

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**  
**30 September 2021**

**Children's Integrated Services Improvement**

**Report of the Head of Legal and Governance**

**1 Purpose**

1.1 To review progress in improving Children's Integrated Services.

**2 Action required**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) review the progress being made in improving Children's Services, in particular implementation of the action plan developed in response to previous Ofsted inspections and focussed visits;
- b) consider the outcome of the recent Ofsted focused visit and the response to those findings;
- c) seek assurance regarding ongoing and future work to address these issues; and
- d) consider next steps in the scrutiny process

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 Ofsted carried out an inspection of children's social services in November 2018 and the report was published in January 2019. The report noted that there were areas of good practice across the services and a range of services had improved since the previous full inspection in 2014. However, there were also areas where improvements were required to ensure that all children get the right support at the right time. Overall, the service was rated as 'requires improvement to be good'. The Committee has explored work relating to some of the areas identified in that inspection report.
- 3.2 In February 2020, Ofsted undertook a focussed visit to look specifically at Nottingham 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. Ofsted issued two priority actions as a result of their findings. An action plan was developed to address these priorities. Progress in improving Children's Integrated Services was reported to the Committee in July 2020 and March 2021. A further update on progress against these priority actions is attached to this report. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People will be attending the meeting to answer questions from the Committee about this.

- 3.3 In June 2021 Ofsted carried out a follow up focussed visit looking at the same elements of service. The report was published in August and is attached. No further priority actions or areas for improvement were identified, however a number of concerns were raised. Executive Board considered the findings of the Ofsted focussed visit at its meeting on 21 September. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People will be attending the meeting to answer questions about the findings of the focussed visit and how the Council is responding.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 'Children's Integrated Services Improvement Journey' report from the Corporate Director for People, Interim Director for Children's Integrated Services and Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People
- 4.2 Ofsted report 'Focused visit to Nottingham's children's services' August 2021

#### **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 Reports to and minutes of the meetings of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 30 July 2020 and 25 March 2021
- 6.2 'Ofsted Focussed Visit' report to Executive Board on 21 September 2021

#### **7 Wards affected**

- 7.1 All

#### **8 Contact information**

- 8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer  
Jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk