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**Nottingham
City Council**

Nottingham City Council Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 28 July 2022

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

Place: Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG

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

- 1 Committee Membership Change**
To note that Councillor Nayab Patel has been removed as a member of the Committee.
- 2 Apologies for absence**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Minutes** 3 - 8
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2022
- 5 Holiday Activity Fund** 9 - 14
- 6 Work Programme** 15 - 18

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 31/32, Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 9 June 2022 from 10.06 am - 11.52 am

Membership

Present

Councillor Carole McCulloch (Chair)
Councillor AJ Matsiko
Councillor Georgia Power
Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos

Absent

Councillor Maria Joannou
Councillor Phil Jackson
Councillor Nayab Patel
Councillor Maria Watson

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Councillor Cheryl Barnard - Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools
Ailsa Barr - Director of Children's Integrated Services
Jane Garrard - Constitutional Services
David Johns - Public Health Consultant
Catherine Underwood - Corporate Director for People
Jane Garrard - Senior Governance Officer
Phil Wye - Governance Officer

1 Apologies for absence

Councillor Phil Jackson – personal reasons
Councillor Maria Joannou – other council business
Councillor Nayab Patel – personal reasons
Councillor Maria Watson - leave

2 Appointment of Vice Chair

Resolved to appoint Councillor Maria Joannou as Vice-Chair of this Committee for this municipal year (May 2022 to April 2023).

3 Declarations of Interests

None.

4 Minutes

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2022 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

5 Implementation of agreed budget savings relating to Children's Integrated Services

Councillor Cheryl Barnard and Catherine Underwood introduced the report setting out the current position in delivering each of the agreed budget savings for 2022/23, the most significant of which relate to Children's Centres and the Play and Youth Service.

Ailsa Barr, Director of Children's Integrated Services, provided an update on the proposed closure of five Children's Centres. She confirmed that progress is on track to achieve associated budget savings, while continuing to deliver a service across the City. In response to questions from the Committee and in the subsequent discussion the following points were made:

- (a) The five Children's Centres proposed for closure are presently being offered to lease to organisations via a robust Expression of Interest process which is weighted around the financial sustainability of those organisations interested. Expressions of Interest have been received for five of the Centres and these will be evaluated and decisions made in July.
- (b) The opportunity to lease the Centres was highlighted as part of the consultation process so that the information was all in one place. Some Committee members raised concern that this may mean that some community groups may not have seen the information and therefore missed opportunities to raise expressions of interest. They commented on the importance of promoting such opportunities far and wide and suggested that there could have been a role for ward councillors in engaging local organisations that may have been interested and facilitating discussions about what could be possible locally.
- (c) One of the most prominent concerns raised in the consultation was about local childcare availability. However, a number of the groups that have made expressions of interest in leasing the centres are childcare providers.
- (d) An interim arrangement will be in place over the summer and transition to the new model will be managed through existing links with partners, which are strong. Centres will be talking with families and professionals, advertising the new offer. There will continue to be a service in all areas of the City as the new model is to have hubs for staff to be based on and then go out to visit other areas.
- (e) The new model of delivery will be supported by a new Early Help Strategy, which is being developed by the Children's Partnership.
- (f) In response to concern raised by some Committee members about the new model of delivery being appropriately targeted to ensure a reach to the most vulnerable and in need of support and that the service is able to adequately meet the level of demand, which may change, the Committee was assured that data on demand and the level of need will be closely monitored through, for example, a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- (g) Voluntary sector services can refer families for help, if they have the parent's consent. The Designated Safeguarding Leads Network works across the city to discuss this and share knowledge. There are also universal services for children in the city and within this there are pathways to access additional support if necessary.

- (h) The MacAlister Report has recommended more funding for Early Help Services. However, this will not necessarily mean the Children's Centres can reopen.

Ailsa Barr, Director of Children's Integrated Services, provided an update on the delivery of budget savings relating to Play and Youth Services. She reported that progress is on track to achieve the budget savings, a new team is being put in place and the new service is currently in the creation phase. In response to questions from the Committee and in the subsequent discussion the following points were made:

- (i) Additional funding has been agreed to retain three more worker posts than originally proposed. As the nature of roles within the team has changed, not all posts have been filled by existing staff and interviews are currently taking place to fill the vacancies.
- (j) A reduced service is being run currently for the most vulnerable, and signposting is given to additional support available with other agencies and voluntary groups. The service will need to work more closely with partners, such as the Police and NHS to deliver services. Some Committee members raised concern that services provided by other organisations may also be affected by financial pressures, or other changes affected those organisations, and this could leave gaps in provision. If there are no groups available then provision of service will be looked at. The Director accepted that this could be a challenge, although the Council was limited as to what it could do to address this but assured the Committee that for situations where there is no service/ support to refer or signpost to, consideration will be given as to what else can be put in place locally.
- (k) Working closely with the community and parents will also be very important, and there is potential for them to be supported to run some services themselves.
- (l) The new Youth Workers will be looking at the offer of services across the city to make sure there is not duplication, and that there is a regular offer of sessions.

Resolved to

- (1) recommend that consideration is given to extending the period during which Expressions of Interest for use of vacant Children's Centres and Youth Centres can be made to enable wider publicity about the opportunities available, including utilising the knowledge of ward councillors and Neighbourhood Services, to ensure that there are no missed opportunities for local delivery of local services;**
- (2) request written briefing is provided to Committee members about the outcomes of the Expression of Interest process for operating from vacant Children's Centres and Youth Centres; and**
- (3) review how the new arrangements for Children's Centres and the Youth and Play Services are working, and the impacts of changes in March.**

6 Family Hubs

David Johns, Consultant in Public Health, delivered a presentation to the Committee about the concept of family hubs and the opportunities that it presents for the City. He highlighted the following information:

- (a) The Government has committed to championing Family Hubs, a system-wide model of providing high-quality, joined-up, whole-family support services through a child's early years until they reach the age of 19 (or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).
- (b) Nottingham City Council is eligible to apply for a share of funding, and has already been working with the Government on expectations around this. The hubs are likely to include many services that are already run, but delivered in different ways such as online.

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

- (c) Some Committee members commented that many families in the more deprived areas of Nottingham do not have easy access to the internet, so services will need to be flexible to ensure that issues with digital access are taken into account and those most in need of support are able to access it.
- (d) Services for refugees and asylum seekers should be included such as language support, and the offer must be culturally appropriate.
- (e) Partnership working will be important to make sure that the funding goes as far as possible.

Resolved to:

- (1) recommend that the development of a family hub approach includes a culturally appropriate offer for all communities in the City; and**
- (2) recommend that the Council works with partners, such as those in the Integrated Care System, to ensure the model that is developed is as sustainable as possible given that funding is only available for three years.**

7 Work Programme

Resolved to note the work that is currently planned for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.

8 Future meeting dates

Resolved to meet on the following Thursdays at 10am:

- **28 July 2022**
- **3 November 2022**
- **1 December 2022**
- **26 January 2023**
- **30 March 2023**

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

Holiday Activity Fund

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the Holiday Activity Fund programme in Nottingham.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked whether:
- a) it wishes to make any comments or recommendations; and
 - b) if any further scrutiny is required, and if so the focus and timescales.

3 Background information

- 3.1 The opportunities for the Holiday Activity Fund to engage children and young people in the City during holiday periods, and particularly those children and young people most in need of support, has been relevant to a number of the issues looked at by the Committee over the last year. Therefore, the Committee decided to look at the programme in more detail in terms of its approach, offer, effectiveness of targeting children and young people most in need of support during holiday periods and sustainability.
- 3.2 A background paper prepared by the Education Directorate, which is leading on programme within the Council, about the Holiday Activity Fund's key aims and core offer, delivery during 2021 and early 2022 and plans for the future is attached. The Director of Education, Programme Manager, Project Manager and Communication lead will be attending the meeting to discuss this with the Committee. Representatives of Nottingham Forest Community Trust, as lead partner, will also be attending the meeting.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Report to the Committee prepared by the Programme Manager and Project Manager, Education Directorate

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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0115 8764315

Holiday Activity Fund – an overview for Scrutiny Committee

Background to the programme

The [Holiday Activity Fund](#) (HAF) programme began back in 2018 when the Department for Education (DfE) started to invest in local projects to deliver free holiday clubs and food to children in the summer. In 2018, they invested £2 million in seven summer holiday pilots across England. In 2019 and 2020, this increased to a £9 million investment in 17 local authority areas.

In 2021, the DfE expanded the project so that all children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) would be offered free healthy meals and activities during the Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays – through the Holiday Activity Fund programme. The total budget for this is £220 million per year.

Before the programme became universally available, Nottingham Forest Community Trust led on consortium bid to the DfE to be one of their funded summer holiday projects.

Key aims and core offer

The DfE have established the following key aims for the programme:

- The programme aims to provide free school holiday places for children who are eligible for Free School Meals
- 15% of the budget can also be used to provide places to other vulnerable children and Local Authorities can determine who to include in this 15%
- Children who attend the clubs will eat a healthy meal whilst they are there
- They will take part in enriching or physical activities
- The funding must be used to deliver six weeks of activities – for a minimum of four hours per day for four days per week, which is 24 days in total.
- In Nottingham we deliver activities for a week at Easter, three weeks in the summer, a week in October and a week at Christmas
- Food nutrition lessons or workshops should be part of the programme
- Families should be signposted to where they can access more support

2021/22 delivery

Nottingham City Council was allocated £1.929 million in 2021 to deliver the HAF Programme at Easter, over the summer and at Christmas. (The change to include October half term only came about in 2022.)

As the Council had never delivered a programme like this, on this scale, the first few months were spent speaking to internal and external stakeholders to determine how the programme should be delivered. The programme was managed by the Education Division with representatives from across the Council involved in the initial planning and throughout in a key stakeholder group.

Due to their history with previous bids to the DfE, a decision was made to work closely with Nottingham Forest Community Trust to deliver the project and the Trust received funding to deliver holiday clubs across the city.

Easter 2021

At Easter, a small scale project ran with some schools and Nottingham Forest Community Trust as a pilot. This was due to ongoing Covid restrictions at that time.

How was the funding allocated?

Funding to deliver the programme was awarded through grants in three ways:

1. Nottingham Forest Community Trust were allocated £849,120
2. The Area Based Grant Leads in the city were awarded £200,000 and a formula was applied to split this between the wards based on how many FSM children are in each ward. (Appendix 1)
3. An open bidding round was held in May 2021 and £394,926 was allocated directly to community groups and schools to deliver holiday clubs, hampers or activity packs throughout 2021.

Summer 2021

Summer 2021 was the first time the programme ran properly in Nottingham and over the course of four weeks, 16,069 children attended clubs run by 23 holiday club providers. Included in this 23 are Nottingham Forest Community Trust and the Area Based Grant Leads who enlist many more community groups. NFCT were responsible for the delivery of activities across 14 sites daily and procurement of 3500 meals per day.

Seeing the programme in action was amazing and the feedback gathered from providers and parents was really positive. However, there were some key areas of learning taken from the summer specifically around the level of provision for children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and the development of a more comprehensive training programme to support providers working in our communities.

Christmas 2021

Due to the rising levels of Covid in December 2021, HAF delivery was significantly reduced. All providers were asked to deliver activities outside only, to prevent the spread of Covid and many handed out food parcels to families or delivered online activities instead.

2022 delivery

In November 2021, the DfE announced the Holiday Activity Fund programme would be funded for three years (from 2022 – 2025) and Nottingham was allocated £1.8 million in the first year.

In January 2022, we ran an open bidding round to find a lead partner for 2022 delivery and Nottingham Forest Community Trust were successful in their application.

The following is a list of requirements for a lead provider:

1. The lead provider must deliver school holiday activities across the city, with locations in all of the most deprived areas of the city
2. The lead partner must be a local organisation based in Nottinghamshire only.
3. The lead partner must aim to attract c. 3,000 - 4,000 children per day to their holiday clubs - although we appreciate there may be mitigating circumstances that impact on this
4. Market specifically to families where children are eligible for Free School Meals
5. Adhere to all of the requirements for the project set out by the DfE
6. Enlist multiple local providers to support with the delivery of the programme

In 2022, we have followed a similar funding model to the previous year, awarding grants in three ways:

1. Nottingham Forest Community Trust were allocated £902,000 to fulfil the role of lead partner
2. The Area Based Grant Leads in the city were awarded £350,000 and the same formula was applied to divide this between the wards. The amount of grant funding allocated to the Area Based Grant Leads has been increased this year to allow them to direct more provision locally to meet the needs of their bespoke communities.
3. An open bidding round was held in April 2022 and £350,000 was allocated directly to community groups and schools to deliver holiday clubs throughout 2022.

Easter 2022

This Easter, we worked with 42 different providers to put on four days of activities, which were attended by 4,200 children.

Plans for the future

With a full time Project Manager, Declan Barker, now in post for the duration of the Holiday Activity Fund lifecycle and we will be looking at how to develop the programme as well as increasing participation in the clubs.

Key items on the agenda for the future of HAF are:

- Continuing to develop the training offer for providers across the city to support capacity building of smaller community based providers and groups.
- Strengthen relationships with more schools – as venues for delivery and identifying/signposting activities and services for children in need.
- Develop the SEND offer further to ensure further provision is available for children with additional needs
- Evaluate the project fully – we are partnering with Nottingham Trent University to help us do this focusing on measuring the impact the programme has on the lives on children and families during and post programme.
- Invest in a booking system which identifies FSM children and markets to eligible families specifically.
- Develop a multi agency signposting presence
- Create and develop a local community organisation scrutiny working group funded by Nottingham Forest Community Trust to ensure collaboration and representation across all local communities.
- Attract significant private sector investment to support sustainability of the HAF programme during and beyond 2023.

Jennifer Hardy, Programme Manager, Education – Jennifer.hardy@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Declan Barker, HAF Project Manager, Education – Declan.barker@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – allocation of funding by ward for the Area Based Grant leads in 2021

Area	Ward	% of total FSM numbers	Amount by ward
1	Bulwell	8.58	17,168.17
	Bulwell Forest	3.51	7,016.31
	Bestwood	7.61	15,213.72
2	Basford	6.13	12,260.97
	Berridge	5.22	10,433.07
	Sherwood	3.02	6,032.06
3	Aspley	14.55	29,091.68
	Bilborough	8.06	16,113.61
	Leen Valley	2.11	4,218.22
4	Castle	0.19	379.64
	Hyson Green & Arboretum	5.91	11,825.08
	Radford	3.08	6,158.61
5	Lenton & Wollaton East	2.71	5,427.45
	Meadows	3.83	7,663.10
	Wollaton West	1.41	2,812.15
6	Dales	5.89	11,782.90
	Mapperley	3.63	7,255.34
	St Ann's	7.15	14,299.78
7	Clifton East	5.59	11,178.29
	Clifton West	1.83	3,669.85
			£200,000.00

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
28 July 2022**

Work Programme

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the Committee's work programme for 2022/23 based on areas of work identified by the Committee at previous committee meetings, the informal meeting of the Committee to scope its work programme for the year ahead 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 2022/23 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 carry out the statutory overview and scrutiny function in relation to matters affecting children and young people.
- 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 2022/23 is attached.

4. List of attached information

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee 2022/23 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 2022/23 Work Programme

Date	Items
9 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 268 1816 400">• Implementation of agreed budget savings for 2022/23 To review progress in implementation of budget savings relating to Children's Integrated Services and the development of transformation of children's centres and play and youth services. <li data-bbox="629 440 1648 507">• Family Hubs To look at the possible future of family hubs and associated service design. <li data-bbox="629 547 1032 576">• Work Programme 2022/23
28 July 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 647 1066 676">• Holiday Activity Programme <li data-bbox="629 716 1032 745">• Work Programme 2022/23
3 November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 823 1995 890">• Children's Integrated Services Improvement Plan Update To review progress in action being taken to improve Children's Integrated Services <li data-bbox="629 930 1995 1029">• Youth Justice To review improvements that have been made in relation to the Youth Justice Service, with a focus on responding to the findings and recommendations of HMIP Inspection of Youth Justice Services <li data-bbox="629 1069 1032 1098">• Work Programme 2022/23
1 December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="629 1169 1839 1332">• Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021/22 To receive evidence from the Safeguarding Children Board regarding work to safeguard children in the City; scrutinise the work of the Board, including consideration of its 2020/21 Annual Report; and identify any issues or evidence relevant to the Committee's work programme. <li data-bbox="629 1372 1391 1439">• Children's Integrated Services Transformation To review progress with the transformation programme

Date	Items
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term Financial Plan To consider the in-year position; review progress in implementation of agreed savings for 2022/23; and consider budget proposals for 2023/24 • Work Programme 2022/23
26 January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Exploitation • Work Programme 2022/23
30 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to Children’s Centres and Play and Youth Services To review how services are working and the impact of changes. • SEND To review progress in responding to the issues raised in the review of SEND, with a focus on communications and engagement with parents and families • Work Programme 2023/24

Additional information/ evidence:

- Written briefing on outcomes of expressions of interest in operating vacant childrens centres and youth centres

Other issues suggested:

- Implications of the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care
- Development of Early Help Strategy