

Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board Corporate Director of Children and Education Services (DCS) September 2024

Corporate Director of Children and Education Services

Following Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People) departure from the Council in June 2024, the council made the decision to separate People's Services into two separate departments;

- Children and Education Services
- Adult Social Care and Health

Ailsa Barr was appointed as the interim Corporate Director for Children and Education Services and the statutory DCS. Ailsa's substantive post is Director of Children's Integrated Services.

Following an extensive recruitment process, a new permanent Corporate Director has been appointed to the substantive role.

Jill Colbert is due to join Nottingham City Council on 23rd September.

Since 2018, Jill has been the Chief Executive of Together for Children, the operating company that delivers all children's services for Sunderland City Council. Within her Chief Executive position Jill has held the statutory role of Director of Children's Services (DCS) for the City Council.

Over the past six years Jill has led Sunderland through a sustained improvement journey to make the leap from Ofsted 'inadequate' to 'outstanding' in a complex environment with limited resources. As Chief Executive for Together for Children she has also held direct accountability for the related enabling services such as legal, finance, HR, commissioning, data systems and customer services.

Ailsa will continue in the interim role until Jill arrives and will work closely with her on a handover.

Ofsted – Monitoring Visits



During April, Children's Services received their fourth Ofsted Monitoring Visit. The focus of this visit was on Children in Care Planning and Achieving Permanence. The letter from this visit has now been [published](#).

Over summer, the service received its fifth Monitoring Visit which focussed on the Front Door. This includes the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Duty Teams.

The 'front door' in a social care context is the arrangement that local authorities have in place to respond to an initial contact from a professional or member of the public who is concerned about a child. At the front door, local authorities provide advice and make decisions about how they will act on information about the health, well-being and safety of children. The front door, therefore, is where professionals gather information and make decisions about which pathways to follow for different contacts and referrals. This may lead to an assessment by children's social care, early help or a response from universal services.

Two Inspectors were on-site for two days. The feedback that we get through our monitoring visits is important to help us assess our progress in relation to our service improvement and transformation work. Understanding ourselves well, knowing what we have achieved, as well as knowing what we still need to do are both critical elements of preparing for these visits.

The letter from this visit has now been [published](#).

Sector Led Improvement Partners

To support us with our programme of improvement, the Department for Education have engaged Lincolnshire County Council as our Sector Led Improvement Partner.

Lincolnshire Children's Services are ambitious and future focused with a proven track record of working with partner authorities for the successful implementation of transformative change.

The team have been visiting Nottingham City Council to undertake reviews and diagnostics of our services. This will support us with our improvement journey.

Partners come together to help make Nottingham a Child Friendly City



Over summer, we hosted over 70 partners at an event to look at ways we can make Nottingham better for children and make the city more friendly and opening to children.

The afternoon was attended partners across the city, including Nottingham College, the Police, Universities, health workers, youth workers, cultural organisations, sports clubs, and some local businesses.

For more information, please visit the [Child Friendly City Nottingham website](#).