

## Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

### Purpose

To provide robust scrutiny of issues and services relevant to the wellbeing and safeguarding of children and young people, in the light of recommendations from the Council's Ofsted Inspection April 2014, and the Jay and Casey Reports (Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham). The work of the Committee should aim to drive and support services to find solutions to problems and/ or set aspirational targets and instill public confidence.

### Remit

- a) To set and manage a work programme to fulfil overview and scrutiny responsibilities in relation to children and young people to:
  - (i) provide an appropriate and robust level of challenge to those in authority and hold local decision-makers, including the Council's Executive, to account for their decisions, action and performance;
  - (ii) review policy and contribute to the development of new policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on Nottingham's children and young people;
  - (iii) explore any matters affecting Nottingham's children and young people;
  - (iv) make reports and recommendations to relevant local agencies in relation to the delivery of their functions, including the Council and its Executive, and monitor implementation of all accepted recommendations;
- b) to work with the other scrutiny committees, to support effective delivery of a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme;
- c) to consider referrals from partners and citizens to support effective delivery of a co-ordinated work programme;
- d) to invite, take account of and respond to the views of local people (including children and young people) about their concerns and the delivery of services in relation to children and young people;
- e) to be required to consider the following issues / topics when developing the work programme, though the Committee's scrutiny activity need not be limited to these matters:
  - (i) safeguarding;
  - (ii) Looked After Children;
  - (iii) vulnerable children and young people (eg in relation to disability, domestic violence, missing);
  - (iv) Child Sexual Exploitation;
  - (v) Early Intervention;
  - (vi) educational attainment;
  - (vii) commissioning of services for children and young people;
  - (viii) performance of services for children and young people;

- f) to consider potential risks to children and young people, how they are being managed and to report concerns as soon as possible to the appropriate individuals/ bodies if risk is identified;
- g) to monitor the progress made by, and effectiveness of the Council and its partners, in addressing the areas of concern and specific recommendations for actions made by Ofsted and any other relevant inspection/ assessment bodies;
- h) to have regard to the work of other committees/panels/boards, such as the Corporate Parenting Board and the Local Safeguarding Board, to avoid duplication, but to ensure that such bodies are held to account when appropriate;
- (i) to commission time-limited panels (no more than 1 panel at any one time) to carry out a review of a matter within its remit. Commissioning includes setting the remit, initial timescale and size of membership to meet the needs of the review to be carried out. Such review panels will be chaired by the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee;
- i) to co-opt people from outside the Council to sit on the Committee or any review panels it commission to support effective delivery of the work programme.

### Membership

The Committee has 9 members. Membership must not include members of the Executive Board. The Committee is politically balanced.

When the Committee plans to consider an education issue, the statutory education cooptees\* must be invited to be full and equal members of the Committee with voting rights for that specific item.

\*Church of England Diocese representative/Roman Catholic Diocese representative/Parent Governors representatives.

### Chairing

The Chair will be one of the Vice-Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is appointed by Full Council. The Vice-Chair will be appointed at the first meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee from the membership of the Committee.