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Nottingham City Council Corporate Parenting Board

Minutes of the meeting held at Loxley House, Station Street, NG2 3NG, on 20 January 2020 from 2.32 pm - 4.10 pm

Membership

Present

Councillor Cheryl Barnard (Chair)
Councillor Nicola Heaton
Councillor Maria Joannou
Councillor Rebecca Langton
Councillor Maria Watson

Absent

Councillor Jay Hayes
Councillor Phil Jackson
Councillor Neghat Khan
Councillor Georgia Power
Councillor Cate Woodward

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Helen Blackman	-	Director of Children's Integrated Services
Clive Chambers	-	Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance
Jasmine Howell	-	Service Manager, Virtual School
Mark Leavesley	-	Governance Officer, Democratic Services
Nick Lee	-	Director of Education Services
Jon Rea	-	Engagement and Participation Lead
Sophie Russell	-	Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement
Patrick Skeete	-	Representations and Complaints Manager, Social Care
Audrey Taylor	-	Fostering and Adoption Service Manager
Catherine Underwood	-	Corporate Director of People
Jordan Whatman	-	Project Officer, Children in Care

35 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Khan	-	other Council business
Councillor Jackson)	unwell
Councillor Woodward)	

36 Declarations of Interests

None.

37 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2019 were agreed as a correct record and the Chair signed them.

38 Action Plan in response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse report

Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People presented the report, which detailed recommended actions for Nottingham City Council, and the Council's response, following publication of the 'Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)' Report.

During discussion, the following action being taken by, or proposed by, NCC was stated:

- recommendation 1 – continued engagement with victim and survivor groups and working with partners, including signposting NHS support available i.e. therapy;
- recommendation 2 – a post has been created in Information Compliance to assist those wishing to access their social care records;
- recommendation 3 – offer to meet with survivors and representatives at higher level and apologise on an individual basis;
- recommendation 4 – working with Police and Crime Commissioner / safeguarding partners to inform future commissioned work on supporting victims;
- recommendation 5 – Survivor Manager post funded to March 2022;
- recommendation 6 – strengthened scrutiny of foster carers, especially if an issue is raised;
- recommendation 7(a-c) –
 - the action plan in response to the independent external evaluation was launched in November 2019 and will be reported to the Safeguarding Partnership in March 2020;
 - IICSA will review in 12 months and may make further recommendations.

In response to a question regarding:

- which organisation funds the therapeutic support for survivors, and whether the hub proposed is already in place, it was confirmed that this support is funded by the CCG and that the hub is a future development, but survivors can access support and the Corporate Director for People would provide contact details to Board members;
- whether the Council had received a response from the national panel regarding our Action Plan and how we will monitor progress and ensure an independent view, it was confirmed that we were not anticipating a response from the national team and, once they have completed their work in other local areas they may make wider recommendations. It was also stated that feedback from survivors and their involvement in the developments in the Action Plan will be the main loop back to consider impact.

The Board also stated that while there was a different culture at the time the abuse took place, NCC needed to ensure the same issues can never arise again.

Resolved to note the action plan and associated costs, and the implications for the Council, as detailed in the report and appendices.

39 Fostering Panel Chair's Report

Audrey Taylor, Fostering and Adoption Service Manager, presented the report, detailing the activity of the Fostering Panel, an East Midlands wide scheme which replaced the City's Adoption Panel as of 1 April 2019.

Members asked about the links to the Children in Care (CiC) Council and requested the Fostering and Adoption Service Manager attend CiC Council to share the report and gain their views. Councillors also asked whether members of the Fostering Panel had been sighted on the findings of IICSA, to which it was confirmed that this learning had been shared.

Resolved to note the report.

40 Adoption and Permanency

Audrey Taylor, Fostering and Adoption Service Manager, presented the report, detailing the permanency performance of the Council.

During discussion, and in response to a question about the:

- reduction in numbers of children discharged as a result of adoption, the context of moving into the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) was outlined;
- impact of regionalisation for citizens, it was explained that the development of the RAA had bought four services together, integrating resources and giving families more options locally, although there was national intelligence that adoptions may slow down in Year 1 because it's a complex change. It was also stated that it was important to note that nationally, adoptions had reduced by 7%, and in respect of the pace of the journey, it was confirmed that feedback was positive for adults, once they were in process.

The Fostering and Adoption Service Manager also briefed the Board on adoption disruptions, stating that Nottingham City have low numbers of disruptions, with only two in the last year, and are always mindful to make decisions that take into account the needs/wishes of the child to identify the best permanence option, sometimes long term fostering best meets young people's permanence needs.

Resolved to note the report.

41 Children in Care Social Care Complaints

Patrick Skeete, Representation and Complaints Manager, Social Care, presented the report, detailing the Social Care complaints process and highlighting the 12 complaints made April to December 2019 by children in care.

During discussion, the following was stated:

- all complainants have access to advocacy and this is publicised in the information sent to children in care;

- complaints are assessed to ensure there are no 'themes' occurring, if there are, these will be discussed with the appropriate team to find a solution;
- complaints can be made via either paper or electronically to ensure no-one is disadvantaged;
- in respect of the 'no findings' outcome, these were always explained to the complainant and that they could access Stage 2 of the process if they were unhappy;
- as to whether the low number of complaints was as a result of under-reporting, it was confirmed that the Council are proactive in finding resolutions for concerns, prior to the formal complaints process, and these issues are not included in the data provided to the Board.

Resolved to note the report.

42 Educational Attainment of Children in Care

Jasmin Howell, Acting Head of Virtual School, and Nick Lee, Director of Education Services, presented the report, detailing the work of the Virtual School Team and attainment during the 2018-19 academic year (Sept '18 to July '19).

During discussion, the following was stated:

- the City average attendance for non-looked after is 82%, compared to looked after attendance of 93.6%;
- a key concern is around multiple fixed term exclusions, and it was confirmed that where there is no clear reason for exclusion, the Council assists the carer of any excluded child to challenge the exclusion by i.e. attending meetings with them and creating plans.
- the data suggests that there has been a dip in the completion of PEPs and a drill-down into the reasons for this has been requested as there are exemptions that need to be applied manually. This will be ready for February 2020;
- the Virtual School Team are currently consulting on 3 options in regards to Pupil Premium and the preferred way to allocate funding throughout the academic year.

Resolved to note the report and request that the Head of Children's Strategy and Improvement organise a 'round table' discussion at a future Board meeting, to include the Education Support Officer role, best practise examples and the Pupil Premium funding options.

43 Children in Care Council

Jon Rea, Engagement and Participation Lead Officer, updated the Board in regards to the Children in Care Council.

The following was stated:

- a meeting will be held on 27 January 2020, including topics for discussion such as Independent Advocacy and PEPs;
- the Council has 5 new members and is operating at near capacity, however as older members are set to leave the group, interest from other potential new members is welcomed.

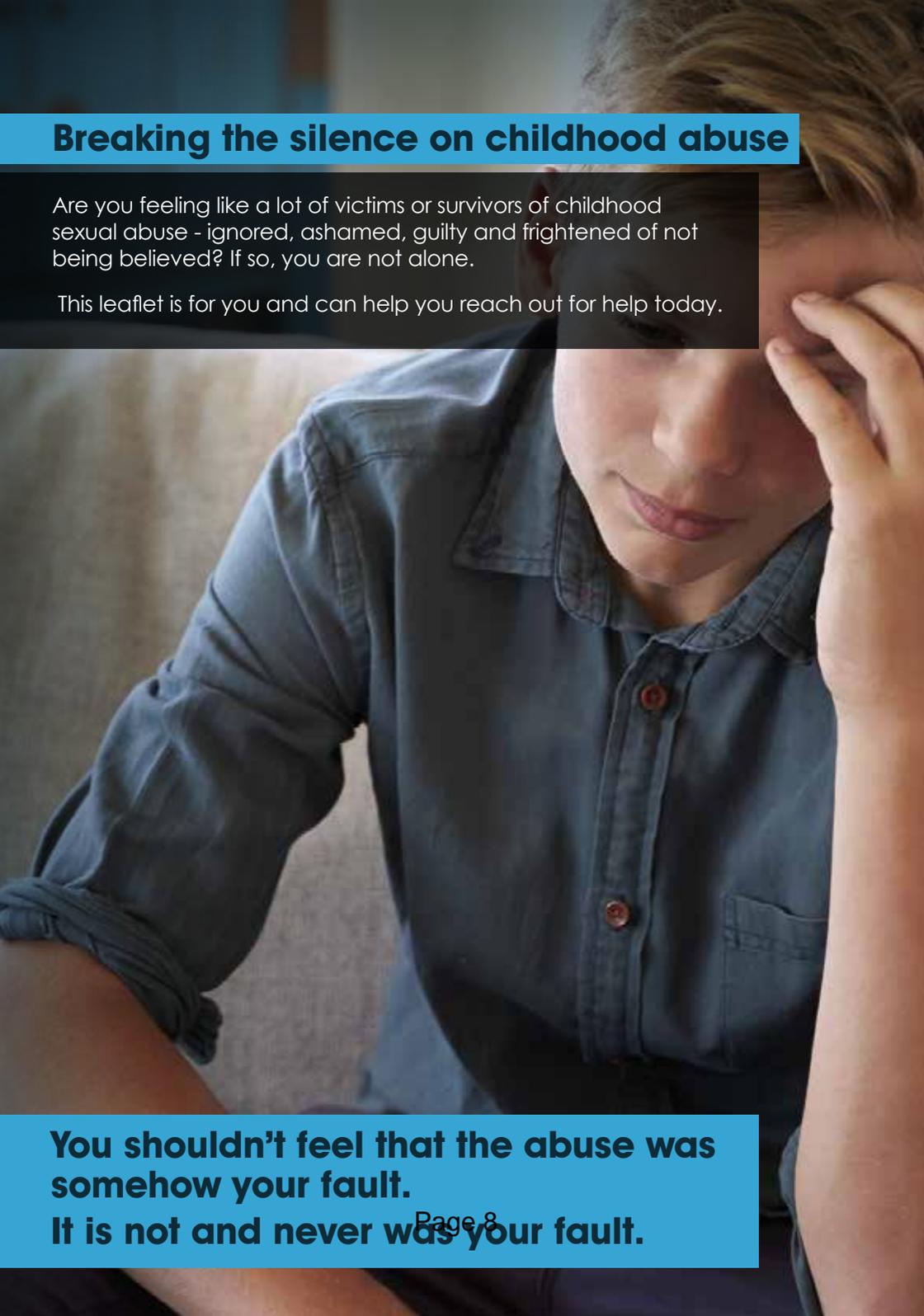
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Have you been impacted
by sexual abuse in childhood?

**You're not alone.
Help is
available.**



Please read on for support...



Breaking the silence on childhood abuse

Are you feeling like a lot of victims or survivors of childhood sexual abuse - ignored, ashamed, guilty and frightened of not being believed? If so, you are not alone.

This leaflet is for you and can help you reach out for help today.

You shouldn't feel that the abuse was somehow your fault.

It is not and never was your fault.

Were you sexually abused as a child by someone in the past or do you think a child is being sexually abused now?

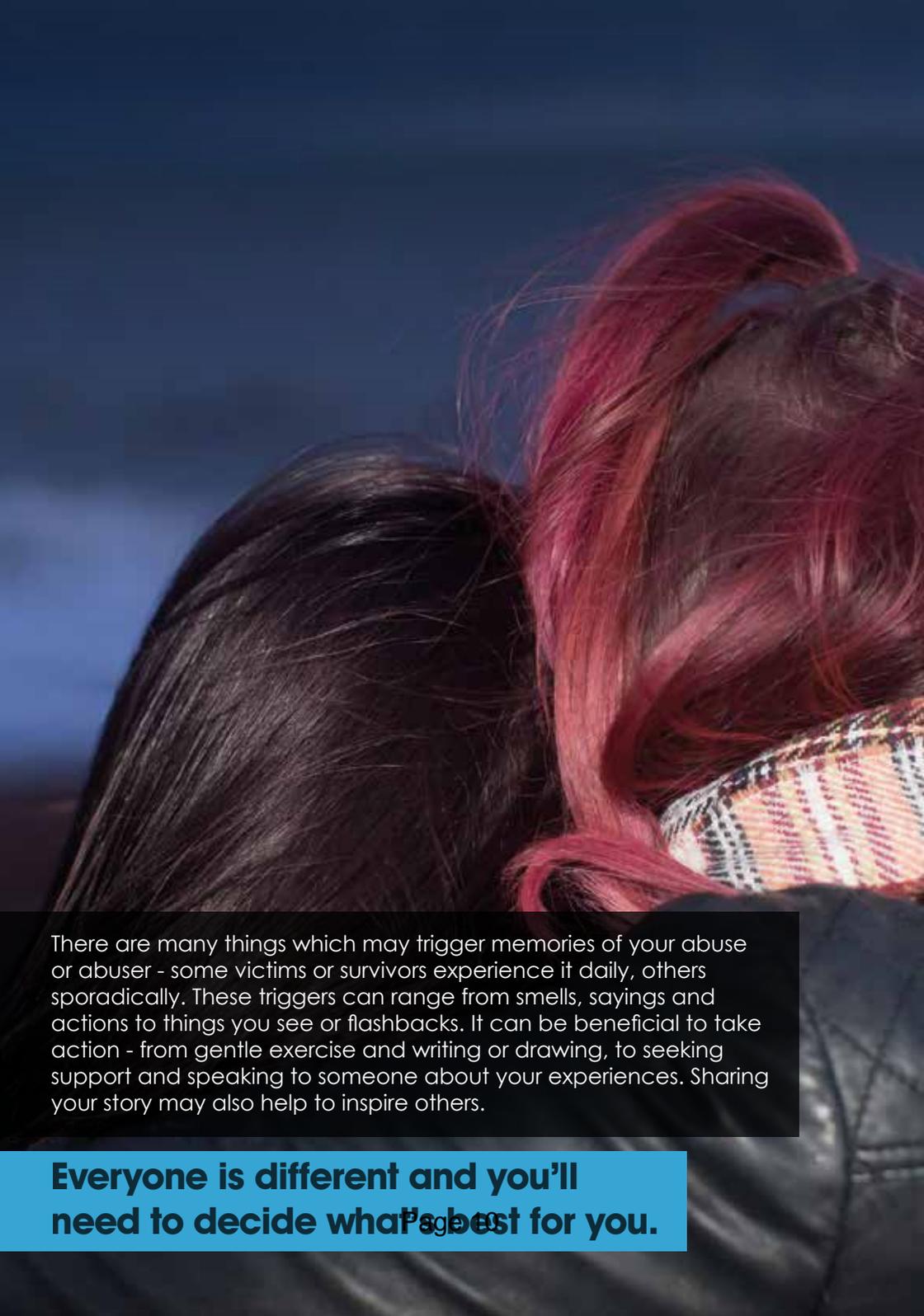
Child abuse could include:

- Forcing a child to have any form of sexual contact
- Buying sexual services of a child
- Causing, encouraging or arranging child prostitution or pornography
- Sexual abuse of vulnerable children with a mental disability
- Watching people engaged in a private act without the child's consent for sexual gratification
- Exposure, where a man or woman exposes themselves with intent to cause alarm or distress
- Being drugged to engage in sexual activity.

Children in these situations often feel unable to refuse because of a lack of understanding of what was happening, they were offered money or gifts, threatened or deceived, or there was a breakdown in the relationship between the child and those caring for them.

The abuse may have happened at, or been connected to institutions such as children's homes, places of worship, Brownies/Guides/Cubs/Scouts, sporting groups like football clubs, schools, youth clubs or young offenders' institutions.

**Abuse can happen to anyone.
Abuse can happen anywhere.**



There are many things which may trigger memories of your abuse or abuser - some victims or survivors experience it daily, others sporadically. These triggers can range from smells, sayings and actions to things you see or flashbacks. It can be beneficial to take action - from gentle exercise and writing or drawing, to seeking support and speaking to someone about your experiences. Sharing your story may also help to inspire others.

Everyone is different and you'll need to decide what's best for you.

Where to get help and support

Call Police **101** if you believe you or someone you know was sexually assaulted as a child in the past. If you know a child is subject to immediate and ongoing abuse then call police on the emergency number **999**

SUPPORT FOR ADULTS

The services below are independent, accredited services commissioned by statutory agencies. They are quality assured and contract managed to ensure delivery of best practice and national standards. Victims and survivors do not need to report the crime to the police to get help.

Topaz Centre for Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Sexual Abuse Referral Centre)

Crisis support for all female and male victims and survivors of rape and sexual assault. The Topaz Centre supports both females and males who have been raped or sexually assaulted.

The Topaz Centre is a safe supportive environment which offers:

- Crisis support during the initial stages of reporting including the examination
- A supportive environment for a forensic examination and statement taking
- Medical examinations which can take place up to seven days after the attack to gather forensic evidence
- Emergency contraception and/or access to local GUM Clinic for emergency medical care and follow-up
- Access to advice and support and/or referrals to counselling services.

 0800 085 9993 **24 hrs helpline**

 www.topazcentre.org

Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) Service

Supports female and male survivors of rape and sexual violence including non-recent child sexual abuse, whether the violence occurred recently or in the past.

ISVAs provide practical and emotional support and advocacy including through the criminal justice service. The ISVA service includes the Survivor Support Service for survivors of non-recent child sexual abuse.

 0115 950 8713

 referrals@nsvss.cjsm.net
(from a secure email address only)

 www.nottssvss.org.uk/contact/
(secure referral route via website)

Nottinghamshire Sexual Violence Support Service

(Formerly known as Nottinghamshire Rape Crisis Centre)

Provides counselling support for female and male survivors of rape, sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse, whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past. They provide a telephone helpline, face-to-face counselling and group support.

 0115 941 0440

 support@nottssvss.org.uk

 www.nottssvss.org.uk/contact/



GPs

Your own doctor is a good place to start.

They will be able to offer confidential advice and have access to specialist local health services such as counselling, drug and alcohol support, help with other addictions or mental health services.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

East Midlands Children and Young People's Sexual Assault Service (EMCYPSAS)

Provides crisis support, forensic examinations, short-term therapy and access to follow-on support including children's ISVA and healthcare.

☎ 0800 183 0023 24 hrs helpline

W www.emcypsas.co.uk

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR OTHER ADDICTIONS

Nottingham Recovery Network (NRN)

Providing a single point of free support, advice and treatment to people who use alcohol and drugs in a problematic way across Nottingham City (18+).

☎ 0800 066 5362 helpline

✉ Nottingham Wellbeing Hub,
73 Hounds Gate,
Nottingham
NG1 6BB

W nottinghamrecoverynetwork.com

CGL Journey

A commissioned service to work with young people and their families, under the age of 18 in Nottingham City to reduce the impact of substance misuse, support recovery and to challenge inequalities linked to drug and alcohol use.

☎ 0115 948 4314
(Text) 07873 339 519

✉ journey@lifeline.org.uk

W changegrowlive.org/young-people/cgl-journey-nottingham

Change, grow, live (CGL) New Directions Nottinghamshire

Providing adult drug and alcohol treatment and recovery support services to individuals in Nottinghamshire (18+).

☎ 0115 896 0798

W changegrowlive.org.uk

OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

You might prefer talking to a local service or support group first. These could be either charities offering counselling or other survivors offering peer support and advice. Many are registered with Self Help, where you can find their details

Self Help Nottingham/ Self Help UK

Helps create, support and promote self-help groups covering a wide range of issues across the UK.

They will hold information about self help and support groups that have registered with them in your local area.

☎ 0115 911 1662

✉ admin@selfhelp.org.uk

W selfhelp.org.uk

Local IAPT services

People can refer themselves directly to the following Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services and an assessment will be undertaken as to whether this service can meet your needs.

Trent PTS

☎ 0115 896 3160

W trentpts.co.uk/contact/nottingham/

Let's Talk Wellbeing

☎ 0115 956 0888

W nottinghamshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/nottingham-city-and-county-

Insight Healthcare

☎ 0300 555 5582

W insighthealthcare.org/our-services/talking-therapies/find-a-service/nottinghamshire/

Turning Point

☎ 0300 555 0456

W turning-point.co.uk/nottingham-city-talking-therapies.aspx



HELPLINES AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The National Rape Crisis helpline

Can be contacted between 12 noon – 2.30pm and 7 – 9.30pm any day of the year and also between 3 - 5.30pm on weekdays.

☎ 0808 802 9999

NAPAC

National advice line for the National Association for People Abused in Childhood.

☎ 0808 801 0331

✉ support@napac.org.uk

W napac.org.uk

NSPCC Helpline

Providing adult drug and alcohol treatment and recovery support services to individuals in Nottinghamshire (18+).

☎ 0808 800 5000

✉ help@nspcc.org.uk

W nspcc.org.uk

Childline

☎ 0800 11 11

W childline.org.uk

Samaritans

☎ 116123

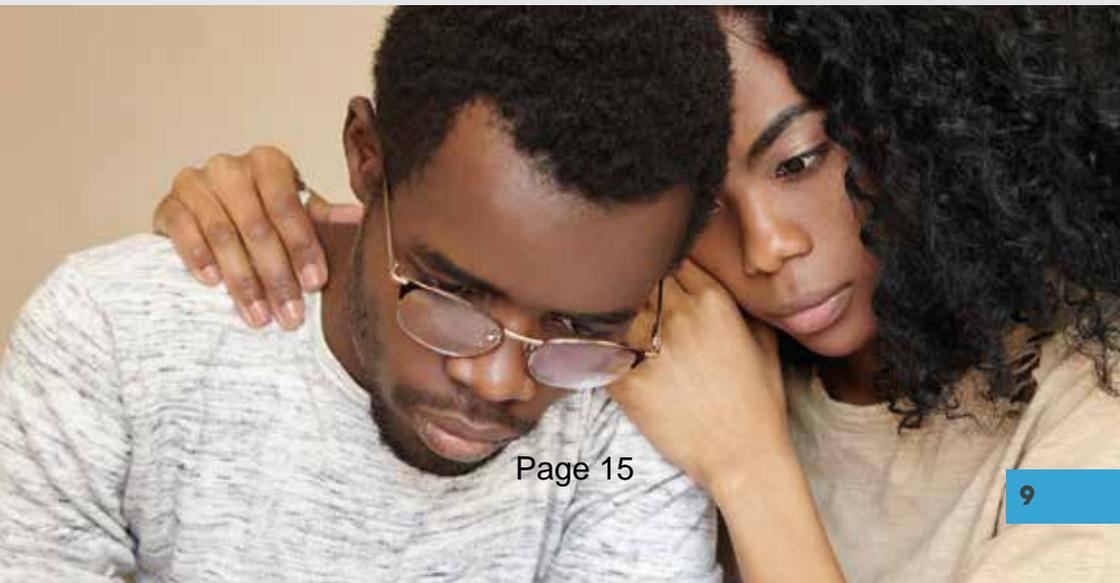
✉ jo@samaritans.org

W samaritans.org

Survivors UK

Survivors UK helps men who have been sexually abused (both childhood sexual abuse and adult sexual assault/rape) through web chat and text chat. See website for details of what services they offer nationally.

W www.survivorsuk.org



STATUTORY AGENCIES THAT YOU MAY WANT TO CONTACT

Nottingham City Children's
Social Care
(City residents only)

☎ 0115 915 0800

✉ childrens.services@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Nottinghamshire Multi Agency
Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
(County residents only)

☎ 0300 500 80 90

✉ mash.safeguarding@nottscgcsx.gov.uk

If you contact adult social care services the following will be considered:

- Any immediate risk to the citizen or from the alleged perpetrator and whether immediate intervention is needed from the Police, Health and / or Social Care
- Whether the victim/survivor needs an Adult Social Care Assessment
- The need to provide advice and guidance in relation to support services through consulting the Self Help UK database and advising of services
- Sharing of information with General Practitioners with consideration to Consent and Data Protection
- Referral to Nottingham City Council Children and Families Duty Point or Nottinghamshire County Council's MASH.

City Enquiries

☎ 0300 131 0300

A secure online referral can be made via:

✉ adult.contactteam@nottinghamcity.gcsx.gov.uk

County Enquiries

☎ 0300 500 8080

THE TRUTH PROJECT

The Truth Project was set up for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse to share their experiences in a supportive and confidential setting.

It's part of the [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse \(IICSA\)](#) which was set up in 2015 to investigate organisations and institutions that have failed to protect children from sexual abuse. We need to understand the past to help protect children now and in the future.

By sharing their experiences, victims and survivors make an important contribution to the work of the Inquiry and their experiences will feed into and influence our findings and recommendations.

For more information about sharing your experience:

 0800 917 1000

 truthproject.org.uk/i-will-be-heard



LOCAL INVESTIGATION

If you want to report to the police you can contact Nottinghamshire Police's Operation Equinox team which is investigating allegations of historical child abuse at a number of different former care facilities in Nottinghamshire.

If you believe you have any information which is relevant to this operation or you are the survivor of child sexual abuse and have not yet spoken to the police, please call on 101.

Information correct at time of publication (November 2018).

This leaflet has been produced in cooperation with a number of survivors of childhood sexual abuse and a number of different groups across the City and County.

