

Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services

October 2014

Children and Adults Structure

Vulnerable Children and Families

Tim O'Neill, Director of Vulnerable Children and Families left the authority last month to take up the post of Director of People at Rutland County Council. Following Tim's departure Heads of Service in the Vulnerable Children and Families Directorate are being managed by Helen Blackman, Director of Children's Social Care on an interim basis until more permanent arrangements are finalised.

Children's Social Care

Tracey Nurse has been confirmed as substantive Head of Child Protection following an interview process and John Matravers has been appointed to the role of Acting Head of Service for Safeguarding Quality Assurance.

We have temporarily replaced the Director of Vulnerable Children and Families role with a Chief Social Worker role (similar to what we have done in Adults) to support the Director of Children's Social Care with driving practice improvements and assist with joint working. This will also allow the Director of Children's Social Care role to take the lead on Specialist/Targeted services (including YOT and Priority Families). Amy Weir has been temporarily appointed to this role on a 6 month basis whilst a review is carried out.

Education

Following difficulties with external recruitment to the Director of Education post we have decided to fill the role on a three-year, fixed term basis (following approval from the Appointments and Conditions of Service (ACOS) Committee). Pat and Sarah Fielding have been successfully appointed to this role on a job-share basis. Pat and Sarah have worked in the City since qualifying as teachers in 1987 and currently job share the Headship at Haydn Primary and Nursery School, Cantrell Primary and Nursery School and support Claremont Primary and Nursery School for two days each week as National Leaders of Education. Both Pat and Sarah are accredited School Improvement Partners, Professional Partners, National Leaders of Education and Ofsted.

Following the Operating Model changes, the Inclusion and Disability Services - led by Mirth Parker - is now part of the Schools and Learning Directorate (having moved from Vulnerable Children and Families. The service will become one of the responsibilities of the new Director of Education).

Recruitment

Recruitment to the roles of the three vacant Head of Service posts, Head of Extensive and Specialist Services, Head of Children in Care and Head of Safeguarding Quality Assurance is currently taking place.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Following the publication of an independent report which Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council commissioned to examine the widespread incidence of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), we have read and have taken on board recommendations made to ensure everything possible is being done to avoid anything like this happening anywhere else. We are working through the LSCB with partners across the city and the wider region to be wise to the dangers of CSE and to act if there are any concerns or dangers.

You will have seen in the local and national media over the past few months various stories about alleged historical abuse in children's homes. Although the homes are located in the city they were, during the majority of the period in question, under the control of Nottinghamshire County Council before Nottingham City Council was established. We have been and are continuing to work closely with the County Council and the Police to investigate the allegations. Some of these date back to the 1960s so the process of addressing all allegations and concerns thoroughly is complex. The Police and Crime Commissioners Office have now called for an independent review and we are working closely with the Police and the County Council to scope this.

Transforming our Services for Children and Young People with Special Needs

Following feedback from parents and carers we are transforming the way that we offer help and support to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. These changes, which include better joined up working and transition into Adult Services are in line with the government's new Children and Families Act.

Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans - Statements of Special Educational Needs (for under-16s) and Learning Difficulty Assessments (for over-16s) will be replaced by a single Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan from birth to age 25.

The Local Offer – We have launched a Local Offer website bringing together all the information on services that support children and young people with Special Educational Needs in one place.

Personal budgets - Some families with an EHC Plan will be able to hold a personal budget so they can choose services which are best for their family, with dedicated support workers to help with this.

Shared Lives

Following inspection, our Shared Lives Service has been confirmed as fully compliant with Care Quality Commission (CQC) requirements. Shared Lives offers accommodation and support within approved family homes to people aged 18 years and over who have a learning disability. Those who take up the service are placed in a safe, caring home environment if they need help caring for themselves and the placements can be long term, short term or for a few hours each week.

Breaking the Cycle

To prepare for the busy winter in our hospitals, our health and social care community are working together to tackle delays in the emergency department at the QMC. The aim is to improve capacity and processes and to 'break the cycle' of delays and missed A&E targets. Services have been involved in an intensive

trial, with staff concentrating on dealing with the patient flow through A&E and wards to eventual discharge.

Achievements

- Our Priority Families Programme has won a top award for their work helping young people from some of the city's most challenging families into work and training. We were named 'Best Employment and Equality Initiative' at the 'Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Awards'.
- We were commended in this month's 'Nottinghamshire in Focus' publication on the number of adoptions we have secured for our Children in Care since April this year. We have successfully secured permanent homes for 36 children and young people, a remarkable increase from 13 during the same period last year.
- Our Children's Social Care Duty Team has been shortlisted in the 'Social Worker of the Year Awards 2014' for the 'Team of the Year'. The awards are due to take place next month.