

Title of paper:	Family Support Pathway	
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board	
Date:	Wednesday 19 th December 2018	
Relevant Director:	Helen Blackman	Wards affected: All
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Sara-Jane Brighthouse, Project Manager Children's Integrated Services Sara-jane.brighthouse@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other officers who have provided input:	Sophie Russell, Head of Children's Strategy & Improvement	
Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) priority:		
Safeguarding and supporting children and families: Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective support and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties and provide a safe environment in which to thrive.		X
Promoting the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people: From pregnancy and throughout life, babies, children, young people and families will be healthier, more emotionally resilient and better able to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.		X
Supporting achievement and academic attainment: All children and young people will leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and will be ready for independence, work or further learning.		X
Empowering families to be strong and achieve economic wellbeing: More families will be empowered and able to deal with family issues and child poverty will be significantly reduced.		X
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
<p>The report presents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The refresh of the Nottingham City Family Support Pathway (FSP) 2018/20, the Safeguarding Children's Board threshold document to support and safeguarding. (As defined in the statutory guidance Working Together 2018.) • The approval by the Safeguarding Children Board for the Family Support Pathway 2018/20 – December 2018. • The description of amendments and updates to the content of the FSP following consultation and co-production with local authority colleagues, partners and agencies across the children's partnership. 		
Recommendations:		
1	The Children's Partnership Board members to cascade and disseminate the Family Support Pathway to their workforce.	

1 BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

Working Together 2018 statutory guidance sets out:

‘The safeguarding partners should publish a threshold document, which sets out the local criteria for action in a way that is transparent, accessible and easily understood.’

The Safeguarding Children Board will become the Safeguarding Children Partnership on 1st April 2019. The safeguarding partners are defined as the Local Authority, Clinical Commissioning Group and the Chief Officer of Police for an area any part of which falls within the Local Authority area.

The Family Support Pathway (FSP) is Nottingham City’s threshold document.

The Local Authority working with partner organisations and agencies, have specific duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. The FSP threshold document will set out a pathway so practitioners are clear about what is required of them individually and how they need to work together in partnership with others to respond to the needs of children and families.

The first version of the Family Support Pathway, launched in 2011, was an amalgamation of the Nottingham City Common Assessment Framework Guidance and the Access to Social Care Protocol. It is a framework to provide a pathway and practice guidance to ensure children and families receive the right help at the right time.

The local authority co-produce the FSP with partners and agencies. The Pathway has been reviewed twice, in 2014 and 2016, to account for new legislation, serious case review recommendations and local arrangements.

The FSP sets out the Nottingham model for prevention, early help and specialist services. This includes levels of need and risk at the following points: universal, early help, early help targeted and specialist & protection.

The FSP includes information on:

- Access to support and decision making
- Assessing need and providing help
- The Assessment Framework
- Assessment process and stages
- Children & Families Direct Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- Early Help Assessment
- Responsive immediate protection and indicators
- Information Sharing
- Family Support Pathway indicators and levels of need
- Escalation process to resolve inter-agency disagreements

The FSP refresh has involved co-production with a range of partners and agencies during summer 2018. Consultation has taken place with Local Authority Children’s services and colleagues; Children’s Public Health provider (CityCare) and Local Authority Early Help services for 0-5 year olds, to reflect their alignment to deliver an efficient and effective integrated service model; and the Safeguarding Children’s Board including the Police and Clinical Commissioning Group.

Revisions to the FSP include:

- The introduction - reviewed to highlight a number of key developments, which includes Safeguarding Children Board arrangements, Contextualised Safeguarding, Giving Children the Best Start in Life 0-5 arrangements, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Yong Carers.
- The Nottingham model diagram – a re-working of the diagram to reflect the language used locally that describes the levels of support and safeguarding
- Accessing support and decision making – reviewed information that describes what level and offer of support and safeguarding is shown in the Nottingham model diagram and introduces a section for practitioner to have opportunities to find and/or discuss support
- Children & Families Direct Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – reviewed and updated information and contact details
- Early help assessment – reviewed and added information
- Responsive immediate protection indicators – reviewed and added information
- The FSP levels of need and indicators – reviewed and added information

The approval of Family Support Pathway threshold document for 2018/20 by the Safeguarding Children Board is presented to members of the Children’s Partnership Board. For each member representing their organisation and/or agency, to ensure that the threshold document is disseminated and made available to their workforce, in order to work together to respond to the needs and interests of children and families to safeguard and promote the welfare children.

2 RISKS

There are statutory risks for the Local Authority that will impact on children and families if this work is not undertaken.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Children’s Acts 1989 and 2004, Working Together 2018.

5 CLIENT GROUP

Children and families.

6 IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

The Family Support Pathway threshold document to support and services will impact on all minority groups to address their needs.

7 OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

All CYPP priorities will be addressed by the Family Support Pathway threshold document.

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