

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

21 March 2017

Ofsted Pilot Inspection of Children's Services

(23/02/17-03/02/17)



Cllr David Mellen (Portfolio Holder – Early Years and Early Intervention)
Helen Blackman (Director – Children's Integrated Services)
Sophie Russell (Head of Children's Strategy & Improvement)



Nottingham
City Council

Findings

Inspectors highlighted that:

'There is strong political and corporate support for children's services in Nottingham City and this ensures that children's needs are prioritised. The chief executive, the Director of Children's Services and the lead member for children's services have a clear vision, which has resulted in an effective plan to improve services for children and families. Significant progress has been achieved from the Single Inspection Framework inspection in 2014 when Nottingham City was judged to require improvement to be good.'

In the pilot inspection framework judgements are received for:

- The impact of leaders on practice with children and families
- The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection
- The experiences and progress of children looked after and care leavers and achieving permanence
- Overall effectiveness



Key areas of positive feedback

- Creation of One Directorate was a catalyst for our improvements
- Regional peer review and challenge well used
- Investment in recruitment of a permanent workforce – becoming an ‘employer of choice’.
- Nottingham City Council is an environment where good and outstanding practice can flourish
- The Council has invested heavily in integrated model for effective partnership working
- Diversity of community is well understood
- Voice of the child is a real strength
- Access to Early Help services results in risks being minimised and welfare improving
- Integrated Locality hubs offer accessible, responsive and effective forum to support multi-agency services



Key areas of positive feedback

- Children's assessments are consistently good which lead to meaningful indicative plans
- Support for disabled children is good with tailored support
- Multi Systemic Therapy/Multi Systemic Therapy Child Abuse and Neglect and Edge of Care Hub are examples of creative use of resources - reducing number of Children in Care
- Social Workers know their children well
- Children live with carers who are ambitious and proud for them
- Children's emotional needs are considered and children are supported by wrap-around services like CAMHS and Targeted Support Team
- Education outcomes are improving
- Early Help is seen as outstanding



Areas for further development

- More robust response for 16-17yr olds who present as homeless
- Being more tenacious to sustain contact and support for care leavers who aren't currently engaged with us
- More understanding of why children go missing and ensuring they receive the help they need
- Review Independent Reviewing Officer capacity
- Multi-agency information to inform shared view about risk and need
- Partners particularly Police and Schools to contribute to initial fact finding/assessments/plans
- Children's Social Care will set clear expectations for responses from partners
- Case file audit arrangements should be strengthened for Children's Social Care



Questions



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