

14 January 2013**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND
CULTURAL SERVICES****OFFICER GROUP REPORT: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an overview of the activities and performance of Nottinghamshire Children's Trust, between April and November 2012, including an update on the work of Locality Management Groups.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire Children's Trust is a partnership of organisations that provide services to children, young people and families in Nottinghamshire. It was established to meet the requirements of the Children Act 2004, which identifies a number of 'relevant partners'. Under this Act, the County Council is the lead partner with statutory responsibility to make arrangements to promote cooperation to improve children's wellbeing.
3. Nottinghamshire's Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Plan 2011-14 is the single overarching strategic plan covering services for children and young people in Nottinghamshire, as represented by partners to the Children's Trust. The Plan was approved by the County Council in September 2011 and is included in the Policy Framework of the County Council. Approval was also given to the intention to review the Plan annually. The 2012-13 Annual Refresh of the Plan was approved by the Children and Young People's Committee at its September 2012 meeting.
4. The Children's Trust Executive is an officer group which coordinates the work of the Children's Trust, agreeing partnership action to implement the strategic priorities identified in the CYPF Plan. It is chaired by the Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services, and its members are senior managers from a range of partner organisations, including health commissioners and providers, Nottinghamshire police, and a representative from the community and voluntary sector. The Chair of Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board is a participant observer.
5. During 2011 and 2012, the Children's Trust has given its partnership approval to a number of key strategies that relate to priorities in the CYPF Plan, including Nottinghamshire's Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy, Joint Commissioning Strategy for Children and Young People with Disabilities and/or Special Educational Needs, Child and Family Poverty Strategy, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Strategy.

6. The Children's Trust Executive has a key role in promoting the wellbeing of children and young people, and reports to Nottinghamshire's Health and Wellbeing Board. It oversees three integrated commissioning groups, responsible for children and young people with disabilities or special educational needs, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, and teenage pregnancy. It has contributed to the development of Nottinghamshire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and has taken responsibility for ensuring that the children and young people's chapter of Nottinghamshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is updated and maintained.
7. Over recent months, the Children's Trust Executive has been considering its role and remit, especially its relationship to the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board. Following this work, the Children's Trust is now in the process of agreeing and implementing changes to its focus and membership, to enable it to become the lead integrated commissioning group for health and wellbeing services for children and families.
8. The proposed changes to the Children's Trust have been agreed by Nottinghamshire's Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2012, and will be the subject of a separate report to the Children and Young People's Committee, which will include recommendations on the format and timing of future updates to this Committee.
9. This report provides an overview of the recent activities of the Children's Trust Executive, under its current structure and reporting arrangements, and focuses on three areas of work:
 - the activities and achievements of the Children's Trust Executive, including any activities sponsored or supported by it
 - the development of Locality Management Groups
 - six-monthly progress report using the performance indicators identified in Nottinghamshire's Children Young People and Families (CYPF) Plan 2011-14 (2012-13 annual refresh).

Children's Trust: Activities and Achievements

10. Over the last few months, the Children's Trust Executive has provided partnership oversight of a number of key initiatives, offering support and challenge to those leading on these, and considering the role of partner organisations. These initiatives have been in work areas that contribute to the achievement of the priorities for action defined in Nottinghamshire's Children, Young People and Families Plan 2011-14.
11. Between April and November 2012, key initiatives supported by the Children's Trust were:
 - Nottinghamshire's Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
 - transformation of the County Council's Children's Social Care provision

- Nottinghamshire's Pathway to Provision: as well as including this development as a regular discussion item, the Children's Trust supported Stakeholder Conferences across Nottinghamshire, during October and November. These launched this initiative, alongside the MASH, to managers and practitioners from a wide range of organisations
 - a partnership approach to preparing for the revised Ofsted inspection framework for the inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children
 - work on a Multi-agency Autistic Spectrum Pathway.
 - The Healthy Schools Network.
12. During this time, the Children's Trust has reviewed and given its partnership approval to:
- Nottinghamshire's Youth Homelessness Strategy
 - Nottinghamshire's Looked After Children Strategy.

Locality Management Groups

13. In addition to its role in overseeing partnership strategic planning in the County as a whole, Nottinghamshire Children's Trust also supports Locality Management Groups, which operate in each of Nottinghamshire's seven districts. The County Council's Early Years and Early Intervention Service has responsibility for leading and coordinating Locality Management Group activity. The Children's Trust receives reports on progress and considers how partners can work together to support this work. Locality Management Groups are in an early stage of development and their relationship with the Children's Trust is evolving.
14. In summary, the work of Locality Management Groups has included:
- increasing partner engagement in districts and building stronger partnerships. Locality Management Groups have provided an opportunity for partners to improve communication and develop a shared understanding of key service developments, including the Pathway to Provision, the MASH and the role of the County Council's Early Years and Early Intervention and Targeted Youth Support services
 - improving coordination of services at district level and creating joint working opportunities
 - undertaking preparatory activities for commissioning local services, including identifying service gaps and supporting Joint Access Teams in tracking work with children, young people and families which will enable practitioners to report on any service gaps identified through this work
 - consulting with children, young people and families, and working to identify further opportunities for local consultation.

15. Some specific examples of effective locality working include:
- Broxtowe Locality Management Group has established a group to plan the implementation of the Enhanced Family Support model for children pre-birth to 12
 - Locality Management Groups in Broxtowe and Ashfield have organised events to enable partners to develop knowledge of each others' services
 - support has been provided for the Closing the Gap initiative in Newark town
 - Bassetlaw Locality Management Group has retained effective working with the Local Strategic Partnership in Bassetlaw and has facilitated the use of Young People's Centres by Children's Social Care for contact visits
 - Mansfield Locality Management Group is establishing links with the Clinical Commissioning Groups in Mansfield
 - Rushcliffe Locality Management Group has consulted with young people through the Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

Progress against Performance Indicators: six-month performance report

16. The Children's Trust receives six-monthly progress reports on the implementation of the seven priorities identified in the CYPF Plan. For each priority, there are a number of key actions and performance indicators to track progress and assess impact for children, young people or families. The majority of these performance indicators are also reported on as part of the Children, Families and Cultural Services quarterly performance reporting to the Children and Young People's Committee, but there are a number of additional health-related indicators.
17. Children's Trust performance reports are produced six-monthly and the most recent report summarises progress at the end of September 2012. **Appendix 1** provides a summary of progress towards agreed key actions and provides an overview of performance, including the most recent data available on Nottinghamshire's performance and on national and statistical neighbour performance (where available).
18. In summary, these performance reports indicate that:
- good progress is being made in achieving the identified key actions. Lead officers/managers have identified that all activities are either on schedule or completed
 - of the sixteen performance indicators where comparison information is available, eight show that Nottinghamshire performance exceeds the national average. These are:
 - obesity in primary school age children in Reception Year
 - percentage of overall absence in primary, secondary and special schools
 - initial assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within timescales
 - core assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within timescales
 - children becoming the subject of a child protection plan on more than one occasion

- dependent children in households whose income is below 60% of the national average
 - achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent (inc. English & maths)
 - percentage of young people in Years 12-14 not in education, employment or training.
- for four performance indicators, Nottinghamshire performance does not meet the national average. These are:
 - the number of children requiring statutory child protection interventions
 - breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks, including mixed feeding methods (for both Nottinghamshire NHS and Bassetlaw NHS)
 - attainment gap at age 16 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest
 - percentage of young people who have attained a full Level 3 qualification by 19.
 - the Children's Trust has focused its discussions on improving performance across all work areas identified in the CYPF Plan, but with an emphasis on those areas where performance could be improved. It has provided support for the Pathway to Provision, the MASH and the transformation of Children's Social Care. It has also considered how partners can support Nottinghamshire County Council's Closing the Educational Gaps Strategy and the work of Nottinghamshire's 14-19 Partnership.

Other Options Considered

19. The activities reported on here contribute to the implementation of the CYPF Plan, which was developed after consideration of alternative options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

20. The report provides members of the Children and Young People's Committee with an update on the activities of an officer group, in line with reporting requirements within the County Council's Constitution.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

22. The principal service users affected are children, young people and their families, as the CYPF Plan identifies the Children's Trust's over-arching partnership strategy and associated action plans for the delivery of services to them in 2011-14.

Equalities Implications

23. The development of the CYPF Plan included an Equality Impact Assessment. This concluded that the plan was likely to have a positive impact for service users, as it aims to reduce inequality across all protected groups, by identifying need and working together to address this, within available resources.

Safeguarding of Children Implications

24. The CYPF Plan identifies how partner organisations within the Children's Trust will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee notes the contents of the report.

Anthony May
Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Maggie Pape
Team Manager, Planning and Performance
T: 0115 9774074
E: margaret.pape@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

25. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (NDR 12/12/12)

26. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2011-14 – report to County Council, 22 September 2011
Review of the Children, Young People and Families Plan – report to Children & Young People's Committee, 10 September 2012
Health and Wellbeing Boards and Children, Young People and Families – report to Health and Wellbeing Board, 7 November 2012-12-04

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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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