



## Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

### Corporate Director of People

November 2022

## Children's Integrated Services and Education

### 1. New short film launched to raise awareness of the need for foster carers

Last month a new short film called 'Childhood' was launched to raise awareness of the urgent need for more foster carer.

It follows the journey of Sophie and her younger brother Charlie, whose needs are not being met at home, as they try to cope with their situation being taken through the foster care process, so that they can attend school and fully enjoy their hobbies and interests as any child should.

I am proud that we have been able to take part in this national collaboration between 56 local authorities from across England, which highlights the importance of the work that foster carers do each and every day. It shows the need we are all facing for more people to come forward to become foster carers themselves, so that we can help more children such as Sophie and Charlie. You can find out more about the campaign [here](#).

Please [watch the film here on our YouTube channel](#) and share it with friends, family and colleagues to help us find loving and nurturing homes for those children in desperate need of them. If you are interested in learning more about fostering or taking the next step towards fostering a child yourself, please get in contact with us by visiting our website <http://www.fosteringnottingham.com/> or calling 0115 876 3335.

### 2. Christmas Stars Appeal 2022

As we start to approach the festive season, we are preparing to launch our Christmas Stars appeal.

Over the years we have collected and helped Santa distribute literally thousands of gifts to our vulnerable children and young people.

#### *How you can help*

We know 2022 has been yet another challenging year for everyone and the cost of living is putting a squeeze on people's finances. It can be a particularly difficult and confusing time for many children, especially at this time of year.

With many staff hybrid working and away from the office, we will again be utilising the **'Wishlist' scheme via Amazon to help you pick a gift** and have it delivered safely to Santa's distribution depot (Nottingham branch).

If you can spare a little for a gift for a vulnerable child, we would be very grateful and give a smile to a child who might not otherwise get a gift.

Please follow the link below, which will open in your Amazon account and save it to 'your friend's Wish List':

### **Christmas Stars Appeal 2022**

There is a range of toys, gifts, clothes, and craft ideas to choose from, with a range of prices. Simply add a gift (or two if you can afford it) to your basket and when you go to checkout select the delivery address 'Christmas Stars Appeal's Gift Registry address' in the other address section.

Where possible please place your orders for delivery before **Friday 16 December** to ensure the gifts get to Santa ready for the big day. Also please note that Amazon provide many items with next day delivery, so if you can only order Sunday to Thursday to ensure an elf is available to receive your gift, as the grotto is not staffed at weekends.

Thank you for your support, it really makes a huge difference.

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### **3. NEW SERVICE: Healthy Little Minds (parent infant relationship team)**

We are delighted to announce the launch of a new Parent Infant Relationship (PIR) service funded by Small Steps Big Changes (SSBC), in partnership with Nottingham City Council (Early Help and CAMHS). After consultation with parents this new service has been named **Healthy Little Minds**.

As we know, the first 1001 days in a baby's life are critical; their brain grows and develops at an astonishing rate during this time. A baby's brain is more open to, and dependent on, outside influence than it ever will be again, highlighting the importance of the parent infant relationship.

Too many new babies experience complex relationship difficulties with their primary carers and without specialised support these unresolved problems can affect future outcomes. It is estimated that at least 1 in 3 of children in Nottingham City will experience attachment difficulties with their parent or caregiver; highlighting the need for a service locally to provide support for these families.

Support for infant mental health and the parent/infant relationship has not been widely available for families, with approximately 42% of CAMHS services unable to offer specific interventions for children under the age of 2. The Healthy Little Minds team will work working closely with our existing Targeted CAMHS service to bridge the gap in support for this age group.

**From the 1<sup>st</sup> September referrals will be open to Healthy Little Minds, who will provide specialised support and services to families from 28 weeks of pregnancy to 2 years, who reside in in the SSBC wards of Aspley, Bulwell, Hyson Green & Arboretum, and St Ann's.**

The team will deliver specialist evidence-based services including therapeutic activities in group or one to one sessions.

Families will be empowered through their involvement in different levels of support, online, home visits and attending groups. Support will vary from signposting, getting help, getting more intensive support and guided referrals into other services. The team will also offer professional consultation and training.

Referrals will be received into Nottingham City Council Targeted CAMHS Single Point of Access (SPA) via email [CYPBEHM@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:CYPBEHM@nottinghamcity.gov.uk) **OR** via ASKLion website and SSBC website – self-referrals are also welcome and encouraged.

If you are unsure whether to make a referral, please contact the team to discuss on:  
**0115 876 4000**

#### **4. School Swimming Award**

The national Swim England awards took place on Thursday 28 September in Solihull. The Council's School Swimming team was shortlisted for School Swimming Lesson Provider of the Year 2022 and I'm delighted to announce that, for the second year running, they were announced the winner.

Thank you also to all the schools that nominated the service for the award ([see more](#)).

Here's what Swim England reported on the evening - You can read the full article here: [Nottingham City Council and GR Swimming School win school swimming awards](#)

#### **5. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse**

On Thursday 20 October, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) published its final report on all of the investigations into institutional abuse across a wide range of organisations.

This report follows:

- 325 days of public hearings with 725 witnesses
- 2,457,543 pages of evidence being processed
- The publication of the interim report, 19 investigation reports, 24 research reports, eight engagement reports
- Eight seminars
- More than 6,000 experiences shared with the Truth Project
- 87 recommendations for change made

One of the areas under investigation was Nottinghamshire and Nottingham. Within the council and with partners, we have undertaken a great deal of work since the Inquiry took place. As well as addressing the inquiry's two specific recommendations for Nottingham, we have carried out some important improvements to the way we protect children in our care and support survivors of abuse in the past.

We have worked with other agencies to strengthen safeguarding children partnership arrangements, focused on listening to children and adult survivors and equipping people in a whole range of organisations with the skills to recognise and respond to them when they raise concerns of abuse.

Survivors told us that services weren't meeting their particular needs, often waiting too long for support that didn't adequately address their traumatic experiences. We have worked with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and other partners to commission specialist sexual violence support services which survivors themselves helped to shape. This provides specialist therapeutic counselling, practical support and access to mental health services which survivors tell us is a great improvement on what was previously in place.

In terms of the Inquiry's recommendations for us, these focused on looking at dealing with harmful sexual behaviour between children and assessing the potential risk posed by current, and former, foster carers.

We commissioned the NSPCC to undertake an independent review into how we dealt with this issue, which recognised some local strengths but also helped us to identify areas for improvement.

This includes recognising it in younger children and working with nurseries and schools, for example, to ensure people are equipped to respond. Among a range of other improvements, we have also established a multi-agency forum which meets on a monthly basis. It ensures that children and young people displaying or suffering from harmful sexual behaviour are responded to in a way that meets their needs.

We also undertook a review jointly with Nottinghamshire County Council to go back over the past decade and look at any concerns with all foster carers we have placed a child with. We have updated procedures to reflect the learning from the inquiry and to ensure robust oversight.

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## **Adult Social Care**

### **Transformation update:**

#### Workforce and Organisational Development Strategy

The strategy will be ratified this month and priorities and leads will be agreed. A governance board is to be established to oversee and quality assure delivery of action plans.

#### Strengths Based Reviews and Occupational Therapy Prevention Led Project

The allocation of cases to an external provider to review existing care and support packages continues. The project performance report shows improved outcomes and delivery of financial savings.

#### Development of options for more Independent Living Project

Since the last period, an additional 9 moves have taken place for both people with mental ill health and people with learning disabilities; a total of 37 moves through the project into high quality supported living accommodation.

#### Increase Independence for Older People Project

Themes from the citizens' journey analysis have been established and planning for the staff workshops has begun. The themes from the citizens' journey analysis will be included in the staff workshops that are being organised for four Adult Social Care teams.

#### Expanding Shared Lives

Co-production and engagement sessions are underway with Shared Lives citizens, carers and social work teams to capture learning, gaps, best practice and further opportunities to support more citizens into placements.

The first performance report has been produced, capturing new Shared Lives placements for 2022/23 and associated cost avoidance savings.

#### Nottingham Pathway Strengths Based Approach

A project performance report showing the impact of the interventions on the lives of citizens along with the associated financial savings is being developed.

Fairer Charging for Care Services

Practice guidance and staff communications have been submitted to the Adult Leadership Team for approval ahead of the launch of Charging for Care and Support Policy and implementation of Fairer Charging changes.

Catherine Underwood  
Corporate Director for People  
(November 2022)