



Statutory Officer's Report for the Nottingham City Health and Wellbeing Board Corporate Director of People 28 September 2022

Ofsted Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS)

An Ofsted inspection of the Council's Children's Services was carried out in July 2022. The inspection found that more work is needed to ensure that children and young people get the right care and support at the right time, while also acknowledging the strengths.

Regular inspections are carried out by Ofsted at all local authorities that provide support and care for children who are vulnerable or at risk. Nottingham's inspection took place from 4-22 July. The full report, published on 5 September, identified some key areas for improvement:

- a quicker response when children are first identified as being at-risk;
- more social workers to support children and young people;
- more places for children who need to come into care;
- greater support for people aged over 21 who leave care;
- more help for young people aged 16 and 17 who are homeless; and
- better monitoring of children who are absent from school.

Ofsted judged the Council's Children's Services to be 'Inadequate'. This is a lower rating than the previous 'Requires Improvement' judgment in 2019. Although more work is needed, the inspectors acknowledged that improvements had already been made in Children's Services. In particular, they found that:

- children are well-supported once they are allocated a social worker. Strong relationships are formed between the social worker and the families they help;
- a clear process is in place to intervene when a child's circumstances are not improving;
- children are matched for adoption much more quickly and siblings are often adopted together;
- foster carers provide consistent, good quality care;
- the emotional and mental health needs of children are being met;
- unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are well supported; and
- the Service works well with partners to provide the best outcomes for children and young people.

During the visit, inspectors noted that City Councillors and the Chief Executive remain committed to improving the quality of Children's Services, despite the financial challenges being faced by the Council. An action plan to address the areas for improvement is now being drawn up.

Child Friendly City – Nottingham

Nottingham has taken the first step on a journey working with children's charity UNICEF UK towards international recognition as a Child Friendly City. As the Council takes the first steps on the UNICEF UK programme, it aims to better understand how much people know about supporting children and young people's rights.

An online survey about children's rights has been set up to support Nottingham's Child Friendly City journey and enable an understanding of the collective knowledge and opinions on children's rights. The survey is open to everyone, even if they do not directly work with children and young people, as everyone has a part to play in making Nottingham a Child Friendly City. Filling in this survey is a simple way to support this.

The Council is also seeking the views and opinions of children and young people, and Board members who with them are welcome to share the links below:

- [Children's Survey \(for children aged 5 to 11 years\)](#)
- [Young People's Survey \(for young people aged 11 to 17 years\)](#)

For more information, please see the Child Friendly Nottingham website:
<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ChildFriendlyNottingham>

Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) – Summer 2022

This summer, the Council has funded 60 community, voluntary and education partners to deliver 91 Holiday Clubs across the city. To date, more than 5,000 children have attended clubs, taken part in multi-sport and enriching activities and been fed. Highlights from the summer have been:

- over 4,000 meals have been supplied daily for children in receipt of free school meals;
- 'Cook at Home' activities were provided for families, helping to extend the food reach of the programme to the wider family;
- sustained engagement from Police Beat Teams across provision, helping to break down barriers between children and Police;
- inspirational special educational needs and disabilities work based at Oakfield School, Rosehill School and Nethergate Academy across the summer;
- the first holiday club at the Ukrainian Centre, where children made works of art to remind them of home;
- graffiti work demonstrating the impact of the HAF on the walls of Robin Hood Primary School; and
- Warburton's donated 7,000 loaves of bread throughout the programme which were distributed by Nottingham Forest Community.

Catherine Underwood
Corporate Director for People