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Nottingham
City Council

Nottingham City Council Children's Partnership Board

Date: Tuesday, 27 September 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

Place: 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. W. Wye".

Director for Legal and Governance

Governance Officer: Phil Wye

Direct Dial: 0115 876 4637

Agenda	<u>Pages</u>
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 28 June 2022	3 - 6
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5 Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services Report of the Corporate Director of People and the Director of Children's Integrated Services	15 - 18
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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 at To be held remotely via Zoom -
<https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil> on 28 June 2022 from 4.05 pm - 5.51 pm**

✓	Cllr Cheryl Barnard (Chair)	Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People, NCC
✓	Cllr Angela Kandola	Executive Assistant for Education and Transport, NCC
	Catherine Underwood	Corporate Director for People, NCC
✓	Sam Morris	Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement, NCC
✓	Ailsa Barr	Director of Children's Integrated Services, NCC
✓	Nick Lee	Director of Education Services, NCC
	Jon Rea	Engagement and Participation Lead Officer, NCC
	Gary Eves	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG
	Amanda Payne	Regional Manager, East Midlands, Futures Group
✓	Mohammed Ramzan	Further Education representative (Nottingham College)
✓	Ekua Ghansah	Child Friendly City Programme Lead
✓	Maria Ward	Maintained Primary School Governor
	Sonia Burton	Youth Justice Service , NCC
	Tracy Tyrell	Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals, Nottingham CityCare Partnership
✓	Patrick Fielding	Nottingham Schools Trust and Virtual School
	Supt. Kathryn Craner	Nottinghamshire Police
	Nicky Bridges	Primary Schools' representative (Robin Hood Primary)
	Chad Thompson	Head of Children's Transformation
	Michelle Strong	Secondary Schools' representative (Bulwell Academy)
✓	Karla Capstick	Small Steps Big Changes representative (Director)
	Karla Banfield	Strategic Commissioning & Procurement, NCC
	Cheryl Steele	Special Schools' representative (Rosehill School)
✓	Celina Adams	Voluntary Sector
	David Johns	Consultant in Public Health, NCC

✓ Indicates present at meeting

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Emma Bates	- Financial Inclusion Support
Jasmin Howell	- Virtual School Head
Nick Lee	- Director of Education Services
Peter McConnochie	- Head of Access to Learning
Maddi Popoola	- Educational Psychologist
Phil Wye	- Governance Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following partners:

Karla Banfield
Nicky Bridges
Kathryn Craner
Gary Eves
Amanda Payne
Cheryl Steele
Catherine Underwood

2 MINUTES

The Chair explained that the minutes of the last meeting were unavailable due to the officer who attended the meeting having left the authority.

3 EDUCATION FOCUS - VULNERABLE PUPILS LEARNING SUPPORT PATHWAY

Jasmin Howell, Virtual School Head, Maddi Popoola, Educational Psychologist, and Peter McConnochie, Head of Access to Learning, delivered a presentation and highlighted the following:

- (a) in September 2021 all Virtual School Heads were given the additional duty of becoming strategic leaders in championing the educational outcomes of children with a social worker and those who have previously had a social worker. These children were identified as a group who face significant barriers to education, due to experiences of adversity and trauma;
- (b) since these duties were established, the Virtual School Head has worked with key partners within the authority in order to look at what can be done to improve outcomes for these children. These improvements aim to improve outcomes for all vulnerable children, not just those with a social worker, in a framework that can be co-ordinated by one person;
- (c) the aim is not to duplicate services, but to pool resources and gather outcomes in order to gain a real picture of all that is available for schools to access to help them support these children. Current resources include the Route 2 Inclusion Strategy, Mental Health Lead support, Designated Safeguarding Leads, and the online resource library;

- (d) all of the workforce should be trauma-aware, and take the view that all children and young people have experienced some kind of trauma. A pilot to train staff is being built with a secondary school;
- (e) the most vulnerable point for many children and young people is permanent exclusion, which has an impact on their future and also has a high financial cost. The majority of permanent exclusions are from secondary schools, and the local authority has been working on a model of inclusion which every secondary school has now signed up to. However, the number of exclusions in Nottingham remain high so this pathway will support reductions;
- (f) the next step will be to recruit some staff to develop and implement the pathway, including a Vulnerable Learning Co-Ordinator, and Education Advisor and a Data Officer. These will be funded through a grant from the government. The aim is to share the Strategy in February 2023 and engage with the workforce.

4 FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND RESILIENCE

Emma Bates, Nottingham Financial Resilience Partnership (NFRP), delivered a presentation and highlighted the following:

- (a) in 2019, Nottingham City had the lowest level of Gross Disposable Household Income in the country, with high levels of low paid work;
- (b) the more debt people have, the more likely they are to have mental health problems, feelings of economic pressure and family conflicts. This can lead to further mental health problems in children. Debt can also lead to physical health problems such as chronic fatigue and disability;
- (c) 8.9 million people in the UK borrowed more during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Bank of England reported in February 2022 consumer credit borrowing had risen overall and that annual growth rate for credit card borrowing had increased by 9.4%. This is a worrying trend during the current cost of living crisis;
- (d) Just below one million adults have no bank account and in 2017 21% of the population said that they would need to borrow money if they needed £200 at short notice. Having savings has been proved to have a positive impact on your well-being. Government measures to help people to save include Junior ISAs, pension auto-enrolment and the Help to Save Scheme but these are not suitable for everyone and can have low take-up;
- (e) financial education has been compulsory in secondary schools since 2014 but this is variable by school and should begin at a younger age with primary school. Numeracy is closely linked with financial capability in adults. The NFRP has a package of support available for primary schools;
- (f) from 2012 onwards every child in care is eligible for a Junior ISA with £200 from the government. The young person can take control of the account at the age of 16 and access the funds at the age of 18. There is a large number of unclaimed accounts due to the need to fill in a form to claim. Alongside this are the Stepladder packages of support but only 8 children have undertaken this to date;

The following points were made during the discussion which followed:

- (g) there are many free resources on financial resilience available for schools but few of these are used except for a Martin Lewis textbook in secondary schools;
- (h) it is difficult for primary heads to sustain a curriculum on financial resilience when they have so many other pressures. Commitment is required by the Council to support schools on their approach. More traction might be gained if it were integrated into other programmes such as Small Steps Big Changes or universal services so that it doesn't seem like a new piece of work;
- (i) if Family Hubs are introduced in Nottingham City then financial resilience services could be integrated into these.

5 KEY MESSAGES AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

None.

6 FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan was noted.

It was suggested that the Nottingham South Careers Hub be invited to the meeting in December, along with an update on the Ofsted inspection.

7 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board noted the dates for the 2022-23 municipal year.

Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICS Children & Young People's Transformation Programme Update

Nottingham City Children's Partnership Board
29th September 2022

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Agenda Item 4

CYP Transformation Programme Main Themes

Update from March 2022



Obesity: *Focus on services for CYP who are severely obese*

Locally : NUH new regional hub for CYP with Complications Relating to Excess Weight (CEW). ICB design group working with Public Health



Epilepsy: *National Epilepsy strategy to be developed and implemented*

Locally : Links with key clinicians made. Clear need for mental health support for this long term condition. Work pending national lead.



Asthma: *National bundle of care to be implemented by March 2025*

Locally : see next slide for progress



Integration Test Site: *Test new approaches to integration with IPSOS*

Locally : N&N ICS one of 3 test sites in Midlands. Focus on improving outcomes for the most complex looked after children. Scope TBC .

System Governance for CYP: *Programme to be embedded in ICB and ICS*

Locally : New CYP Transformation Board TBC. New explicit exec leads on ICB Board - Lucy Dadge for CYP and LD/A. Rosa Waddingham for SEND

Impact and prevalence of Asthma

Asthma outcomes worse for children and young people in the most deprived areas.

Asthma is the most common long-term medical condition in children in the UK

- around 1 in 11 children and young people, or 3 in every classroom, live with asthma. Nottingham City GPs recorded 9.7% of 15–19 years and 7.3% 10-14 years
- UK one of the highest prevalence for emergency admission and death rates for childhood asthma in Europe.

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Significantly higher rates of asthma incidence in minority ethnic groups in England and Wales, with high rates reported among second and third generation descendants of South Asian and African Caribbean migrants and Irish children living in England. In Nottingham City there is a higher prevalence recorded for white groups compared to all Black and Minority Ethnic groups. This might be due to differences in health-seeking behaviours and/or difficulties in access to primary care services . This is one focus of the N&N ICS Paediatric Asthma Network

Young people with asthma are more likely to have special educational needs for mental health reasons, perform worse in exams and leave school earlier than those without an asthma diagnosis.

What is the ambition?

A whole system approach to asthma management

- addressing environmental triggers,
- comprehensive education programme,
- promoting personalised care,
- effective preventative medicine
- improved accuracy of diagnosis
- Reduction of health inequalities

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Locally

ICS network meets monthly

Initial priorities set – key ones for non health providers

- System wide need for identify and support CYP with asthma – roll out of tiered training across education, early years settings and universal services to commence October 2022
- Improvement of Personalised Asthma Action Plans (PAAP) quality and prevalence for CYP to share with settings and friends

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CYP Voice: *developing policy and service design*

Locally : Voice captured for ICB coproduction principles and Board.
Co-design of asthma and obesity programmes



UEC: *Reduction in ED attendance and response to RSV surge*

Locally : Work on engaging highest attenders to understand behaviours. Prep for winter surge planning across all CYP providers



Diabetes: *National diabetes strategy being developed and implemented*

Locally : Links with key clinicians made – NUH national leaders. Focus on Type 1 and transitions. Work pending national lead.

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Transitions : *For all conditions, SEND and complex needs*

Locally : Transition “posts” established in SEND and some conditions. Transformation focus on pulling through not pushing



Reducing Hospital Admission (Local) :

Step down facility part of the City new short breaks to support medically well CYP moving to non medical community setting



Learning Lab (Local) : *Collaborative Planning and Commissioning*

Focus on Best Start cohort. Links with health ambition to support early intervention and prevention. To commence in September

Points for discussion

- Place of CYP Transformation Board in relation to other governance systems
- Engagement with education, social care and settings for asthma training
- Links with the environment and asthma
- Where does this fit or support the City's UNICEF Child Friendly initiative

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Title of paper:	Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services	
Report to:	Partnership Board	
Date:	27.09.22	
Relevant Director:	Catherine Underwood – Corporate Director of People Ailsa Barr – Director of Children's Integrated Services	Wards affected: All
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Ailsa Barr - Director of Children's Integrated Services	
Other officers who have provided input:	Sam Morris – Head of Strategy and Improvement	
Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) priority or priorities:		
Safeguarding and supporting children and families: Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective support and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties and provide a safe environment in which to thrive.		x
Promoting the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people: From pregnancy and throughout life, babies, children, young people and families will be healthier, more emotionally resilient and better able to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.		x
Supporting achievement and academic attainment: All children and young people will leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and will be ready for independence, work or further learning.		x
Empowering families to be strong and achieve economic wellbeing: More families will be empowered and able to deal with family issues and child poverty will be significantly reduced.		x
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
<p>To brief the Partnership Board on the report published by Ofsted of its Inspection of Nottingham's Children's Services, action taken and to set out next steps in improving our Children's Services.</p> <p>The inspection of Children's Services provides an independent assessment of some of the most important statutory responsibilities of a council. The inspection is a significant benchmark for Nottingham City Council, both in terms of formal grading, but also as a very detailed review of our services which assesses the quality of our Children's Services through the experience and impact for children in Nottingham.</p>		
Recommendations:		
1	The Partnership Board consider the findings of Ofsted's inspection	
2	The Board considers how it can support the ambition for Nottingham Children's Services to be delivering consistently good social care services to children and young people	
3		

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

1.1 Children's services represent some of the most important responsibilities of a council and as such are subject to a very robust regulatory regime. The inspection is a significant benchmark for the council, both in terms of formal grading, but also as a very detailed review of our services which assesses the quality of our children's services through the experience and impact for children in Nottingham.

1.2 Ofsted's Inspection of Local Authority children's services focus on the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements:

- to help and protect children
- the experiences and progress of children in care wherever they live, including those children who return home
- the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after, including adoption
- the experiences and progress of care leavers

1.3 The inspection also evaluates:

- the effectiveness of leaders and managers
- the impact they have on the lives of children and young people
- the quality of professional practice

1.4 The Inspection is unannounced and takes place over three weeks. The first week takes place off site where Ofsted review a suite of very detailed information about the service, our self-assessment and performance data. Weeks two and three involved 6 inspectors working on site, understanding in detail our work with children and families.

1.5 Judgement gradings are inadequate, requires improvement, good and outstanding. Overall effectiveness will be limited to inadequate where the experiences of children who need help and protection are judged to be inadequate.

1.6 Nottingham's Inspection of children's services took place between 4th – 22nd July 2022. The outcome of the inspection was:

Judgement	Grade
The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families	Requires improvement to be good
The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection	Inadequate
The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers	Requires improvement to be good
Overall effectiveness	Inadequate (limited by the grading within the domain of children in need of help and protection).

1.7 The Ofsted inspection of children's services provided a full assessment of the current quality of service delivery and clarity regarding the areas where services need to improve to ensure the provision of consistently good services for children and young people in Nottingham City. The full

Ofsted inspection report was published on 5th September 2022. A copy of the inspection report can be found at [Ofsted | Nottingham City Council](#)

1.8 The report is clear that whilst some progress has been made against previous priority actions, this progress has been too slow, and some other areas have deteriorated. This means that children in Nottingham City do not yet receive a consistently good service and for some children at risk of harm this is not recognised quickly enough. The majority of children wait too long for decisions to be made regarding next steps when information is received in the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH), this means that some children who have met threshold for social care intervention wait up to six weeks to be seen by a social worker.

1.9 The inspection identified 8 specific areas for improvement:

- Effectiveness and timeliness of responses to children's needs when first presented to the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH).
- Management oversight and direction of front-line work and the local authority designated officer (LADO).
- Social work capacity so that social workers and first-line managers can respond effectively to children in need of help and protection, and that children in care have greater consistency of social worker.
- Placement sufficiency for children in care and those with complex needs.
- The service response to care leavers aged 21 and over.
- The service response to young people who are aged 16/17 years who present as homeless.
- The quality and timeliness of return home interviews.
- Oversight of children missing from education and those who are electively home educated.

1.10 The report provides clarity regarding specific areas for improvement in the service, as well as areas where inspectors saw progress or areas of strength since their last focussed visit. The feedback demonstrates that Nottingham is capable of delivering tangible improvements which make a difference for children; however, it is explicit that the pace of change has been too slow. It is now essential that the improvement work quickens to ensure sustainable progress across service delivery as it is this that will bring meaningful improvement which will make a positive difference for children. This in turn will mean that the council can be assured that its statutory duties in respect of children's services are not only met but are being delivered confidently with a focus on good outcomes.

1.11 The inspection feedback identified that the new leadership team is beginning to have a greater impact on practice through clarity on the expectations of all staff, and a developing culture that promotes good practice through high support and high challenge.

1.12 The inspection outcome and findings are of relevance to the wider Children's Partnership and Safeguarding Children's Partnership. Whilst inspectors noted that partnership working at a strategic and operational level is positive and seeks to provide the best outcomes for children and young people, there were also some clear areas for improvement identified, such as:

- obtaining parental consent,
- children at risk of homelessness,
- ensuring full partnership representation at the domestic abuse triage meeting
- a greater commitment from partnership for children in care and care leavers.

The Partnership is key to ensuring effective and robust multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and so will be integral to contributing to and supporting the improvements that are needed.

1.13 It is clear that our ambition must be that at the next full inspection we will demonstrate that Nottingham's children's services are unequivocally 'good' and we will also want to be confidently demonstrating some outstanding elements of practice.

1.14 The Council's self-assessment reflected clarity about the need to continue to improve Children's Services. Actions were in train prior to inspection and further action has been taken following the inspection.

- Revising the Children's Services improvement plan to strengthen activity to address the areas of improvement.
- The Children at the Heart Improvement Board will be chaired by an Independent Chair commissioned through the Department for Education to provide a level of independence and challenge to the delivery of the improvement plan.
- As noted in the inspection report, the service has accelerated its change and improvement work within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Front line worker capacity has been increased and additional resources have been secured to increase service manager capacity to drive and oversee the work of the team and ensure consistency in application of thresholds and decision making.
- Secured additional resources for the Missing from Home team to enable timely return home interviews and quality assessments that feed into a robust safety plan.
- Commenced a review of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) arrangements.
- A recruitment and retention package has been agreed to stabilise the workforce, reduce reliance on agency social workers and reduce workloads.
- Secured places for all social work Team Managers to complete the Pathways leadership programme. This will be delivered by Frontline who have been awarded a delivery contract by the DfE to support social work leadership programmes. The programme will empower leaders to model and develop excellent social work practice and leadership in others and is centred on developing knowledge, skills and expertise against the 4C leadership capability framework (expanding capacity, maintaining curiosity, providing clarity, managing complexity).
- A training package for the newly formed Head of Service group and action learning sets for service managers will be delivered over the Autumn through money secured from the Department for Education. These will focus on how to improve quality and performance in a social work environment.

Next steps

1.15 The Council is required to submit an Improvement Plan to Ofsted within 70 working days of the publication of the report.

1.16 Ofsted will undertake Monitoring Visits – short inspection activity focused on a specific area – between now and the next inspection. We can expect 3 or 4 each year.

1.17 Two inspectors will usually carry out each monitoring visit, which will last for 2 days. The focus of the visits will be upon areas where improvement is most needed, but Inspectors will also check that performance in other areas has not deteriorated. The on-site activity will usually focus upon the experience of up to 6 children and young people within the area being inspected. A summary of the inspection findings will be given at the end of each visit.

1.18 Ofsted will alert the Department for Education (DfE), as the improvement agency, of the outcome of the inspection outcome, which will determine the approach to improvement assurance which it will require. Prior to the inspection, the Council worked with the DfE to secure an Improvement Adviser to act as an independent chair of the Improvement Board and to provide support and challenge.



Children's Partnership Board Forward Plan 2022

September 2022

- Children's Transformation Plan (Karon Foulkes)
- Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services (Ailsa Barr)

December 2022

- Nottinghamshire South Careers Hub (Lana Jay)
- Violence Reduction Unit update (Natalie Baker-Swift)

Please contact Sam Morris if you have any suggestions for future items for the forward plan:
sam.morris@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

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