



Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

Corporate Director of Children's Services

March 2017

Rethinking 'Did Not Attend'

Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board, Nottingham City Council and NHS Nottingham City CCG have produced a video animation to encourage practitioners to identify children as 'was not brought' as opposed to 'did not attend' when referring to them not being presented at medical appointments.

The animation is a powerful reminder that children do not take themselves to appointments; they have to be taken by parents or carers. The animation therefore encourages practitioners to reflect on the impact that missed appointments have on a child's wellbeing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfxnqkAR3B4&feature=youtu.be>

Ofsted Pilot Inspection of Children's Services

As you may be aware Ofsted carried out an inspection of Children's Services between 23rd January and 3rd February, piloting their new inspection framework. Feedback from inspectors highlighted the great progress that our service has made since its last inspection. Inspectors were clear that our workers complete meaningful work with children and their families, which leads to improved outcomes in all areas of their life. Throughout the inspection process inspectors credited the passion, enthusiasm and positivity of our staff.

Some key areas of positive feedback from Ofsted include:

- The catalyst for our improvements was our move to become 'one directorate'.
- Regional peer review and challenge is well used to inform services and shape future provision.
- We continue to work hard to recruit a permanent workforce. They particularly liked our plans for Grow your Own and our ASYE programme. We have deployed resources strategically, where it will make the biggest difference to children and young people.
- We have responded well to growth in demand, as a result we are becoming an employer of choice and our reliance on agency workers is reducing.
- We have successfully created an environment where good and outstanding practice can flourish.
- The diverse needs of children are well understood.
- Listening to the voice of the child across our work is a real strength.
- Our Integrated Locality Hubs offer accessible, responsive and effective multi-agency services.
- Children's assessments are consistently good which lead to meaningful indicative plans.

- The support offer for disabled children is good, sensitive work leads to children and their families receiving tailored support.
- The MST/MST-CAN offer and the Edge of Care Hub are two examples of creative use of resources. The support they provide improves the lives of children and families and are reducing the number of children coming into care.
- Social Workers know their children well and have the capacity to undertake direct work, whilst ensuring that they are listening to the voice of the child.
- Children live with carers who are proud and ambitious for them, and their achievements are celebrated.
- Children's emotional needs are regularly considered and children are supported by wrap-around services like CAMHS and Targeted Support.
- Educational outcomes for children in our care are improving due to the efforts of our excellent carers and the Virtual School.

We do have some areas of work which require further development, namely around; doing more to sustain contact and support care leavers who aren't currently engaged with us, providing a more robust response for young people who present as homeless, further work to understand the reasons for children going missing and ensuring that they receive the help they need, and reviewing the capacity of our IRO service to ensure sufficient monitoring of children's plans between review meetings. Work will take place going forward to address the areas for development which Ofsted have highlighted to us.

I would once again like to thank all staff who were involved in the inspection; your hard work and dedication has been hugely appreciated.

Association of Directors of Childrens Services (ADCS) Blogs

In my role as Vice President of ADCS, I regularly have to write blogs on a variety of issues – I thought that you might like to read my most recent one:

A Decade of ADCS - <http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/a-decade-of-adcs>

Getting Sticky with it - <http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/getting-sticky-with-it>

Alison Michalska
Corporate Director for Children and Adults
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