

**Statutory Officer's Report for the Nottingham City Health and Wellbeing Board
Corporate Director of People
24 November 2021**

SEND Local Area Inspection

On 1 November 2021, the Local Area Review of Nottingham's services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) was announced. The inspection ran from 8 to 12 November. Undertaken by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission, inspectors looked at how all partners in Nottingham effectively implemented the SEND Reforms legislation and how effectively the local area:

- identified children and young people with SEND;
- assessed and met the needs of children and young people with SEND;
- improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND; and
- led, managed and governed arrangements for SEND in the local area.

The inspection team:

- spoke to children, young people, parents and carers;
- looked at how agencies work together in partnership;
- met with groups of partners to get their views; and
- visited settings and providers and held virtual meetings.

The inspection leads to a published report that will give an assessment about how effective the local area is performing and identify areas for improvement. At the time of writing this report the inspection is still ongoing.

Holiday Activity Fund

This summer, more than 12,000 children took part in our Free Fun and Food programme funded by the Department for Education's Holiday Activity Fund. The Council was awarded £1.8 million through this fund to be spent on holiday activities and food for Free School Meal pupils at Easter, through the summer and at Christmas. Due to Covid-19, delivery at Easter was minimal so the real focus of the project so far has been on summer.

Funding was allocated through three key routes: Nottingham Forest Community Trust were funded to create 13 large holiday clubs around the city; Area Based Grant Leads were given funding to develop their own local holiday programmes; and there was an open bidding process for schools and community and voluntary sector organisations to bid.

Approximately 55 Nottingham-based providers delivered activities and food over four weeks this summer to more than 12,000 city children. An incredible range of activities was on offer and included rambling excursions around Nottingham's parks and in the Peak District, an around the world cook-a-long, hockey, cricket, beat boxing, collaging, dodgeball, visits to the universities, drama and a mini Olympic Games.

In addition to entertaining children this summer, food was also key to the project and children received a mixture of hot and cold food with food packs also going home to their families.

We received lots of positive feedback from parents and children and we are now planning for Christmas delivery and looking towards a long term plan if this funding is available again in the future.

Workforce Consultation on a Speech, Language and Communication Strategy for 0-5 year olds in the City

The Local Government Association 2019 Peer Challenge recommended a clear offer was developed for 0-5s in the City, including Speech, Language and Communication (SLC). Considerable work has taken place over the last two years, which has already seen the launch of the Balanced Systems Pathway, centralising resources in the city.

Another key recommendation was around the development of a SLC for 0-5 year olds and the Council is now consulting on this strategy, both with parents and carers and the early years workforce.

The Council is currently seeking the views of all professionals working with children and families aged 0-5 years in the city on a draft SLC Strategy to ultimately ensure that no child or family misses out on the support they might need and to ensure that all 0-5 year olds develop SLC skills to the best of their ability. The consultation sets out the vision the Council wants to achieve and how it proposes to achieve it and seeks professional views on how important some of these key aspects are in their role, with an opportunity to share more feedback on the Balanced System SLC Pathway, work with other agencies and the strategy overall.

We would very grateful if you could take the time to complete this survey and share with your teams and wider contacts, as appropriate. The survey can be accessed at <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/bocg2s> and will run until 30 November 2021.

In addition, if you work with parents and carers, please do also feel free to share the Parents/Carers Consultation, which can be accessed at <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/gxckx5> and will run until the same date.

Feedback from both consultations will be scheduled at the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2022, when we anticipate that the Strategy will be finalised, alongside a supporting Implementation Plan.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library Big Reading Challenge

The Council is once again taking on a challenge to raise more than £5,000 for the Imagination Library, which delivers a free book every month to children in Nottingham from birth to age five.

From Monday 22 to Friday 26 November 2021, City Councillors will join the Leader of the Council, Councillor David Mellen, to read to school classes and assemblies, nursery groups and library groups around the city, as well as visiting a few extra-special locations.

The Imagination Library helps parents and children to enjoy exploring books together. The scheme is proven to raise children's literacy levels and, by receiving these books, our children are more likely to be ready to start school when they turn five.

There are more than 5,600 Nottingham children registered, and we have seen over 3,000 children graduate from the Imagination Library scheme. In total, over 340,000 books have been delivered to the children of Nottingham so far. But the Council wants to do more.

You can donate at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/big-reading-challenge-2021> or by sharing news of the Big Reading Challenge 2021 with as many people as possible. For more information please email dolly9to5@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.

Adult Social Care

Work is continuing on our Adult Social Care Transformation plan; the Council will have additional social work assessment capacity in place from mid to late November to help reduce delays for assessments and strengths based reviews.

Pressures continue across the health and care system, and the Council is working closely with health colleagues to manage demands for social care support for hospital discharge. The Department for Health and Social Care has published the winter plan, and details on the workforce capacity fund. Work has commenced to develop plans to increase capacity over the winter period.

Catherine Underwood
Corporate Director for People
November 2021