

## **Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board**

### **Corporate Director of Children's Services**

**September 2015**

#### **Director of Adult Social Services Role**

Following approval at Appointments and Conditions of Service (ACOS) Committee this month I'm delighted to be able to confirm that Helen Jones, Director for Adult Social Care, will be fulfilling the statutory role of Director of Adult Social Services (DASS). Each local council with responsibility for social care is required to appoint a DASS, a post with strategic responsibility and accountability for the planning, commissioning and delivery of social services for all adult client groups and with a leading role in delivering the wider vision for social care and combating social exclusion.

Helen already holds the DASS position on the City Health and Wellbeing Board on my behalf and will now move into this role formally. I will continue to attend the Safeguarding Adults Board and will still have oversight of the work of the Adult Social Care Directorate in my role as Corporate Director for Children and Adult. Helen will begin providing you with updates from Adults Services.

#### **Safeguarding Board Chairs**

Following Paul Burnett's departure last month, our new Chairs have begun in their new roles. As I mentioned in my last update we decided to have separate chairs for each board. Chris Cook is our Children's Chair and has been Independent Chair in Lincolnshire for 6 years. Malcolm Dillon is our Adults Chair and has worked in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire throughout his career, including as assistant director for children and then adults at Nottinghamshire County Council. Both Chairs had their first meeting this month.

#### **Children's Services Peer Review**

During August 2015 we were involved in a regional peer review. Colleagues from Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derby City reviewed our thresholds and decision making in Social Care and Early Help.

Peer Reviewers acknowledged that the City has been through a lot of change in the last few years but highlighted that the ambition for change is good and that the authority is on the right trajectory. They felt that the right children were in care and on plans, and that bringing all services into one directorate was the right move. We need to do more work around integrated working across the department, embedding Signs of Safety across all parts of our work and managing the workflow at our front door.

Peer Reviewers were impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of practitioners they met during their review.

#### **GCSE Results Update**

Secondary school examination results this summer present a mixed picture. Following the marked improvements in attendance and attitudes to learning secured by our schools over the last two years, we know that the quality of

teaching and learning is much better than it was. My school improvement staff regularly report this when they visit schools and Ofsted have commented too on the good teaching and learning they are seeing now in the City. But it takes time for good teaching and learning to impact on GCSE results. I think what we are seeing now is the early stages of that impact. Some secondary schools have had marked increases this summer. Nottingham Girls' Academy, Fernwood Academy and Djanogly City Academy have all recorded huge increases in their students' English achievement and more modest rises have been secured elsewhere. Outcomes in mathematics continue to lag behind those for English. This is why improving achievement in mathematics is a focus of the Education Improvement Board. A handful of our academies have reported unexpected drops in their performance. This is to be expected at the early stage of development some of them are at, having been created during the current academic year. Similar turbulence in the data has been reported nationally with traditionally high performing secondary schools across the country unexpectedly dropping by 20% or more. I will continue to look into this when the first national GCSE benchmarks become available in early October and we have a clearer understanding of how the City has performed in comparison to national averages.

### **Sharp Team**

I am delighted to report that the SHARP (Self-Harm Awareness & Resource Project) team have been successful in their bid to provide the Self-Harm Pathway commissioned by the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) for the next 3 years.

SHARP has been running successfully for 18 months, and during this time has trained over 900 front line professionals from Health, Education and Social Care to intervene and manage young people who present with self-harm and suicidal behaviours. 13 of our City secondary schools receive support from SHARP through monthly clinics, and all City Secondary schools have adopted the team's School Self-Harm Guidance document. Parents and carers are also able to access advice and support.

### **Project Evolution Update**

Work is underway to map out how both the Children's and Adults' workforce will use the Liquid Logic system and plan for other improvements we can make by the use of a new case management system. The project is involving a great mix of practitioners, business support, managers and the performance team to ensure the new system is configured to meet the needs of our citizens and services.

### **Information Sharing**

Information Sharing between agencies is always a challenge, mainly due to data protection. However we have recently signed an Information Sharing Protocol with Phyllis Brackenbury at Nottingham Citycare which will greatly assist with this.

Alison Michalska  
Corporate Director of Children's Services  
Nottingham City Council  
(September 2015)