

Audit Committee – 26 June 2020

Title of paper:	Children’s Integrated Services Ofsted Focused Visit and Improvement Programme	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Michelle Roe, Executive Officer – People Directorate Michelle.roe@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
Recommendation(s):		
1	Audit Committee note and comment on the outcome of the Focused Visit.	
2	Audit Committee note and support the actions being undertaken to address the two Priority Actions, including the establishment of a Children’s Services Improvement Board, commitment to an improvement fund and the contribution of the wider council..	

1 Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 Ofsted is very clear that its methodology is focused on the experience of and outcomes for children and families. Achieving good outcomes for the most vulnerable children in our city is a benefit for their future but also for the future of our city, improving life chances and helping our most disadvantaged children to become happy, healthy and contributing in their adulthood too.

2 Background

- 2.1 In November 2018, Ofsted undertook an inspection of Nottingham City Council’s children’s services where Inspectors found that the service ‘Requires Improvement to be Good’. NCC acted on the findings and in response developed an improvement Action Plan which was led by the Director and Heads of Service.
- 2.2 In February 2020, Ofsted undertook a Focussed Visit to look specifically at the City Council’s arrangements for children in need and those subject to a child protection plan, with a focus on children at risk of neglect.
- 2.3 There is no inspection rating given during a Focussed Visit, but overall inspectors concluded that the experience of children in need of help and protection has deteriorated since the last inspection.
- 2.4 Given the issues they found in the service areas they looked at, Ofsted issued two Priority Actions:
- a) Address the systemic failures in social work practice to ensure that planning and intervention for children improve their experiences, and that new and emerging risks are identified and responded to.
 - b) Stabilise the workforce and address the significant shortfall in capacity to enable social workers and first line managers to respond effectively to children in need of help and protection.

2.5 In response to the findings of the Focussed Visit, an action plan was developed and shared with Ofsted in March this year. This report sets out progress to date on the key actions taken to address the identified Priority Actions.

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

3.1 Appendix detailing progress undertaken in relation to improvement.

4 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

4.1 Children's Services focused visit report (Nottingham City Council) – Ofsted 4 February 2020