

Children and Families Select Committee

Monday, 05 February 2024 at 10:30

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

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| 1 | To note the appointment at Full Council on 7 December 2023 of Councillor Mike Introna as Chairman of the Children and Families Select Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year | |
| 2 | Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 16 October 2023 | 3 - 12 |
| 3 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 4 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) | |
| 5 | Partnership progress in improving the experiences and outcomes for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs | 13 - 22 |
| 6 | The Early Years and Childcare Sector in Nottinghamshire | 23 - 34 |
| 7 | Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Reports 2021/22 and 2022/23 | 35 - 64 |
| 8 | Children and Families Departmental Performance, Risks and Financial Position – Quarter 2 2023/4 | 65 - 80 |
| 9 | Provision of support to looked after children transitioning out of the care system | 81 - 86 |
| 10 | Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of the Draft Elective Home Education Policy 2023 | 87 - 92 |
| 11 | Work Programme 2023/24 | 93 - 106 |

Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact James Lavender (Tel. 0115 854 6408) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Meeting: Children and Families Select Committee

Date: Monday 16 October 2023 (commencing at 10:30am)

Membership:**County Councillors**

Sam Smith (Chairman)

Francis Purdue-Horan (Vice Chairman)

Callum Bailey

Anne Callaghan BEM

Robert Corden

Debbie Darby

Errol Henry JP (**Apologies**)

Johno Lee

Mike Quigley MBE

Nigel Turner

Michelle Welsh

Education Representatives

Nigel Frith (**Apologies**)

James McGeachie

Substitute Members

Jim Creamer for Errol Henry JP

Other County Councillors in attendance:

- Tracey Taylor - Cabinet Member for Children and Families
- Sinead Anderson - Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Officers and colleagues in attendance:

- Martin Elliott - Senior Scrutiny Officer
- Orlaith Green - Group Manager, Psychology and Inclusion Services
- Sam Harris - Service Manager, Partnerships and Planning
- Laurence Jones - Service Director, Commissioning and Resources
- Peter McConnochie - Service Director for Education, Learning and Inclusion
- Kate Morris - Democratic Services Officer
- Lucy Peel - Service Director for Transformation and Improvement
- Colin Pettigrew - Corporate Director for Children and Families

Others in attendance

- Georgina Palmer - Nottinghamshire Parents and Carers Forum
- Nicola Ryan - Deputy Chief Nurse, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Errol Henry JP - other reasons

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Debbie Darby declared an interest in agenda item 7, Proposed reviews regarding elective home education and secondary school pupil place planning, in that she home educated her child.

Councillor Mike Quigley declared an interest in agenda item 5, Partnership progress in improving the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, in that he was the Chair of the Verse Academies Trust, which included 2 special schools.

Councillor Sam Smith declared an interest in agenda item 5, Partnership progress in improving the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, in that he was a school governor at SEND Link

Councillor Nigel Turner declared an interest in agenda item 5, Partnership progress in improving the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, in that he was a school governor.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19 June 2023, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

4. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Colin Pettigrew, Corporate Director for Children and Families, introduced the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Annual report that set out what the NSCP had achieved over 2022/23. It was noted that the report was written from a partnership perspective and described the partnership work of Nottinghamshire Police, the County Council, and the Integrated Care Board. The report that was presented covered the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 events outside that period were not considered within this report.

The Committee raised the following points in discussion:

- Members asked what type of incident triggered a Serious Incident Notification and why one had not been raised when speech and language therapy specialists had withdrawn from the Harlow Academy.
- Members requested further information or briefings around the work that was carried out across the partnership to target groups identified as more vulnerable to criminal and sexual exploitation.

- Members noted that within the section of the report that discussed safer sleeping there was no mention of Health visitors or the role they played in the work around safer sleeping strategies. Members felt that explicit mention of the Health Visitor role, and the role of the Healthy Families team in this area of Safeguarding was critical due to the contact that they had with children and families.
- Members asked how processes could be improved when multiple complaints about the same service was received to ensure that the information was collated, and that issues could be dealt with collectively rather than in isolation.
- Members asked what support was being offered to the students and their parents following the closure of Harlow Academy.
- Members sought assurance that the Safeguarding Partnership was focused on the impact of childhood poverty and the increasing number of families struggling financially due to the current economic climate.
- Members asked how the partnership would work to achieve its aim of lowering numbers of protection plans whilst maintaining effective safeguarding.

In relation to the points raised by the Committee, the Cabinet Member and Officers provided the following responses:

- The criteria for a Serious Incident Notification included the death of a child or where a child was seriously harmed. Following the inspection by Ofsted it had not been possible to identify a named child that had been seriously harmed to start a review. The NSCP Strategic Leadership Group and wider partners had considered the criteria for a Rapid Review around Harlow Academy, however the multi-agency group had felt that the circumstances did not fit the criteria for such a review. Since then, the Independent Scrutineer had referred these gaps in the national policy and procedure back to both the National Panel and to Ofsted as gaps in procedures existed around actions around institutions, compared to those available around individuals. The Partnership had also notified the Panel that it intended to act as if a Rapid Review was in place, and as such an independent review had been commissioned.
- Prior to the change in the Council's governance arrangements in May 2021 regular reports were taken to the Children and Young People's Committee that detailed work and data around child exploitation. Following the change, a similar report had been taken annually to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and then published. Members were assured that there was significant work underway around tackling child exploitation and in targeting activity towards groups that had been identified as being the most vulnerable to exploitation. Following each Corporate Parenting Panel a private meeting took place looking in detail at in depth data around Looked After Children and any ongoing police investigations, as such it was not suitable to discuss this work in public. Work had been taking place with a variety of partners and in partnership with Nottingham City Safeguarding partners to ensure a joined-up

approach. More recently the Criminal and Sexual exploitation teams had been joined within partner agencies which was producing even more detailed data. More detailed private briefings for members could be arranged to discuss sensitive data if members felt that it would offer the required assurance.

- Although there was no specific reference to Health Visitors and their role in safer sleeping, all health service professionals that came into contact with children and families from birth to two years played an important role in delivering the messaging around safer sleeping. Following a Local Child Safeguarding practice review learning had highlighted that the safer sleeping messaging should be made by all health professionals who worked with families to increase the opportunities to reach families with positive messaging.
- Work had been completed to draw together internal processes so that concerns, complaints, and requests for investigation of an organisation that would historically have come to different parts of the council, were brought together. Local improvements were being implemented, but the independent review around Harlow Academy had identified gaps and issues with the national guidance. These issues had been highlighted by the Independent Scrutineer to both the Department of Education and to Ofsted. The report on the independent commissioned review had been completed and published in June 2023 and would be circulated to members.
- The full report into Harlow Academy had been shared with the parents and carers of the pupils. Since the school had closed the Evolve Trust had also been closed with all of its schools being taken over by other academy trusts. The Harlow Academy had been taken over by the Nexus Multi Academy Trust and had been renamed Fountaindale Academy. It was noted that there had been significant improvements at the school since Nexus had taken over the operation of the school.
- The partnership continued to focus on protecting children, and unfortunately Child Protection Plans were more likely to be put in place in families living in deprived areas. Work focusing on families and children in these areas was ongoing.
- To reduce the number of Child Protection Plans, work was being done with at risk families and children earlier in order to prevent the need for a protection plan. It was noted that prevention and early intervention was the best way to reduce the need for Child Protection Plans and to improve outcomes for children and families.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers for attending the meeting to present the report and answer Members' questions.

RESOLVED (2023/007):

- 1) That the report be noted.

- 2) That the following issues raised by the Children and Families Select Committee in its consideration of the report be progressed:
 - a. that the latest report on the on the work being carried out across Nottinghamshire in relation to child exploitation be circulated to the members of the Children and Families Select Committee.
 - b. That the review of safeguarding practice in response to events at Harlow Academy be circulated to the members of the Children and Families Select Committee.
- 3) That the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's 2023/24 Annual Report be received at the October 2024 meeting of the Children and Families Select Committee

5. PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THE EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Colin Pettigrew, Corporate Director Children and Families introduced report that detailed the progress being made by the Nottinghamshire local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND. Nicola Ryan, Deputy Chief Nurse, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB was also in attendance.

In summary:

- An independently led SEND Improvement Board has been established following the inspection outcome with responsibility to the Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB). It was chaired by Dame Christine Lenehan, an internationally recognised expert in the field.
- Progress against required improvements was subject to monitoring by The Department of Education and NHS England who had indicated that they were broadly satisfied with the progress that had been made so far.
- Two areas of priority actions had been identified for improvement that were the timeliness of the delivery of Education Health and Care (EHC) Plans and access to therapies predominantly, but not entirely provided by the NHS Service. A further area of improvement that had been highlighted was around governance.
- The ICB had started a review of all commissioned services looking at how services could be delivered differently to reduce the long waiting times that were currently seen. Work was also underway with Nottinghamshire Health Care Services who provided both community services and mental health services for young people. There were challenges in both services around

delivery and access time and improvements were being implemented to facilitate improvements.

The Committee raised the following points in discussion:

- Members highlighted that issues with the timeliness of the delivery of EHC Plans were frequently the subject of complaints made to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman that were then referred to the Governance and Ethics Committee. They queried when the issue of historic complaints would be resolved and the backlog of outstanding EHC Plans would be removed. Members asked and whether consideration should be given to increasing budgets for the teams responsible in order to enable increased resources to enable timelier delivery of EHC Plans.
- Members asked for further information around the plans to increase the number of Educational Psychologists and their capacity to deliver essential proactive and early intervention work as well as working on EHC Plans.
- Members felt that the rise in EHC Plan requests was, in part due to reduced early intervention services. Many children with SEND were in part time education or excluded from education and this was causing the increase in demand and the large backlog in work. Members asked what work was being carried out to review services that helped families from reaching crisis point and to ensure that children received the support they needed.
- Members noted that on average an EHC plan was currently taking 26 weeks to complete. Members asked whether some assessments were taking longer than others and what the reasons were for extended assessment times.
- Members asked whether the data that had been provided around EHC Plans could be broken down into more detail to show the needs of children who had an EHC Plan and to show the length of time that families had waited to receive specialist services.
- Members noted with approval the effort and work that was being carried out to move the improvement programme forward.
- Members asked for more details about how the Council was communicating with schools.
- Members asked how many Special schools the Council was responsible for compared to special schools being run by Academy trusts.

In relation to the points raised by the Committee, the Cabinet Member and Officers provided the following responses:

- There was a national shortage of Education Psychologists, and councils' country wide were struggling with the timely delivery of EHC Plans. It was noted that the Cabinet Member for Children and Families had recently made a decision to increase the capacity of the team and to develop future resource.

Progress on timeliness had been made, however it was recognised that this was no comfort to the families who were still waiting longer than 20 weeks for a plan to be formulated. The Council had also been working hard to better communicate with families who were experiencing delays in their EHC Plan application being considered. It was noted that budgets for SEND services had never been higher across the sector, but levels of complaints and dissatisfaction was also at an all-time high.

- Increasing capacity within the Educational Psychology service would allow the Educational Psychologists to spend more time on the proactive and supportive work that increased the number of children whose needs were able to be met without the need for an EHC plan. The capacity within the service was being developed with the use of a “grow your own” programme that developed a number of trainees over a three-year period with the intention of retaining them after they had fully qualified. Work was being also being carried out to make Nottinghamshire an appealing option for Education Psychologists in order to improve recruitment and retention.
- Georgina Palmer, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Parents and Carers forum was working with the Council to further understand the issues around part-time schooling and look at new and different ways to work to reduce the numbers accessing part-time schooling.
- A new post within the EHC process was also being trialled to provide a dedicated first point of contact for parents and carers. This post would provide support and guidance to families around the EHC Plan process as well as looking to establish whether any additional interventions could be put in place to reduce the need for the creation of an EHC plan. Additional staffing had been put in place to respond to complaints more quickly, and staff had recently written to all parents and carers of children with outstanding plans to inform them of progress. It was noted that there a focus on communication within the service was key to helping to improve performance further.
- Following a recent deep dive into the progress on the improvement journey the Department of Education were clear to point out that progress had been made. The number of applications being processed within 20 weeks had risen from 0% to 35% and no children were waiting beyond 36 weeks for the completion of their assessment.
- The Chairman highlighted that an extended dataset had been seen during the scrutiny review of the EHC plan process and advised that this information could be circulated to members of the committee. and a copy of that could be circulated.
- Similarly to the situation with Education Psychologists, Speech and Language therapists were hard to recruit nationally. Work was under way to look at methods of providing services differently to ensure ease of access and to reduce waiting times. A data analyst had been employed to work alongside Council colleagues to try and improve the consistency of data to create a standard data set to work with.

- There were twelve special schools operating within Nottinghamshire. Five were maintained schools and the rest were run by academy trusts.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers for attending the meeting to present the report and answer Members' questions.

RESOLVED (2023/008):

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That a further progress report on the implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision be received at the December 2023 meeting of the Children and Families Select Committee.
- 3) That the following issues raised by the Committee in its consideration of the report on Partnership progress in improving the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities be progressed:
 - a) that further information on the types of needs of children and young people with SEND and/or an EHCP across Nottinghamshire be circulated to the members of the Children and Families Select Committee.
 - b) that information detailing the number of EHCP applications made and the number of EHCPs in place across each of districts and boroughs of Nottinghamshire be circulated to the members of the Children and Families Select Committee.
 - c) that the summary documents that detail the activity carried out at previous Nottinghamshire SEND partnership improvement board meetings be circulated to the members of the Children and Families Select Committee.
 - d) that the members of the Children and Families Select Committee receive the summary document that is created detailing the activity of future Nottinghamshire SEND partnership improvement board meetings as soon as they are available.

6. OUTCOMES OF THE REVIEW OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS

The Chairman introduced a report that detailed the outcomes of the scrutiny review of Education Health and Care plans. The Chairman thanked Councillors Purdue-Horan, Corden, Foale, Roger Jackson, Lee and Welsh along with James McGeachie for participating in the review. The Chairman went on to thank Peter McConnochie, Service Director for Education, Learning and Inclusion, and the Service Leadership team for their support provided during the review process and offered special thanks to Georgina Palmer, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum, for her participation in the review process,

RESOLVED (2023/009):

That the recommendations of the scrutiny task and finish review of Education, Health and Care Plans be endorsed and referred to Cabinet for consideration.

7. PROPOSED REVIEWS REGARDING ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPIL PLACE PLANNING

The Chairman introduced a report that out the proposed scopes for two reviews, one regarding Elective Home Education and one regarding school pupil place planning. The Chairman highlighted that should members not be able to attend them that they could nominate a group member to attend in their place and welcomed volunteers from the committee with relevant personal experience.

RESOLVED (2023/010):

That the proposed scopes for task and finish reviews regarding Elective Home Education and Secondary School Pupil Place Planning are approved.

8. RESPONSE TO A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE

The response of the Cabinet Member to the recommendations arising from the recommendation of the committee on how local elected members could be most effectively communicated with and involved with the activity that takes place with academy trusts regarding the pupil place planning was set out in the report.

RESOLVED (2023/011):

That the response of the Cabinet Member be noted.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee's current work programme.

RESOLVED (2023/012):

- 1) That the Children and Families Select Committee's work programme be noted.
- 2) That Committee members make any further suggestions for items for inclusion on the work programme for consideration by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, and subject to the required approval by the Chairman of the Overview Committee.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 12:08pm.

Chairman:

5 February 2024**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
AND THE CHIEF NURSE, NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
INTEGRATED CARE BOARD****PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THE EXPERIENCES AND
OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL
EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES - UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update to Committee on the progress made by the Nottinghamshire local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Partnership in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND.

Information

2. A progress report was presented to Committee on 16 October 2023, outlining the activity of the Nottinghamshire Local Area Partnership to deliver the joint [SEND Improvement Plan](#), which was developed in response to the [findings](#) of the Ofsted/CQC local area SEND inspection that took place in January/February 2023.
3. Per the SEND Improvement Plan, there are six key outcomes that the Nottinghamshire Local Area Partnership is seeking to achieve, split across two Areas for Priority Action:

Area for Priority Action 1 (APA1): Leaders, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board and education, health and care providers should cooperate to urgently identify, assess and provide for the needs of children and young people with SEND. This includes assessment of needs, timely issuing of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans and holistic oversight of these plans through annual reviews.

- Outcome 1: Children and young people with SEND in Nottinghamshire have their needs identified and assessed in a timely way through statutory processes;
- Outcome 2: Ensure our children and young people with SEND receive robust and consistent support through their EHC Plans, which have the right input, at the right time and from the right place;
- Outcome 3: Children and young people with additional needs, but without an EHC Plan, have their needs identified, met, and monitored effectively.

Area for Priority Action 2 (APA2): Leaders, including commissioners and providers, should act urgently to identify and address the delays and gaps in access to some health services,

particularly speech and language therapy, neurodevelopmental pathways and equipment services. They should also ensure that they use available performance data to identify where gaps exist and whether actions taken to address these are effective.

- Outcome 4: The needs of children and families with SEND are clearly understood so that immediate and long-term changes to health service provision can be made through effective joint commissioning;
 - Outcome 5: Children and young people receive timely assessment and treatment offer for assessment by the Neurodevelopmental Behaviour Service (NBS);
 - Outcome 6: Children, young people and families with SEND experience services that are easy to navigate, free from duplication and are adaptive to their needs.
4. These outcomes are underpinned by additional requirements for the Partnership to ensure there is a stronger focus on embedding data, quality assurance, coproduction and shared leadership and governance across all SEND improvement activity.

SEND Deep Dive and Stocktake

5. As part of routine assurance and oversight processes, the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England (NHSE) undertook a six-monthly 'Deep Dive' on 19 September 2023, reviewing progress against Nottinghamshire's SEND Improvement Plan at an operational level. Feedback was received on 9 October 2023:
- a. *The local area's collective commitment to making sustainable improvements to SEND services and to the lives of children and young people was clear. The Partnership communicated that governance, partnership and multi-agency working is much stronger post-inspection.*
 - b. *The evidence provided alongside the feedback from partners demonstrated accelerated improvement. These included improvements to your 20-week timeliness and reduction of the neuro-developmental waiting times. Through the Deep Dive, the partnership demonstrated that APA1 was on track as detailed in your SEND Improvement Plan.*
 - c. *We are less assured of the progress of APA2 and would like further discussion regarding the use of data. In addition, we would like to further understand your management of waiting lists. Children and young people and parents/carers may be subject to increased risks whilst waiting; either through a deterioration in their physical, emotional, or mental health OR they may require a longer period of treatment/intervention following the longer waiting period.*
6. As a result of this feedback, the DfE and NHSE held additional Deep Dive consultation sessions in relation to APA2 with senior leaders, as well as facilitating focus groups with parents, carers and health practitioners in order to gain first-hand feedback and hear from those with lived experience. The Partnership received further feedback on 7 December 2023, requesting that the Partnership, led by the ICB as the named responsible body for APA2, undertake actions urgently to address the commitments outlined in the SEND Improvement Plan.

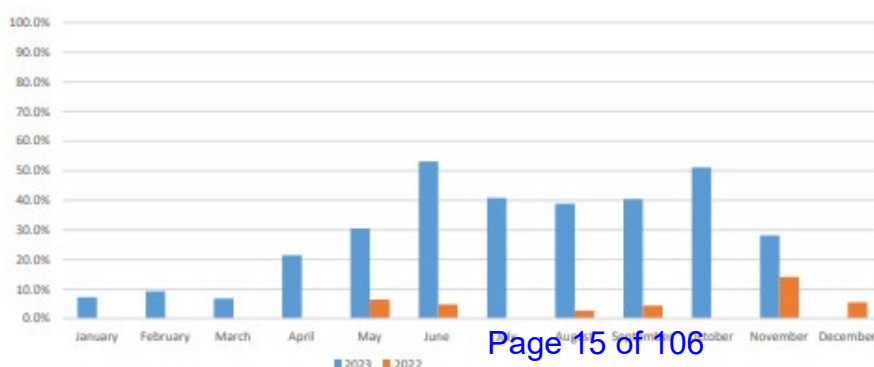
7. Progress will be further reviewed at a Stocktake on 12 January 2024. The Stocktake will be an opportunity for the DfE and NHSE to receive assurance that Partnership progress is on track and that wider SEND systems to support ongoing sustainability are effective.

Partnership Progress To Date

Outcome 1 (APA1): Children and Young People with SEND in Nottinghamshire have their needs identified and assessed in a timely way through statutory processes

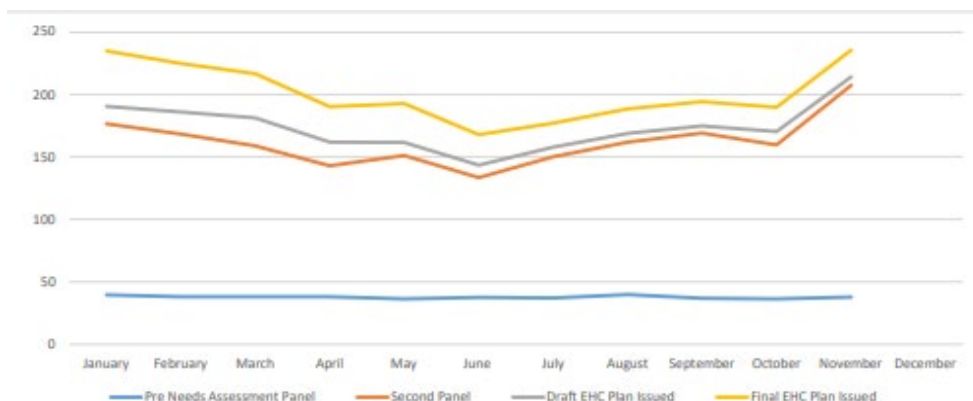
8. Additional staffing capacity has been implemented in order to reduce waiting times, better meet the increasing demand for assessments and improve the level of service and communication that children, young people and their parents or carers receive. This includes the recruitment of:
 - 6 Plan Writers, dedicated to producing and amending EHC Plans;
 - 6 Education, Health and Care (EHC) Coordinators in the ICDS Assessment Team for two years (pending a further review of the establishment and structures);
 - 3 Senior Practitioners, recruited on a short-term basis to provide the necessary support and quality assurance across the assessment process.
9. Plans are in place to utilise agency Educational Psychologists (EPs) to reduce the waiting list for Educational Psychology assessments. Longer-term plans are underway to expand the Educational Psychology Service establishment and recruit 9 additional full-time equivalent (FTE) EPs and 3 additional Trainee EPs by 2025. 3.6 FTE EPs have recently been appointed, commencing in September 2024 and September 2025 (these are staff who are currently Trainee Educational Psychologists undergoing qualification). Further recruitment is planned for April 2024.
10. As a result of these measures, performance data reports as follows:
 - As of November 2023, 28.3% of our children and young people received their EHC Plan within 140 days compared to 4.5% in 2022, with an aim of reaching reach 30% by 31 December 2023;
 - On average, families were waiting 5 weeks less to receive their EHC Plans in September 2023 compared to January 2023 (36.8 weeks down to 28.3 weeks);
 - The number of children and young people waiting for educational psychology EHC needs assessments reduced from 488 in September 2023 to 359 in December 2023;
 - More educational psychology assessments are being completed each month; on average 84 received an assessment in 2022/23 compared to 72 in 2021/22.

Percentage of new EHC Plans issues within timescales (excluding exceptions)



Graph up to date as of November 2023. Improvement activity has initially focused on improving access to timely assessment of need and issuing of Education, Health, and Care (EHC) Plans against a backdrop of increased demand for assessments.

Average time to complete each stage of the EHC assessment process



Graph up to date as of November 2023. Average time taken to complete each stage of the assessment process has dropped and began to rise again slightly. This is attributed to increased demand.

11. Work continues in relation to reviewing operational processes, systems and structures, in order to identify changes that can further improve efficiency. Feedback from parents and carers will continue to be utilised to focus attention on improvements that will make the most difference.

Outcome 2 (APA1): Ensure our children and young people with SEND receive robust and consistent support through their EHC Plans, which have the right input, at the right time and from the right place

12. In November 2023, the Partnership approached 1,500 families in order to obtain feedback about EHC Plan provision in place; of the 139 responses received, 75 responded positively about their EHCP. This information had not been collated previously, thus providing the Partnership with new insights and feedback to inform improvement activity.
13. A more comprehensive and consistent approach to responding to parent and carer complaints has been implemented. Where required, issues can be escalated with partners to facilitate a multiagency approach to complaint resolution surrounding the EHCP process. Feedback and learning from this revised process will be utilised in order to ensure that the support provided to families is robust and effectively meets needs.
14. There continues to be an increased operational focus on ensuring that Annual Reviews (and the issuing of amended EHCPs within statutory timescales) are completed on time, including a review of the end-to-end process for Annual Reviews. This is underpinned by focussed work to ensure that appropriate data reporting is in place to enable robust oversight, monitoring and forecasting of timescales.

Outcome 3 (APA1): Children and young people with additional needs, but without an EHC Plan, have their needs identified, met, and monitored effectively.

15. Improved systems are now in place to identify this cohort of children and young people within SEND reporting. This will enable improved tracking of the progress of children and young people with SEN support needs within our local systems (for attendance, academic progress, inclusion within mainstream schools, reduced exclusions) and reduce variance between their performance and the non-SEN support cohort. While it will take some time

to evidence the impact of this measure on children, young people and their families, measures are being developed to ensure that the impact of these measures can be demonstrated in 2024.

16. A new SEND Educational Pathway Officer (EPO) role has been created, with 3 EPOs already in post and 2 more currently being recruited. EPOs will provide dedicated 1:1 support to families and educational settings, helping them to understand and better navigate their way through applying and accessing SEN support. It is anticipated that this role will enable the Partnership to better manage demand for EHC needs assessments.
17. There has been a 20% uplift in High Needs Funding agreed for the current academic year 2023/24, to support children and young people with SEN needs in mainstream school settings. A SEN Funding Tracker is now in place, enabling improved tracking of funding allocations (this is currently being piloted by two groups of schools).
18. Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) questionnaires indicate that there are examples of strong inclusive practice that support confidence in the graduated response pathway in Nottinghamshire. Further work is planned to undertake a multi-agency deep dive, in order to review the effectiveness and understanding of the graduated approach. It is anticipated that this will inform improvements and enable a detailed action plan to be developed, in order to improve inclusive practice and oversight of inclusion within settings. This will be supplemented by a review of the training offer for SENCos, to address any gaps and improve workforce development. Best practice examples will also be shared with SENCos, parents and carers in order to improve confidence in the graduated response pathway.

Outcome 4 (APA2): The needs of children and families with SEND are clearly understood so that immediate and long-term changes to health service provision can be made through effective joint commissioning

19. Work has been undertaken to support a better understanding of the SEND population needs in Nottinghamshire, so that services can be developed and commissioned collaboratively to effectively meet needs. This has been underpinned by dedicated data analytical support being put in place within the ICB; this enables data flows to be embedded from providers into the ICB, in order to generate data, insight and intelligence that enables the Partnership to drive quality improvement, monitor impact, reduce waiting times and improve access to services.
20. Variations have been made within health provider contracts to include explicit reporting requirements relating to SEND for Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, CityCare and the Healthy Family Services. Work is planned for this to be embedded into contracts for acute hospital trusts in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire by April 2024. This has allowed the Partnership a degree of quality assurance around commissioned services, as well as the mechanisms to monitor and challenge services that are underperforming in relation to their offer to children and young people with SEND. This will ensure a quality service going forwards. Trusts will be asked for bi-annual narratives to support strategic leadership and oversight across the Partnership.
21. Plans are in place to jointly commission integrated speech, language and communication need services by April 2024. In addition, there is commitment from all partners to jointly

commission a sensory therapy service by September 2024 (pending confirmation of funding streams).

Outcome 5 (APA2): Children and Young People receive timely assessment and treatment offer for assessment by the Neurodevelopmental Behaviour Service (NBS)

22. An extensive review of the neurodevelopmental pathway has been undertaken, enabling a greater understanding of the pressures facing the NBS. As a result, additional staff have been recruited to the NBS to support the reduction in waiting times. The coproduction of a child and young person neurodevelopmental website ('Minds of all Kinds') has also commenced. Furthermore, long-term service improvements have been identified and plans are in place to implement these by March 2024. This will allow for a more positive experience for those currently accessing the service, or who will access the service in the future.
23. Significant engagement with families, children and young people accessing neurodevelopmental services and speech, language and communication need services has been undertaken to support a broader understanding of the lived experience of people accessing these services. Early feedback has resulted in the implementation of 'waiting well' support for all children, young people and families on the NBS waiting list.
24. The work undertaken to date to support the neurodevelopmental pathway has cumulated in a reduction in wait times from 22 months in October 2022, to 62 weeks in September 2023. There has been a noticeable reduction in telephone contacts into the service from families enquiring about current wait times since 'waiting well' resources have been shared. This has, in turn, reduced pressures on the service and indicates that families feel more comfortable during the wait period.
25. Focussed activity is planned in the New Year in relation to the development of a shared care record to speed up the assessment process and subsequent waiting times, as well as the implementation of direct onward referrals from the NBS to Community Paediatrics through e-referral processes. Work is also being explored around opportunities for joint assessments with the NBS and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), to ensure the primary need for the child or young person is identified, be it neurodevelopmental or mental health.

Outcome 6 (APA2): Children, young people and families with SEND experience services that are easy to navigate, free from duplication and are adaptive to their needs

26. A system-wide review of all provision has been undertaken across the Partnership, to better understand services and identify commissioning gaps and duplication in the service offer. The service review confirmed that there are no hidden waits within services and therefore once assessments have been completed, therapy suited to current need can start immediately.
27. Additional speech and language therapists are now in post to reduce waiting times, specifically on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) pathways, which have the highest demand. In light of increased waiting times, 4 additional speech and language therapists are now in post to deliver a reduction in waiting times. All those on waiting lists are now offered the 'waiting well' support.

28. Work is underway within the specialist service to implement advice and drop-in sessions for schools to access generic advice and support. This will be fully embedded into the specialist service by April 2024. The enhancement of the traded offer within schools is also underway, with an aim to complete this by September 2024 (funding dependent).

Data and Insights

29. Focussed activity continues in relation to the development of a combined data set for our SEND population in Nottinghamshire, incorporating data sets from across organisations and providers. This is intended to enable the Partnership to better understand where gaps may exist in our reporting, deliver targeted improvement activity, better understand the needs of our population and ensure that areas of risk or pressure can be more clearly understood.
30. By ensuring that this infrastructure is in place as part of SEND improvement activity, this has set the foundation for an ongoing culture of meaningful data sharing; in turn, this can be used to drive service improvement locally, whilst also ensuring there is effective strategic oversight of the services offered to our children, young people, and families.

Leadership & Strategic Development

31. In parallel with the focussed improvement areas outlined in the SEND Improvement Plan, work has been initiated as a wider Partnership to frame our SEND improvement work within a revised outcome-based strategy. External support for this is in place through the Council for Disabled Children, achieved via the Research and Improvement for SEND Excellence (RISE) partnership with the DfE. This includes supporting the local area partnership with the development of a Strategic Outcomes Framework and exploration of data indicators to underpin an outcomes-led SEND Partnership Strategy.
32. Between September and December 2023, three full day events have been facilitated by the Council for Disabled Children, with good involvement from across the local area and strong representation from leaders with SEND responsibilities. Plans are in place for the Partnership to hold a range of consultation events in the New Year with key stakeholders, including practitioners who deliver SEND services and provision; children and young people with SEND; parents and carers; and wider groups of leaders across the local area, such as headteachers.
33. Delivery of the SEND Partnership Strategy will be overseen by the newly established SEND Partnership Assurance and Improvement Group (PAIG), which held its inaugural meeting on 12 December 2023.

Engagement with Children, Young People and Families

34. A Parent and Carer Reference Group has been established to support SEND improvement activity. This reference group will allow us to conduct focused consultations with SEND families and provide us with an opportunity to coproduce solutions. This group was established in September 2023 and met for the first time in November 2023. A second meet is scheduled for January 2024.

35. An engagement project was launched in November 2023 to gain a better understanding of the experiences of those accessing, referring into, and delivering the Speech, Language and Communications Services. This engagement is ongoing, with an end date aimed for mid-December 2023. The subsequent report is due to be published by 31 January 2024. To date, three focus groups have been held to gain first-hand responses and allow in-depth conversation with families, young people and professionals within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Surveys have been shared extensively across the system to education colleagues, social care colleagues, health professionals and families living in Nottinghamshire, with over 75 responses had to date.
36. Following consultation with Nottingham Children's Hospital Youth Forum, a SEND champion has been identified. This is a young person with autism, who is actively wanting to support the SEND Improvement Programme and assist the Partnership to engage with children and young people for the purpose of co-producing services going forward.
37. Following consultation with Nottingham Children's Hospital Youth Forum, a transitions network of young people has been identified who have set up a workshop in February half term to highlight lived experience of transitioning through different health services in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
38. A co-production group has been formed to support the development of the Children & Young Peoples Neurodevelopmental website 'Minds of all Kinds'. The group includes young people and parents/carers with lived experience of neurodevelopmental conditions.
39. A new parent carer survey has been introduced into ICDS and will be shared with all families who have requested an EHCP assessment.

Other Options Considered

40. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

41. The local area partnership is committed to improving the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND and will continue to focus on implementing the improvement plan and wider improvement arrangements moving forwards.

Statutory and Policy Implications

42. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

43. Local authority costs associated with the improvement programme and associated partnership governance arrangements have been subject to the relevant approvals in line with financial regulations.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Select Committee:

- 1) considers the content of the report and confirms whether Members have any further questions or recommendations in relation to progress with the required improvements.
- 2) agrees to receive further updates on progress on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities improvement activity in April and July 2024 and the format of the updates be considered.

Colin Pettigrew
Corporate Director, Children and Families

Rosa Waddingham
Chief Nurse, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (CD 02/01/24)

44. The recommendations proposed falls within the remit of the Children and Families Select Committee by virtue of the Terms of Reference set out in the Constitution.

Financial Comments (SS 02/01/24)

45. Local authority costs associated with the improvement programme and associated partnership governance arrangements have been subject to the relevant approvals in line with financial regulations.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Improving the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities](#) - report to Cabinet on 25 May 2023

[Progress in Improving the Experiences and Outcomes for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities](#) – report to Cabinet on 22 June 2023

[Partnership Progress In Improving The Experiences And Outcomes For Children And Young People With Special Educational Needs And Disabilities](#) – Report to Children and Families Select Committee on 16 October 2023
Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CFS0017

5 February 2024**Agenda item: 6****REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES****THE EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE SECTOR IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The report invites the Children and Families Select Committee to consider the new Childcare Reforms and the plans for roll out across Nottinghamshire with reference to the findings and recommendations of the 2023 Nottinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

Information**Statutory Childcare Duties placed on top tier Local Authorities**

2. The Childcare Act (2006) currently states that the local authority must make arrangements to secure sufficient high quality early childhood services in their area that are provided in such a way that facilitates access to those services, and maximise the benefit of those services to parents, prospective parents and young children.
3. The Act currently states that local authorities must secure free places offering 570 hours of early education and childcare a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year and up to 52 weeks of the year for every eligible child in their area, and for all 3- and 4-year-olds until the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday.
4. The Childcare Act 2016 amendment currently states that the local authority must also secure an additional 570 free hours of early education and childcare a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year and up to 52 weeks of the year, for qualifying children of working parents. [15 hours funded childcare places for three- and four-year-olds | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)
5. In summary, the following childcare funding must be made available for families:
 - a) 15 hours funding for eligible 2-year-olds - Eligible children include children looked after by the local authority and children from low income families [Funded childcare places for two-year-olds | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)
 - b) 15 hours funding for all 3- and 4-year-olds is a universal offer for all 3- and 4-year-olds regardless of family income.

- c) Additional 15 hours funding for 3- and 4-year-olds from working households (also known as 30 hours) [15 hours funded childcare places for three and four year olds | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)
6. Under section 6 of the Act there is a requirement on local authorities to produce an annual sufficiency report on the availability and sufficiency of childcare in their area. This information should be made available to parents and Elected Members and has been recently approved and published on the Council's website (see list of Background Papers).
7. The Local Authority also has a duty to provide information, advice and assistance to parents or prospective parents which relates to any of the following:
- the provision of childcare in the area of the local authority
 - any other services or facilities, or any publications, which may be of benefit to parents or prospective parents in their area
 - any other services or facilities, or any publications, which may be of benefit to children or young persons in their area.

New Childcare Duties Placed on Local Authorities

8. Expansion of Early Years Entitlements: In March 2023, the Government announced reforms to childcare support as part of the Spring Budget announcements. This increased the duty to provide funded childcare places for working families rolling out over the next three years, extending childcare to support more parents returning to work after their parental leave ends. Central Government has committed that by September 2025, working parents in England will be able to access 30 hours of funded childcare per week, for 38 weeks of the year, from (the term after the term) when their child is 9 months old to when they start school.
- by September 2025, working parents of all children over the age of nine months will be entitled to 30 hours of funded childcare.
9. The changes to Early Years funded hours are being rolled out in phases, beginning in April 2024. The phases are summarised in the table below:

	September 2023 (current offer)	April 2024	September 2024	September 2025
Eligible 2-year-olds*	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours
All 3- and 4-year-olds	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours	15 hours
3- and 4-year-olds of working parents	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours
2-year-olds of working parents		15 hours	15 hours	30 hours
All working parents of children aged 9 months to 5 years			15 hours	30 hours

10. Wrap Around Childcare Provision – the childcare reforms include the requirement for primary schools to offer wrap around childcare in their communities for all children to start from 8am and end at 6pm. There is an expectation that this will be paid for by

parents/carers rather than central government or local authorities as is the case for funded early years childcare.

- by September 2026, all primary schools will have an offer in their community of before and after school care from 8.00am to 6.00pm. The offer can be fulfilled by the school, or by a separate provider in the community, such as Childminders or a Private, Voluntary or Independent provider. The Local Authority has the duty to ensure there are sufficient places to meet demand.
11. The National Wraparound Programme has been launched and Nottinghamshire County Council was involved in the co-design process with DfE which resulted in new guidance published on 27 October 2023 [Wraparound childcare: guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wraparound-childcare-guidance-for-local-authorities).
 12. This year's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment began to consider how these new reforms can be implemented locally and this will be further analysed in the 2024 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

Key Findings of the 2023 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

13. The key findings of the 2023 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment are as follows:
 - a) There has been a 4.5% decrease in the population of children aged 0-4 resident in Nottinghamshire since 2021.
 - b) There are 975 Ofsted registered childcare providers (June 2023) delivering early years childcare and education across Nottinghamshire. This represents a drop of 5% on last year. This is mainly attributed to the decrease in the numbers of registered childminders and mirrors the national picture.
 - c) Nottinghamshire continues to report sufficient childcare places for eligible 2-year-olds, and all 3- and 4-year-olds. According to the assessment this Spring, there were approximately 6,400 vacant x 15-hour funded places for eligible 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds across the County, of which, there were 1,125 vacancies for children under the age of two years.
 - d) There are eight wards where there are less than 10% vacancy rates, due to a number of setting closures and childminder resignations. However, a further six areas are reporting that over 40% of their places remain unfilled.
 - e) The numbers of 2-year-old children taking up their funded entitlements has decreased since the last Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and is at an average of 81% for the academic year.
 - f) 95% of resident 3-year-olds and 97% of 4-year-olds are taking up their funded childcare place, this rises to 105% and 105% respectively when including out of county residents accessing an Early Years Place in Nottinghamshire.
 - g) There continues to be an increase in the number of settings accessing supplementary funding for children with emerging additional needs and in the summer term, the

number of children accessing Inclusion Funding had risen by 28% compared with last year.

- h) 86% of the inspected early years provision in Nottinghamshire is classed as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, which reflects national figures.

Progress made in the implementation of new Childcare Reforms

Early Years Entitlements expansion

14. Early Childhood Services have used the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment to consider whether there will be sufficient childcare to meet the anticipated demands of working parents. So far, we are confident that there will be sufficient places. In order to estimate current future demand, we have at this early stage, made some assumptions based on the percentage of current take up of the 30-hour entitlements for 3- and 4-year-olds of working parents.

Funding for 2-year-olds from working households

15. From early consultation, it is anticipated that in April 2024, the majority of working parents with 2-year-olds wanting to access their funded hours will already be using childcare. It is not anticipated that there will be an influx of "new" parents who are requesting a place, but that existing working parents will use their funded hours to offset existing costs to themselves. Providers are reporting that some parents have asked for additional hours to enable them to increase their hours of work with no additional childcare costs.

Funding for Children under the age of two from Working Households

16. Early Childhood Services launched a parent's consultation on Citizen Space¹ to better understand the childcare needs of working households with children under the age of 3. The service is also currently attending several baby groups and activities to talk to parents about the new childcare entitlements and their future needs when the September entitlement for children under 2 years is rolled out.
17. In addition, in areas where there are reported to be less than 10% vacancy rates, Early Childhood Services is working closely with Early Years providers to identify in real terms, how many of their families will be eligible for the entitlements, as these are accessible only to working families.
18. In early 2024, Early Childhood Services will be launching a consultation exercise with childcare providers to assess the supply of places and capacity to meet anticipated demand.

Wraparound Childcare Programme

19. Nottinghamshire was chosen to be part of the initial co-design group with the Department for Education. This was beneficial as Early Childhood Services have been able to begin

¹ [Expansion of Childcare Support Survey 2023 - Nottinghamshire County Council - Citizen Space](#),

early work on delivery plans and identify areas where we need to increase capacity in order to fulfil the ambition by 2026.

20. As the wraparound programme does not launch until September 2024, we have additional time to consider how to assess supply and demand, as this will be critical to ensuring that all provision meets the needs of the community, and any new provision does not displace existing provision.
21. It is important to note that many schools have a mixed model of delivery according to parental demand, and some offer a full wraparound offer already.

Key Risks in the implementation of the Childcare Reforms

22. Early Years providers and local authority Early Years teams have already identified several risks that need to be mitigated against for the effective implementation of new childcare duties. These have been escalated to the Department for Education and can be summarised as follows:

- a) Support for children with SEND

The numbers of funded children in Early Years settings who are in receipt of supplementary funding for their additional needs continues to increase. With an increase in children accessing a funded place, this is naturally assumed to have an increased demand for supplementary funding.

- b) Places for funded 2-year-olds

Currently, only the most vulnerable 2-year-olds are eligible for a funded place. As more children will be entitled to funded hours, there is a need to ensure access for the most vulnerable does not reduce, as places are offered to working parents. It is hoped that Early Year providers therefore continue to prioritise places for vulnerable 2-year-olds alongside the new reforms.

Furthermore, only 26% of 2-year-olds are currently eligible for a funded place, with a further 47% being eligible through the new working entitlement. This means that an estimated 27% of children aged two will not be eligible for any funded childcare, potentially impacting on their development compared to their peers.

- c) Sustainability of wraparound provision

There have been some misconceptions that wrap around childcare places will be funded by Local Authorities, however Government expects parents to pay for this as they do currently. Programme funding will be made available to support providers in the set-up period, but this is not intended to subsidise income, and provision should be self-sustaining by 2026.

- d) Financial viability for Early Years providers

Some Early Years providers have raised concerns about funding levels as they say they fall short of what they need, for example the increase in the minimum wage and increases in business rates can create challenges for some. They also state the loss of income from fee paying parents who will now access funded places adds additional financial pressure on early years providers.

Nottinghamshire has witnessed some closures in the last year as detailed in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, however this is in line with national trends, and this has largely been driven by a decrease in childminders.

e) Flexibility of wrap around provision

We know from our Families Information Service, that there are several ways that current provision is delivered and how it is described. We know that most schools have some form of Breakfast Club, some offer After School Clubs, but these are not every day and not from 8am and until 6pm. Some providers offer a school pick-up service, but these are not always for children up to the age of 11 years. Many of our Early Years Providers offer childcare for children aged 5-8 out of school hours and during holidays. Ensuring some consistency and availability of childcare for working parents outside of the school day, is therefore a priority.

f) Capacity

There are no functions within Nottinghamshire County Council which support schools with wrap around childcare. Funding attached to the pathfinder is temporary so any activity that is progressed may need to be sustained in the longer term if ongoing support for schools is required.

g) Continued quality improvement.

The support for Early Years providers to offer high quality childcare and improve outcomes for children will continue to be offered through the Early Childhood Services Quality and Attainment team. However, there is currently no identified support for providers of wraparound childcare. It is anticipated that this will be offered in the short term by the proposals for 3 new advisors, however, consideration needs to be made for sustaining this after the life of the programme funding.

Next Steps

23. As noted, there is no concern about the current overall supply of funded childcare places across the County, and there are no areas where demand outweighs supply. However, in eight of the ward clusters there has been a decrease in vacancy rates, and District early years meetings will be used to further interrogate supply and demand levels.
24. Early Childhood Services will continue their campaigns to increase the number of parents taking up a childcare place in those areas where providers are reporting high vacancy levels and threats to future sustainability.
25. Early Childhood Services will embark on an exercise to publicise the extension to Early Years Entitlements for children over the age of two for next Spring and for those over the age of nine months from September 2024. At the same time, Early Childhood Services will interrogate demand for the extended entitlements in consultation with providers and families. In early 2024, we will be launching a consultation exercise with providers to assess the supply of places and capacity to meet anticipated demand.
26. Early Childhood Services recognises that business sustainability is currently the biggest challenge in the Early Years Sector. Early Childhood Services will continue to work with partners to support recruitment to the sector and offer support to providers to maintain sustainable business models.

27. Early Childhood Services will ensure that the funded hourly rates paid to childcare providers are the maximum amount possible based on the National Funding Formula (Nottinghamshire attracts the lowest possible base rate). Nottinghamshire continues to retain less than the permitted amount for centralised services.
28. Early Childhood Services will begin an exercise to review funding for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who are taking up both Early Years entitlements and accessing Wraparound Childcare. The purpose of the review is to assess demand for children under the age of two accessing the extended entitlements and those who attend wraparound provision outside of the school day. As more parents become eligible for funded places in Early Years the demand for supplementary funding for children with SEND is also expected to increase.
29. Early Childhood Services will develop capacity to carry out detailed assessment of supply and demand for Wraparound Childcare.
30. A cross departmental steering group will be convened in early 2024 to begin a partnership to develop and deliver the wraparound programme.

Key Recommendations

31. It is recommended that Early Childhood Services continue to work with families, internal colleagues, schools and early years providers to prepare for the launch of the new childcare reforms ensuring there is sufficient childcare to meet the needs of working parents but also to ensure that 2 year olds from low income and vulnerable groups are prioritised to enable children to achieve their developmental milestones.

Other Options Considered

32. No other options have been considered.

Reasons for Recommendations

33. As set out in The Childcare Act 2006 and statutory guidance, local authorities in England are required to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the provision of sufficient childcare (including early years provision) for working parents in their area and parents making the transition to work. Changes to childcare means that additional duties are now placed on local authorities which are detailed in this report.
34. The duties in the Act require local authorities to shape and support the development of childcare in their area to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. Following the Covid-19 pandemic there are concerns about balancing the supply of provision to ensure access for the most vulnerable children. Covid had an impact on supply and demand which is still being felt by the sector. There has been a reduction in the number of settings being able to operate because some parents made alternative arrangements during the pandemic (including family childcare or working patterns and behaviours changing).

Statutory and Policy Implications

35. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

36. Funding for Early Years childcare places is provided from the Early Years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant which uses the national Early Years Funding Formula to allocate funds to top tier local authorities. All councils can top slice 5% of the Early Years Block to pay for administration, create an early years Inclusion Fund and Deprivation Fund. Nottinghamshire has historically retained less than 5% and in 2023/2024, 2.71% of the Early Years block is currently being retained. This means that the Council provides as much funding to Early Years providers as possible, including being one of only six Local Authorities across England to pass back any underspend on a yearly basis.
37. The Council has traditionally retained less than 3% of the budget which pays for the Early Years team, Families Information Service, Early Years SEND service, Early Years Inclusion Fund, Early Years Deprivation Fund and project costs. This is approved each year by the Early Years and Schools Forum² who review the breakdown of the centrally retained budget.
38. Subject to the outcome of the funding rates consultation with providers (which closed in January 2024) in 2024/25, Nottinghamshire will pass on at least 98% of allocated budgets directly on to providers.
39. The national Early Years Funding Formula is used to calculate the hourly rate given to early years providers to enable them to provide funded places to eligible children. The hourly rate in Nottinghamshire has been increasing each year as follows:

	2022-23 Hourly Rate	2023-24 Hourly Rate	2024-25 Hourly Rate (proposed rates – subject to consultation)
Early Years Base Rate			
Eligible 2-year-olds	£5.60	£5.66	£7.58 - £7.63
Eligible 3- and 4-year-olds	£4.53	£4.70 (increased to £5.03 in Sept 2023)	£5.31 - £5.34
Eligible under 2s (new)	NA	NA	£10.20 - £10.38

² 'Early Years DSG Funding Central Expenditure 2023/24' Paper to the Early Years and Schools Forum 23 February 2023 [23 February 2023 | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

40. Local Authorities have been allocated short term funding under four headings to support the delivery of the expanded childcare offers both for Early Years and Wraparound. The funding period runs from September 2023 until April 2026.
- a) Early Years Entitlements Delivery Support Funding: To support programme and delivery costs associated with rolling out the expanded Early Years entitlements.
 - b) Wraparound Capacity Funding: To increase capacity within the Local Authority team to deliver the Wraparound programme.
 - c) Wraparound Programme Funding: To support with set up / initial costs for new provision, and to allocate supplementary funding where needed to ensure access for children with SEND.
 - d) Childcare Expansion Capital Funding: To develop, enhance or extend provision for both places for Early Years and Wraparound.
41. The provision of the Families Information Service is a statutory duty for top tier local authorities and supports the promotion of childcare entitlements, guides parents to find childcare and helps the Council to secure data for the sufficiency assessment using social media and the Notts Help Yourself website. This service is also funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant totalling £100,000, with additional Council funding allocated to maintain the Notts Help Yourself website (£9,000 per annum).

Consultation

42. The 2023 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment included findings from consultation with parents and carers which was led by the Families Information Service. It also included consultation with the Nottinghamshire Early Years Consultation Group.
43. Consultation is currently taking place with families which will help inform the needs of working families to ensure that their childcare needs are met as practicable as possible.
44. In addition, a new consultation exercise will take place in the new year with childcare providers to further assess the needs and demand for places in the coming years.

Human Resources Implications

45. Extra capacity is required within Early Childhood Services and an additional Early Years Project Officer has already been appointed to the team on a fixed term basis to support with the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment actions and further assessment of supply and demand across the County.
46. A staffing report has been approved with proposals to create the following temporary posts which will be funded through the new funding allocations listed in **paragraph 40**.
- a) 1 FTE additional Technical Specialist to support the existing team with managing payments, payments, and eligibility code data for additional children.
 - b) 1 FTE Families Information Service Assistant to support with promotion of new and existing funded childcare entitlements, managing queries from parents/carers, and

proactive communications and campaigns using websites and social media platforms.

- c) 3 FTE new Wraparound Childcare Advisors to work with school and early years providers to help establish wrap around childcare, support the needs of SEND children and work to help ensure quality and review.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

- 47. Safeguarding is a central focus for childcare providers. The increase in numbers of children accessing childcare will inevitably identify safeguarding concerns in greater numbers of children. Nottinghamshire County Council has facilitated a number of 'safer settings' and training events to ensure all Early Years providers have the skills and knowledge to tackle safeguarding.

Implications for Residents

- 48. The supply of sufficient, high quality, affordable, sustainable, and accessible childcare and early education has benefits for both parent and child, including:
 - a) childcare that is flexible and accessible ensures parents can take up their entitlement at times that best support their child's learning and development, and at times which fit with the needs of parents to enable them to work or increase their hours of work if they wish to do so.
 - b) a good quality pre-school experience supports children's cognitive and emotional development, aiding transition between home and school and improving school readiness.
 - c) the Government's plan to improve social mobility through education [Unlocking Talent, Releasing Potential](#) states that good early years education is the cornerstone of social mobility and children with strong foundations will start school in a position to progress.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Children and Families Select Committee:

- 1) acknowledges the current sufficiency of childcare places across Nottinghamshire and reviews the plans for the delivery of new Childcare Reforms.
- 2) considers how they would like to be kept updated on the progress of the implementation of childcare reforms and status of the childcare sector in Nottinghamshire.

Councillor Tracey Taylor
Cabinet Member, Children and Families

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Constitutional Comments (LW 29/12/23)

49. The Children & Families Select Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (CDS 03/01/24)

50. The financial arrangements relating to the reforms are described in **paragraphs 36-41**, however, there are no financial implications arising directly from this report and its recommendations.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023: The Early Years and Childcare Sector in Nottinghamshire - decision of the Cabinet Member, Children and Families, on 11 December 2023](#)

[Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023 Appx1](#)

'Early Years Funding 2024-2025 Consultation' Paper to Early Years and Schools Forum 6 December 2023 [6 December 2023 | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Department for Education (March 2023) 'Early Education entitlements and funding update March 2023' [Early education entitlements and funding update: March 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

'Early Years DSG Funding Central Expenditure 2023/24' Paper to the Early Years and Schools Forum 23 February 2023 [23 February 2023 | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Establishment of fixed term posts to support the expansion of childcare entitlements – decision of the Corporate Director, Children and Families, on 4 January 2024

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

All.

CFS0016

5 February 2024**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
INCLUSION****STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
ANNUAL REPORTS 2021-22 AND 2022-23****Purpose of the Report**

1. The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report provides an update on the work of SACRE over the previous year on its activity to advise the local authority on religious education in accordance with an agreed syllabus, collective worship and other matters related to Religious Education. The Annual Report 2021-2022, attached as **Appendix 1**, sets out the activities and achievements over the 2021-22 year and the Annual Report 2022-23, attached as **Appendix 2**, sets out the most recent update on the responsibilities, activities and achievements of SACRE over the 2022-23 year.

Information

2. Every Local Education Authority is required by law to have a SACRE. Its origins go back to the Education Act of 1944, but the Education Reform Act 1988 and the Education Act 1996 strengthened its place in a local authority.
3. SACRE must meet a sufficient number of times a year to fulfil its statutory duties.
4. Its main function is to advise the local authority on matters related to Religious Education and collective worship in schools.
5. SACRE must publish an Annual Report on its work.

Financial Implications

6. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Select Committee considers the SACRE Annual Report 2021-2022 and the SACRE Annual Report 2022-2023 and notes the work of SACRE in the implementation of

the Local Agreed Syllabus and support for the high-quality teaching of Religious Education across Nottinghamshire.

Peter McConnochie
Service Director, Education, Learning and Inclusion

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Constitutional Comments (GR 17/01/24)

7. Pursuant to the Nottinghamshire County Council Constitution this Committee has the delegated authority to receive this report.

Financial Comments (SS 02/01/24)

8. The expenditure relating to SACRE is to be funded from the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB), which is part of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CFS0015



Nottinghamshire Standing Advisory
Council for Religious Education

Annual Report
2021/2022

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Nottinghamshire SACRE

1.1 Chair's introduction

Once again it has been a pleasure to work with such a diverse focused group.

Meeting at various venues around the County always with such a warm welcome. Personally I found the return to the Holocaust Centre particular meaningful, I am not sure what happened but came away enlightened, I would encourage anyone of my friends and colleagues to pay a visit.

Throughout the year there has been the underlying issue that we as a group were about to lose one of our greatest assets, the person who facilitates the meeting and keeps me on the straight and narrow. Unfortunately, due to a prior family arrangement that was a surprise for me I was unable to attend Ken's last meeting, my good friend Cllr Tracey Taylor said a few words on my behalf. Ken will most definitely be missed by the Nottinghamshire SACRE, he will always be made most welcome should he wish to attend one of our meetings.

Once again as the Chairman would like to wish the Rev Ken Johnson a truly happy and blessed future on behalf of the Nottinghamshire SACRE and all those connected with it.

Many thanks

Boyd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Elliott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Boyd Elliott

Chair of SACRE
Vice Chairman of Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
County Councillor for Calverton

1.2 Meetings of SACRE

SACRE met once each term during 2021-2022

November 2021 *An online meeting due to ongoing Covid situation*

- Election of vice chair & membership update
- The online SACRE leaflet was welcomed - bit.ly/NottsSACRE
- A proposed SACRE Code of Conduct was to be further refined
- A discussion about funding from the LA was raised.
- The OFSTED review of RE was discussed
- SEF of SACRE was discussed to help formulate the development of SACRE
- Revised format of the Draft Annual Report was shared.
- How SACRE can effectively, if at all, monitor RE & Collective Worship
- SACRE effectiveness and Development Plan was considered in the light of the SACRE self-evaluation document.
- Local & National Developments were looked at.
- Report given on how we were approaching the filming from the grant from NASACRE & Westhills.

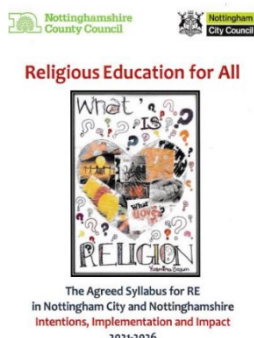
March 2022 *Held at the Holocaust Centre, - face to face meeting*

- Discussion of the financial situation with regard to SACRE which resulted in the chair seeking to see if SACRE could have a separate budget
- We an update from the Holocaust Centre about its work and members had the opportunity to look round the Centre.
- Annual Reports had been received by DfE & NASACRE
- SACRE members saw one of the films about the Friary which had been created from the West hill/ NASACRE funding. Agreed that SACRE should have a You Tube channel which would host the films to be used by schools nationwide. Resources to accompany them for use in class would be available on the RSresource Website in due course.
- SACRE looked at OFSTED inspection reports in the County and there was a need to support Collective Worship more from SACRE.
- It was hoped to have a Joint Meeting with the City SACRE

June 2022 *Held at Gurdwara Baba Budha*

- SACRE members had an introduction to the Sikh faith and to tour the Gurdwara.
- A Report on the recent online NASACRE Conference was given Some members attended various training courses from NASACRE following the conference.
- Attention of members was drawn to the Report Card for RE, the REC World views Project Draft Handbook along with the Government's White paper on Education- all for future deliberation.
- Nothing further about a joint SACRE meeting
- An update on the filming project which showed that completion was now in sight and the resource would be available from September.
- Members learned that there was a small working party of teachers looking at Skills progression across the Agreed Syllabus

2.1 The Agreed Syllabus



Teachers have welcomed the Syllabus. The resources on the website to support it are growing through teachers who are willing to share ideas and materials.

These were also available the corresponding website within the City of Nottingham.

SACRE Members were shown a list of support materials available on the Websites to accompany the syllabus

2.2 Standards & monitoring

SACRE members feel that this is a difficult task to report on. The Ofsted reports which showed some deep dives into RE were overall positive about the subject. These were shared as an overview to SACRE members

The Nottinghamshire RSresource Centre had worked with around 2,000 young people in schools during the academic year delivering faith experiences. This allowed some positive feedback about the work been carried out in school and academies within the County. Pupils were curious to learn about different faiths and displayed a positive knowledge from things they had been taught by their teachers.

www.rsresources.org.uk

Teachers commented on these experiences thus:-

I will do more active lessons in RE as shown by the visit.

For the children to embed & deploy their knowledge – it worked very well

A wonderful, creative experience that captured the interest of the pupils.

Fantastic as always – children loved the practical aspects!

In one school pupils asked if they could have more experiences in the future!

2.3 Teacher CPD & Support Materials

This year SACRE advertised two sessions which were organised by schools as part of their internal CPD across the LA and other schools joined in with them.

Our Primary RE Network met twice in an afternoon during the academic year.

Our Autumn Session was face to face at the Holocaust Centre where 20 teachers discovered how the Centre could be a resource for their teaching. We looked at local and national developments in RE. Colleagues shared their approach to assessment and the use of floor books as well as looking at OFSTED reports. In the evaluations teachers said of the session:-

Have so much to take away with me, Brilliant

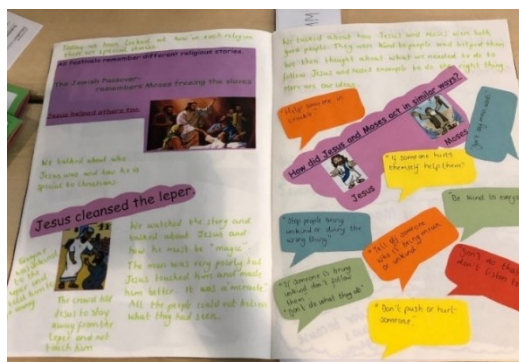
“ Excellent afternoon in a wonderful setting. I came away with so many ideas.”

Our delegates enjoyed discovering how colleagues were recording & assessing RE at KS2 as this helped them to grow in confidence with their role. The help with assessment was found to be so beneficial, along with the opportunity to meet & share ideas with others.

From this session teachers contributed materials to share on the website to support the Agreed Syllabus.

Our Spring Network Meeting was again face to face during which we shared: -

the local & National Developments in RE
what can we learn from Ofsted Reports on Primary Schools Inspection
assessment resources developed since the last Network
examples of floor books and how you construct them to assist with assessment of pupils
Knowledge Organizers in RE - what are they – a teacher shared her school's experience
Developing Knowledge organisers for use in school this was a creative session



We also discussed Skills Progression across the syllabus and a small working party has been formed from the Facebook group to look further into this.

SACRE Annual RE Conference June - again face to face

**Our Conference was entitled:
Better RE with the Notts Syllabus: Inspiring ideas for all schools**

The day included the following: -

The challenge of deeper thinking through RE:
The challenge of better writing in RE
The Launch of the SACRE films
The challenge of values and spirituality from RE



96% of the delegates said this very useful with 4% saying useful. Teachers found this valuable as it offered new insights into approaches as well as offering new resources to be more effective in teaching. The chance to share and listen to colleagues was much welcomed after a break from face-to-face meetings, as well as reviewing resources promoting deeper thinking in RE.

At the Conference we launched the films which SACRE had made with funding from West Hills and NASACRE which would be available to use in schools along with some suggested resources to accompany them. After viewing one film teachers commented

The Friary film was inspiring to link our William Booth English unit to RE. This was very powerful & an excellent resource to use in school. It was very moving and thought provoking, engaging & child friendly. Children will be enthused to make their own community video

The Friary film was a great insight into faith inaction & community support
It's great to know that there are other films available

Details of this development are in the appendix.

In their evaluations teachers commented that on going back to their establishments they would:

- Share Ideas with colleagues through staff meetings
- Review and Change the way RE is delivered
- Discuss with Senior Managers about children contributing more to our school- RE intention statement, introduction of floor books in classes & raise questions about RE in EY's.
- Use the videos
- Making learning more creative
- Focus more on pupil's own ideas & responses
- Look at how RE can assist improving the quality of writing in school
- Support teaching of RE & improve RE in reception
- Ensure more planning is cross curricular with writing & D&T

2.4 Other Information

The Secretary of SACRE has not received any enquiries about schools facing withdrawal issues either concerning sessions or full-scale withdrawal from RE. No complaints about the teaching of RE in schools.

We have also developed pages concerning SACRE on the local Authority website:-

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/nottinghamshire-standing-advisory-council-for-religious-education-sacre-1>

Resource materials have been placed on the resources section to accompany the Agreed Syllabus through the year. Some of which were contributed by teachers within the County and City. These materials are shared on the City site as well. These are accessible to those institutions which have bought into the Agreed Syllabus.

During the Academic year the Secretary did receive enquiries asking about the following areas: -

- Parental right of withdrawal – clarification and guidance
- Post 16 RE
- Collective Worship Policy
- RE Policy Documentation

2 Collective Worship

SACRE is aware that there is a need to address the support offered to schools on Collective Worship in the future.

3.1 Determinations

There were no requests by schools in Nottinghamshire for a determination that the specific requirements regarding the character of collective worship, as set out in the Education Act 1996, should not apply to them.

Nottinghamshire SACRE does have a policy on Determination which can be requested.

4 SACRE LINKS

4.1 National Groups

SACRE continues to keep up to date of developments in the RE world through the REC and NASACRE. We attended the online conference of NASACRE. Some members of SACRE have attended the online training courses offered by NASACRE. At times the secretary has sought advice and guidance from NASACRE on some issues.

We continue to use the expertise of NATRE and RE Today consultants. We are in touch with the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust group offering to schools' materials they produce. We also liaise with other providers such as Picture News.



The Five Cities Project of the Religion Media Centre



The Secretary was invited by The Religion Media Centre to be involved in the planning of this event held in Nottingham.

In October and November 2021, the Religion Media Centre delivered an innovative project to bring together local journalists, representatives from religious groups, religious education teachers, academics, and civic leaders in five English cities. Some 300 people attended the events in the cities which included Nottingham. These were organised by the RMC with local steering groups of journalists, religious organisations, academics, teachers, and councils.

The intention was to raise understanding between religious groups and the media, exploring new stories, breaking down misunderstanding and showcasing the expertise of RE teachers and academics from local universities, who are plugged into local religious networks in a unique way.

Media panels in each city and subsequent question and answer sessions showed that relationships between religious individuals or organisations with the media are often non-existent outside large denominations with funds for public relations advice.

Our Secretary provided an input to the day about the religious make up on Nottingham & pointing out how the Agreed Syllabus for the City and the County was RE for all.

<https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/news/creating-connections-religion-and-the-media-in-nottingham/>

The
Faith
& Belief
Forum



On behalf of SACRE, our secretary was involved in the Focus Groups organised by the Faith & Belief Forum which exists to create good relations between people of different faiths and beliefs.

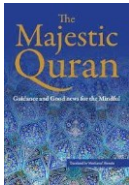
Our vision is a connected and supportive society where people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures have strong, productive, and lasting relations. They believe the future belongs to people of all beliefs, that intolerance has no place in society and that diversity adds value. We have contributed to various online meetings and gained various insights from the Forum including publications

4.2 Local Groups

SACRE membership includes teachers from different academies, along with representatives from Nottingham Trent University and Nottingham University.

The National Holocaust Centre also attends SACRE meetings as well our links with the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham advisors.

Some County Schools do use the facilities offered by the Nottinghamshire RSResources Centre which is a member of The Federation of RE Centres as reported earlier. All schools receive the termly newsletter which outlines training and development in the area each term.



Working with the Muslim Community we advertised a programme through which schools could receive obtain a free copy of this translation. 27 County Schools received one.

5.1 SACRE involvement in the Local Area

SACRE has produced an electronic flyer regarding what SACRE is. This has been made available to schools and can be made available to Faith communities in the County:

bit.ly/NottsSACRE

5.2 Governors

SACRE will be reviewing previous advice it offered to school governors.

5.3 Advice on community issues The Secretary has provided schools with advice on issues which arise at times such as during Ramadan.

6. SACRE

6.1 Support professional & administrative

The Local Authority provides a Secretary for SACRE who provides guidance to the SACRE on various matters pertaining to Religious Education and Collective Worship from various bodies which exist. The LA also provides support with minute taking and circulation of materials and other administrative assistance.

6.2 Training

SACRE members new to the body are sent the document produced by NASACRE about being new to the role and more recently have been made aware to the training sessions which NASACRE has been rolling out.

Advice is given to the LA regularly through the Authority representative about courses, network, and conferences to assist teachers, as well as sharing concerns which have been voiced. These requests are then discussed with liaison with higher authorities in the LA.

6.3 Membership, representation Support

The Secretary of SACRE does pursue vacancies with bodies who can propose members representing their world view in accordance with the constitution and tries to ensure that all meetings are quorate.

6.5 Finance

The LA does provide funding to cover the administrative work of SACRE and the time spent by the SACRE Clerk on a range of duties.

7 Appendices

7.1 Examination results

KS4 outcomes in Religious Studies (2022 Provisional)

All Pupils	Nottinghamshire				National			
	NoE	9-5	9-4 / A*-C	9-1 / A*-G	NoE	9-5	9-4 / A*-C	9-1 / A*-G
Exam Yr								
2015	2,308		71.4	98.4	269,511		72.1	97.9
2016	2,085		72.7	98.0	268,759		71.6	97.8
2017	1,945		72.6	98.8	264,516		71.5	97.9
2018	1,641	57.4	70.4	97.4	213,853	60.3	71.8	98.1
2019	1,630	60.8	73.1	98.8	224,997	61.0	72.4	98.2
2020					225,031	66.0	79.5	99.2
2021					223,713	67.2	80.0	98.7
2022(p)	1,924	57.9	69.1	97.8	221,148	66.0	76.7	98.0

To note:

- Decreasing trend in number of entries between 2015-2019 but increase in entries in 2022 in Nottinghamshire.
- Number achieving A-C grades lower in Nottinghamshire than National in 2022. Gap in Nottinghamshire had widened.

2022 A level results not yet available

7.2 Details of CPD

SACRE has offered primary RE Leads a Network course over two half days which was been well supported. SACRE also provides the opportunity for an Annual RE Conference. All these CPD activities are made available to City of Nottingham Schools and academies as well as those in the County. Accounts of them were included in the report above.

7.3 Attendance Record

Attendance at SACRE meetings: - Membership from nominated groups: 32

All meetings were quorate

November	2021 from the nominated groups 4 apologies	60% present
March	2022 from the nominated groups 10 apologies	44% present
June	2022 from the nominated groups 7 apologies	53% present

7.4 Any LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW

SACRE has in the past produced guidance documents on RE and CW

7.5 Development Plan

Each year the SACRE using the SEF produces a document which shows how it can be more effective which is a development plan which suggest areas to be considered.

7.6 Circulation details of Annual Report

The Annual Report of the Nottinghamshire SACRE goes to all schools and academies in the LA, is sent to NASACRE and DfE. It is also available for the LA to consider as well.

7.7 SACRE Development Outline

SACRE have these main responsibilities:

- Publish an annual report, which is sent to NASACRE
- Consider requests for determinations on collective worship when required.
- Advise LA on collective worship and RE to be given in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus
- Monitor provision for RE & Collective Worship
- Provide support, advice on RE & Collective Worship

In order to successfully fulfil these duties our development plan for 2022-2027 identifies priorities, actions, a time scale and success criteria for the following:

- The core functions of the SACRE
- Maintaining standards and quality of RE provision
- Maintain and monitor the effectiveness of the Agreed Syllabus
- Advise and support schools in providing Collective Worship

Success and areas for continued development are reviewed and identified at termly SACRE meetings.

7.8 SACRE Constitution

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/2901573/nottinghamshiresacreconstitution.pdf

Conclusion

SACRE continues to develop its role in supporting schools and advising the Children and Young People's Cabinet on RE and Collective Worship and would welcome feedback and suggestions for its continuing work.

Rev. Ken Johnson
Secretary to SACRE for 2010 – 2022

Nottinghamshire SACRE would like to record their thanks for the amazing contribution of their secretary Rev Ken Johnson, who prepared most of this report and had shared his advice and expertise for the last 12 years, helping to maintain and inform and healthy, thriving SACRE. We wish him well in his retirement.

If you have any comments on the work/role of SACRE or require any further information please contact:

Sally MacDonald
Secretary of SACRE
Sally.macdonald@nottscg.gov.uk

Val Jones
Clerk
Valerie.jones@nottscg.gov.uk

SACRE Members

2021- 2022

Group A

Councillor Boyd Elliott (Chair of SACRE)
Councillor Phil Rostance
Councillor Vaughan Hopewell

Group B *Five representatives of the Church of England*

Dr Anne Lumb
Mrs Megan Brooksby
Mrs Kate Charlesworth
Mr Craig Moxham
Mrs Stephanie Smart

Group C *Eight representatives of teachers in Nottinghamshire*

Mrs Mary Moran	Secondary
Ms Fiona Hunter	Trent University (Until July 2022)
Mr Mike Follen	NAHT
Mrs Bethan Inglis	Secondary
Mr Richard Linford	Primary
Mr Chris Wellbrook	NEU
Anne Thompson	NASUWT
Mr James Bakewell Wale	Secondary

Group D *Sixteen representatives of Christianity (other than Church of England) and other religious faiths representing the principal religious/world views of Nottinghamshire from February 2021*

Mrs Gemma Pettifor	Assemblies of God
Mr Mike Arnold	Baptist
Mr Gareth Austen	Buddhist
Dr Shanaya Rathod	Hindu
Mrs Naomi Posner	Jewish
Mr Alan Darlington	Methodist
Mr Hafiz Muntazir	Muslim
	(until June 2022)
Tom Drew	Society of Friends
Mrs Naomi Waring	Roman Catholic
	(until June 2022)
Miss Caroline Hornsby	Roman Catholic
Mr Andrew Whitehouse	Salvation Army
Mr Gurjeet Singh	Sikh
Dr Graham Jennings	United Reformed Church
Mr Godfrey Nix	Baha'i
Mr Russell Davies	Pagan Network
Mr Will Richardson	BHA

Co-opted February 2021

Dr Irfan Malik Nottingham Ahmadiyya
Muslim Community

Observers

Rebecca Soulsby-McCreath

National Holocaust Centre

Mr Jon Hoover Nottingham
University



Nottinghamshire Standing Advisory
Council for Religious Education

Annual Report
2022/2023

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Nottinghamshire SACRE

1.1 Chair's introduction

Welcome

A year that has seen us as a group say a fond farewell to many long-standing members including our long standing secretary Ken Johnson and a huge welcome to many new members and of course our new secretary to SACRE Sally MacDonald who has established a seamless transition.

We have met at The Well Retford, Southwell Minster and the National Holocaust Centre continuing our great work on The Agreed Syllabus and SACRE's role in our local communities.

Again thank you for having me as your Chairman, it is an honour.

Looking forward to the ensuing year.

Kind Regards

Boyd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Elliott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Boyd Elliott

Chair of SACRE
Vice Chairman of Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee
County Councillor for Calverton

1.2 Meetings of SACRE

SACRE met once each term during 2022-2023

November 2022 ***The Well, Retford Baptist Church***

We were given a tour of The Well and an introduction to the work that is done there across the community.

The meeting was not quorate but we continued with the agenda and made recommendations to be ratified at the next meeting

- Election of vice chair was postponed until a quorate meeting
- Membership update
- The SACRE Code of Conduct was discussed and agreed for acceptance at the next meeting
- A discussion about funding from the LA was raised.
- The Development plan was reviewed and discussed
- Local & National Developments were looked at and it was agreed that our Cllrs would write to our local MPs regarding the shortage of adequately trained RE teachers
- A discussion was held about how to best facilitate members' attendance at meetings

March 2023 ***Southwell Minster***

Diane Ives enabled a tour of the Minster and signposted the Minster's work with schools

The meeting was not quorate again, but we continued with the agenda and made recommendations to be ratified at the next meeting

- Election of vice chair was postponed until a quorate meeting
- Membership update- new members from Roman Catholic church and an observer from Church of Later Day Saints welcomed
- The SACRE Code of Conduct was discussed, some changes suggested to be brought to next meeting
- There was a review of the advice to governors.
- The development plan was reviewed and it was agreed to prioritise actions
- Review of the advice on collective worship

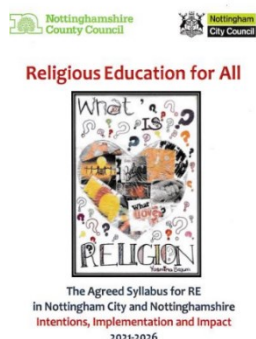
June 2022 ***National Holocaust Centre***

*We were given an introduction to **The Journey**- part of the experience that schools are offered at the centre*

- Vice-chair elected from group D.
- Membership reviewed and discussed.
- Development has been RAG rated and immediate issues highlighted.
- The code of conduct was reviewed, issues discussed and it was accepted
- The route for the Annual report to be accepted and ratified by Notts CC was confirmed.

- Updated advice to governors was approved.
- A review of Ofsted reports on Nottinghamshire Schools was discussed.
- Feedback from the SACRE conference and RE network was received.
- Research on Hindu hate crimes was introduced and agreed to be shared with members following the meeting.

2.1 The Agreed Syllabus



The resources on the website have been re-organised to ensure ease of access for teachers. Each unit of the syllabus now has a folder where related materials that may be used for teaching are available. Through Lat Blaylock's input at the SACRE conference and the secretary, Sally MacDonald's, attendance at a conference for SEND and RE and the annual NARTE conference additional resources have been added.

2.2 Standards & monitoring

Nottinghamshire schools RE GCSE results are shared with SACRE but this represents a small percentage of the total figures as it does not include academies. It is therefore difficult to use these for a reliable method of monitoring standards in RE in the county.

Many of the schools do not report the number of hours given to RE at KS3 & 4.

Scrutiny of Ofsted reports for Nottinghamshire schools, where RE was mentioned or where deep dives into RE were completed in the inspection are shared with SACRE on a termly basis. Of 24 Nottinghamshire Primary Schools inspected in 2022, 21 had good outcomes, 9 deep dives into RE were conducted and there were 15 positive comments related to RE and the important role it plays in teaching British Values.

2.3 Teacher CPD & Support Materials

This year we have had three, termly network meetings for Primary RE leaders across the county and a SACRE conference for RE leaders.

Our Primary RE Network met each term for a half day of training and sharing good practice. Subjects covered have included:

- Using book scrutiny and pupil voice to monitor standards of RE in your school
- Assessment methods
- Sharing of resources that support and enhance the units in the agreed syllabus
- Insights from recent Ofsted inspections
- Preparing for an Ofsted inspection
- Developing an RE leaders' action plan

- Reflections from a member completing an MA in RE teaching
- Effective use of visits and visitors to enhance RE teaching

The pattern of the meetings includes some input followed by group work and sharing of practice. Attendees are always asked to bring something for discussion and to share with others. This is something they do generously and with great professionalism.

Date of network	Attendees	Feedback- really useful	useful	Some use or not useful
November 22	23	15	5	0
March 23 (NUE strike day)	22	11	9	0
July 23	25	17	2	0

Feedback regularly mentions highlights being:

- time to network with other professionals
- looking at materials/RE books from other schools
- reassurance that they are taking the subject in the right direction

SACRE Annual RE Conference – June 2023

Build Better RE in your school with the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus

Led by Lat Blaylock

- What does it mean to enable greater depth in pupil learning in RE?
- Many religions and worldviews: developing diversity and attending to respect for all
- Assessing RE to meet the standards of the syllabus: 5 practical ideas
- Inspiration for leading RE in the primary school

60 teachers signed up to attend the conference.

36 completed evaluations. 35 said it was excellent, 1 good.

Some responses:

- A very informative session which has given me the confidence to head back to school and lead a staff meeting! Thank you
- The training was really inspiring, and the clear links made to the Nottinghamshire Syllabus makes it easy for me to see how I can successfully implement these ideas in our curriculum. Thank you so much for such an inspiring and thought provoking day
- It was an excellent day. For the first time in ages I felt that I had been given the tools/time to have a really good overview of the subject, see where the resourcing could be developed, and be able to discuss with others some best practice. The work on GDS from the outset was so empowering as it immediately took the sessions (and those we would plan for the children) from a regurgitating of facts to higher thinking. Genius idea. I could see, as the sessions progressed, exactly where I needed to go and what to do next. I now feel secure that I could have a conversation with an inspector, explaining where we are and why, and what we have planned for the next steps. Thank you so much. We would like- (An

opportunity to attend this again (we are a Derbyshire school but really valued the day) or for Lat to run one for Derbyshire.)

- It was clear, relevant and very informative. A fantastic day that has left me excited to be RE lead.

2.4 Other Information

The Secretary of SACRE has not received any formal requests from schools facing withdrawal issues either concerning sessions or full-scale withdrawal from RE. Clarification and guidance regarding parent's right to withdraw has been requested by some schools and the guidance. The secretary shared the NAHT and NATRE guidance which was well received.

There have been no complaints about the teaching of RE in schools.

Information concerning SACRE is available on the local Authority website:-

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/nottinghamshire-standing-advisory-council-for-religious-education-sacre-1>

This includes:

- Agendas and minutes of the meetings
- SACRE constitution
- Past annual reports
- A contact for the determinations policy
- Contact details for enquiries

3. Collective Worship

A link to the directors report on Collective Worship in Nottinghamshire schools is available on the SACRE page of NCC's web-site: [collectiveworshipdirectorsreport.doc \(live.com\)](#)

3.1 Determinations

There were no requests by schools in Nottinghamshire for a determination that the specific requirements regarding the character of collective worship, as set out in the Education Act 1996, should not apply to them.

Nottinghamshire SACRE does have a policy on Determination which can be requested.

4 SACRE LINKS

4.1 National Groups

SACRE continues to keep up to date with developments in the RE world through membership of NATRE and NASACRE. The secretary attended the online conference of NASACRE – Strictly RE in January 2023. Some members of SACRE have attended the online training courses offered by NASACRE. These bodies remain important and valuable sources of advice and information.

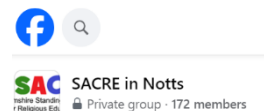
4.2 Local Groups

SACRE membership includes 17 representatives from the faith groups and denominations that exist across Nottinghamshire. It also includes teachers from schools in the county, different academies, along with representatives from Nottingham University.

A representative of the RSresource centre attends SACRE meetings as well our links with the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham advisors.

The RSresources centre is used by schools in the county to support the teaching and resourcing of RE.

SACRE in Notts Facebook page has 172 members. Posts are regularly shared with members from national organisations to inform and support the continued teaching and development of RE.



5. SACRE involvement in the Local Area

5.1 Local information

SACRE have an electronic flyer regarding what SACRE is. This is available to schools and can be made available to Faith communities in the County: bit.ly/NottsSACRE

5.2 Governors

SACRE advice to governors has been updated this year and shared through NCC.

5.3 Advice on community issues



The Secretary has provided schools with advice on issues which arise. Primary Picture news is also shared which gives schools regular news items to share with pupils in a Primary friendly format.

SACRE members provide the secretary with advice from the bodies that they represent from time to time. This advice is passed on to other SACRE members and schools as appropriate. For example, our Hindu representatives shared a research paper on Hindu hate crime in the UK which was shared with members and teachers.

6. SACRE

6.1 Support professional & administrative

The Local Authority provides a Secretary for SACRE who provides guidance to the SACRE on various matters pertaining to Religious Education and Collective Worship from various bodies which exist. The LA also provides support with minute taking and circulation of materials and other administrative assistance.

6.2 Training

SACRE members new to the body are sent the document produced by NASACRE about being new to the role and are invited to attend the on-line training sessions which NASACRE provide.

NASACRE have a rolling programme of training events and useful resources which are available to all our members.

Advice is given to the LA regularly through the Authority representative about courses, network, and conferences to assist teachers, as well as sharing concerns which have been voiced. These requests are then discussed with liaison with higher authorities in the LA.

6.3 Membership, representation and recruitment

The Secretary of SACRE approaches all groups represented on SACRE when a vacancy arises to ensure that the groups mentioned in the constitution are properly represented. In 2022/2023 two out of the three meetings were not quorate so work has been done to ensure meetings are well attended. This includes the development of a code of conduct that states the expectation that members attend meetings or send suitable replacements. In addition the secretary has undertaken work to ensure that the membership of SACRE is current and that all groups have full and active representation.

6.4 Finance

The LA has provided funding to cover the following over the past year:

- The administrative work of SACRE
- The provision of refreshments at venues
- Membership subscriptions of NASACRE and NATRE
- The secretary's attendance at training events
- Time spent by the SACRE Clerk on a range of duties.
- The time of the secretary to SACRE in facilitating the RE teacher's network

7. Appendices

7.1 Examination results

GCSE and A Level results 2023

SACRE has noted the national provisional figures for UK - Source JCQ

GCSE Full Course	June 2023 Notts	June 2023	June 2022	June 2019
Total	1869	243735	243252	221419
Grades				
9-5	57.6%	31.2%	35.2%	38.7%
9 - 4	68%	72.8%	77.2%	80.5%
9- 1	97.8%	98.4%	98.4%	99.5%

GCE A Level	June 2023	June 2022	June 2019
Total	16853	17789	19406
Grades (% cumulative)			
A* - C	79.6	87.6	76.7
A* - E	98.1	99.0	98.2

Trends in Nottinghamshire over time

Nottinghamshire				
All Pupils				
Exam Yr	NoE	9-5	9-4 / A*-C	9-1 / A*-G
2015	2,308		71.4	98.4
2016	2,085		72.7	98.0
2017	1,945		72.6	98.8
2018	1,641	57.4	70.4	97.4
2019	1,630	60.8	73.1	98.8
2020				
2021				
2022	1,924	58.0	69.2	97.8
2023(p)	1,869	57.6	68.0	97.8

Girls				
Exam Yr	NoE	9-5	9-4 / A*-C	9-1 / A*-G
2015	1,310		79.0	99.5
2016	1,158		79.1	98.7
2017	1,120		78.3	99.2
2018	896	67.2	80.5	98.9
2019	887	71.6	82.4	99.5
2020				
2021				
2022	1,009	67.4	76.5	98.9
2023(p)	1,023	64.3	74.4	98.4

Boys				
Exam Yr	NoE	9-5	9-4 / A*-C	9-1 / A*-G
2015	998		61.5	97.1
2016	927		64.7	97.1
2017	825		64.8	98.2
2018	745	45.6	58.4	95.7
2019	743	47.9	62.0	98.0
2020				
2021				
2022	915	47.5	61.1	96.6
2023(p)	846	49.4	60.2	96.9

7.2. CPD

SACRE has offered primary RE Leads a Network course over three half days which have been well supported. SACRE also provides the opportunity for an Annual RE Conference. All these CPD activities are made available to City of Nottingham Schools and academies as well as those in the County. Accounts of them were included in the report above.

The secretary attended training facilitated by Doncaster SACRE on RE and SEND. This was led by Lat Blaylock and Anne Krisman. As a result, Nottinghamshire teachers will have input on SEND and RE from the secretary and Ian Coles, an RE teacher in Nottinghamshire, at the November 2023 network and the secretary is working with Anne Krisman and Lat Blaylock to organise a RE and SEND conference in Nottinghamshire in 2024.

7.3 Attendance Record

Attendance at SACRE meetings: - Membership from nominated groups: 35

November 2022 from the nominated groups	9 present,	15 apologies,	26%present
March 2023 from the nominated groups	11 present,	14 apologies	31% present
July 2023 from the nominated groups	21 present,	4 apologies,	60%present

7.4 Any LA/SACRE policy statements on RE or CW

These have not been changed in the year 2022/23 and continue to be available as detailed above.

7.5 Development Plan

The development plan is considered at each SACRE meeting and progress is noted. This year the plan has been prioritised to highlight outstanding actions.

7.6 Circulation details of Annual Report

Due to the reorganisation of NCC committees the acceptance of last year's SACRE annual report was delayed. It has now been confirmed that the SACRE Annual report, following it's acceptance by SACRE in November will be taken to NCC select committee to be accepted. It will then be shared with NASACRE and DfE in January. It is also sent to all schools and academies in Nottinghamshire and is available on SACRE's web-page.

7.7 SACRE Constitution

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/2901573/nottinghamshiresacreconstitution.pdf

Conclusion

SACRE continues to develop its role in advising, supporting and resourcing schools to deliver high quality RE in Nottinghamshire. We would welcome feedback and suggestions for its continuing work.

If you have any comments on the work/role of SACRE or require any further information please contact:

Sally MacDonald
Secretary to SACRE
Sally.MacDonald@nottscc.gov.uk

SACRE Members

2022- July 2023

Group A *Three representatives of the Children and Young People's services*

Councillor Boyd Elliott (Chair of SACRE)
Councillor Tracey Taylor
Councillor Richard Butler

Group B *Five representatives of the Church of England*

Dr Anne Lumb
Mrs Megan Brooksby
Mrs Kate Charlesworth
Mr Craig Moxham
Vacancy

Group C *Eight representatives of teachers in Nottinghamshire*

Mrs Mary Moran Secondary
Mr Mike Follen/ Pearl Day NAHT
Mrs Bethan Inglis Secondary
Mr Richard Linford Primary
Vacancy NEU
Vacancy NASUWT
Mr James Bakewell Wale Secondary
Mr Godfrey Nix Baha'i
Mr Russell Davies Pagan
Mr Will Richardson BHA
Dr Irfan Malik Nottingham Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Network
Vacancy Muslim
Will Richardson Humanist

Co/opted
Denis Hill Church of Latter Day Saints

Jon Hoover/Tim Hutchings Nottingham University

Group D *Sixteen representatives of Christianity (other than Church of England) and other religious faiths representing the principal religious/world views of Nottinghamshire*

Mrs Gemma Pettifor	Assemblies of God
Mr Mike Arnold (until March 2023)	Baptist
Vacancy	Buddhist
Dr Shanaya Rathod	Hindu
Dr C Saluja	Hindu
Mrs Naomi Posner	Jewish
Mr Alan Darlington	Methodist
Tom Drew	Society of Friends
Mr David Quinn	Roman Catholic
Miss Caroline Hornsby	Roman Catholic
Mr Andrew Whitehouse	Salvation Army
Mr Gurjeet Singh	Sikh
Dr Graham Jennings	United Reformed Church

5 February 2024**Agenda Item 8****REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND
THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES (SEND)****CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE, RISKS AND
FINANCIAL POSITION – QUARTER 2 2023-4****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide the Committee with a summary of the Children and Families Department's financial position for the current financial year.
2. To provide the Committee with a summary of the Children and Families Department's performance against the Ambitions set out in the Annual Delivery Plan.
3. To provide the Committee with a summary of the Children and Families Department's key departmental risks.

Information

4. There is a wide range of performance data that supports the effective delivery of children's services. This data can be complex to understand, given the breadth of functions that the department provides, often working in partnership with wider services including schools. Performance indicators span early help and children's social care, youth justice and a range of education related measures around attendance, exclusion and attainment, including relating specifically to vulnerable children and those with special educational needs and disabilities. Given that this is the first performance report received by the Children and Families Select Committee, Members may wish to consider whether engaging in a workshop to develop their understanding of performance indicators would be beneficial in supporting them to carry out their role in scrutinising Children and Families Department performance.

Performance against the Ambitions set out in the Annual Delivery Plan

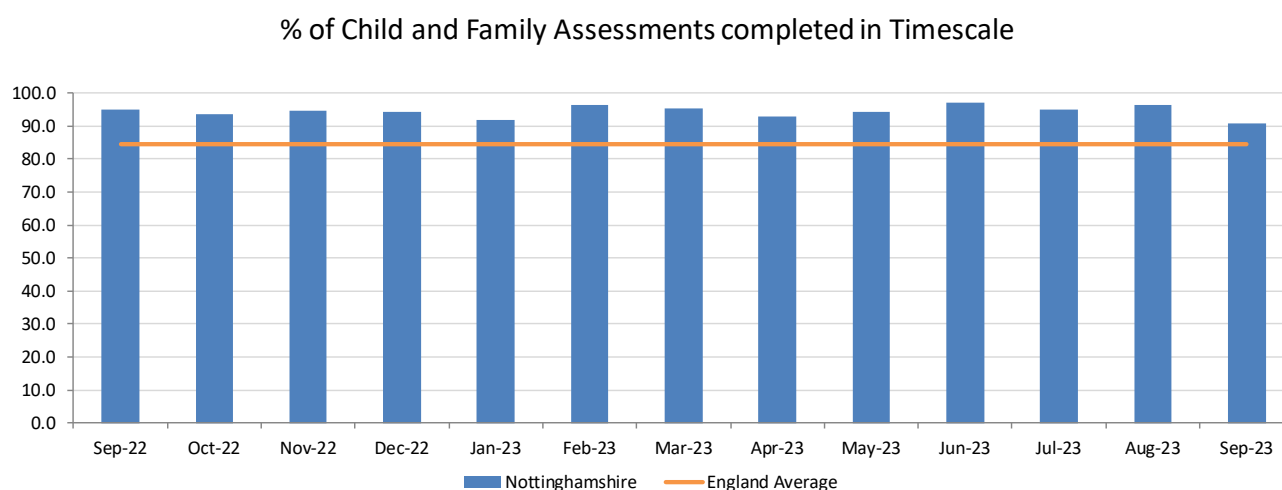
5. This first performance outlines progress against the performance measures within the Council's Annual Delivery Plan, as relates to children and families.

Annual Delivery Plan Ambition 2 - Supporting Children and Families

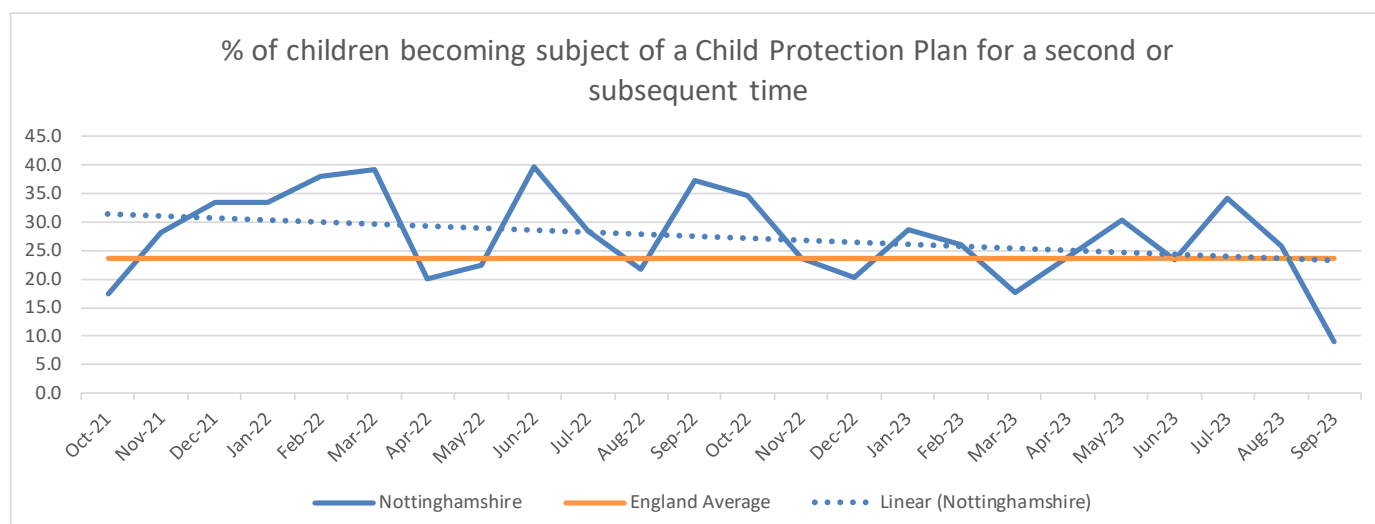
6. Latest data for the 2022/23 academic year shows that the number of pupils in Nottinghamshire reaching a good level of development at the early years foundation stage has improved, up 0.6 percentage points on the previous year. This is above both the national average and the average rate for statistical neighbours. Performance at the early years foundation stage is essential to ensuring children have the knowledge and skills they need to start school.
7. Almost 1 in 4 assessments undertaken for children and young people and their families were targeted early help assessments by children's centres and the family service, rather than a social care assessment, and 11.9% of children who have started a child in need (CIN) plan or child protection plan (CPP) this year received one of these early help assessments in the previous two years. The ambition is for more children and families in need to receive early support rather than their first experience of support being a statutory assessment.
8. Work is ongoing with partners to ensure that children and families get the right support at the right time and at the right level and to provide help at the earliest opportunity based on need rather than an application of threshold. Support will be provided through early help services where it is appropriate to do so, increasing the number of families receiving support and reducing the number who experience social work assessments that do not lead to support. The Needs Led Front Door and Early Help Redesign transformation projects are at the forefront of making these changes.
9. In terms of the effectiveness of the early help offer, this is demonstrated through the percentage of families supported to make significant and sustained progress, which has increased this quarter, up to 69.7% for the year to date. This means that 7 out of 10 families supported have made and sustained significant progress in all identified areas of need for six months after closure, with more making progress against some areas.
10. The proportion of new Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within timescale (140 days) between April and September 2023 was 36.7% compared with just 0.7% during the same period in 2022. During the period April to September 2023, 135 new EHCPs were issued within timescale compared with 7 in the same period during 2022. In total 368 new EHCPs were issued between April and September 2023 compared with 237 for the same period in 2022.
11. There are two national metrics for annual review performance: (1) the percentage of annual reviews completed within 12 months (6 months for children aged under 5), and (2) the percentage of amendments following an annual review completed with 12 weeks of the annual review.
12. Between April and September 2023, 51.1% (a total of 1,699 were due) of annual reviews were completed within timescale. This compares with 77.9% (1,283) during the same period in 2022. Amendments completed within 12 weeks has shown an improvement in the period April to September 2023. During this period in 2023, 1,065 EHCPs required amending and 84.6% of these were amended and finalised within 12 weeks of the annual review meeting compared with 56.8% (2005) during the same period in 2022.

Annual Delivery Plan Ambition 3 - Keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe

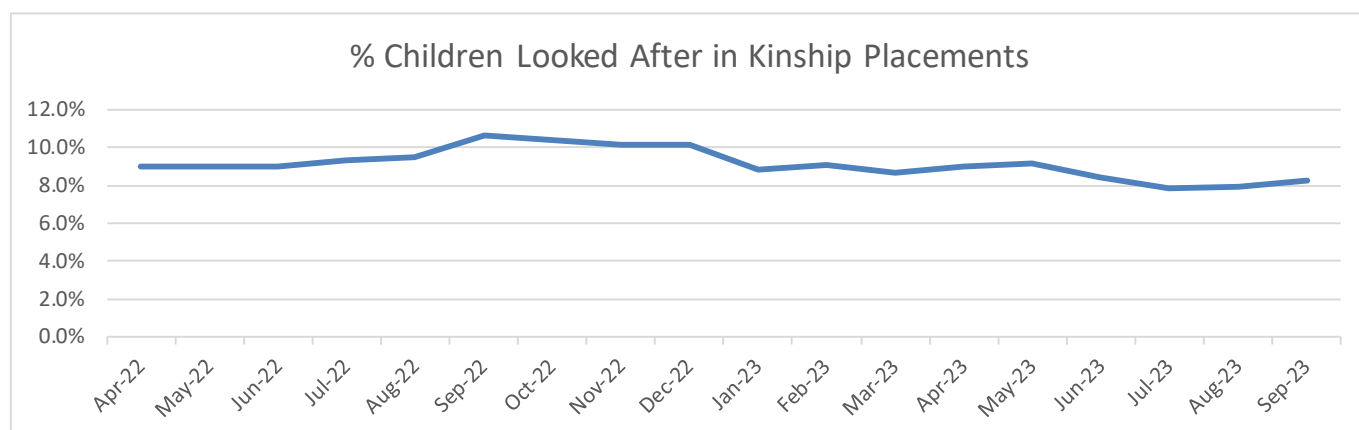
13. The proportion of child and family assessments completed which do not result in ongoing children's social care involvement remains high at 68.3% compared with a statistical neighbour average of 32.9%. As detailed above, work is underway with partners through the Needs Led Front Door and the Early Help Redesign transformation projects to support children and families at the right time and at the right level and to provide help at the earliest opportunity based on need rather than an application of threshold.
14. The proportion of child and family assessments completed in timescale remains high, with 94.7% of assessments completed within the statutory timescale of 45 days so far this year, as can be seen in the chart below. This is 10 percentage points above the England average for 2022/23.



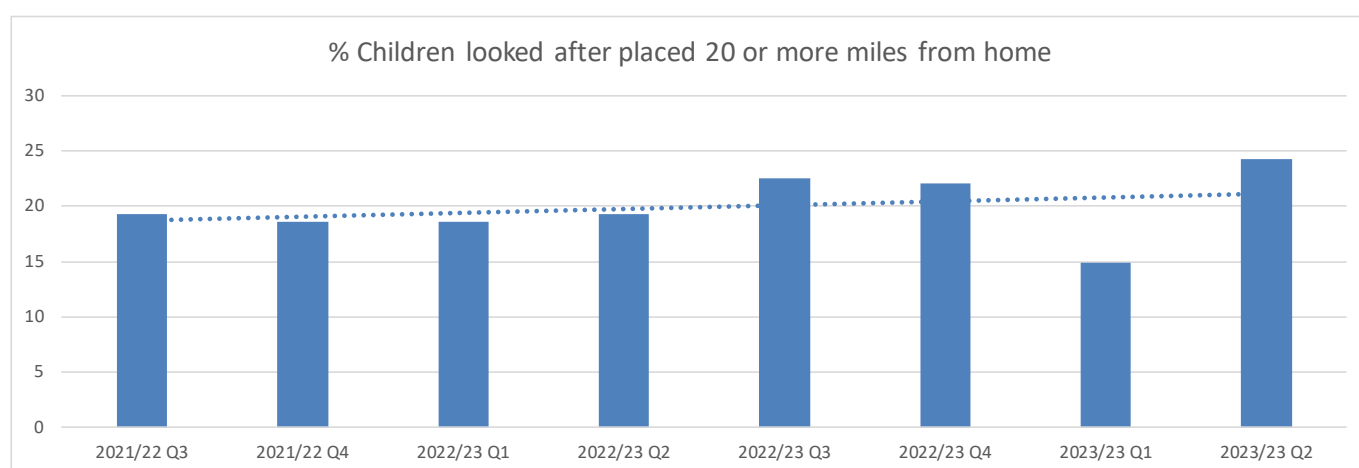
15. Although there has been a small increase in the proportion of referrals which were a second or subsequent referral within 12 months this quarter, the long-term trend shows that re-referrals are decreasing.
16. Nottinghamshire continues to be at or above the national average in respect of repeat child protection plans and work has been undertaken to understand why this is the case. A Family Networking approach has been introduced within the Assessment Service, which will help with understanding of children and families' experiences, identify the support from their wider family and friends and ensure ongoing support is available to provide sustainability once social care involvement is no longer required. Workshops with Assessment and District Child Protection Managers and Child Protection Chairs identified opportunities for wider improvements, including supporting managers to build confidence in their decision making to ensure children and families are provided with the right support at the right time. Work is also underway with partners in respect of strategy discussions and multi-agency decision making to ensure that children receive the right support at the lowest and safest level of intervention. Latest data in the chart below shows this is starting to have an effect, with the trend line showing that the proportion of repeat child protection plans is decreasing and is now close to the national average.



17. There has been significant improvement over this quarter in the number of children on child protection plans lasting 2 years or more. The numbers have reduced due to plans coming to an appropriate end through de-escalation of concerns, or through children becoming accommodated via the care proceedings process. There is monitoring of this cohort of children at around 15 months to ensure that children's plans are being progressed appropriately prior to reaching the 2-year mark.
18. There has been a small reduction in the proportion of child protection cases reviewed in timescale, down from 86.4% in quarter 1 to 83.6% in quarter 2. As this measure is cumulative across the lifetime of the plan, the impact of staff absences earlier in the year, along with issues such as lack of social work reports and/or social work attendance at meetings and technical issues associated with Microsoft Teams, has continued to reflect in the statistics. There have also been issues around lack of preparation of families for meetings and issues of professional quoracy/reports during school holiday periods. This is currently an area of high priority for the service. Chairs have been reminded of booking timescales and the need to ensure Children's Services Manager approval for out of timescale reviews and there will be higher scrutiny of these requests going forward. Over the next 12 months as with initial conferences, there will be a greater emphasis on quality and outcomes in line with the commitment to strengths-based values.
19. 8.3% of children in care currently reside in kinship placements, that is fostering placements with family and friends. This is below the target of 12% of all children in care and a reduction on performance last year as shown in the chart below. Efforts have been focussed on young people remaining local to and living with family members as kinship placements are an essential plank of Nottinghamshire's placement sufficiency strategy. Almost half of new foster carers are family and friends carers and this figure is expected to increase in future periods.



20. There has been a slight reduction this quarter in the proportion of children who leave care subject to a special guardianship order or child arrangement order. Current performance, at 17.9% is still above both the latest available national average of 17% and the statistical neighbour average of 14%. A process has been developed to support improved extended family engagement for children in care through the Family Network approach.
21. 66% of children in care currently reside in a family-based setting which remains Nottinghamshire's ambition for children wherever possible. This includes fostering placements and placements with family and friends. This is an increase of 8 percentage points since 2022/23.
22. There has been an increase in the proportion of children in care placed 20 miles or more from home as shown in the chart below. Currently 24.2% of children are placed 20 miles or more away. This is 7 percentage points higher than the England and statistical neighbour averages. The majority of these placements are in independent fostering agency and external residential placements as availability of suitable fostering and residential placements more locally remains a challenge.



23. More than half of children in care remain in long term placements – that is in the same placement for more than two years – which supports the ambition for children in care to live in safe, stable, and loving placements. There are an increased number of placements for those children aged below one, driven by more complex care plans as directed by the Courts, and those aged over 16. Whilst not all positive, some of that disruption is due to a

well-developed pathway to independence and also, with the higher number of over 16s in care, is reflective of attempts to reconcile with birth families.

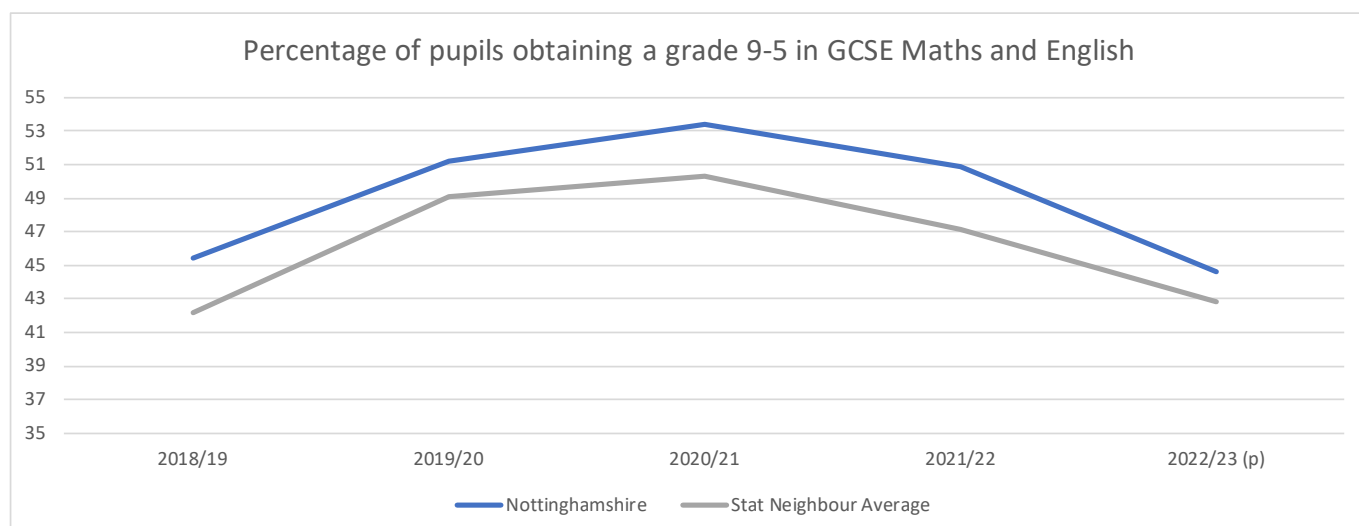
24. There has been a further increase in care leavers living in suitable accommodation this quarter. As can be seen in the chart below, this has been an improving trend for the last two years. There has been an increase in Supported Accommodation Provision (including the specialist provision for former Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children care leavers which is continually expanding to meet demand). This more modern and more suitable accommodation is seen as meeting young people's needs and has decreased the need for other forms of emergency or unsuitable accommodation. Homelessness Prevention Personal Advisor roles help to proactively prevent accommodation breakdown and risk of homelessness/unsuitable accommodation provision.



25. There has been a slight drop in the proportion of care leavers in Education, Employment or Training (EET) during this period due to them finishing their studies/courses and being in-between options during quarter 2. From September/October there is more certainty about which Further or Higher Education options they are participating in and so quarter 3 should see an increase. There is continuing support for young people as opportunities for care leavers within employment, education and training are promoted as part of the Nottinghamshire Achievement Offer. There is also an increase in employability briefings within the world of work. The Achievement Offer has been reviewed and will be relaunched this Spring.
26. First time entrants to the youth justice system remains low and has reduced compared with the same point last year with 56 entrants per 100,000 compared with 75 at the end of quarter 2 2022/23. The reoffending binary rate also remains low, at 13% currently compared with an average of 31% nationally and for statistical neighbours.

Annual Delivery Plan Ambition 4 - Building skills that help people get good jobs

27. Provisional figures show that 44.6% of pupils in Nottinghamshire schools obtained 9-5 grades (a strong pass) in English and maths at key stage 4 last year. This is a reduction of 5.3 percentage points on the previous year as grade boundaries were brought back in line with pre-pandemic levels. This is above the statistical neighbour average of 42.8% as it has been over the last 5 years, as seen in the chart below.



28. 12.4% of children in care for at least 12 months achieved the same 9-5 grades in English and maths. Outcomes for this group of children have bucked the national trend with a 2.8 percentage point increase compared with the year before. As with the total school cohort, this is above the national average of 11%. These achievements have been supported by the Virtual School and Achievement Service working closely together to increase educational placement stability and resilience and increased line of sight through transition to post-16 support.
29. There has been a slight narrowing of the gap in the proportion of disadvantaged pupils (those who have received free school meals in the last six years) who have achieved grades 9-5 in English and maths, down from 32% to 29.5%. This is still higher than the national average of 26.7%.
30. 92% of primary schools and 80% of secondary schools in Nottinghamshire are currently rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. Both of these are broadly in line with the national and statistical neighbour averages for these measures and show that the majority of pupils and their families have access to a good quality of education.
31. Since the pandemic, persistent absenteeism, where a pupil misses 10% or more of their education, has been an issue nationally. Latest available data for Nottinghamshire shows a slight decrease in persistent absenteeism, with 19.7% of pupils being recorded as persistently absent during the Autumn and Spring terms compared with 21.2% over the same period the previous year. This is below both the national average of 21.2% and the statistical neighbour average of 20.8% for the same period, showing Nottinghamshire is recovering faster than most in this area.
32. The latest data for children in care from 2021/22 shows that persistent absenteeism is also a problem for children who are looked after for more than 12 months, with 19.2% being recorded as persistent absentees. This is in line with the national average and the average for statistical neighbours. Over the same period, 11.85% of this group of children were subject to one or more suspension. This is in line with previous years but 2 percentage points above the national and statistical neighbour averages.

33. Overall rates of suspension for pupils in Nottinghamshire schools remain low at 1.7% for the Autumn term 2022/23. This is a slight increase on the same period last year but remains in line with national and statistical neighbour averages of 1.6%.
34. Just 0.05% of pupils in Nottinghamshire schools were permanently excluded during the 2022/23 Autumn term. This is in line with the national and statistical neighbour averages for this period. For children currently in care there were no permanent exclusions recorded, as has been the case for the last few years.
35. The proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds in Nottinghamshire reported as not being in education, employment and training remains low at just 2%. This has remained consistently low for more than two years now.

Departmental Risks

36. The department is managing several key risks. The table below describes these risks and the mitigating actions being undertaken:

Risk ID	Risk Category	Risk Description	Risk Mitigations
C01	Service Delivery	<u>Placement Sufficiency</u> Our ambition is to have more children and young people able to live in family-based placements, close to home. However, the context is a local and national shortage of suitable placements, particularly foster care. This impacts both on the types of placements we are able to match with and whether placements are close to home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work is taking place across D2N2 to increase recruitment of foster carers and holistic care packages to retain them. - There is a focus on kinship, family and friends, Special Guardianship/Care Arrangement Orders to keep young people within their own networks. - Increased support is available to children on the edge of care to support children to remain safely at home whenever it is possible to do
C07	Service Delivery and Reputation	<u>SEND Area Inspection</u> The SEND Area Inspection outcome identified significant challenges and there is a need to make significant improvements in the short and medium term to improve children's experiences and outcomes and demonstrate sufficient progress to the Department for Education, NHS England and Ofsted/CQC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focussed work is taking place in line with an approved improvement plan that is monitored regularly through governance arrangements. - A longer-term SEND Strategy is being developed collaboratively to ensure that improvements can be sustained. - Within the plan there is a strong focus on engaging with children and their families to ensure their experiences are improving.

C11	Reputation	<u>Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services Inspection</u> The last full children's social care inspection in 2019 rated the Council as 'Good' and re-inspection is due in 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A children's social care improvement plan is in place with key priorities that are monitored regularly. - Preparation work is underway with partners, leaders and staff to ensure colleagues understand what to expect and feel well prepared.
C17	Workforce	<u>Workforce Recruitment and Retention</u> There are particular areas of the workforce where recruitment and retention is difficult both locally and nationally. This includes social workers, which impacts on the quality of practice, and educational psychologists, which impacts on the Council's ability to assess the needs of children with SEND within statutory timescales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversifying routes into social work to try to retain social workers as they progress through their careers. - Focussing on supporting the training and development of practitioners - Assessing impact through the annual health check survey. - Implementing a "grow your own" route into educational psychology to increase capacity in a sustainable way.

Summary Financial Position – Period 7 2023/24

37. The Children and Families Department Revenue Budget is £180.0m and actual expenditure at the end of Period 7 (end of October, 58.3% of year) is £105.6m (59% of budget). The full year forecast is £182.4m, which is an overspend of £2.5m (1.4%).
38. Care, Help and Protection Division reported a forecast underspend of £0.5m (£0.4m Period 6) including a £0.1m underspend on social worker staffing (£0.3m underspend in Period 6). This includes £1.0m of temporary budget. The movement in the month was mainly due to a reduction in staff costs due to delays to new staff start dates.
39. The full year forecast on agency spend across all teams was £7.1m. There were 96.3 FTE agency Social Workers and 26.1 FTE non-social work qualified agency workers. These numbers will have reduced by the end of March 2024 as some Maternity leave cover and cover for newly qualified social workers will have come to an end.
40. The Commissioning & Resources Division budget is £108.9m. At Period 7 there was an actual spend of £54.5m (50% of budget), however the full year forecast is £111.4m, which is an overspend of £2.5m (2.3%). There was a £3.3m overspend on External Looked After Children Placements (£2.4m Period 6) after £1.3m temporary funding for the remaining costs/cases previously linked to the pandemic. The forecast on External Looked After Children numbers increased by two in the month and the 'placement mix' was slightly adverse, exacerbated by several very high-cost residential placements, ranging from £10,000 to £18,000 per week (average usually £6,000 per week), adding around £0.8m to the forecast. Obtaining contributions from Health is still extremely challenging.

41. Education, Learning & Inclusion Division forecasted a £0.4m overspend, this in the main is due to pension enhancements as a result of the May 2023 Consumer Prices Index rate, which the annual increase is based upon, being considerably higher than previous years (8.7%).

Financial Implications

42. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Children and Families Select Committee:

- 1) considers and comments on:
 - a) the summary of Children and Families Department performance against the ambitions in the Annual Delivery Plan measures.
 - b) the summary of Children and Families Department key departmental risks.
 - c) the financial position of Children and Families Department, as at Period 7 2023/24.
- 2) considers whether it would be beneficial to take part in an externally facilitated workshop with the Cabinet Members for Children and Families and Education and SEND, to develop an increased understanding of performance indicators relating to children and families.
- 3) agrees to receiving performance updates on a quarterly basis.

Councillor Tracey Taylor
Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Councillor Sam Smith
Cabinet Member for Education and SEND

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Colin Pettigrew
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E: colin.pettigrew@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SF 24/01/24)

43. The matters considered in this report and the recommended actions are within the remit of the Children and Families Select Committee.

Financial Comments (JG 23/01/24)

44. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CFS0018

Appendix 1

**Core Data Set for Children's Select Committee
Performance for Quarter Two**

Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire					Comparator Data		
	Current Value	Best to be	Current Reporting Period	Previous Value	Previous Reporting Period	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours
Annual Delivery Plan Ambition 2 - Supporting Children and Families								
Early years foundation stage attainment (Reaching a 'Good Level of Development' - at least expected in all early learning goals in all prime areas and in the specific areas of literacy and mathematics)	67.5%	High	2022/23 Academic	66.9%	2021/22 Academic	66.9% (21/22 Academic)	67.2% (22/23 Academic)	67.4% (22/23 Academic)
% assessments completed which were a targeted early help assessment	23.7%	High	2023/24 Q2	24.7%	2023/24 Q1	24.9% (2022/23)	-	-
% children becoming subject of a CIN or CP Plan who had a targeted early help assessment in the previous 2 years	11.9%	High	2023/24 Q2	13.8%	2023/24 Q1	17.3% (2022/23)	-	-
Percentage of families supported making significant sustained progress through the Supporting Families programme	69.7%	High	2023/24 Q2	57.4%	2023/24 Q1	-	-	-
% of new EHCPs issued within 20 weeks (exc. exceptions) **	25.3%	High	2023 Q3	2.1%	2022 Q3	4.5% (2022)	50.7% (2022)	47.8% (2022)
% of EHCP Annual review amendments issued within 12 weeks **	73.1%	High	2023 Q3	52.1%	2022 Q3	55.3% (2022/23)	-	-
% EHCP annual reviews completed within 12 months **	56.4%	High	2023 Q2	77.7%	2022 Q3	77.0% (2022/23)	-	-
Annual Delivery Plan Ambition 3 - Keeping children, vulnerable adults and communities safe								
% Child and Family Assessments resulting in NFA	68.3%	Low	2023/24 Q2	68.2%	2023/24 Q1	55.4% (2022/23)	29.9% (2022/23)	32.9% (2022/23)
Average Social Worker Caseload - A NEW METHOD OF REPORTING THIS MEASURE IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION		N/A				-	-	-
Child and Family assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within statutory timescales	94.7%	High	2023/24 Q2	97.1%	2023/24 Q1	97.4% (2022/23)	84.5% (2022/23)	87% (2022/23)
Re-referral rate	31.1%	Low	2023/24 Q2	28.0%	2023/24 Q1	24.8% (2022/23)	22.4% (2022/23)	20.2% (2022/23)
Children becoming the subject of a child protection plan on more than one occasion	25.1%	Low	2023/24 Q2	25.5%	2023/24 Q1	26.2% (2022/23)	23.6% (2022/23)	23.9% (2022/23)
Children who are subject to a child protection plan for 2 years or more	2.7%	Low	2023/24 Q2	7.2%	2023/24 Q1	3.1% (2022/23)	2.2% (2022/23)	1.8% (2022/23)
Percentage of child protection cases reviewed within timescale	83.6%	High	2023/24 Q2	86.4%	2023/24 Q1	87.8% (2022/23)	88.1% (2022/23)	91.5% (2022/23)
% children looked after in kinship placements	8.3%	High	2023/24 Q2	8.5%	2023/24 Q1	9% (2022/23)	-	-
% children who leave care subject to an SGO or CAO	17.9%	High	2023/24 Q2	24.8%	2023/24 Q1	22% (2021/22)	17% (2021/22)	14% (2021/22)
% of children looked after in family-based setting	66.0%	High	2023/24 Q2	67.2%	2023/24 Q1	58% (2022/23)	-	-
No. of children in care placed in unregulated placements - THIS MEASURE IS BEING REDEFINED DUE TO A RECENT CHANGE IN THE DEFINITION REGARDING UNREGISTERED SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION								
Percentage of children looked after placed 20 miles or more from home	24.2%	Low	2023/24 Q2	14.9%	2023/24 Q1	23.0% (2022/23)	17.0% (2022/23)	17.0% (2022/23)
Percentage of children looked after remaining in long-term placements*	53.5%	High	2023/24 Q2	58.3%	2023/24 Q1	82.0% (2022/23)	69.0% (2022/23)	67.7% (2022/23)
Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation	91.5%	High	2023/24 Q2	90.1%	2023/24 Q1	89.0% (2022/23)	88.0% (2022/23)	90.4% (2022/23)

Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire					Comparator Data			
	Current Value	Best to be	Current Reporting Period		Previous Value	Previous Reporting Period	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours
Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training aged 19-21	50.9%	High	2023/24 Q2		52.4%	2023/24 Q1	53.0% (2022/23)	56.0% (2022/23)	53.8% (2022/23)
First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (per 100,000)	56	Low	2023/24 Q2		75	2022/23 Q2	130 (2022)	144 (2022)	108 (2022)
Re-offending binary rate	13.0	Low	2023/24 Q2		10.2	2022/23 Q2	10.2 (2022/23)	31.2 (2021/22)	30.9 (2020/21)

Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire					Comparator Data			
	Current Value	Best to be	Current Reporting Period		Previous Value	Previous Reporting Period	Previous Annual Performance	National Average	Statistical Neighbours
Annual Delivery Plan Ambition 4 - Building skills that help people get good jobs									
Percentage of pupils achieving 9-5 grades in GCSE English & maths at KS4	44.6% (p)	High	2022/23 Academic		50.9%	2021/22 Academic	50.9% (21/22 Academic)	45.3% (22/23 Academic)	42.8% (22/23 Academic)
Percentage of children looked after achieving 9-5 grades in GCSE English & maths at KS4	12.40%	High	2021/22 Academic		9.6%	2020/21 Academic	9.6% (20/21 Academic)	11.0% (21/22 Academic)	-
Attainment gap at age 16 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest (FSM during past six years) 9-5 grades in GCSE English & maths	29.5 (p)	Low	2022/23 Academic		32.0	2021/22 Academic	32.0 (21/22 Academic)	26.7 (22/23 Academic)	-
% Primary schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	92.1%	High	2023/24 Q2		90.0%	2023/24 Q1	90.0% (2022/23 Q4)	90.2% (2023/24 Q2)	88.2% (2023/24 Q2)
% Secondary schools judged by Ofsted as good or outstanding	80.0%	High	2023/24 Q2		80.0%	2023/24 Q1	77.8% (2022/23 Q4)	81.9% (2023/24 Q2)	79.4% (2023/24 Q2)
Percentage of pupils in primary, secondary and special schools classed as persistent absentees	19.7%	Low	2022/23 Aut & Spr term		21.2%	2021/22 Aut & Spr term	21.3% (21/22 Academic)	21.2% (22/23 Aut & Spr)	20.8% (22/23 Aut & Spr)
Percentage of Children Looked After classed as persistent absentees	19.2%	Low	2021/22 Academic		29.6%	2020/21 Academic	29.6% (20/21 Academic)	19.1% (21/22 Academic)	18.9% (21/22 Academic)
Percentage of pupils in primary, secondary and special schools with at least one suspension	1.71%	Low	2022/23 Autumn term		1.26%	2021/22 Autumn term	2.95% (21/22 Academic)	1.61% (22/23 Autumn)	1.62% (22/23 Autumn)
Percentage of Children Looked After with at least one suspension	11.85%	Low	2020/21 Academic		11.41%	2019/20 Academic	11.41% (19/20 Academic)	9.80% (20/21 Academic)	9.75% (20/21 Academic)
Percentage of pupils in primary, secondary and special schools permanently excluded	0.05%	Low	2022/23 Autumn term		0.01%	2021/22 Autumn term	0.05% (21/22 Academic)	0.04% (22/23 Autumn)	0.05% (22/23 Autumn)
Percentage of Children Looked After permanently excluded	0.00%	Low	2020/21 Academic		0.00%	2019/20 Academic	0.00% (19/20 Academic)	0.03% (20/21 Academic)	0.00% (20/21 Academic)
Percentage not in education, employment or training (NEET) aged 16-17	2.1%	Low	2023/24 Q1		2.0%	2022/23 Q4	2.0% (2022/23)	-	-

* In year for this measure is not comparable with the benchmark data as this excludes placement changes where the same provider continued to provide the care.

** EHCP Performance is reported on a calendar year basis in line with statutory reporting to the DfE.



5 February 2024

Agenda Item: 9

RESPONSE OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PROVISION OF SUPPORT TO LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN TRANSITIONING OUT OF THE CARE SYSTEM

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a response to the recommendation made at 19 June 2023 meeting of the Children and Families Select Committee:

“That the following issues raised by the Children and Families Select Committee in its consideration of the report be progressed:

- a) That further information and case studies that illustrate the success and achievements of young people who have transitioned out of the care of the Council be shared with members of the Committee.*
- b) That the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, in consultation with Officers, gives further consideration to how more young people could be encouraged to remain with their foster family after turning 18, and also to the activity that would also be required to ensure that a sufficient number of foster family placements were still maintained and available for children and young people who are under 18.*
- c) That further information be circulated to members of the Committee on the work being carried out with both residential homes and foster carers to support them in ensuring that the children in their care are not potentially criminalised through being referred to the Police unnecessarily in relation to their behaviour.”*

Information

Response

That further information and case studies that illustrate the success and achievements of young people who have transitioned out of the care of the Council be shared with members of the Children and Families Select Committee.

2. In 2021, the Achievement Service was launched to link looked after children to work and training opportunities available within Nottinghamshire. The Business Engagement Achievement Adviser has developed links with employers to facilitate work experience, apprenticeships, job opportunities and employability briefings where young people can see

what the organisation does, what career roles and opportunities are available, and to have the opportunity to visit a variety of work environments across multiple business sectors.

3. All looked after young people and care leavers aged 16 – 24 years are invited to attend the employability briefings. Since 2022, 138 young people have attended employability briefings in order to learn more about the world of work in co-production with organisations such as VIA East Midlands, Boots, Griffin Freight, Care4Notts, Keepmoat Homes, Amazon, DHL, East Midlands Airport, East Midlands Rail, Nottingham Forest Football Club, Notts County Football Club, Sainsbury's, The Pizza Factory, John Lewis, Center Parcs, NHS, Treat Kitchen, Balfour Beatty, Twycross Zoo, 200 Degrees Coffee, Nottingham Police Force, Halfords and the Palmer Foundation, the list continues to grow.
4. Some successful outcomes of these employability briefings are:
 - A 17-year-old completed 3 days' work experience on the beauty counter in Boots (Meadowhall)
 - 2 young people completed work experience for John Lewis
 - 1 young person engaged with a bespoke 1:1 support session with Amazon to apply for a role as part of their recruitment drive.
 - 1 young person completed a taster day at a new Premier Inn and Whitbread hotel/restaurant complex in Worksop.
 - 1 former UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children) young person gained full-time employment with Boots following some work experience following the employability briefing.

That the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, in consultation with officers, gives further consideration on how more young people could be encouraged to remain in the care of their foster carer post-18, and to the activity that would also be required to ensure that a sufficient number of foster family placements are also maintained and are available for children and young people who are under 18.

5. *Staying Put* is an arrangement where a young person remains with their foster carer(s) past the age of 18 years; both the young person and the foster carers need to agree to this arrangement. Some of the reasons why this arrangement has not been agreed include the young person wanting to move to semi-independent accommodation or because foster carers are not able to continue to care for the young person due to them not receiving the same level of weekly payment. The Local Authority receives a grant towards the cost of Staying Put but this amount received does not sufficiently cover the amount of Staying Put arrangements in Nottinghamshire.
6. A higher fee called an educational extension Staying Put is paid to enable the young person to remain living with their foster carer(s) post-18 whilst they are finishing their academic course. An example of this is when a young person turns 18 years in March but is completing their A Levels and so wants to remain with their carers until the end of the course in the July of that same year.
7. The standard Staying Put rate is currently set at the rate of £264.94 per week, this is usually made up from £164.94 from the Leaving Care budget, £70 from Local Housing Allowance and the young person paying £30 contribution from their income. If the young person is in employment (or receiving a waged income) then the Council can adjust the rates to ensure

that the young person still receives at least two thirds of their income. Staying Put is usually available until the young person reaches 21 years, but an extension of this can be considered up to their 23rd birthday if all agree.

8. The young person's Looked After Social Worker, Leaving Care Personal Advisor and Fostering Supervising Social Worker plan with the young person and foster carers what their options are for when the young person reaches the age of 18. Staying Put is always discussed as an option for the young person and their foster carer(s) as there are many benefits for the young person, such as ongoing stability, security and support. Financial support for the foster carer(s) is discussed well in advance of the young person's 18th birthday along with any contributions that the young person would be expected to make as part of their independence journey, this is to ensure there are no last-minute decisions having to be made that may jeopardise the Staying Put arrangement.
9. Foster carers are also made aware that they can continue to foster, where they have sufficient room, alongside the Staying Put arrangement. There is a shortage of foster carers and recruitment and retention has been much more difficult since the pandemic as has been the case for many volunteering opportunities. This has meant that a number of primary age children have been placed in residential children's homes where the care plan would ideally be for foster care. Within that context careful decisions need to be made on a case-by-case basis where a Staying Put arrangement directly blocks the placement of a younger child and what mitigation could be put in place. This might include the use of the 'Adaptation policy' to fund a house extension for example, to allow for both the Staying Put arrangement and a new foster placement.
10. Given that there is a lack of foster carers, and applications to become a foster carer has slowed alongside the retirement of some current carers, staying put increases the risk of children being placed in residential settings when foster care would be the preferred care plan. This problem is not just experienced by local authorities but in the independent sector as well. It is therefore essential to continue to increase recruitment and retention of foster carers. As part of the proposed social care reforms Nottinghamshire, working alongside Derby, Derbyshire and Nottingham City Councils, has been successful in applying for funding for a regional recruitment hub and the "Mocking Bird" carer support model which it is hoped will provide benefit in attracting new carers and sustaining current ones. There is also a medium-term piece of work to examine whether a regional model, similar to the Regional Adoption Agency, might provide a better vehicle through which to increase the sufficiency of foster care placements.

That further information be circulated to members of the Children and Families Select Committee on the work being carried out with both residential homes and foster carers to support them in ensuring that the children in their care are not potentially criminalised though being referred to the Police unnecessarily in relation to their behaviour.

11. Nottinghamshire County Council has a Reducing Offending protocol, which is a multi-agency approach involving Nottinghamshire Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Youth Justice Service (YJS) and Children's Social Care. A Children in Care Police Officer started in post in March 2020, this is jointly funded by Nottinghamshire Police and Nottinghamshire Social Care. This role is key in terms of trying to help prevent the unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children.

Some practical examples are:

- The Officer ensuring that the police system recognises that the young person that they are dealing with is a child in care to ensure that the first response by a Police Officer is trauma informed. For example, the Officer asks more questions and understands why a child might be behaving in the way that they are, which means that they have a higher tolerance level in choosing how to respond to the situation they are presented with.
- A residential home can ask for the Officer to visit and speak with a young person to try and prevent a situation escalating. One young person was being racially abusive to residential staff and causing damage. The Officer visited a girl aged 14 years and introduced her to a girls' boxing group that the Children in Care Police Officers jointly run across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire. By spending time with the girl and talking to her about her behaviour, this has prevented further criminal escalation. It is over a year since the intervention of the Children in Care Police Officer and there have been only two further incidents (the last being April 2023) and neither of which have resulted in the girl being charged with these offences. The girl is presenting as more settled and looking at college options.
- Where incidents take place that involve Police attendance and where there is a likelihood that the young person may be charged with an offence, there is a responsibility on the accommodation provider and the Police to complete the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) 10 Point Checklist. This checklist identifies important factors to help inform the CPS on the most appropriate course of action. The Children in Care Police Officer ensures:
 - a) that the Police Officer understands the need for this to be completed (awareness raising) and;
 - b) who the checklist is sent to (e.g., Social Worker and the accommodation provider), and;
 - c) the checklist is received in a timely manner as this can influence the CPS's decision making.
- The Officer can offer advice and consultation to accommodation providers. For example, a young man in a residential home was smoking cannabis and the residential home were concerned they would not be seen as safeguarding appropriately by Ofsted and criticised for this. They therefore were considering reporting the young person to the Police. However, most parents would not report their own child for smoking cannabis and would seek help and support, not criminalisation. The Children in Care Police Officer advised the Residential Manager to write to the young person explaining the rules such as cannabis is not to be smoked in the house, on the premises, and neither should it be kept in their room. This led to a conversation with the young person about their use of cannabis and additional support that could be put in place, as well as ensured that the residential home could demonstrate to Ofsted they had protected other residents and dealt with the issue proportionately, sustaining the young person's placement with them.

- The Officer has seen emerging issues and put training packages together for care providers. For example, managing Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) concerns. This has ensured that accommodation providers are more aware of different options for addressing and dealing with looked after children with diversionary solutions.
- The Officer has offered consultation to care providers, Social Workers, and other Police Officers to ensure the child's situation is understood holistically. For example, an incident where a care home had not followed the care plan for the young person by washing their clothes with another young person's meant that the child became dysregulated, and an incident occurred which led to police involvement. The Officer ensured the Out of Court Disposal Panel knew the circumstances and focussed on the upskilling of the care home staff as opposed to criminalising the young person.
- The Officer is passionate about situations being responded to with a trauma informed lens and doing things differently. Their role enables them to share this passion and knowledge with their colleagues in Nottinghamshire Police and with our accommodation providers. For example, identifying with a care home that if they needed to restrain a child who had previously experienced sexual abuse, that holding them down would revisit their historical trauma and only escalate behaviours to a point where the police may be required. By avoiding certain techniques and look at de-escalation then they have avoided police involvement and further trauma to that young person.
- The Officer will support their colleagues in respect of various options and how situations could be addressed by the Out of Court Disposal Panel (OCD). The Officer will sometimes attend this panel if they have had input by either visiting the child or has information to share that will help the panel make a positive and supportive decision.
- The Officer does not deal with any live incidents, but when agencies and/or the Police are not aware of different approaches and options available then the Officer can liaise with the CPS to get the incident retracted back to the OCD panel. In one situation which occurred over a weekend and had progressed straight to Court, the Court itself sent the case to be heard at the OCD Panel instead. This evidences the level of understanding of the protocol within the CPS.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of the implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and, where such implications are material, they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

13. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the response from the Cabinet Member for Children and Families be noted.

Councillor Tracey Taylor
Cabinet Member for Children and Families

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LW 28/12/23)

14. The Children & Families Select Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (VC 28/12/23)

15. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Provision of support to Looked After Children transitioning out of the care system – report to Children and Families Select Committee on 19 June 2023](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CFS0014

16 January 2024**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT
COMMITTEE****OUTCOMES OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ELECTIVE HOME
EDUCATION POLICY 2023****Purpose of the Report**

1. To share the findings arising from the scrutiny task and finish review of the draft Elective Home Education Policy with the Children and Families Select Committee.
2. To seek the Select Committee's endorsement for the review's recommendations to be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities for their consideration.

Information

3. At the meeting of the Children and Young People's Select Committee (now known as the Children and Families Select Committee) held on 10 October 2022, Members received a report that provided information on the current position of Elective Home Education (EHE) within Nottinghamshire. The report set out the legal rights of parents to withdraw a child from school and for themselves to provide a suitable education for their child. The report also included the number of children in receipt of EHE in Nottinghamshire and the support offered to these children and their families by the Council. The current EHE Policy has been in place since November 2019. As part of their consideration for this item, the Committee agreed:

“That members of the Committee be involved in the review of the Council's Elective Home Education Policy that is scheduled to take place during 2023”.

Scoping the Review

3. Subsequently work was carried out to “scope” the review. This work was carried out by the Chairman of the Children and Families Select Committee, in consultation with the Service Director - Education Learning and Inclusion and the Group Manager for Education Access Standards and Safeguarding. This work identified the key objectives for review as well as setting out the strategic context in which the issues involved would be considered.

4. The following key lines of enquiry were identified:

- Did the draft policy support the delivery of its stated objectives of:
 - Ensuring that the Council has clear and consistent procedures for working in partnership with parents who choose to electively home educate their children and discharge its statutory duties in relation to the education of all children living within Nottinghamshire.
 - Giving parents who are considering removing their child from school to home educate them, the opportunity to fully explore the implications, and to assist them in making an informed decision that is an active and positive step in the best interests of their child.
- How did the policy link into existing processes to ensure that effective safeguarding procedures were in place for children being educated out of the school system.
- In addition to Department for Education guidance and the related legislation and regulations as detailed in the draft policy, had best practice and benchmarking information been used to inform the development of the refreshed policy?

5. At the meeting of the Children and Families Select Committee held on 16 October 2023, Members considered and approved the review scope for the scrutiny review of the revised the Elective Home Education Policy.

Links to Council Priorities - The Nottinghamshire Plan 2021 – 2031

6. The Nottinghamshire Plan 2021 -2031 is an ambitious plan for the County Council that sets out the Council's strategic vision for the future of Nottinghamshire and the local authority. The activity in the Nottinghamshire Plan is built around achieving a bold 10-year vision for a 'healthy, prosperous and greener future for everyone'. This vision is supported by nine ambitions which will act as a framework for all County Council activity. The scoping of the review identified that the review would support the following ambitions that supported the overall vision of the Plan:

- Supporting Communities and Families
- Keeping children, vulnerable adults and communities safe
- Building skills that help people get good jobs.

The Review Process

7. An information gathering and review meeting took place on 20 December 2023 which involved the following Members of the Children and Families Select Committee and Officers:

Councillor Mike Introna – Chairman
Councillor Anne Callaghan BEM
Councillor Debbie Darby
Councillor Mike Quigley MBE
Councillor John Lee

Martin Elliott – Senior Scrutiny Officer

Karen Hughman - Group Manager for Education Access Standards and Safeguarding

James Lavender – Democratic Services Officer

Peter McConnochie - Service Director - Education Learning and Inclusion

8. In advance of the review meeting, members were provided with the draft EHE policy for their consideration.
9. At the review meeting members received a presentation that provided detailed information on:
 - The responsibilities of parents who opted for their child to receive a home education, as outlined in Section 7 of the Education Act 1996.
 - A definition of EHE and the differences between that and flexi-schooling, where parents opt to send their child to school for part of a week and then educate them at home for the remainder of the week.
 - The current national context, which was that the number of EHE children had risen from 37,500 in 2016 to 81,196 in 2021, partly due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department for Education (DfE) published aggregate data on EHE which was request from Local Authorities (LA's). According to the Census 2022 data, there was an estimate 80,900 children in receipt of EHE nationally.
 - The number of EHE children in Nottinghamshire had risen from 730 in 2018 to 1451 by December 2023.
 - Local Authorities had a legal duty in Section 426A and Section 437 of the Education Act 1996 to make arrangements to identify children not registered at schools and who may not be in receipt of a suitable education. However, EHE families were not currently under any duty to inform their Local Authority that they were intending to home educate their children.
 - At the County Council, the EHE department came under the Fair Access Team. EHE was currently a voluntary registration scheme where parents notified the Council about their intention to home educate their child. Schools and academies in Nottinghamshire informed the Council about any deletions from the admissions register and the grounds upon which they were deleted. If it was around EHE, then the EHE Team within the Council was informed.
 - The EHE advisors within the Fair Access Team made informal contact with the parents on an annual basis to ensure that they had adequate support and guidance to home educate their child. If the parents did not provide this evidence, then a letter was used by the Council asking for evidence of a suitable education being provided and a 15 calendar-day timeframe from which to respond. If no reply was received, then the Council could issue a School Attendance Order where a school was selected for the child to attend if they considered that the child was not in receipt of a suitable education.

- The Local Authority should consider trends in EHE and in a wider strategic context, identifying shortcomings in local school provision settings, including the failure to meet requirements relating to SEND, or failures by schools to manage attendance and behaviour.

10. The Government had issued a consultation with Local Authorities on the Draft EHE Guidance for Local Authorities. It was noted that the Government remained committed to introducing statutory Local Authority registers for children not in school, as well as a duty for Local Authorities to provide support to home educating families, but this was still not a full position where parents had to inform their LA that they are intending to home educate their child.

11. The Draft 2023 Guidance recommended that each Local Authority should do the following:

- Have a written EHE policy statement which is clear, transparent and easily accessible online.
- Have an EHE page on the LA website which provides key contacts and useful information.
- Operate a voluntary registration scheme for children in receipt of EHE/
- Contact parents on at least an annual basis so the authority may reasonably inform itself of the current suitability of the education provided.
- Have a system in place for more frequent engagement where the child has specific vulnerabilities.
- Set aside the resources necessary to implement its policy effectively and consistently.
- Have mechanisms in place for collaboration across internal teams, and have clear multi-agency approaches in place for engaging with external partners, for example, the NHS, to promote the education, welfare and safety of the child.
- Provide parents with a named contact familiar with EHE policy and train LA officers in EHE policy.
- Have a named senior officer with responsibility for EHE policy and procedures.
- Seek to build positive relationships with the EHE community.
- Provide clear details of the complaint's procedure through the County Council and the Ombudsman.

12. It was noted that the Nottinghamshire Draft EHE Policy will update the previous policy and take into account the current guidance and legislation, the consultation underway on the DfE EHE non-statutory guidance review, which was launched in January 2023 and has a focus on working in partnership with parents and carers who choose to educate their child at home.

Findings

13. As a result of the scrutiny review activity that was carried out, the review group would like to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Education and Special Educational Needs:

- a) That that revised Elective Home Education Policy be approved.
- b) That the following amendments to the text of the revised Elective Home Education Policy be considered:

- i. In Paragraph 1 of the draft policy, there should be a clear definition of parents and carers included in the body of the text, and not as a footnote to support the accessibility and readability of the policy.
- ii. Paragraph 3.2 from the current policy should be added into the in the draft policy. This paragraph states:
 - a. *“The local authority, in its role as champion for all children and young people whether they are educated in school or elsewhere, has a duty to promote the achievement of all children and young people. In doing so it will seek to establish the identities (so far as possible), of the children in Nottinghamshire who are home educated, and offer information, advice and guidance to parents. The local authority will also intervene where there are concerns that a child is not receiving a suitable education or there are concerns about a child’s well-being or safety”.*
- iii. In paragraph 4.6 of the draft policy, it should state that “the local authority is required as far as reasonably practicable, to identify children who are not in receipt of a suitable education”, in place of “the local authority is required as far as possible, to identify children who are not in receipt of a suitable education”,
- iv. Under Paragraph 5 – Parental rights and responsibilities, the language should be ‘they or them’, rather than ‘him’.
- v. Paragraph 6.3 should state “...the parents may not be providing a suitable education” in place of “...the parents are not providing a suitable education”.
- vi. Paragraph 7.2 should clearly state that multiple attempts will be made to contact parents by the Professional Practitioner when they have requested a deregistration.
- vii. Paragraph 7.3 should state that a record of the visit by an advisor should be sent to the parents rather than just being made available.

Other Options Considered

- 13. None, as detailed in the Council’s constitution, the recommendations that have arisen from the scrutiny review are required to be submitted to relevant Cabinet Member for their consideration.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

- 14. To comply with the requirements of the Constitution that the findings of a scrutiny review are submitted to the relevant Cabinet Member for their consideration.

Statutory and Policy Implications

- 15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and

the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of the report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Cabinet Member for Education and Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) considers and takes into consideration the findings of the scrutiny carried out by the Children and Families Select Committee when making their decision on the draft Nottinghamshire Election Home Education Policy 2023.

Councillor Mike Introna – Chairman of Children and Families Select Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Elliott – Senior Scrutiny Officer, Tel: 0115 9772564 e-mail: martin.elliott@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (KA – 25/01/2024)

17. The relevant legal implications are set out in the body of the report, particularly in paragraph 9 above. It is within the remit of the Children and Families Select Committee to consider the issues raised in this report and make the recommendation in the report to the Cabinet Member for Education and Special Education Needs and Disabilities.

Financial Comments (PAA29 22/12/2023)

18. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Children and Young People's Select Committee Agenda 10 October 2022
- Children and Young People's Select Committee Minutes 10 October 2022
- Children and Families Select Committee Agenda 16 October 2023
- Children and Families Select Committee Minutes 16 October 2023

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED 25 JANUARY 2024

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose	Resolutions
16 October 2023	Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) – Progress Report on Priorities and Annual Report 2022/23	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	<p>Resolved at the December 2022 meeting:</p> <p>That the Independent Scrutineer of the NSCP attends the June 2023 meeting of the Committee to present a report on the current activities of the NSCP and on the progress being made towards its strategic priorities.</p> <p>To receive the NSCP Annual Report.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's 2022/23 Annual Report be noted. 2) That the following issues raised by the Committee in its consideration of the Annual Report 2022/23 be progressed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) that the latest report on the on the work being carried out across Nottinghamshire in relation to child exploitation be circulated to the members of the Children and Families Select Committee. b) that the review of safeguarding practice in response to events at Harlow Academy be circulated to the members of the Children and Families Select Committee. 3) That the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's 2023/24 Annual Report be received at the October 2024 meeting of the Children and Families Select Committee.

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	Outcomes and Experiences of Children and Young People with SEND	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	<p>To receive a report on the progress made in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, informed by the priority areas for action and areas for improvement identified during the Ofsted/Care Quality Commission local area review in Jan/Feb 2023, and to incorporate within this report the new requirements arising from the Government response to the SEND Green Paper – the SEND and Alternative Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Page 94 of 106</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the report be noted. 2) That a further progress report on the implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Alternative Provision be received at the January 2024 meeting of the Children and Families Select Committee. 3) That the following issues raised by the Committee in its consideration of the report on Partnership progress in improving the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities be progressed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) that further information on the types of needs of children and young people with SEND and/or an EHCP across Nottinghamshire be circulated to the members of the Children and Families Select Committee. b) that information detailing the number of EHCP applications made and the number of EHCPs in place across each of districts and boroughs of Nottinghamshire be circulated to the members of the Children and Families Select Committee. c) that the summary documents that detail the activity carried out at previous Nottinghamshire SEND partnership improvement board meetings be circulated to the members of the Children and Families Select Committee.
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WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED 25 JANUARY 2024

				d) that the members of the Children and Families Select Committee receive the summary document that is created detailing the activity of future Nottinghamshire SEND partnership improvement board meetings as soon as they are available.
	Pupil Place Planning	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	<p>To receive the response from the Cabinet Member for Children and Families to the resolution made at the March 2023 meeting:</p> <p>That the Cabinet Member, in consultation with officers, gives consideration to how local elected members can be most effectively communicated with and involved with the activity that takes place with academy trusts regarding the pupil place planning.</p>	That the response from the Cabinet Member for Children and Families be noted.
	Outcomes of the Review of Education, Health and Care Plans		To consider the outcomes of the task and finish review of Education, Health and Care Plans.	That the recommendations of the scrutiny task and finish review of Education, Health and Care Plans be endorsed and referred to Cabinet for consideration.
	Elective Home Education/Secondary school place planning review scopes		To approve the scopes for a task and finish review on the revised Elective Home Education Policy and Secondary School Pupil Place Planning	That the proposed scopes for task and finish reviews regarding Elective Home Education and Secondary School Pupil Place Planning be approved.

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED 25 JANUARY 2024

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose	Resolutions
5 February 2024	Provision of Support to Looked After Children Transitioning Out of the Care System	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	<p>To receive the response from the Cabinet Member for Children and Families to the resolution made at the June 2023 meeting:</p> <p>That the Cabinet Member, in consultation with officers, gives further consideration on how more young people could be encouraged to remain in the care of their foster carer post-18, and to the activity that would also be required to ensure that a sufficient number of foster family placements are also maintained and are available for children and young people who are under 18.</p> <p>Also to cover, as detailed in the resolution at the June meeting.</p> <p>That further information be circulated to members of the Committee on the work being carried out with both residential homes and foster carers to support them in ensuring that the children in their care are not potentially criminalised though being referred to the Police unnecessarily in relation to their behaviour.</p>	

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Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose	Resolutions
5 February 2024	Early Years – Provision of Childcare	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	To make recommendations on how the Council can support the provision of, and access to, affordable and accessible childcare across Nottinghamshire.	
	Performance, Finance and Risk Update	Cabinet Member - Children and Families Cabinet Member - Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	To provide a progress report on departmental performance, risk and financial position. To agree how the Committee would like to receive and monitor this information in the future.	
	Outcomes and Experiences of Children and Young People with SEND – Progress Report	Cabinet Member - Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	To receive a report on the progress made in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, informed by the priority areas for action and areas for improvement identified during the Ofsted/Care Quality Commission local area review in Jan/Feb 2023.	

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Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose	Resolutions
5 February 2024	Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) – Annual Report	Cabinet Member - Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	To receive the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) – Annual Report	
	Elective Home Education		To consider the outcomes of the task and finish review of the refreshed Elective Home Education Policy	

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Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose	Resolutions
15 April 2024	Sufficiency Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	To examine activity in the delivering of the strategy. Also to consider the Children's Transformation sub-regional approach to fostering.	
	Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	Resolved at the June 2023 meeting: That a report on the delivery of HAF be brought to a future meeting of the Committee, with a focus and at a date to be agreed by the Chairman.	
	Pupil Place Planning		To consider the outcomes of the task and finish review of how the Children and Families and Place departments can best work together on projects being implemented to deliver additional school places.	
	Outcomes and Experiences of Children and Young People with SEND – Progress Report	Cabinet Member - Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	To receive a report on the progress made in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, informed by the priority areas for action and areas for improvement identified during the Ofsted/Care Quality Commission local area review in Jan/Feb 2023.	

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Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose	Resolutions
15 July 2024	Youth Justice Plan	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	To examine the implementation of the strategy.	
	SEND Provision and Sufficiency	Cabinet Member - Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	Resolved at the December 2022 meeting: That a progress report on the provision and delivery of additional specialist educational placements be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.	
	Outcomes and Experiences of Children and Young People with SEND – Progress Report	Cabinet Member - Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	To receive a report on the progress made in implementing improvements to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, informed by the priority areas for action and areas for improvement identified during the Ofsted/Care Quality Commission local area review in Jan/Feb 2023.	

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Items pending scheduling or removal

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Details	Status
Government Response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care in England	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	To consider how the proposals align with Nottinghamshire's current transformation plans around children's social care.	To be considered for scheduling
Small Schools Sustainability Strategy	Cabinet Member - Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities		To be considered for scheduling
Children's Transformation - Front Door/Family Hubs	Cabinet Member - Children and Families		To be considered for scheduling
Local Authority Approach to Youth Provision in Nottinghamshire	Cabinet Member - Children and Families		To be considered for scheduling

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Reviews

Project Start Date	Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of Review	Current Status and activity
February/ March 2024	Pupil Place Planning	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	Resolved at March 2023 meeting: That members of the Committee carry out a task and finish review on how the Children and Families and Place departments can best work together on projects being implemented to deliver additional school places.	Scope approved by committee. Work being scheduled to be carried out during February/March 2024.

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Project Start Date	Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of Review	Current Status and activity
TBC	<p>Transition of Service Users from Children and Families Services to Adult Social Care Services</p> <p>(Joint item with the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee)</p>	<p>Cabinet Member - Children and Families</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health</p>	<p>To examine the current procedures surrounding the transition of service users from Children's to Adult Services.</p> <p>To make recommendations on how procedures could be developed to ensure the best possible transition for each service user.</p>	Pending

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Project Start Date	Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose of Review	Current Status and activity
TBC	Provision of Additional Specialist Educational Placements	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	<p>Resolved at the December 2022 meeting:</p> <p>That a task and finish review on the potential locations for the provision of additional specialist educational placements be carried out by members of the Committee.</p>	Pending

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Items for information briefings for Committee members

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Details	Status
Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) – Ofsted Self-Evaluation	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	ILACS focuses on the local authority functions regarding the help, care and protection of children and young people.	To be circulated twice-yearly

Items to be scheduled during 2024/25

Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Details	Status
Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) – Progress Report on Priorities and Annual Report 2022/23	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	Annual item	To be scheduled for October 2024 meeting
Education, Health and Care Plans	Cabinet Member - Children and Families	To receive a progress report on the recommendations of the review of Education, Health and Care Plans.	To be scheduled.
All-Age Carers Strategy	Cabinet Member - Children and Families Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care	To review progress after the strategy has been in place for one year.	Joint item with the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee

