



Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

Corporate Director of Children's Services

May 2019

Response to Knife Crime Concerns

The increase in knife-related incidents is an issue causing significant concern nationally and locally. In 2018, Helen Blackman (Director CIS) was tasked by the Leader to develop the City Council's response to rising violence crime in the City. As a result of this, a number of task and finish groups were held to look at the evidence in relation to prevalence in Nottingham, the profile of perpetrators and victims and best practice approaches to tackling this issue. As a result of these discussions it was agreed that a whole system, partnership, public health approach was required.

A series of scoping meetings took place with senior, strategic leaders across the partnership to explain the approach and to map existing activity that could be coordinated with a programme approach to avoid duplication and maximise impact. The outline Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation programme is attached. We are already progressing a number of projects, including the establishment of an Exploitation and Violence Reduction Hub (hosted by the Youth Justice Services) and a review of our Play and Youth services. We have also been successful in attracting £490,000 of funding through the Troubled Families 'Supporting Families Against Youth Crime' fund, which aims to build capacity and develop sustainable tools for education providers and the voluntary and community sector.

The Serious Youth Violence and Exploitation programme utilises the existing strands of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Knife Crime Strategy (City and County) and will act as the City's delivery plan against this strategy. We have identified five priority areas for activity. This plan and approach has now been agreed by the Crime and Drugs Partnership. We have also agreed to establish a Strategic Programme Board to enable oversight and accountability of all partners in relation to the delivery of this plan. It has recently been confirmed that this will be chaired by the Leader and work is underway to schedule these quarterly meetings

Deputy Chief Executive

Following the retirement of David Bishop, from 1st May I will take on the role of Deputy Chief Executive. I will of course continue in my current role as Corporate Director for Children and Adults, however I will cover for Ian Curryer when he is away from the office or on leave.

Good news from our schools teams

Our schools continue to go from strength to strength, thanks to the planning, leadership and guidance of our schools teams. We've had a bumper crop of nine 'Good' Ofsted reports since January, many of them citing the important input from our colleagues and also the Nottingham Schools Trust.

We also had a successful National Offer Day for primary schools, where 95% of children were offered their first or second choice of primary – and I'm please to say that a place was found for every child in Nottingham. Our teams are working hard to expand

primary schools to make sure we have the right number of places where demand is highest. [Read more here](#)

Education Improvement Board

Nottingham City's Education Improvement Board (EIB) was developed following the infamous Ofsted inspection of 6 local secondary schools in the autumn of 2013. It was a local response to a fairly unprecedented situation. At the time some Local Authority maintained schools were being forced to academise, others could choose to (converters) but there remained serious concerns around the City about inspection judgments but also about pupil outcomes, especially at secondary schools. Like any major challenge the formation of a board and getting the right people and structures in place wasn't straightforward.

The EIB Board's work started in earnest when Sir David Greenaway took on the chairing of the group. The Board had involvement from politicians, Universities, FE, local Trusts (both Primary and Secondary) and initially identified priority areas in Maths, transition, recruitment and retention of teachers (and after a public consultation added in literacy). Key to identifying need was City wide data provided by the Data, Analysis & Insight for School Improvement (DAISI) team. Resources were found from Nottingham City Council and the Schools Forum to promote work to support professional development and other initiatives.

In summer 2018 an evaluation was carried out which, along with other documentation, is available on the [EIB website](#) and a partner site '[Teach Nottingham](#)' which was set up to try and improve recruitment of staff into the City.

We have an important sub group of the EIB which has a focus on vulnerable children. This group has highlighted the issues around inclusion and those vulnerable to exploitation. It has an emphasis on a key group of children and young people who need more specific help and support to ensure that they get the best deal possible from their education. This group is an important voice for our children in care and virtual school.

As we begin to consider the next steps in the evolution of the EIB and its work, it remains a key objective to make a difference and offer children and young people in Nottingham the best opportunities we can manage.

Alison Michalska
Corporate Director for Children and Adults
(May 2019)