



## Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

### Corporate Director of Children's Services

November 2017

#### **National Adoption Week**

We have been promoting messages of the importance of wider family to adopted children in the past couple of weeks. It was part of National Adoption Week 2017, which ran from 16 to 22 October, and we've highlighted the support and stability that can be provided by grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. It is a vital part of the whole adoption process.

Our Adoption Service found homes for 47 Nottingham children during 2016, but there are many more who are in need of the love and support that a stable and committed family life can provide.

Adoptive parents receive high quality, on-going support from the Council to help them to carefully prepare and train for a new addition to their family. This commitment will remain in place throughout and will continue after adoption.

While prospective parents do need to be over the age of 21, someone's age and health does not exclude them from fostering or adopting as long as they are fit enough to cope with the demands of parenting. Being disabled is not a barrier either – in fact, experience of disability can sometimes be an advantage. Adoptive parents can be single, married or unmarried and from any ethnic or religious background. It doesn't matter if they are employed or on benefits, a homeowner or living in rented accommodation. People from heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender communities are also encouraged to think about becoming adoptive parents.

For more information you can email [adoption@nottingham.gov.uk](mailto:adoption@nottingham.gov.uk) or visit [www.adoptionnottingham.com](http://www.adoptionnottingham.com)

#### **Budget Position for Children and Adults Services**

Up and down the country, Children's and Adults' Services are facing unprecedented demand. This, at the same time as significant reductions in the level of resources available to Local Authorities, is creating budget challenges beyond anything previously experienced.

In light of these ongoing budget challenges, we are looking at opportunities for us to review how and why we work in certain ways to enable us to try and identify savings.

#### **Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse**

As you will know Nottinghamshire Councils one of the investigations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. The Inquiry is examining the extent of any institutional failures to protect children in the care of Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Councils from sexual abuse and exploitation.

A Public Hearing has been set for October 2018.

For more information on IICSA please visit their website  
<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/>

### **Director of Education**

Following Pat and Sarah Fielding's move to the Nottingham School's Trust at the end of August, John Dexter, will be providing Director level support to our Education Department for two days per week through until the end of March 2018. John brings with him a wealth of teaching and leadership experience, most recently having been Headteacher at Trinity School until Easter 2017.

John will be focussing specifically on secondary education, and building partnerships with schools, academies, and other learning organisations to influence, shape and extend think about service provision and education strategy. John will also work closely with the Education Improvement Board.

### **A Country that Works for all Children**

The Association for Directors of Children's Services has recently published a policy position paper 'A country that works for all children'. The paper explores the impact of different initiatives and policies on children's lives and outcomes, touching on child poverty, welfare reforms, the impact of austerity across the breadth of children's services, including schools, and early help. The paper calls for a marshalling of resources across the various government departments, a reaffirmation of the value of preventative services and the establishment of a cross-government review to understand better the reasons for, and links between, rising levels of child poverty and demand for children's statutory services.

The paper is available on the ADCS website [here](#).

### **Bright Futures – Getting the best for children and young people**

Last month the Local Government Association published 'Bright Futures – getting the best for children, young people and families'. This paper sets out seven clear priorities for coordinated action across the public, community and voluntary sectors, which they believe will help drive the improvement necessary to consistently offer the brightest future for children and families. The paper is available [here](#).

### **Association of Directors of Childrens Services (ADCS) Blogs**

In my role as 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:

Keep calm: there's more to life than exam grades -  
<http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/keep-calm-theres-more-to-life-than-exam-grades>

A country that works for all children - <http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/a-country-that-works-for-all-children>

A family for life - <http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/a-family-for-life>

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(November 2017)