



Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

Corporate Director of Children's Services

March 2018

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 (IICSA)

Within previous updates I have spoken about the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and the Nottingham context. Over the past two years IICSA have been continuing to request information from Nottingham City Council around current and historical policies, procedures, guidance, investigation reports and civil claims.

The Inquiry has now defined its case studies for investigation:

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/key-documents/4268/view/2018-02-28%20Final%20Notice%20of%20Determination%20-%20Case%20studies.pdf>

The Public Hearing for the 'Nottinghamshire Councils' investigation has been scheduled for 1st October 2018 and will last three weeks. The inquiry has been trying to identify possible venues in Nottingham for part of the hearing and on behalf of a number of local organisations, we have provided IICSA a list of possible suitable local venues. Obviously, it is ultimately for the Inquiry to decide where its hearings are held.

As part of our ongoing response to allegations of historical physical and sexual abuse in former children's homes, we have settled a number of civil claims for compensation. A number of other claims are ongoing. Compensation is paid for from our insurance fund. We continue to take these matters seriously and help the police and the national independent inquiry with their investigations, as well as supporting survivors. The safety and quality of care for children has changed and improved beyond recognition in the intervening years both locally and nationally, meaning we have robust measures in place to protect children in our care today from harm.

We have developed a leaflet which provides advice and signposting to support services for victims/survivors. The leaflet entitled 'Talking about abuse that happened in childhood' has been produced under the direction of the multi-agency Strategic Management Group of Operation Equinox (the Police and Local Authority joint investigation into historical child abuse in Nottinghamshire).

For more information on the Nottingham City context of the investigation or for a copy of the latest version of this leaflet please visit our website:

<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/children-and-families/child-abuse-prevention/allegations-of-historical-child-abuse-in-nottinghamshire/>

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

Councillor Mellen's Reading Challenge for Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Throughout January, Councillor Mellen, our Portfolio Holder for Early Intervention and Early Years, was out and about in Nottingham undertaking a challenge to read a story to 2,018 children in all the city's neighbourhoods – raising funds for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Stories were read to youngsters in a variety of different venues: school assemblies and classes, nursery groups, library sessions, the QMC children's ward, Stonebridge Farm and even a narrow boat down the Nottingham Canal. Councillor Mellen's challenge has really raised the profile of the Imagination Library. It was also featured on [Notts TV](#), and even got a mention in the House of Commons from [Alex Norris MP!](#)

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated so far. If you would like to make a donation – no matter how small, you can visit the challenge fundraising page by following this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/2018children>

The LGC100 Local Government Powerlist

I'm delighted to have been mentioned in the recently announced Local Government Chronicle's top 100 powerlist. The list identifies the most influential people whose work will shape local government in 2018, and features officers, members, national politicians, civil servants and thinkers. The list has been compiled using nominations from the public, the LGC editorial team and a panel of judges.

Here's a link to the powerlist; as you will see I'm featured at number 84!

<https://www.lgcplus.com/home/lgc100-2018/-lgc100-100-51-in-local-governments-powerlist/7022788.article>

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:

The Role of the Social Worker - <http://adcs.org.uk/blog/article/the-role-of-the-social-worker>

Resourcing a country that works for all children -

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

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(March 2018)