

Title of paper:	Nottingham City Council Safeguarding Update	
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board	
Date:	25 th March 2015	
Relevant Director:	Helen Blackman, Director for Vulnerable Children and Families & Children's Social Care	Wards affected: All
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Helen Blackman helen.blackman@nottinghamcity.gov.uk Tel: 0115 8764710	
Other officers who have provided input:	Sophie Russell, Executive Officer, Elise Ashworth, Insight and Analysis, Andy Shone Performance Officer	
Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) objectives(s):		
Stronger safeguarding – With a key focus on ensuring that there are high standards of safeguarding across all agencies and that the Partnership takes a pro-active approach to the elimination of domestic violence.		Y
Healthy living – With a key focus on increasing the proportion of children and young people who have a healthy weight.		
Reducing substance misuse – Partnership work to lessen the impact on children of parental drug and alcohol misuse and to reduce drug and alcohol misuse amongst children and young people.		
Raising attainment – Raising the attainment levels and increasing engagement in employment, education and training.		
Improving attendance – Improving rates of attendance at both Primary and Secondary as a key foundation of improving outcomes.		
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
This report is presented to update the Children's Partnership Board in respect of the progress and activity underway to deliver the CYPP priority for safeguarding.		
Recommendations:		
1	For Children's Partnership Board to note the contents of this report.	
2	Board members to ensure that their services are aware of CSE risks and that they have shared the briefing available on local services.	

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

1.1 The **overview of performance** in relation to safeguarding measures year to date (14/15) is as below:

- a) Demand for social care services remains high locally with more referrals per 10,000 than our statistical neighbour average and our 13/14 outturn. Year to date figures stand at 800.6 per 10,000 against a statistical neighbour outturn (13/14) of 723.2 and local outturn of 794.6.

September 2014 saw a particular surge in demand with a 28% increase in referrals made compared to the previous year.

- b) In 2014/15 there was a national change in the assessment process which has combined initial and core assessments into one Children's Assessment to ensure that we have a more continuous and consistent approach to assessing children's needs. There are therefore no statistical neighbour comparisons against this measure. Local performance in Quarter 1 (2014/15) was 88.7% completed within 45 days. This was maintained in Quarter 2 and has dipped slightly by the end of Quarter 3 to 80%. We have a local target of 85%.
- c) At the end of January 2015 we had 520 children subject to a child protection (CP) plan. This equates to a rate per 10,000 of 81.4. There has been a rise since April 2014 in the number of children subject to a CP plan which reflects an increase seen in many local authorities nationally.
- d) At the end of January 2015 we had 583 children in care. This equates to a rate per 10,000 of 91.3 which is in line with statistical neighbour comparator rate of 92.9.
- e) By the end of Quarter 3 94.6% of children and young people had participated with their care plan, either by attending the conference / review meetings and speaking for themselves; attending the meeting and participating via an advocate; or sharing their information with a third party prior to the meeting. This is a slight reduction from our end of year position (13/14) of 96%.
- f) At the end of January 2015 the percentage of children in care with an up to date health assessment was 85.9%. This is a significant improvement on our end of year position (13/14) of 71.8%.
- g) At the end of Quarter 3 99% of child protection cases were reviewed within required timescales. This is an improvement from our end of year position (13/14) of 96%.
- h) At the end of Jan 2015 96.9% of children in care cases were reviewed within required timescales. This is a slight reduction from our end of year position (13/14) of 98%.

1.2 Key developments during 2014/15

- a) In line with the CYPP priority to offer earlier support to more families the Children's Social Care and Vulnerable Children and Families directorates have been integrated under one Director. These services are now working with circa 4,000 children, providing early support and multi-agency safeguarding work where necessary. There is further work planned to develop more collaborative approaches across localities so that children and families will experience more consistent support.
- b) To support the work with Children in Need (CiN) we have a dedicated lead manager who is ensuring the cases are allocated to a social worker as quickly as possible and are has created a review monitoring system. Given the high demand for social work services this is an ongoing challenge and priority.
- c) Work to embed a consistent strengths-based approach across services, underpinned by the Signs of Safety model, is ongoing and has been further developed by implementing local champions and joining the national programme. Many families have reported that their understanding of services and work undertaken with them is clearer using this model.

- d) The Domestic Abuse Referral Team (DART) continues to provide an early response to individuals and professionals following incidents of family-based violence and abuse. For the 12 months ending 31st January 2015 DART were notified of 4,817 incidents, enabling them to provide additional support to families and professionals affected by domestic abuse. A coordinator post has been established to ensure that schools receive timely notification when children have been exposed to domestic violence.
- e) The Priority Families programme continues to identify and offer an effective service to our most complex local families in need of additional support. As an early adopter we are now entering Phase 2 of the national programme which expands the criteria for access to the Priority Families methodology. This will benefit 3,870 families in the next 5 years.
- f) There has been significant national interest in Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) following publication of a number of national reviews. The Nottingham City Safeguarding Children's Board (NCSCB) chair provided an update in December 2014 and since that time Nottingham City Council has been working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to consider the effectiveness of our local arrangements and contribute to the development of a new national framework. In December 2014 representatives from Children's Social Care, the NSPCC and NCSCB met with local voluntary sector partners to discuss CSE and the experience of children and young adults in the City. This work is ongoing.
- g) We have established a pilot to test revised arrangements for the Duty service. This pilot recognises that an effective service has to respond to peaks in demand, provide timely and professional advice to partners, offer a clear and helpful response to citizens and effectively protect children from harm. The team has been redesigned to ensure that experienced social workers will be available at the earliest point to offer advice directly. The effectiveness of the pilot arrangements will be reviewed in May 2015.
- h) Nottingham City Council have created 3 additional Independent Reviewing Officer posts to ensure that children receive a good service and 10 additional social work posts to improve the timeliness of allocations. Recruiting social workers to permanent posts is once again becoming a widespread challenge. Locally an innovative "grow your own" approach to training newly qualified social workers intensively in the Duty service resulted in national recognition, with the team being finalists for Social Work Team of the Year.

1.3 Next Steps

- a) The Family Support Strategy and Pathway are currently under review with a refresh planned to address learning from our Ofsted inspection, Serious Case Reviews and emerging ways of working. We will consult fully with partners as this work progresses. To support this work we will be updating the relevant chapters of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- b) We will be responding to emerging national learning in relation to CSE and will ensure that best practice is evident in our local arrangements. Priorities within this work will include therapeutic support for children, currently provided in a project with the NSPCC and through CAMHS and supporting work with the Police who are focussed on bringing perpetrators to justice.
- c) We have published a comprehensive briefing about local services and action to protect children from CSE. This has been widely circulated and would helpfully be cascaded across partner organisations.

- d) We are working to develop new more collaborative models of delivery for Nottingham City Council services that support our most vulnerable children and families.
- e) Following advice and recommendations from a recent inquest work has been undertaken by the police and emergency duty team to develop clearer and more collaborative out of hour's arrangements. This will be reviewed in three months.
- f) Nottingham City Council is working to implement a new IT system to support more effective case recording for Children's and Adults services. The current timescales for this work will see migration onto the new system from April 2016. There will be a discussion with partners throughout implementation to understand how these developments can support improved information sharing and electronic Common Assessment Framework (e-CAF) arrangements between partner agencies.

2. RISKS

- High levels of demand can have an adverse impact on the timeliness of assessments for children. National incidents and local serious case reviews (SCRs) can create surges in demand. There are two current SCRs underway.
- Effective work to protect children from CSE would result in the early identification of children who may be vulnerable to being groomed by dangerous individuals. Vulnerable children could include those who are neglected, isolated, perhaps bullied, reported missing at times and able to access the internet too freely, as just a few of the key risks. More proactive approaches to identify and work with children who may be at risk of CSE are likely to increase the number of children identified locally.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as this report is presented as an update only.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications as this report is presented as an update only.

5. CLIENT GROUP

(Groups of children, young people or carers who are being discussed in the report)

There is the potential for all children, young people and carers to be impacted by the developments and next steps detailed in this report.

6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

This report is presented as an update only. All projects and developments reported have considered equality issues.

7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

Safeguarding Strategic Objectives.

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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