



Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

Corporate Director of Children's Services

November 2015

Structure Update

Following the Chief Executive's Review and subsequent revised headline Council structure chart, the Early Intervention Directorate has been re-named as the Strategy and Commissioning Directorate.

Adoption Reform

The legislation contained in the Schools and Adoption Bill, means that councils can be required to combine their adoption functions within the next 2 years, the legislation aims to build on recent adoption reforms by "streamlining" the adoption matching process and increasing the number of potential adopters for every child. There are over 180 agencies across the country recruiting and matching adopters for 5000 children per year, and the majority of agencies still operate on a very small scale. A bid has been submitted to the Department for Education by the East Midlands Adoption Consortium of which Nottingham City Council is a member to obtain funding to examine options. Department for Education have decided that the bid fell in to the 'scope and define' category. Department for Education have assigned a delivery partner to work with the East Midlands Adoption Consortium. They have appointed Spring Consortium (this includes Deloitte, Mutual Ventures and the Innovation Unit) to carry out this work, with the East Midlands Adoption Consortium.

East Midlands Adoption Consortium alongside three voluntary adoption agencies who work in the region will develop a full project plan and financial profile. The financial profile needs to be then submitted to the Department for Education to consider. This must be submitted by 1 December, decisions on funding proposals will be made following this submission.

Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The Serious Crime Act 2015 introduced a new duty on teachers, social workers and healthcare professionals to report to the police known cases of female genital mutilation involving victims aged under 18.

This duty comes into force on 31 October 2015. Read the guidance: '[Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation: procedural information](#)'.

Neglect Pilot

Nottingham City Council has recently been successful in our bid to pilot the N.S.P.C.C's Graded Care Profile version 2. This is a pilot to aid the way we assess and work with neglect, the pilot will be rolled out next year. The N.S.P.C.C have been working to improve identification of neglect by conducting a national evaluation of the Graded Care Profile, a tool designed to provide an objective measure of the care of children. Originally developed by Dr Srivastava, the Graded Care Profile has been used to aid in the assessment of neglect since 1997. It gives a snapshot of the quality of care delivered to a child, considering commitment and effort shown by the carer. More information about the graded profile tool can be found [here](#).

Ofsted Inspection results for our Internal Residential Children's Homes.

In April 2015 the DFE introduced new Regulations and Quality Standards for children's homes which raised the expectations for the standards of care which children and young people should expect to receive when living in a children's home. Our internal Children's homes provide support and care for some of our most vulnerable and complex children and young people with challenging needs in the City.

Children and Young Peoples abilities and individual stage of development will determine their starting point when they arrive at the children's home and the homes may need to support them through a complex and extended period of transition before they are able to positively engage and develop. This should not limit the home's ambitions for each child. The requirements within the Regulations and quality Standards are applied in the context of each child's individual needs. We aim to provide each child with the right placement at the right time, and for residential child care to be a positive and beneficial choice for the children and young people living in our children's homes.

The new Regulations and Quality Standards set out the aspirational and positive outcomes that we expect homes to achieve. They also set out the underpinning requirements that homes must meet in order to achieve those overarching outcomes.

Since April 2015 all 7 of our children's homes including our short breaks unit have been inspected under the new Standards and Regulations and all have been awarded Good or Outstanding judgments from Ofsted. Throughout the inspections particular attention has been given to the health and wellbeing of children and young people who live in our children's homes and short breaks unit and the following observations and comments have been made by Ofsted which have also been published on the Ofsted website:

With regards to our long term home and short breaks Unit for Children and Young People with complex disabilities the following statements have been made by ofsted:

Young people's safety and welfare is a top priority and staff understand that disabled children are particularly vulnerable in residential care.

*Young people are fully respected for their own attributes and personality,
Care delivered is very person centred and individualised.*

Young people make good progress in a number of areas including education and behaviour.

*Staff monitor young people's health and emotional wellbeing very effectively.
There is a high level of support which enables people to explore their feelings and emotions.*

This home is not just a short break for young people; it positively effects their life in many ways, particularly with the overall wellbeing, behaviour, safety and confidence.

Young people and their families receive the help they need to keep their families together.

*Staff are kind, caring and extremely inspirational in their approach. They are highly creative, go the extra mile and do this because they genuinely want to.
Their practice is so good that it warrants sharing with the wider sector.*

With regards to our short term and long term children's homes for children and young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties Ofsted have made the following statements:

Relationship with family and friends are particularly well considered by staff. They ensure that young people receive as much support as possible to develop positive relationships for their future.

Young people achieve their full potential in education and learn about their capabilities and interests.

Education has a very high profile and young people's progress is extremely good, from their standing point.

Young people's confidence and self-esteem vastly improves because there is a very positive approach from the staff in all aspects of care.

Staff work extremely hard to forge positive and trusting relationships with young people. As a result, young people start to talk to staff about their problems and accept help.

Young people receive a high level of support and readily accept staff help and support. As a result, they make good progress in a number of areas such as their education and safety.

Young people have aspirations for the future and all have goals to work towards their chosen vocation. This prepares them well for when they leave care.

Improving Placements for our Looked After Children

As a result of the Children in Care Placements, Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy, published in April 2014, a procurement process was undertaken to commission for a number of residential beds. The aim of this was to ensure quality local provision; value for money and partnership working in achieving positive outcomes for children in care. Following a full tender process, the contract was awarded to G4S (Homes2Inspire and implemented from April 2015. These beds will be considered for all residential requests that can't be accommodated within Nottingham City Council internal provision.

Our principles to achieve the best for children and young people

A number of principles for placement matching have been agreed with Social Care, which will inform the placement finding process, as follows:

- We aim to place children in Nottingham City Council internal provision (fostering / residential / semi independence) before looking for an external placement with a private provider.
- We aim to place children in foster placements rather than residential units wherever possible and appropriate
- We aim to place children within 20 miles of Nottingham City centre wherever possible and appropriate
- We aim to place children in provision that is rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board procedures and guidance (NCSCB)

The [Safeguarding Board procedures and practice guidance](#) are continually updated to reflect changes in legislation. Any changes are highlighted on a [helpful summary page](#).

I wanted to draw particular attention to the Prevent guidance. From July 2015, the Counter - Terrorism and Security Act "places a duty on local authorities and

childcare, education and other children's services providers ... to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism ("the Prevent duty"). Since the publication of the [Prevent Strategy](#), there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism. There have been attempts to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

Keeping children safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as safeguarding children from other risks. Children should be protected from messages of all violent extremism including, but not restricted to, those linked to extreme Islamist ideology, or to Far Right / Neo Nazi / White Supremacist ideology, Irish Nationalist and Loyalist paramilitary groups, and extremist Animal Rights movements.

The duty has also placed a responsibility for local authorities to ensure Channel panels are in place. Panels assess the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. There is a single Panel for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City supported by the Police Prevent Team. Schools and colleges are listed in the Act as partners of the panel.

Any practitioner identifying concerns about the child or young person should report them to the identified lead person within their organisation and/or line manager, who will discuss these concerns with the police Prevent Team. The Police Prevent Team is best contacted via Prevent@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk who will then discuss with you whether a formal referral is required.

Safeguarding in Partnership

We recently held a very successful event to strengthen links with uniform and faith groups across the City. These organisations provide a valuable service to some of our children and young people and we are eager to build a relationship between these organisations and our Early Help, Youth and Play, Safeguarding and Family Support Services. The key theme was to offer help, training and guidance for children and young people in our City. The organisations in attendance included: God's Vineyard Church, Radford Evangelical Free Church, Ministry of Restoration, Bilborough Youth Network, Hope Church, Wollaton Youth Café, The Congregation of Yahweh, Ambleside Primary School, Chasewood Baptist Church, St Andrew's with Castle Gate United Reformed Church, Ravensworth Road Methodist Church, Springs of Life International Christian Centre, Church@Community, Trent Vineyard, Heart Church, Harvest Army Church, Aspley Community Toy Library, County Youth Arts, St Edwards Primary, People's Church, 9th Nottingham Girls Brigade and 14th Nottingham Boys Brigade.

The event was hosted by Councillor Mellen, and we delivered presentations on key safeguarding issues which organisations could benefit from our support with. Clive Chambers, Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance talked about the importance of understanding child protection and the need to be alert to signs and indicators when working with children and young people. Helen Blackman then gave a presentation on the work the City is doing in keeping children and young people safe from Child Sexual Exploitation. There have been several high profile cases on this recently and a real focus in the national media. We've been working very hard across the Children and Adults Department and with our

partners to ensure that we have a robust and co-ordinated response to this issue. These organisations will be able to add another dimension to this partnership to protect young people from harm and exploitation.

Emma Draycott and Rebecca Green from the SHARP Team presented the excellent work they have been involved in over the last 18 months, and shared the details of key organisations in Nottingham that work with young people who present with self-harm and suicidal behaviours.

Our Play and Youth specialist colleagues Manjit Sahota, Jean Case and Jacquie Thomas then invited the attendees to identify where they run their activities on three locality maps, in order for our Play and Youth Teams to make better links with these organisations.

The feedback from the event was incredibly positive, with all those who submitted evaluation forms stating that they would like another event like this. Some groups also wanted more time to network with other organisations and access to resources and training in Safeguarding. We will act on this feedback with bigger event planned for March next year and we have already started linking these groups to training opportunities.

Lord McNally Visit to the YOT

On 15th September 2015 Nottingham's Youth Offending Team received a visit from Lord McNally, Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, at the invitation of our Police and Crime Commissioner, Paddy Tipping. Colleagues gave a range of presentations, highlighting the multi-agency nature of the Service as well as some of the creative approaches to achieving our overarching aim of reducing offending. These included the collaborative work done with Police and Social Care colleagues to reduce the criminalisation of children in care, embedding a restorative approach by working towards the Restorative Service Quality Mark, and ensuring we intervene early to tackle harmful sexual behaviour and support the work being done in Nottingham to tackle CSE. We also demonstrated the YOT's contribution to Nottingham's key priorities and vision as an 'Early Intervention' city through the Targeted Support Workers' innovative and varied work with those at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Lord McNally was particularly impressed by the passion and commitment of our workforce and the close working links with relevant partners.

Visit from Denmark's Ministry of Social Affairs

Nottingham's renown as 'Early Intervention City' was celebrated recently with a visit from Denmark's Ministry of Social Affairs to Broxtowe Children's Centre. The visit, which was organised by Deloitte Denmark, was the second in a two day whistle stop tour. Nottingham was chosen because we're "internationally known as the home of early intervention." Our visitors were able to experience the range of services available to children, young people and their families/carers aged 0-19 years within the Aspley and Bilborough communities.

Children's Centres

To make more efficient use of council buildings that deliver services to children under 5, we have been exploring whether we could work smarter with schools based on the same site as children's centres. This would not involve closing any children's centres but schools would take over the day-to-day running while children's centre activities and services would in part move, where necessary, to other places nearby, such as libraries and community centres. We will retain some direct delivery at every site.

How it will work?

Much of the change is being phased in from September 2015. Of the 18 Children's Centres, 11 are located on school sites. All 11 schools were offered the opportunity to take over the running and costs of the sites to maximise the usage of the building and alleviate space issues to offer additional places to meet the current higher demand for school and nursery places.

Work is progressing with 8 of the centres (as highlighted in green below) and is planned for a further 3.

Children's Centre	Linked school	Proposed Use	Additional community venues
Bulwell Forest	Cantrell Primary	Additional classroom space	Bulwell Children's Centre, Bulwell Riverside
Bestwood Top Valley	Westglade School	Additional 3 year old places	Rise Park church, Southglade Library, Southglade Access Centre
Basford	Whitemoor Academy	Additional classroom space	Basford Library, St Aidens Baptist Church, Brambles
Bilborough	Glenbrook	No change to centre	
Radford	Southwold	For additional 3 and 4 year olds places	Mellers School, Nottingham Nursery
Dunkirk	Dunkirk Primary	Additional 3 year old places	Dunkirk School
Sherwood	Seely	Still under discussion for 2016	
St Ann's North	Walter Halls	The school to create a 'Family Centre' and will still house Children's Centre activities.	St Anns Valley Centre, St Anns Play Centre, Emanuel Church
St Ann's South	Huntingdon	Additional classroom space for 30 children. A community/family room created for Children's Centre activities.	St Anns Valley Centre, St Anns Play Centre
Wollaton	Fernwood	A nursery is being created. There is space for continued Children's Centre delivery.	Middleton School Wollaton Vale Community Centre
Clifton	Dovecote	Still under discussion for 2016	

Alison Michalska
Corporate Director of Children's Services
Nottingham City Council
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