

**Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**  
**28 September 2023**

**Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) and their Families**

**Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To scrutinise progress in improving support and services to children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities and their families, with a particular focus on communication, engagement and co-production with parents and families to improve outcomes for those children, young people and their families.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:
- a) if it wishes to make any comments or recommendations regarding the approach to, or progress in improving SEND provision; and
  - b) to consider its approach to any future scrutiny, including focus and timescales.

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 In November 2021 Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out an inspection of how well the City carried out its statutory duties in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The inspection did not identify any significant weaknesses that required a Written Statement of Action to be issued but, in addition to areas of strength, it did identify some areas for development. In January 2022, the Committee spoke to representatives from the Council and the then Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group about how they were responding to those findings.
- 3.2 Based on the evidence available to it, the Committee welcomed the largely positive findings of the inspection and the planning taking place to address areas identified for improvement. The Committee felt that the theme relating to effective communication and engagement with parents was particularly important and decide to review whether, 18 months later, communication, engagement and co-production with parents and families of children and young people with SEND has improved.
- 3.3 The Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Schools and the Director for Education have submitted a paper (attached) summarising the outcome of the Local Area Inspection, legislative and inspection

changes that have happened since then including the introduction of a new inspection framework and priorities going forward. They will be attending the meeting to discuss this with the Committee.

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

- 4.1 'Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Update' from Corporate Director for People, Director of Education and Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education

#### **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 Outcome letter from the Joint Area SEND Inspection in Nottingham 2021
- 6.2 Report to and minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 27 January 2022
- 6.3 Children and Families Act 2014
- 6.4 SEND Code of Practice 2015

#### **7 Wards affected**

- 7.1 All

#### **8 Contact information**

- 8.1 Jane Garrard, Senior Governance Officer  
[jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:jane.garrard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)