

Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

Corporate Director of Children and Adult Services

July 2015

Recruitment Update

Interviews took place last month for our Children and Adults Safeguarding Board Independent Chairs. As I mentioned in my last update our current chair Paul Burnett is leaving us in September after three years of working with the Local Authority. Following feedback from our Adults Peer Review and Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Care Leavers & Children Looked After last year, we decided to have separate chairs for each Board. Congratulations to Chris Cook (Children's) and Malcolm Dillon (Adults) who were appointed to these roles.

Interviews have also taken place for our Head of Early Help and Head of Targeted Family Support. These roles are key in making a vital difference to our most vulnerable children and their families. Congratulations to Aileen Wilson (Early Help) and Tajinder Madahar (Targeted Family Support) who were appointed to these roles.

DCLG Priority Families Visit

On 30th June our Priority Families team were visited by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The aim of the visit was to get an overview of how the programme is progressing within the wider context of public sector working.

Nottingham was congratulated for achieving 100% of targets for phase 1 six months early, for qualifying as an 'early starter area' for phase 2 of the programme and achieving the start up target of engaging the first 194 families under the new expanded criteria. The City has a sustainable whole system, whole workforce change approach using existing partnership staff and resources in a more integrated way around families; using Priority Families resource to train, transform, then test and maintain from savings.

Nottingham's approach was commended as good practice, particularly in respect of the way of working, workforce development and employment support.

A Bill is going forward whereby Troubled Families partnership data returns are likely to become a statutory requirement. This could formalise reporting against national indicators and outcomes measures. Government is currently modelling use of the Troubled Families approach across adult only families and adult individuals, in particular around support for Mental Health, substance misuse, employment and homelessness.

Distinctive, valued, personal - Why social care matters: the next 5 years

On 17th March 2015 the ADSS released a policy paper titled "Distinctive, Valued, Personal – Why Social Care Matters: The Next Five Years".

The paper sets out the ADASS vision for Adult Social Care in the context of further integration between health and social care. The paper highlights the distinctive contribution of social care and why it is important in responding to the changing needs of our population.

ADASS priorities for the next 5 years:

- For **central government to ensure that social care funding is protected and aligned with the NHS**, including making provision for the £4.3billion gap in social care funding by 2020 alongside the £8billion gap in health service funding over the same period.
- For all parties to focus relentlessly on ensuring that the **level of quality is sufficient and that no services cause harm**.
- To ensure that new social and health care delivery models prioritise the need for:
 - a. **Good information and advice** to enable us to look after ourselves and each other, and to get the right help at the right time as our needs change.
 - b. The recognition that we are all interdependent and we need to **build supportive relationships and resilient communities**.
 - c. Services that help us get **back on track after illness** or **support disabled people to be independent**.
 - d. When we do need care and support, we need services that are **personalised, of good quality, that address our mental, physical, and other forms of wellbeing and are much better joined-up** around our individual needs and those of our carers. Personal budgets are central to this approach.
- Heightening the efforts all parties to build a **sustainable workforce** to deliver this model.
- To strengthen local accountability and innovation by **developing local Health and Wellbeing Boards** as the places where partners bring together and lead commissioning, market shaping, resource allocation, and service delivery.

[Click here](#) to download the full report.

Safe Families for Children (SFFC)

In April I attended an event to look at SFFC, which is a new approach we're planning to implement in July as a way to improve our capacity to support more vulnerable children and families in the city.

Working closely with the SFFC charity we'll link families in crisis to local volunteers who've been specifically trained to offer help and support. Volunteers can act as 'host families' (who take in children for temporary stays, typically for a couple of days) or 'befrienders' who work closely alongside families facing difficulties. There are also other types of volunteers known as 'resource friends' who donate useful items such as a cot or children's clothing that might be needed by vulnerable families.

By helping families in crisis, we hope to support more families to stay together and ultimately reduce the number of children going into care.

The SFFC approach has been really successful in parts of America and it's been successfully piloted in the North East of England for the last two years. Supported by funding from the Department for Education it's now being rolled-out in five more regions during 2015 including the East Midlands. We've taken a lead role in helping to establish the East Midlands 'hub'. The event last week was attended by representatives from most of the other Councils in the East Midlands region to help decide which Councils – other than us – will be implementing SFFC this year.

MJ Awards

In June we were successful in scooping two gongs at the prestigious National MJ Awards: Delivering Better Outcomes and Children's Services.

Our Schools Team were awarded the 'Delivering Better Outcomes' category, for their campaign to increase attendance. We were commended for our creativeness and innovation through our work with Capital FM to offer six schools with the highest attendance the chance of attending a VIP concert with pop group Neon Jungle. This required great collaborative working from different areas of the organisation and saw us achieve a 2% average increase in attendance and an extra 5,661 school days.

The Children's Services aware went to the Business Support Team for their efforts in ensuring young people leaving care have fair and good employment opportunities. The team created self-funding apprenticeships for care leavers through commercial opportunities, whilst boosting employment in the local community. To date all care leavers have secured permanent employment at the end of their apprenticeships.

We were also delighted to learn that we had been highly commended in the Innovation in Social Care category for our smaller scale residential homes and semi-independent provision helping children in care to transition to adulthood and independence.

I'm really proud of everyone involved in the initiatives and would like to thank teams for their continuing hard work. It's great to be recognised in this way.

Ofsted Success

A great big well done to all the staff, students and governors of Ellis Guilford School in Basford; they've been awarded a Good rating by Ofsted in their latest inspection. Two years ago they had serious weaknesses but the team have turned this around and now they are on their way to Outstanding. Click [here](#) to read more about Ellis Guilford's journey to Good.

We are also delighted that Bulwell Academy, which was one of the six city secondary schools and academies placed in Special Measures in November 2013, was inspected by Ofsted in May and has now been judged to be a Good school. The inspection found the school to be Good across all of the inspection criteria. It is particularly pleasing that Ofsted praised the Council's Education Directorate for the excellence of its support to the Academy in relation to SEN and Attendance.

Child Sexual Exploitation

We are continuing to promote the work that we are doing to tackle and raise the profile of CSE as a Council and across our partnership. As part of this, last month myself, Glen O'Connell and Helen Chamberlain attended the Crime and Drugs Partnership Board to update the Board on developments nationally and locally in response to the findings of recent inquiries, serious case reviews and trials of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in other local authority areas.

More support and information is available on the Nottingham City Council website here:

<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/article/23726/Are-you-worried-about-a-childs-well-being> or simply Google 'child abuse Nottingham' and this page will appear as a top result.

Karlsruhe Visit

As you may be aware, I am Nottingham City Council's strategic lead for our German links, and last month I made my first visit to our twinned city, Karlsruhe!

This year it's Karlsruhe's 300th birthday and we were invited to join in the celebrations. I was there with the Lord Mayor, Cllr Jackie Morris, as well as Ian Curryer, Candida Brudenell and Chris Henning, Director of Economic Development. We attended a celebration in the Town Hall with other twinned cities, visited construction sites, planted a tree in the Nottingham Garden and enjoyed the big 300th birthday celebrations at the castle.

Along with the civic delegation members of the Nottingham/Karlsruhe Staff Exchange Programme were there for the celebrations. This year 41 people took part, the highest number since the exchange began almost 25 years ago. The exchange group all completed at least half a day's work placement whilst they were there, which included meetings with social care workers and visits to nurseries and schools. I'm looking forward to welcoming a group from Karlsruhe City Council next year to show them what Nottingham has to offer.

Alison Michalska
Corporate Director – Children and Adults
Nottingham City Council
(July 2015)