



Statutory Officers Report for Health and Wellbeing Board

Corporate Director of Children's Services

July 2019

Corporate Director for Children and Adults

After 7 years at Nottingham City Council, I have finally succumbed to pressure from family to retire. The recruitment campaign for your new Corporate Director is well underway. However, I am not going anywhere soon so this is not my goodbye message and I have committed to staying until the end of November 2019 by which time hopefully my replacement will be in post.

City exceeds national average for pupils at Good and Outstanding schools

The percentage of pupils in Nottingham going to 'Good' or 'Outstanding' schools is now above the England average – 86% in Nottingham compared to 85% nationally – as well as above the East Midlands average of 80%.

This is thanks to excellent progress being made across Nottingham schools, most recently the fantastic improvements made at Both Cantrell Primary in Bulwell and Seely Primary in Sherwood, which were previously rated as 'requiring improvement' – but new inspections have seen them reach the 'Good' standard set by Ofsted, the education inspectorate.

Both schools have been supported by the Nottingham Schools Trust. These new statistics are fantastic news – not only for the schools but also for the city as a whole.

Read more here: [<http://www.mynottinghamnews.co.uk/double-celebration-as-city-exceeds-national-average-for-pupils-attending-good-and-outstanding-schools/>]

Nottingham City Early Years PVI Providers

Following the fantastic news about our Good and Outstanding Schools, the Early Years team are pleased to report that at this moment in time the amount of inspected Ofsted Registered PVI Early Years Providers (day care nurseries and pre-schools) who have a good or outstanding grade stands at 98%. The most recent Ofsted Statistical release reports a national figure of 97%. We are delighted to share this news and proud of the support the sector provides for the city's children and their families.

Two new schools for Nottingham

On Friday 14th June, the Government announced that Nottingham is to gain two brand new schools.

As part of a programme to increase school spaces where they are needed most, two local academy trusts have put in successful bids to the Department for Education – one for a primary school and another for a secondary school.

The primary school bid was submitted by Greenwood Academies Trust, for a 420-place school with a 60-place nursery in the Waterside area, which is currently being developed as Nottingham's newest neighbourhood. The City Council included a school

among the features it wants to see in the area, and Greenwood has worked with the council to develop its proposals.

The Trust has a strong record of excellence in providing both primary and secondary education for city children and young people and is signed up to the council's inclusion model to prevent exclusions.

The secondary school bid was submitted by the Archway Academy Trust (Bluecoat) which has also worked with the City Council to identify needs and site options to ensure best access for pupils across the city. Archway have a successful track record of providing good and outstanding secondary education in the city and a commitment to inclusive education.

The new schools will build on the City Council's long-term school expansion strategy which has seen £42m of investment since 2009 to provide 5,000 additional primary places once all year groups are full by 2022. The council has worked hard to ensure the city continues to have the right number of places for the right number of children.

New adoption arrangements for children in care

Our new Regional Adoption Agency for the East Midlands officially launched on 03 April 2019 to offer children in care the stability and security they need to achieve their potential.

Incorporating Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council. The Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) will work collaboratively across the East Midlands to encourage more people to become adopters, which in turn leads to markedly improving the life chances of children in care.

A key aim of the RAA is to encourage more people who express an interest in adoption to attend information events and hear from people who have already gone through the process.

You can find out more on the new website www.adoptioneastmidlands.org.uk

LGA Peer Review – Early Years Social Mobility, Speech and Language

The Local Government Association have been commissioned by the Department for Education to deliver 30 Early Years Social Mobility, Speech and language Peer Challenges over the coming year.

On 14 December 2017, the Department for Education (DfE) launched *Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential: a plan for improving social mobility through education*. Ambition 1 in the plan is to close the word gap in the early years.

The Government has committed £8.5m to spread best practice on improving early language outcomes. A new programme of peer challenge and support for local authorities is central to this offer.

The peer team visit the Council for four days. During this time the challenge team will talk to a cross-section of senior officers and frontline staff, elected members, partners and observe early years practice. The team will feed back their observations and recommendations/findings from all the elements of the peer review at the end of the site

visit and a report will be produced. This will highlight the strengths of the Council and areas they might need to consider along with some recommendations.

Further information can be found on the LGA website <https://www.local.gov.uk/early-years-social-mobility-peer-review-programme>

Nottingham City's Peer Challenge has been scheduled for 15-18 October 2019

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