



Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

Corporate Director of Children's Services

July 2016

Successful Recruitment for Director of Public Health

I am pleased to inform you that Alison Challenger has been appointed to the role of Director of Public Health, following an external recruitment process. Alison is delighted to be joining us on a permanent basis having been in the interim position for some time, and is looking forward to progressing the Public Health work streams for the City. Congratulations Alison!

Alan Wood's Review into the role that local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) play in protecting and safeguarding children

In May 2016 Alan Wood's published his report into the review of LSCB's. The review sets out recommendations for making local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) more effective. LSCBs are responsible for improving the overall wellbeing of children in their local-authority area. They include representatives from children's services, police, district councils and NHS trusts.

Our Safeguarding Children's Board will be considering the implications of the review in the Autumn

You can access the full report [here](#). You can also view the Government's response to Alan's report [here](#).

Sir Martin Narey's Review of Children's Residential Care

In October 2015 the Prime Minister told the House of Commons that he and the Secretary of State for Education had commissioned Sir Martin Narey to undertake a review of children's residential care in England.

Sir Martin published his report this month and it helpfully goes a long way to dispel the negative myths about residential care and is clear that it is the placement of choice for many children and young people. He identifies 34 recommendations which, he believes, will deliver significant improvement to amongst other things, the commissioning and costs residential. I welcome Sir Martin's thoughtful report, in which he recognises the generally good quality of care provided by many children's homes across the country and some of the outstanding practice he has seen whilst undertaking his independent review.

I am delighted that 100% of our children's homes in Nottingham City are rated by Ofsted as Good or Outstanding - compared to 70% nationally.

You can access the full report [here](#)

Putting Children First – DfE’s vision for excellent children’s social care

Earlier this month the Department for Education published their vision for excellent Children’s Social Care. The paper sets out the government’s reform programme for children’s social care in England over the next 5 years. It builds on a previous policy paper ‘Children’s Social Care Reform: A vision for change’. A full response will be prepared by ADCS of behalf of the sector and we will need to consider the challenges and opportunities that the Government’s plans presents for us in Nottingham.

You can access the full report [here](#)

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Earlier in the year, I alerted you to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) was established as a statutory inquiry on 12 March 2015 to consider the growing evidence of institutional failures to protect children from child sexual abuse, and to make recommendations to ensure the best possible protection for children in the future. The Inquiry, which is led by Hon. Dame Lowell Goddard, is covering England and Wales and is independent of the government. The focus of the Inquiry will be on institutional failures and the experiences of victims and survivors will be central to the work of the Inquiry.

The Inquiry, known as The Goddard Inquiry, has identified 13 investigations that it will pursue and in November it was announced that one of these would focus on children in the care of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council. A significant number of allegations of historical abuse in children’s homes, previously operated by Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City councils and other organisations, have been made, dating back to the 1940s. The allegations relate to a range of abuse including physical and sexual abuse.

Nottinghamshire Police established Operation Equinox as an overarching investigation for the individual historical abuse operations which have been running since 2011. Nottingham City Council has an identified Duty Team Manager who is Single Point of Contact for the work and continues to review the resources needed to respond to the required demand. A multi-agency Strategic Management Group was established in 2014 to provide oversight and management of the parallel processes of the criminal and civil proceedings related to the allegations of historical abuse.

The IICSA initially wrote to both Councils in January 2016 requesting a variety of current and historical policies, procedures, guidance and investigation reports. In February 2016 I met with the solicitors from the inquiry to further define the scope of the investigation. They have since written to us again requesting more documents to enable them to shape their investigation. I anticipate that further requests will be made as the Inquiry moves forward and will keep you informed about future developments.

More detailed briefings on how the Inquiry will work have recently been held for staff who worked within Children’s Social Care, especially those who work or worked in Residential Care for the period covered. If you would like more

information on historical abuse or the Inquiry please visit Nottingham City Council's [website](#) or the Inquiry [website](#).

Action to improve school attendance is working!

New statistics show our collective hard work to drive up school attendance is working in Nottingham.

Overall absence has fallen over the last six academic years in Nottingham, from 7.2% in 2009/10 to 4.9% in 2014/15. New attendance statistics for the 2015 autumn term have been published by the Department of Education and show pupil absence continues to improve in the City, with the number of children missing lessons down from 4.6% in Autumn Term 2014 to in 4.3% Autumn Term 2015. This equates to over 7,000 extra days!

This is great news – and is testament to the hard work based on a strategy of working with both schools and academies on a range of measures, such as tough fines for parents of those who don't attend, while rewarding those with good attendance.

You can read the full story here: <http://www.mynottinghamnews.com/six-years-of-improved-attendance-in-nottingham/>

It follows successful truancy patrols with colleagues in Community Protection to ensure children are in school. Truancy 'hotspots' across the city were targeted by the council's Education Welfare Service and Community Protection Officers for a day in May. Any children found outside of school were challenged and their details taken for checking later. If truant, the pupils were taken back to school or their home address. A total of 45 children were stopped in the sweep. You can read more about the truancy sweeps here: <http://bit.ly/1XwnivQ>

Adults Liquidlogic and ContrOCC go live

The work to prepare for the move to Liquidlogic and ContrOCC systems in August is progressing well and currently on track to roll the system out to the Adults Directorate on 1st August. With only a few weeks to go until the go live, detailed planning is underway to move the data from CareFirst and Castle into the Liquidlogic system. Team Managers in the Adults Directorate are also working on plans that will cover the period of time where we are changing over from CareFirst and Castle to the Liquidlogic system.

The Childrens Liquidlogic Social Care, Early Help and ContrOCC systems will be implemented across children's services at the end of November / early December. Training will be rolled out to workers from September through to the end of November.

Alison Michalska
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Nottingham City Council
(July 2016)