

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Recommendation/Action Tracker 2024/2025

Dates/Deadlines	Recommendation/Action	Progress/Response
<p>Date of Meeting: 10 July 2024</p> <p>Date recommendations were issued: 12 July 2024</p> <p>Deadline for response: 12 September 2024</p>	<p><u>Priority Education Investment</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That all possible partnership work is done to grow inclusion activity, and the development of schools as welcoming environments to all needs (including through the effective training of teachers and the resourcing of their professional development), to overcome barriers to school attendance in a proactive way that is directly informed by the voice of children and their families. (R) 2) That the Council maximises its engagement with all schools to seek to avoid the need for their issuing of a fine for non-attendance wherever possible. (R) 3) That there is close partnership engagement with the provider organisations that deliver mental healthcare services to ensure that early intervention activity connects children and young people to the support that they need to break down potential barriers to school attendance. (R) 4) That further information is provided on the delivery planning underway for the implementation of the Early Help Strategy (particularly on how there will be effective integration with other support services to reduce barriers to attendance, including for children attending schools outside the City Council area). (A) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) An Inclusion Strategy is being developed, in partnership with schools. We have appointed an officer to lead on Inclusion (starting in January 2025), who will work with schools to improve their inclusion practice and offer. Schools will have a named lead to develop partnership work. 2) We do not encourage schools to issue non-attendance fines. We work closely with them to encourage preventative and proactive work. <p>As outlined within the Early Help Strategy – Family Hubs will increase opportunities for more intervention work around school attendance. Strategies will be developed with parents to help them to understand the importance/benefits of school attendance.</p> <p>We have also invested in a mental health intervention for schools to refer children to if they are not attending school due to their anxiety and this should reduce further the need for penalty notice requests.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) CIS are commissioned by the ICB to deliver the Targeted CAMHS Service, which currently sits under our Head of Service for EH. The contract is due to expire in March 2025, we are currently waiting to hear if this will be extended for a further 2 years. We are working closely with the ICB to progress this. Targeted CAMHS is a successful early intervention service, which support children and young people in Nottingham City from birth. <p>Within Early help we have our mental health support team (MHST), who have almost 100 percent coverage of city</p>

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		<p>schools (practitioners have a day per week in each school). We work 1:1 with children who experience low mood and anxiety, and also work school wide through the delivery of psychoeducation for children and staff. The offer is enhanced with cognitive behaviour therapists, systemic family practitioners and Low intensity practitioners who all work at an early intervention level.</p> <p>We have recently started a pilot project (funded through schools DSG budget as part of a collaborative project with the education directorate) a targeted mental health attendance team of 9 specialist practitioners to work city wide with children who experience mental health barriers to attending school. This is a new project that has just started, referrals are taken from schools as part of the new DfE section-19 guidance. Practitioners work with the child specifically on anxiety related barriers to attendance, and also work across the ‘system’ (family and school) to support reintegration into a school setting. The aim of this team is to a) improve attendance and b) remove mental health barriers to school attendance.</p> <p>There is also early intervention support from the Behavioural and Emotional Health Team, which is the earliest point of support for children and young people.</p> <p>4) The case for Change has been submitted for consideration, once this is agreed there is a plan to work with our workforce, partners and children, young people and their families; ensure the model is fully integrated and meets local needs, whilst being sustainable for the future. Information has been shared with all head teacher and partners at the Early Help Partnership event and with the workforce.</p>
<p>Date of Meeting: 10 July 2024</p>	<p><u>Early Years Entitlement and Wraparound Childcare Provision</u></p>	

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<p>Date recommendations were issued: 12 July 2024</p> <p>Deadline for response: 12 September 2024</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That a 'One Council' approach is used to establish a solid childcare and early education infrastructure that is accessible to everyone in the city, with proactive work carried out to engage with wider Council teams and foster collaborative working to ensure a comprehensive childcare offer. (R) 2) That work is done to ensure that the needs of individual communities within wards are fully understood, to ensure that everyone does have access to childcare and that there is a full equity of outcomes for families across the city. (R) 3) That further information is provided on the outcomes of the 2023 Childcare Sufficiency Audit. (A) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) This is being progressed by Nick Lee, Director of Education Services and Sarah Nardone, Interim Director of Children's Integrated Services. 2) In order for this to be achieved, an integrated policy of work, that includes DWP, Director of Education Services and Interim Director of Children's Integrated Services with the support of the 3rd sector, is being progressed. 3) The 2023 childcare sufficiency audit can be found at: https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/earlyyears/section-pages/welcome-to-nottingham-city-early-years/childcare-sufficiency-assessment
<p>Date of Meeting: 11 September 2024</p> <p>Date recommendations were issued: 16 September 2024</p> <p>Deadline for response: 16 November 2024</p>	<p><u>Children's Services Improvement</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Recommend that the Council considers how it can expediate its initial assessment of children. (R) 2) To request further information on the most common reasons identified for child in need and child protection plans and why children are coming into contact with children's services. (A) 3) To request that the Committee is kept updated on the ICB savings plans and the impact this might have on children's services. (A) 4) To request further information and assurance on the timeliness and consistency of time between the section 47 and child protection conference. (A) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The service continues to utilise performance data and quality assurance information from audit activity to monitor timeliness regarding assessments. 2) Further information was provided to the Committee via email. 3) There is no further information on this at present. 4) Our timeliness regarding initial child protection conferences is 81.5%. Our 23/24 outturn was 73%. The last data (22/23) regarding the performance of our statistical neighbours in relation to this measure was that the statistical neighbour average was 78.5%. 5) This can be shared and discussed, alongside the plans for the future of the Early Help System in Nottingham City.

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	5) That the Early Help Strategy be considered by the Committee as part of its work programme for 2025/26. (A)	
<p>Date of Meeting: 11 September 2024</p> <p>Date recommendations were issued: 16 September 2024</p> <p>Deadline for response: 16 November 2024</p>	<p><u>2024/25 budget savings for Children’s Services and Education</u></p> <p>1) Recommends that work is done to understand the needs and type of children coming into the Council’s care and whether the Transformation Programme is still meeting that need. (R)</p> <p>2) To request further information on the young futures hub and how they will work. (A)</p> <p>3) To request further information from property and estates on how disposed of children’s services buildings will be used going forward. (A)</p> <p>4) To request further information on how the Council is preparing for funding streams such as the Family Hubs Programme. (A)</p>	<p>1) The transformation programme has been effective in supporting us in reducing the numbers of children in care. We continue to have less children in care than we did in April 2023. We know that the current placement market is a challenge and we are working to ensure that all children have up to date assessments of their needs, this will support us to understand in greater detail the needs and demographics of children and young people in our care more robustly.</p> <p>2) There is no further detailed information from central government on this proposal yet.</p> <p>3) property and estates have advised that if an asset is surplus to the Council’s operational/delivery requirements they will be sold on the open market with no restrictions. This is done for the Council to achieve best consideration. In relevant cases, the Council may apply an overage clause to capture the value of any future development, and this is applied on a case by case basis. Surplus assets are sold as per the Council’s adopted disposals policy.</p> <p>4) We are waiting for further government announcements on this. In the meantime we are working to consider this as part of the Early Help System changes.</p>
<p>Date of Meeting: 13 November 2024</p>	<p><u>Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2023/24</u></p>	

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<p>Date recommendations were issued: 15 November 2024</p> <p>Deadline for response: 03 January 2025</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To request further information, including statistics, on child exploitation within the City, and to request copies of the audits on Exploitation and Mental Health carried out through joint authority multi-agency working during 2023/24. (A) 2. To request that the Committee receive a copy of the newsletter informing agencies of the work that the Partnership does. (A) 3. To write to the NCSCP's Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) to express the Committee's dissatisfaction that they did not send representatives to the meeting. (A) 4. To write to the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire Police to urge their organisation to make more of an equitable contribution towards the funding of the vital work of the NCSCP. (A) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After discussion with the chair of the meeting, it has been agreed that detailed information will be provided regarding the plans to support children and young people in Nottingham City who are at risk of exploitation as part of the response to the social care reforms and the new Family Help offer, which is currently under consultation. This is scheduled to be discussed at CYP Scrutiny in May 2025. There is also a follow up on exploitation scheduled in the forward plan for November 2025. <p>In relation to the request for copies of the multi-agency audits, these are tools which hold child level data and therefore would not be shared with the committee. The overview report should provide members with sufficient detail to provide assurance of the response to exploitation and the plans in place to develop this further, to ensure that all children and young people in Nottingham City are receiving the right help at the right time.</p> <p>Thank you for your ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of children and young people in Nottingham City. We value your oversight and look forward to discussing these important matters further at the upcoming meetings.</p> 2. The Committee is now part of the distribution list for the newsletter and so can be kept updated on the work of the Partnership. 3. Letter sent to Assistant Chief Constable Rob Griffin (as the Partnership's Chair) outlining the Committee's disappointment that no members of the Partnership's Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) were present at the meeting. The letter was raised at the SLG meeting on 13/12/24. 4. Letter sent to Chief Constable Kate Meynell and Assistant Chief Constable Rob Griffin outlining the Committee's concern with Nottinghamshire Police' contributions to the funding of the
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		Partnership. Response requested as to why their contribution was just 9.1% when funding should be fairly and equitably split between all three partners. The letter was raised at the SLG meeting on 13/12/24.
<p>Date of Meeting: 13 November 2024</p> <p>Date recommendations were issued: 15 November 2024</p> <p>Deadline for response: 03 January 2025</p>	<p><u>Alternative Education Provisions for Permanently Excluded Children</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To request a report on what the Council is doing to prevent exclusions, and for comparative figures including trends between the schools within the City and national comparisons to be provided. (A) 2. To request a report on what work is being done to ensure Alternative Education Provisions within the City are of good standard. (A) 3. For the Chief Executives of the major Multi-Academy Trusts within the City to be invited to a future meeting to discuss the Committee's concerns in relation to permanent exclusions. (A) 	<p>This is ongoing work which the Committee will consider at its meeting in March 2025. There is a scoping meeting scheduled in January 2025 to discuss the next steps.</p>
<p>Date of Meeting: 13 November 2024</p> <p>Date recommendations were issued: 15 November 2024</p> <p>Deadline for response: 03 January 2025</p>	<p><u>Provisions for Children without a School Place / Fair Access</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To request that further information is provided on the formula used to determine the provision for school places within the city. 2) To recommend that provision for wellbeing is included in the revised Fair Access Protocol. 	<p>1) Further information on the formula was emailed to Members on 20/12/24.</p>