team of CPCs is to chair child protection conferences within 15 days, to conduct reviews within three months and again at 6 months. The role of CPCs largely mirrors that of IROs but working with children subject to a child protection plan rather than those in care.
- j) CPCs have their own framework to work within which is updated yearly. It is recommended that CPCs can have up to 90 cases.

- k) The child is always involved in their conference (if of an age where they can do so) as are their parents. Cases have been conducted over Zoom during lockdown which some young people have found easier to take part in as it is less intimidating than coming into Loxley House. The person who chairs the initial conference will chair subsequent reviews wherever possible to ensure consistency. Chairs will ensure the views of children, parents and carers are taken into account.
- l) CPCs monitor the performance of the local authority to check how the plan is being progressed and will raise any concerns with the social work team.
- m) 89 children per 10,000 are subject to a Child Protection Plan while the rate amongst our statistical neighbours stands at around 63 per 10,000 children. However, a review found that appropriate cases are coming in.
- n) There are 6 CPCs with an average caseload of 103 cases (above the recommended level of 90). 93% conferences are achieved on time and 95% of reviews.
- o) Priorities for the service include continuing to embed the use of one category in the child protection plan process, to develop a new framework for minutes of child protection conferences, to pursue all CPCs being recognised as Signs of Safety Champions for the Council and to develop the system for young people to provide feedback on meetings.

In response to questions from the Committee and in the subsequent discussion the following points were made:

- p) The Children in Care Council involves children and young people in care from a range of settings. They meet monthly to discuss issues and put forward their views and are consulted by services.
- q) The education of children in care is supported through the virtual school which has a headteacher and a team who ensure the child is receiving appropriate education that meets the aspirations for each individual child. The IRO would look at the child's personal education plan and talk to the child about it.
- r) IROs would review options for the care of a child at an early stage and, when a child leaves care, the IRO will review where the child is leaving care to, to ensure its validity and stability and minimise the risk of the child coming into care again.
- s) An annual survey is conducted of children in care which has a good response rate and which looks at how children feel about their experiences in care.
- t) Children come into care from across the city, but rates tend to be higher in areas with higher levels of deprivation. The main reason for children coming into care is neglect with domestic abuse, mental ill health and substance misuse all being common factors.
- u) Education outcomes for children in care are improving.

The Committee thanked the contributors for the informative presentation.

42 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted its work programme for the remainder of 2020/21 and delegated authority to the Chair and officers to liaise with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People to agree the focus for discussions when she attends the meeting in July.

43 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Resolved to agree to meet at 10am on the following dates:

2021 – 29 July, 30 September, 25 November

2022 – 27 January, 31 March.

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
27 July 2021**

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 review progress in completion of the action plan arising from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

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.
- 3.4 In September 2020 this Committee reviewed progress in fulfilling the recommendations arising from IICSA and the associated action plan. While recognising the progress made, the Committee noted that a number of actions still needed to be completed and heard from the Corporate Director for People that these outstanding actions would be integrated into the overall improvement plan for the Service. One of the areas of learning from the Inquiry has been that these issues relate to everything that Children's Services does and therefore work needs to be embedded throughout the Service rather than standalone as a separate piece of work. While accepting this, in terms of scrutiny the Committee decided to schedule a further review specifically of the implementation of the outstanding actions from the action plan.

- 3.5 A paper reporting on progress and completion of the action plan is attached as an appendix to this report and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People and Corporate Director for People will be attending the meeting to answer questions about this.
- 3.6 The Committee is asked to consider whether it is satisfied that the Council has done what it said it will do in response to the findings from IICSA and whether lessons learnt have been incorporated into practice so that, at this time, there is no need for further specific scrutiny of these issues.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Report on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse from Corporate Director for People and Lead Officer

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

- 5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 Reports to, and minutes of meetings of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 26 September 2019 and 24 September 2020.
- 6.2 Report to, and minutes of the meeting of Executive Board on 22 November 2019
- 6.3 Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse 'Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Council's July 2019

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 Thursday 29th July 2021

Item Name: Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Corporate Director and Lead officer: Catherine Underwood

1. Purpose:

On 31 July 2019, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (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 key recommendations and significant learning for Nottingham City Council. This report provides an update on actions undertaken in response to these and wider learning.

2. Recommendations:

- Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to consider actions undertaken by the council since the report was published in July 2019 in relation to the key recommendations and also wider learning.

3. Background/Context:

- 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.

The scope of the Nottinghamshire 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 ran from 01–26 October 2018 (with a one week break).

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.

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.

4. Financial Implications:

The ongoing financial cost resulting from the Inquiry is an agreed commitment to the additional investment for victim and survivor support, as outlined in **Table 1** below and in action 5 of Appendix A:

TABLE 1 – COST OF VICTIM AND SURVIVOR SUPPORT (IICSA)				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Hub and Therapy Model	£51,128	£90,185	£90,185	£45,093
ISVA/SSS	£22,222	£22,222	£22,222	£11,111
Contribution towards Sexual Violence Engagement Manager post	£20,000	-	-	-
Total	£93,350	£112,407	£112,407	£56,204

Provision has been made for this from the Adult Social Care budget as incorporated within the Medium Term Financial Plan for the initial contract duration (covering up to an including 2023/24), however work is required to consider how this service will be supported beyond this.

Hayley Mason
Strategic Finance Business Partner

5. Legal and Procurement comments (if applicable) including risk management considerations:

Legal Services will continue to support the People directorate as and when required in response to the ICSA inquiry. As set out in the appendix there is a dedicated Information Officer within the Information Compliance Team to support survivors in accessing their records and information.

Beth Brown
Head of Legal and Governance

6. HR and EDI considerations:

With regards to recommendation 1, HR are committed to working with the Fostering Service when recruiting Foster Carers and ensuring that robust safeguarding checks are undertaken at recruitment stage and any areas of potential concern are identified early so appropriate action can take place.

Aadil Bhatti
HR Consultant

7. Carbon Reduction and Sustainability Considerations:

None.

Next Steps/Assurance Processes

Attached as Appendix A is progress against our Action Plan.

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 any patterns or 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 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 Clinical Commissioning Group 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 have met regularly with survivors, both individually and as a group, and although group meetings have not been possible during Covid-19 the Corporate Director for People has written to the group on behalf of statutory partners to update them throughout the last year. A consequence of our engagement with survivors 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.

Our Insurance providers have offered to provide an expert safeguarding and governance risk consultant to undertake an external assessment of our work undertaken. This is being scoped.

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

Nottingham City Council

IICSA Action Plan July 2021

On 31st July 2019, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (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 key recommendations for Nottingham City Council:

- Page 15
1. Nottingham City Council should assess the potential risk posed by current and former foster carers directly provided by the council in relation to the sexual abuse of children. They should also ensure that current and former foster carers provided by external agencies are assessed by those agencies. Any concerns which arise should be referred to the appropriate body or process, including the Disclosure and Barring Service, the local authority designated officer (LADO) or equivalent, the fostering panel and the police.
 2. Nottingham City Council and its child protection partners should commission an independent, external evaluation of their practice concerning harmful sexual behaviour, including responses, prevention, assessment, intervention and workforce development. An action plan should be set up to ensure that any recommendations are responded to in a timely manner and progress should be reported to City's Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The IICSA action plan was developed in response to the findings of the report and to incorporate wider learning. Actions have been completed and work undertaken to embed learning in the organisation.

The full report can be found [here](#).

	Action	Action Undertaken	Responsible Officer
<i>In response to the two recommendations made by the Inquiry for Nottingham City Council</i>			
1. Page 16	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 response to recommendation 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of risks posed by current and former internal foster carers undertaken and any further required action taken. • External assurance commissioned to review the process and actions. • Revised processes put in place to ensure robust future oversight. • Assurance undertaken jointly with Nottinghamshire County Council with all agencies whom we have placed a child with since 2013 and those on the East Midlands Commissioning Framework. Agencies were written to and a seminar held to provide further detail. All agencies have confirmed that they have undertaken a review of information regarding current and previous foster carers to assess risks. • The East Midlands Framework for Fostering was recommissioned in early 2020. • Nottingham City Safeguarding Adults Board has conducted a review of assurance in relation to Shared Lives carers. 	Head of Children in Care
2.	Nottingham City Council and the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children's Partnership will commission an independent external evaluation of our practice using the Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework developed by NSPCC, Research in Practice and Professor Simon Hackett - the expert witness relied upon by IICSA. (in response to recommendation 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSPCC were commissioned to undertake an external evaluation of practice in relation to Harmful Sexual Behaviour. • The Harmful Sexual Behaviour Framework was launched in November 2019. • NSPCC held multiagency briefings for staff across the partnership workforce. • Individual agencies responded to NSPCC who developed a findings report. NSPCC recognised that there were well-established processes and systems in place in Nottingham alongside opportunities for further strengthening. An action plan was developed to disseminate learning and recommendations. • Staff HSB training was developed and delivered. • A cross-partnership HSB toolkit was developed. A successful bid was made for the NSPCC to undertake a Child Sexual Abuse Recovery Audit to analyse local Child Sexual Abuse need and provision from a multi-agency perspective. 	Strategic Lead for Safeguarding Partnerships (via the Safeguarding Partnership)

Actions identified by Nottingham City Council in response to further learning from the Inquiry:

3.	To continue to work with 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A leaflet was developed detailing all services available to survivors. • The Corporate Director for People attends and maintains contact with the Survivor Support Group. • Clear pathways of response established for Survivors through both Adults and Children's Services. Staff equipped to signpost Survivors to appropriate services or to support access more specialist advice through health services. • Nottingham City Safeguarding Adults Board undertook assurance activity in response to IICSA recommendations. • The Consent Coalition provides a range of sexual violence and consent resources on support, reporting, local referral pathways, campaigns and guidance (with over 24 statutory and voluntary organisations as supporters with access to specialist information). 	Corporate Director
Page 47	To continue to provide assistance to citizens wishing to access their social care records.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated Information Officer post has been established within the Information Compliance Team to support individuals with the process if requested. • If there are no records available for an individual, the Information Officer works with the individual to try to locate their records elsewhere (usually with another Local Authority). 	Corporate Director
5.	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more empathetic handling of abuse claims is established, acknowledging that the handling of these cases demands a different approach to a standard public liability claim, has been introduced. • Joint working has been established with Nottinghamshire County Council to respond to claims which span both periods. • A new Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) is in place to enable the sharing of records between the authorities and to reduce delays in claims handling. • Improvements in document searches for records due to the single point of contact introduced in Information Governance have resulted in a more streamlined process reducing delays in obtaining documents pertinent to claims. • A written apology letter is sent and a face-to-face meeting is offered on settlement of all claims. • The Corporate Director receives a monthly updates on all civil claims. 	Insurance and Risk Manager

6.	<p>To work with safeguarding partners¹, the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and Nottinghamshire County Council to consider the outcome of the needs assessment being undertaken by Lime Culture² and use their conclusions to inform future commissioning of services to support victims of violence and sexual abuse. Consultation with victims and survivors will continue to be integral to this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2019, LimeCulture published their “Needs Assessment for Sexual Violence and Abuse Survivors in Nottinghamshire” which was received by commissioners. • The Nottinghamshire Sexual Violence and Abuse Group have reviewed and developed actions in response to the recommendations from the LimeCulture report. • In 2020 the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group and a group of sexual violence survivors jointly reviewed the current sexual violence and abuse pathway and provision. • In 2021 the collective partnership recommissioned the Nottingham/shire adult (+18) sexual violence support service, now called ASA. The ASA service is a “hub” where sexual violence and abuse survivors can access safe and effective specialist support, including therapeutic, advocacy and health services. • Victims and survivors were engaged in the design and development of the service. 	Community Safety Strategy Manager
Page 18 7.	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quarterly reporting return is established through the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Business Management Group and Senior Leadership Group, which includes reporting on any children abused in care by people within a position of trust or their peers. • A section of our Independent Reviewing Officers Annual Report now 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. • 	Strategic Lead for Safeguarding Partnerships (via the Safeguarding Partnership)
8.	<p>Ensure that learning from all relevant sources, including complaints and regulatory and inspection activity is regularly reviewed to continually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for foster carers has been developed with survivors and the additional element specifically drawing on learning from the Inquiry has been video recorded so that this is sustainable. 	Strategic Lead for Safeguarding Partnerships (via the Safeguarding Partnership)

¹ Lime Culture are a sexual violence training and development organisation.

	<p>improve our services.</p> <p>Regular updates will be provided to the Safeguarding Partnership about the implementation and impact of this learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership 'Every Colleague Matters' training events held specific sessions on 'learning from reviews' and 'learning from IICSA'. • Children's Integrated Service has 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. • Children's Integrated Services publishes quarterly Learning Bulletins which reflect learning from a wide range of sources. These are cascaded to all staff. • Nottingham City's Designated Safeguarding Leads Network meet regularly to share and cascade learning and reports this to the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children's Partnership. 	
<p>9. Page 19</p>	<p>Review the approach to responding to allegations of historical abuse and in particular the role of the LADO.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint meetings with Nottinghamshire County Council were undertaken to review Procedures. • Chapters were revised in January 2021 to ensure that our Local Authority Designate Safeguarding Officer role and processes are consistent. • We have written to the National Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) Network requesting 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 and that this applies to both victim and perpetrator. 	<p>Strategic Lead for Safeguarding Partnerships</p>

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**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
29 July 2021**

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 that relate to children and young people.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- a) scrutinise delivery of aspects of the Council Plan 2019 to 2023 and management of budget pressures that relate to services for children and young people; 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. 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.
- 3.2 The Council is in the process of refreshing its Strategic Plan within the context of its focus on recovery and improvement, budget constraints and the impact of the pandemic. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Plan at its meeting on 7 July 2021.
- 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 on delivery of the Council Plan over the last year;
 - proposals relating to children and young people in the proposed new Strategic Plan 2021-23;
 - the management of budget pressures within children's services, including delivery of agreed savings;

- transformation activity relating to children’s services that is taking place in support of the Council’s focus on recovery and improvement; 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 2021/22’ report to, and minute of the City Council meeting on 8 March 2021

6.3 Nottingham City Council Draft Strategic Plan 2021-23

6.4 Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 7 July 2021

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
29 July 2021**

Work Programme

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the Committee's work programme for 2021/22 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 2021/22 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 2021/22 is attached at Appendix 1.

4. List of attached information

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 2021/22 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 2021/22 Work Programme

Date	Items
27 May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 272 1312 336">• Terms of Reference To note the terms of reference for the Committee <li data-bbox="629 376 1877 507">• Primary School Exclusion and Family Support To review current data on school exclusions of primary aged children, the impact on families and support provided, the education provision for those excluded from school and what more can be done to reduce the number of permanent exclusions. <li data-bbox="629 547 1921 646">• Overview of Children in Care/ Child Protection Reviewing Services To consider performance in Children in Care/ Child Protection, with headlines of progress made, changes undertaken, challenges that remain. <li data-bbox="629 686 1037 718">• Work Programme 2021/22
29 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 791 1989 959">• Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People To focus on improvement and recovery and present in detail on the budget for CYP services and how resources are being managed to reduce spend but achieve positive outcomes for CYP. Budget and spend is touched on in most items the Committee discusses and this will pull everything in relation to resources together in one item. <li data-bbox="629 999 1877 1098">• 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 <li data-bbox="629 1137 1037 1169">• Work Programme 2021/22
30 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 1238 1995 1406">• Early Years Entitlement To review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="674 1302 1653 1334">- Sustainability of Early Years providers in light of the Covid-19 pandemic <li data-bbox="674 1334 1137 1366">- Access to Early Years provision <li data-bbox="674 1366 1995 1406">- Take up of Early Years entitlement, with a focus on awareness of opportunities and cultural issues

Date	Items
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on progress to implement the Children’s Integrated Services Improvement Programme To review progress on implementing the Improvement Programme, including outcomes from the Ofsted focussed visit • Work Programme 2021/22
25 November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with the Regional Schools Commissioner and local Academy Trusts to cover the following secondary school issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exclusions (particularly the high level of permanent exclusions) and alternative provision - The impact of Covid-19 on attainment - Educational outcomes/ academic attainment of specific groups e.g. white working class boys, BAME pupils and gypsy/ Roma children - Engagement with wider partners and services in the city • Work Programme 2021/22
27 January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with no recourse to public funds To review arrangements in the city for children and young people with no recourse to public funds and to explore support for registering citizenship for children and young people • How the Council engages with children and young people from Traveller families To review how the Council’s provides support and works with partners to meet the range of needs of children and young people from Traveller families • Work Programme 2021/22
31 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech, Language and Communication Services Progress Update To review progress in delivering a city-wide shared strategy which underpins a clear offer of embedded support for speech, language and communication services, with measurable impact, including looking specifically at issues of SLC in older young people and adults. Follow up from presentation and discussion to meeting 25 March 2021. • Scrutiny of Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Schools

Date	Items
	<p>While the Portfolio Holder for Schools can be invited to join any item within her/ his remit, this slot is to be used to scrutinise specific aspects of the Portfolio Holder's work to be determined according to relevant priorities at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 308 1037 336">• Work Programme 2022/23

Reserve items to Schedule:

1. Children's Safeguarding

To review specifically (a) the Council's awareness of where children reside in order to ensure children are safeguarded and receive appropriate support and services and (b) Child Sexual Exploitation (referral from Chair of O&S Committee)

2. How the Council works to support children and their parents

To review how well the Council co-ordinates, support for children and their parents across services and the impact on their lives (to include Children's Centres, Small Steps Big Changes, Public Health)

3. County Lines, particularly from an education focus

To consider the impact of County Lines on education (referral from Chair of O&S Committee)

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