

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

Corporate Director of Children and Education Services

As outlined in the last Statutory Officer update, I have been appointed as the new permanent Corporate Director for Children and Education Services (and statutory DCS).

Prior to joining Nottingham, I had been the Chief Executive of Together for Children, (the operating company that delivers all children's services for Sunderland City Council) since 2018. Throughout my six years with Sunderland, I led the service through a sustained improvement journey to make the leap from Ofsted 'inadequate' to 'outstanding' in a complex environment with limited resources.

New Heads of Service

Will Hose has been appointed as the new Head of Service for Children in Care/Care Leavers.

Mark Joshi has been appointed as the new Head of Special Education Needs.

Ofsted – Monitoring Visits

During November, we received our sixth Ofsted Monitoring Visit. The focus of the two-day visit was on Children in Care Planning and Achieving Permanence.

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.

New Secondary School Opening

The brand-new Bluecoat Trent Academy secondary school opened in September, constructed on the former site of Clarendon College, on Mansfield Road (Pelham Avenue).

This new 1,200 place secondary school in the heart of the city, will help to meet the growing need for secondary places in Nottingham. It first opened in September 2021, initially in a temporary home on the site of the Bluecoat Aspley Academy, while the new build was being constructed.

Bluecoat Trent Academy is operated by the Archway Learning Trust, who have a strong track record of providing a high standard of education for pupils aged 3 to 19, and a broad and inclusive curriculum through their five other high performing Nottingham schools. We value the contribution they make to Nottingham's educational offer, working in collaboration with the Council and on closing the gap for disadvantaged pupils.

From the very outset, Nottingham City Council's Education colleagues in Pupil Place Planning, worked in collaboration with the Archway Learning Trust, to support the bid to the Department for Education for a new secondary school. This successful partnership working has continued throughout. The bid was underpinned by the Council investing £3.25m of Basic Need Grant funding from Central Government towards the purchase of the site for the new school.

Securing this fantastic new £30m state of the art school located in the heart of Nottingham, is tremendous investment for the city and the communities the school serves. The commitment to raising aspirations and improving life chances of our young people is fantastic.

A new year 7 intake of 240 pupils have joined the school, along with all 660 Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils who have moved over from the temporary Aspley site.

The new school provides classrooms and specialist facilities for all subjects, including 9 science labs, a large sports hall, gym/dance studio, drama studio, DT workshops, lecture theatre, kitchen and dining facilities, landscaped grounds and outdoor recreation space including 2 multi-use games pitches.

Jill Colbert

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