

## **Children and Young People's Committee**

**Monday, 09 December 2013 at 10:30**

**County Hall, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP**

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### **AGENDA**

- |    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| 1  | Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 November 2013  | 5 - 8   |
| 2  | Apologies for Absence   |         |
| 3  | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)<br>(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests<br>(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)                                  |         |
| 4  | A Strategy for Closing the Educational Gaps in Nottinghamshire - six monthly review   | 9 - 18  |
| 5  | Education Health and Care (EHC) Plans<br>Update on the implementation of new arrangements for assessing the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) | 19 - 24 |
| 6  | Schools Capital Programme - Progress Report   | 25 - 32 |
| 7  | Achieving 2 year olds free early education entitlement  | 33 - 36 |
| 8  | Update on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub including the Early Help Unit   | 37 - 42 |
| 9  | Provision of funding for home extension<br>to enable five looked after children to remain with their grandmother as the subjects of a Special Guardianship Order throughout their childhood         | 43 - 46 |
| 10 | The Nottinghamshire Outstanding Achievement 4Uth Award 2013   | 47 - 50 |
| 11 | Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures Governance Arrangements  | 51 - 54 |

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|----|--|---------|
| 12 | Annie Holgate Schools Hucknall - outcome of published S11 and 15 notice<br>Annie Holgate Community Infant & Nursery and Anni Holgate Community Junior Schools, Hucknall - outcome of published Sections 11 and 15 notice: Schools Adjudicator's decision | 55 - 58 |
| 13 | Work Programme   | 59 - 64 |

## 14 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee will be invited to resolve:-

That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the Committee's remaining business involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **Note**

If this is agreed, the public will have to leave the meeting during consideration of the following item.

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEM**

- |    |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 15 | Financial support for foster carers |
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### **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 Sara Allmond (Tel. 0115 977

3794) 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.



Meeting CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

Date 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (commencing at 10.30am)

**Membership**

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

**COUNCILLORS**

John Peck JP (Chairman)  
Liz Plant (Vice-Chairman)

Steve Calvert  
Boyd Elliott  
Kate Foale  
Alice Grice  
Keith Longdon

Philip Owen  
Sue Saddington  
Jacky Williams  
John Wilmott

A Ex-officio (non-voting)  
Alan Rhodes

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)**

A Ms Gail Neill  
A Mr James Parry  
Mr David Richards JP  
Mr John Rudd

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Sara Allmond	Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Steve Baumber	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Steve Edwards	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Julie Gardner	Vice-Chair – Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board
Jon Hawketts	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Derek Higton	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Anthony May	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Philippa Milbourne	Children, Families and Cultural Services
John Slater	Children, Families and Cultural Services

## **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2013, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman, with the following amendment to the attendance – removal of Councillor Steve Calvert from the membership and the addition of Councillor Alice Grice, who attended the meeting.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Councillor Steve Calvert had been appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor John Allin for this meeting only.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

## **AGENDA ORDER**

The Chairman agreed to change the order of the agenda to enable the Committee to adjourn the meeting at 10.45am.

## **PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 2 2013/14) – SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **RESOLVED 2013/079**

That the performance of the Council's services for children and young people during the period 1 July to 30 September 2013 be noted.

## **AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS TO SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

### **RESOLVED 2013/080**

- 1) That the new appointments to Authority governor vacancies and re-appointments of Authority governors, who reach the end of their term of office during the period 1 July to 30 September 2013, as listed in paragraph 10 of the report, be noted.
- 2) That the appointment of an Additional Authority governor to the Carlton Digby Special School governing body, as listed in paragraph 10 of the report, be noted.

- 3) That the appointment of an Additional Authority governor to the Sunnyside Primary School governing body, as listed in paragraph 10 of the report, be noted.
- 4) That the nomination and appointment of a Local Authority governor to reconstituted governing bodies, as listed in paragraph 11 of the report, be noted.

### **NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE 2013 – REWIRING PUBLIC SERVICES: 16 – 18 OCTOBER 2013**

#### **RESOLVED 2013/081**

That the report back on Member and officer attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference which took place in Harrogate between 16 and 18 October 2013 be noted.

The meeting was adjourned from 10.45 am to 11.13 am to enable attendees to join the Chairman of the County Council in observing a two minute silence at 11.00 am at the front of County Hall for Remembrance Day.

### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13**

#### **RESOLVED 2013/082**

That the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2012/13, attached as an appendix to the report, be noted.

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

#### **RESOLVED 2013/083**

That the Committee's work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.02 pm

CHAIRMAN  
M\_11Nov2013



**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND  
INCLUSION****A STRATEGY FOR CLOSING THE EDUCATIONAL GAPS IN  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – SIX MONTHLY REVIEW****Purpose of the Report**

1. To present a review of the impact of Nottinghamshire's Closing the Educational Gaps Strategy to date.

**Information and Advice****Context**

2. The Closing the Gap (CtG) Strategy was approved by Full Council on 29 March 2012. The Strategy sets out the County Council's aim to ensure that the full range of services and partners work coherently with schools and other educational settings to maximise the impact of available resources in further raising the attainment and increasing the progress of the most vulnerable groups of learners.
3. This Strategy is designed to align on-going work across the County Council to support the closing of the educational attainment gap for vulnerable groups, particularly those children and young people eligible for free school meals (FSM), those who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Looked After Children (LAC).
4. It is current national policy to require schools to focus on narrowing educational attainment gaps and this is being monitored and reported annually by the Department for Education through its performance tables.

**Key actions taken since the last six monthly report in June 2013**

5. The key actions identified in the plan have been completed on time.
6. The **cross phase and cross service CtG Performance Board** has continued to meet termly to review the contribution that each Local Authority (LA) service is making to close educational gaps and to hold each service to account for the impact of the work. The membership of the Board includes Group and Team Managers from across Children, Families and Cultural Service (CFCS) and in addition, Newark schools are now represented on the Board by a primary head teacher who provides feedback to the Board from the Newark schools' steering group. Staff from across these services and schools

have made significant contributions to the delivery of the strategy at universal and local levels. The Board has also overseen a programme of professional development for all staff across CFCS which has ensured the sharing of effective practice for supporting vulnerable children and their families. Delegates attending these events report an increased understanding of their roles, responsibilities and opportunities for cross-service, cross-phase locality working. All CFCS teams have included actions to contribute to educational gaps within their 2013-14 Commissioning Plans and teams have submitted a six monthly report on impact to date to the Board. The Closing the Gap Strategy has been included within Nottinghamshire's recently-launched Early Help Strategy.

7. The work and success of the Closing the Gap Strategy is underpinned by a comprehensive and creative data strategy, led by the **Performance Review Team** in partnership with the Education Improvement Service (EIS). This collaborative work ensures that a wide range of data is designed and used to identify areas of greatest need, areas for improvement and examples of good practice that can be shared and built upon. The data strategy is responsive and bespoke to needs as these emerge from the work of teams at local and County level. Most critically, it supports the evaluation of impact on closing educational gaps at school, area and County levels.
8. The majority of schools across Nottinghamshire have continued to access guidance and/or training on effective strategies to close educational gaps. The **Education Improvement Service (EIS)** has successfully designed and delivered an annual Closing the Gaps leadership conference for two consecutive years. Each event has been attended by over 150 delegates representing approximately 50% of Nottinghamshire primary and secondary schools. Feedback indicates that these events are much appreciated as they provide access to national and international speakers, latest research and innovative practice to close educational gaps. These conferences have been followed up through workshops at head teacher briefings and sold offer networks which have ensured that a significant proportion of senior leaders have led and driven closing the gap strategies at school, family of schools and local network levels across the county. This has also been achieved through the work of 10 cross County 'Raising Achievement Networks' (RAN) including 60 primary schools and 21 Professional Development clusters, each made up of approximately six primary schools within close geographical areas. Each of these networks is committed to carrying out action research in schools across the cluster to identify effective teaching and learning strategies to close educational gaps. Education Improvement Advisers allocated to schools which are not yet 'Good' using Ofsted criteria, provide support and challenge to senior leaders and governors to improve the progress of all children and young people including vulnerable learners.
9. Close collaboration between Nottinghamshire's EIS and the **Governing Body Services** has increased the range of opportunities to provide advice, support and training for Nottinghamshire governors to fulfil their enhanced accountability role in terms of monitoring the use of Pupil Premium funding to close gaps. Advice has been offered to governors through articles in the termly newsletter and Director's reports, and through the training opportunities in the 2013-14 sold offer. Governor services has ensured that the model agenda provided for governing bodies includes a specific item on monitoring gaps and the use of the Pupil Premium to reduce gaps at school level.

10. Good progress has been made on key actions taken by officers across **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy and Provision** teams. The newly formed **Primary Social and Emotional Development Team (PSED)** continues to develop capacity within schools to include vulnerable learners and support them to access learning. This team has increased in size as result of reducing provision in central Pupil Referral Units (PRUs). Secondary schools have grouped together in well-developed School Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships (SBAPs) and have used their devolved funding to create innovative local solutions to meet the needs of pupils with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD). As a result, permanent exclusions across the County have halved in 2012-13, continuing a five year trend of improvement.
11. The **Admissions Team** continues to work closely with schools to ensure that the Fair Access Protocol (FAP) is used effectively and consistently across the County so that children and young people without a school place are rapidly offered an appropriate placement to maximize their time spent in learning. The team has ensured that the admissions and appeals codes are fully understood by all partners through information sent to all schools, head teacher briefings and briefings for key officers and elected members. The introduction of weekly monitoring of children without a school place has had a significant impact on reducing waiting times for FAP pupils. The average number of days lost to learning in 2012-13 is less than half the number in the previous year. In 2011-12, the longest waiting period for any young person without a school place was 467 days compared to 178 days in 2012-13. In addition, the LA rapidly put in place interim educational provision whilst the direction process was initiated.
12. **The Achievement and Equality Team (A&E)** has continued to promote the Stephen Lawrence Education Standard and the embedding of equality across Nottinghamshire's schools and children's centres. The sharing of good practice in relation to equalities work through networking and celebration events has resulted in those children's centres that have been assessed to date achieving level 1 status. Effective links have been made between schools, the A&E team, the School Place Planning and Targeted Support teams. This has enabled closer information-sharing about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people without a school place and built the LA's capacity to begin to remove barriers which currently impact adversely on successful engagement in learning.
13. Crime prevention services have now been integrated within the **Youth Justice Service (YJS)** and these officers are putting in place programmes for young people aimed at improving their attendance in full time educational provision by improving their English skills so that they can engage in their own learning upon re-integration to school or other educational settings. YJS is beginning to work collaboratively with the Targeted Support team to increase the attendance of young people currently in the youth justice system by supporting and challenging schools and other educational settings on the use of part-time timetables.
14. **Early Childhood Services** continue to make a significant and necessary contribution to Closing the Gap. The commissioned network of 58 children's centres work in collaboration with a range of multi-agency staff including midwives, health visiting teams, speech therapists, childcare and early education providers and schools. It is well understood and accepted that 'getting in early' is key to ensuring that children from disadvantaged backgrounds make appropriate progress in their learning and thereby improve their life chances. These services focus on children aged 0-5 years and their

families, and now include 5-12 year olds to reflect our recently enhanced offer from children's centres. There are currently 45,200 0-5 year olds living in Nottinghamshire. This figure is likely to rise to 47,000 by 2021. 55% of these children are living in low income areas with at least 14% of 2 year olds identified as having additional Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN). In 2013, 77% of all children living in low income areas were registered with one of Nottinghamshire's 58 children's centres and last year, 57% of them accessed children's centre services. 80% of those children's centres which have been inspected are Good or Outstanding according to Ofsted criteria. The Early Years Specialist Teacher Team provides focused support to settings requiring improvement and maintains oversight on performance and progress of children in their care.

15. **The 'Closing the Gaps' locality-based pilot centred around the schools, educational settings and children's centres in Newark** (2012-14) continues to gather strength and pace as it now enters its second year of innovative collaboration. Partners from across the town and nearby areas are working closely to seek out and implement new ways to support all learners (0-19 years), particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, as they journey through education.
16. **A Newark Town Steering Group** represents all partners across a wide range of services and educational settings in the town and also includes representation from Newark and Sherwood District Council. This group has a clear strategic plan, oversees a cycle of 'plan, do and review' research activities and has established a structure and process for local governance, decision-making and shared accountability for closing educational gaps within the town. The Steering Group, in consultation with local head teachers, has recently filmed a short promotional DVD and also renamed this pilot the **"Together for Newark"** collaboration (TfN) as a reflection of the shared ownership and pride in collective achievements currently under development in the area. An end of Year 1 "Showcase" event was held in June 2013 and attended by over 60 people from local schools, services and the town council. Feedback from this event was extremely positive and leaders agreed that this event provided stimulus and continued 'sign up' for further and deeper collaboration in 2013-14.
17. Data sets have been further developed at locality level to inform the work of the Steering Group and various working groups. A **'TfN Vulnerable Learners Profiling Group'** made up of school and LA partners has now been formed and will take a lead role in developing and using a range of data sets to provide a more detailed view of reasons for educational underperformance and risk factors for vulnerable learners within Newark Town educational settings. This will enable the Newark team to identify specific target groups of learners of all ages who will be given access to a range of interventions with the intention of identifying what works best.
18. **Collaborative action research activities continue to be developed across four key strands of investigation within the Newark CtG pilot based on the outcomes of the initial listening activity.** Each strand contains a number of working groups made up of school practitioners and appropriate LA specialists. These groups meet regularly to explore all issues and opportunities related to their strand of research and then plan and engage in various practical activities aimed at improving *all* learners' educational experiences and outcomes as well as supporting vulnerable learners at key transition points in their education journey. In addition, these teams are developing new ways of

working together to identify and maximise the use of local resources in a more targeted way. For instance, the Adult and Community Learning Service along with local libraries and Newark Town Council are currently working jointly to support local schools in story-telling activities and training. The achievement of all participants will be recognised in a cross- phase celebration and awards event hosted by Newark Town Council early next year.

19. Interim evaluations of the first year of the “Together for Newark” locality pilot have been carried out separately by researchers from **Nottingham Trent University and from the Centre for Equity in Education at Manchester University**. Early findings indicate that;

*“The great strength of TfN is that it has brought together and formed positive relationships between schools in the town and schools and other partners. Partners found the initial listening exercise valuable in helping to give the group a common identity/values/sense of purpose. TfN has generated a range of new activities which have helped to cement these relationships... This is a very positive foundation to build on.”*

Professor Alan Dyson and Dr Kirsten Kerr, Manchester University

*“Analysis of the interim evidence collected clearly identified that ‘Closing the Gaps for Vulnerable Learners: Piloting locality working in Newark Town’ has already made a positive impact on education provision and wider learning opportunities in Newark. Within a year, focused activities have led Newark’s schools and services to start to collectively address barriers, concerns and issues identified by local families and professionals.”*

Professor Gill Richards, Nottingham Trent University

20. **A range of CtG research projects has also been secured to enable schools across Nottinghamshire, with the support of the Education Improvement Service, to work collaboratively with other local and external strategic partners:**

- **“Switch On”** is an example of a Nottinghamshire literacy and communication intervention. It has been developed by our Every Child A Reader (ECAR) lead teachers working in partnership with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and evaluated by Birmingham University. Switch On is one-to-one literacy intervention based on the principles of Reading Recovery. It is personalised intervention, led by trained teaching assistants, targeted at the most vulnerable, underachieving pupils in KS1, 2 and now in KS3. In 2012-13, many of Nottinghamshire’s secondary schools were involved in a KS3 trial of “Switch On”. It has been proven to have a positive and sustainable impact.
- Nottinghamshire has been chosen as one of only four areas in England to take part in a two year national **‘Communication Leaders’ pilot** in partnership with The Communications Trust and Paul Hamlyn Foundation. Members of Nottinghamshire’s Speech and Language Team and the Education Improvement Service will support primary and secondary pupils and their mentors from Newark schools to develop and evaluate an evidence-based approach whereby pupils take on leadership roles in communication within homes and school, as an innovative means of improving speech, language and communication development for pupils aged 11-19 years within their community.

- An innovative '**Multi-modal Literacy Project for Looked-After Children**' was introduced in Nottinghamshire in the autumn of 2013. This project aims to support over 40 Looked-After learners to improve their engagement in literacy and to encourage links between home and school through the use of multimodal texts and new technologies (specifically ipads). The technology will increase pupils' confidence in making individual choices and remove some of the barriers to communication. The project is being jointly led and evaluated by Nottinghamshire's Education Improvement Service, the Virtual School Team, and Dr Petula Bhojwani from Nottingham Trent University.
- **A three year community mentoring pilot** is underway in the Hawtonville area of Newark in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council and Trent Bridge Community Sports Trust (Positive Futures). A joint management board has been formed; a target group of vulnerable learners identified through referrals from local schools and partner agencies; and baselines and success criteria for closing educational gaps have been agreed.

### **Impact against the 2013 milestone targets contained within the CtG Strategy**

21. Over and above those **attainment targets** set within this strategy to close attainment gaps, it is also critical to monitor increases to **pupils' progression** across key stages in English and mathematics. This is because analysis against 'average' attainment outcomes measures only (L4+ English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 and 5+ A\*- C including English and mathematics at Key Stage 4) does not take into account the achievement of *all* learners from their starting points. It is the view of the CtG Performance Board that wider monitoring of progress measures ensures that the County Council also evaluates the impact of its Closing the Gaps Strategy on the achievement and life chances of *all* learners.
22. **Early Years and Foundation Stage (EYFS) milestone target for 2012:** reduce the attainment gap between children eligible for FSM and their peers achieving a good level of development to **17.5% with subsequent milestones agreed following the publication of the revised EYFS curriculum and assessment arrangements**

#### **Impact:**

57% of Nottinghamshire's children achieved a good level of development in 2013 which is above the national average of 52% but there is an increasing gap of 24% between those children in receipt of free school meals and their peers.

23. **Key Stage 2 milestone target for 2013:** reduce the attainment gap between FSM and non FSM pupils achieving the expected level in English and mathematics at Key Stage 2 to **19%**

Due to a Department for Education change in the way performance is measured at Key Stage 2, previous data is now no longer directly comparable with 2013 data on the L4+ measure. This means that trend data cannot be provided although the Performance Review Team has calculated 2012 results against the new criteria so that some comparison can be made between 2012 and 2013. The new key indicator for attainment in 2013 is the proportion of pupils achieving Level 4+ in reading, writing *and* mathematics

combined whereas previously the measure was L4+ in English and mathematics combined.

**Impact:**

The **attainment** of Nottinghamshire's FSM pupils improved in comparison with 2012 with 59.2% of FSM students gaining L4+ in reading, writing and mathematics compared with 55.6% in 2012. The attainment of non FSM learners on this measure in 2013 remained broadly in line with their performance in 2012.

The gap in attainment between FSM and non FSM pupils achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2 narrowed by 4.6% and is broadly in line with the target set in the Closing the Gap Strategy. This is a significant achievement as this success can now be built upon by Nottinghamshire's secondary schools.

In terms of the proportion of pupils making **expected progress in reading** from Key Stage 1 to 2 in English (2 levels), the progress of FSM learners remained broadly similar from 2012 to 2013 whilst the performance of non FSM pupils declined slightly so that the gap actually narrowed by 1.1%.

The proportion of FSM pupils making **expected progress in writing** (2 levels) from Key Stage 1 to 2 has improved from 84.2% in 2012 to 87.2% in 2013. The proportion of non FSM pupils making expected progress has also improved but FSM learners have made a greater gain, so that the gap narrowed by 0.7% and now stands at 5.7% difference.

Similarly, the proportion of FSM pupils making **expected progress in mathematics** (2 levels) from Key Stage 1 to 2 improved from 81.7% in 2012 to 83.6% in 2013. The proportion of non FSM pupils making expected progress has also improved but FSM learners secured a greater gain therefore the gap narrowed by 0.7% and now stands at 6.8%.

This means that year on year, increasing numbers of Nottinghamshire's pupils eligible for FSM are entering Year 7 with the necessary literacy and numeracy skills to access the secondary curriculum and maximise their learning and improve their life chances.

24. **Key Stage 4 milestone target for 2013:** reduce the attainment gap between FSM and non FSM pupils achieving the expected level at Key Stage 4 (5+ A\*-C grades including English and mathematics) to **28%**

**Impact:**

The **attainment** of Nottinghamshire's FSM students improved again for the sixth year in succession with 35.2% of FSM students gaining 5+ A\*-C including English and mathematics in 2013 compared with 32.5% in 2012, and 27.4% in 2011 at the beginning of this strategy.

The gap has narrowed between the performance of students eligible for FSM in Nottinghamshire and their peers across the country. This gap at Key Stage 4 continues to reduce year on year and now stands at 31.1%. Nonetheless, the gap continues to be significantly greater than the national gap in 2012.

In terms of the proportion of students making **expected progress from Key Stage 2 to 4 in English** (3 levels), non FSM students' progress has steadily improved year on year since 2010. The progress of FSM learners has also improved year on year but at a faster rate so that the gap has narrowed by over 8%. The progress of Nottinghamshire's FSM students in English is now broadly in line with the national average for this group.

Similarly, in terms of the proportion of students making **expected progress from Key Stage 2 to 4 in mathematics** (3 levels), non FSM students' progress has steadily improved year on year since 2010. The progress of FSM learners has also improved year on year but at a faster rate so that the gap has narrowed by over 8%. The progress of Nottinghamshire FSM students in mathematics is now just below the national average for this group.

### **Other Options Considered**

25. No other options were considered.

### **Reason for Recommendations**

26. Latest impact data shows that the CtG Strategy is having a positive impact on narrowing the gaps for pupils eligible for free school meals. In addition, the interim outcomes of collaborative working at County and locality level indicate that the CtG Strategy is beginning to develop new ways of working focused on earlier intervention to close gaps and ensure vulnerable learners meet their potential. As a result of this early success, the Strategy requires continued support from the Children and Young People's Committee.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

27. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Committee:

- 1) notes the success of the Closing the Gap Strategy
- 2) continues to monitor the Strategy by receiving six-monthly review reports.

**John Slater**

**Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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Education Improvement Adviser  
T: 01623 434134  
E: [janeen.parker@nottsc.gov.uk](mailto:janeen.parker@nottsc.gov.uk)

**Constitutional Comments**

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

**Financial Comments (KLA 19/11/13)**

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

**Background Papers**

A Strategy for Closing the Nottinghamshire Educational Gaps – report to County Council on 29 March 2012

A Strategy for Closing the Educational Gaps in Nottinghamshire – six monthly review – report to Children & Young People's Committee on 3 December 2012

Nottinghamshire School Admission Arrangements 2014 – 2015 (includes approval of Fair Access Protocol) – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 11 March 2013.

A Strategy for Closing the Educational Gaps in Nottinghamshire – six monthly review – report to Children & Young People's Committee on 10 June 2013

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.

C0331



**9 December 2013****Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND  
INCLUSION****EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE (EHC) PLANS: UPDATE ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASSESSING THE  
NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL  
EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND)****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on progress in implementing the new arrangements for assessing and providing for the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in Nottinghamshire, in particular in relation to the new Education, Health and Care Plan Pathway.

**Information and Advice**

2. In 2011 the Department for Education (DfE) published a Green Paper entitled '*Support and aspiration: A new approach to SEN and Disability*'. The Green Paper made a wide range of proposals in response to concerns held by parents, carers and professionals about the current assessment and statementing system. It suggested changes to the way in which needs are assessed, planned and provided for.
3. The Government is now progressing the Children and Families Bill (containing the new Special Educational Needs legislation and new SEN Code of Practice). The legislation will demand fundamental changes to working practices with a greater focus on learning and life outcomes for children and young people who have a disability and those with SEN.
4. Key points included in the draft legislation that was published in early 2013 are:
  - ensuring that children and young people who would currently have a statement of SEN (for under 16s) or learning difficulty assessment (for over 16s) will have an integrated assessment process and Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. The EHC Plan will provide the same statutory protection to parents as the current statement of SEN and will include a commitment from all parties to provide their services. It will also extend the rights and protections to young people in further education and training and will offer families the option of a personal budget so that they have more control over the support they need

- improving co-operation between all services that support children, young people and their families. In particular local authorities and clinical commissioning groups will be required to work together to jointly commission appropriate services and provision
  - requiring local authorities to involve children, young people and parents in reviewing and developing provision for those with SEND, and to publish a SEND Local Offer of support. (the County Council is required by law to publish and review information about services available for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 years which forms the Local Offer).
5. As a Pathfinder, Nottinghamshire has been developing and testing elements of the EHC Plan Pathway with children, young people and their families from a range of mainstream and special schools and further education (FE) settings. The creation of a new power in the Education Act 1996 has also enabled the opportunity to test how SEN personal budgets and the use of direct payments in or around education settings might work in practice.
  6. Whilst it is expected that the legislation will not be implemented in England until September 2014, a condition on all Pathfinder areas is that they will introduce their new arrangements a year earlier. Therefore, as from September 2013, the approach in Nottinghamshire has been, for all new statutory assessment requests, to follow the new EHC Plan Pathway with the exception of those young people in their final year at school where Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessments will be undertaken to support their transition to further education.
  7. As a Pathfinder, Nottinghamshire has made significant progress in developing new arrangements for children and young people with SEND, which include:
    - establishing a new SEND Multi-agency Hub to support the move to EHC plans which ensures services are integrated, person-centred, proactive and responsive. The Hub comprises commissioners from education, health and social care (both children and young adults)
    - establishing an integrated commissioning function which aligns resources from the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the NHS England Area Team to enable the partnership to deliver effective integrated support, across the spectrum of need
    - developing a SEND Local Offer that can be accessed by young people, parents and professionals across the internet, from a smartphone as well as via a range of face-to-face access points
    - introducing in collaboration with the University of East London and two of our special schools and a specialist college, multi-media technology to assist young people and their families with telling their story using their own pictures, video, text, documents and web links.
  8. The Nottinghamshire Pathway has seven stages which may be accessed by a child/young person and their family. The Pathway follows a person centred approach whereby the child/young person is the focus of the process and their views and wishes are taken into account at each stage.

9. The Pathway begins with the SEND Local Offer, which may be followed by a referral and consideration of an EHC plan, through to the offer of a personal budget and/or a delivered service. The SEND Local offer is an important stage in the Pathway because it will signpost the levels of support and provision available to children and young people across a spectrum of SEND to enable them to access resources appropriate to their needs with or without an EHC Plan.
10. From September 2013 to mid October 2013 there were 60 requests for EHC Plans. This represents a 50% increase during the same period in 2012. However, it is anticipated that this increase will plateau as the new process becomes embedded. Currently, 46 young people and their families are progressing through the EHC Plan pathway which must be completed within a 20 week timeline. This is a shorter timeline than required for completion of statements of special educational needs which must be finalised within 26 weeks. It is expected that the first tranche of EHC Plans will be finalised from January 2014 onwards.
11. It is not anticipated that it will be necessary for all young people with SEND to progress to a formal statutory assessment. It is expected that the majority will have their needs met through the Local Offer as part of an overall graduated response.
12. The stages of the Pathway have been illustrated using a short animation which will be demonstrated to members of the Children and Young People's Committee at the meeting. The animation can be viewed across the internet at the following link:  
<https://www.klikin.eu/page/view/id/47860>.

### **Other Options Considered**

13. A number of options have been explored through Nottinghamshire's Pathfinder project. As the new pathway has been developed, these options have been explored and tested with stakeholders. Parents and young adults have been integral to the planning process and they have helped to inform decisions which have culminated in a new seven stage EHC Plan Pathway.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

14. To inform elected members about significant changes to arrangements for children and young people with SEND in Nottinghamshire

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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/Human Resources Implications**

16. A new integrated model of working has been introduced across services in education, health and social care. This has involved the establishment of a central SEND Hub at County Hall comprising education, health and social care commissioners who will co-ordinate the EHC Plan Pathway. This new EHC Plan Pathway and co-ordinated assessment process will provide opportunities to consolidate systems and processes which will enable the County Council to achieve efficiencies and savings without an adverse effect on provision. The cost implications and level of savings have yet to be fully determined and will become more apparent as the Pathway arrangements are embedded.

## **Implications in relation to the NHS Constitution**

17. The Health and Wellbeing Board has endorsed the new approach and full implementation will require the cooperation of health partners. In June 2013 the Health and Wellbeing Board signed up to the Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards.

## **Implications for Service Users**

18. The ambition is to improve the service user experience through the combined effects of partnership working across agencies and the greater involvement of parents and young people who will have increased choice and control.

## **Ways of Working Implications**

19. The EHC Plan will be produced using technology and new information sharing software that is being piloted with the University East London. The Local Offer will be shared with the community of Nottinghamshire using internet based technology and use of an 'app' for mobile devices.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) That the Committee notes the progress in implementing the new arrangements for assessing and providing for the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in Nottinghamshire, in particular in relation to the new Education, Health and Care Plan Pathway.

**John Slater**  
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**Constitutional Comments**

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

**Financial Comments (KLA 18/11/13)**

21. The financial implications of this report are set out in paragraph 16 above.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0329



**9 December 2013****Agenda Item: 6**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**

### **SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME – PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee on the progress in delivering the various programmes of investment that comprise the Schools Capital Programme.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Background**

2. The Schools Capital Programme consists of a number of discrete programmes of investment, predominantly:
  - School Places Programme
  - Schools' Capital Refurbishment Programme (SCRП)
  - Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)
3. The School Places Programme contributes to discharging the statutory function of the Local Authority to provide sufficient school places. It is an on-going annual programme that delivers new schools and / or expansions to existing schools to coincide with the arrival of new cohorts of pupils from September. The programme is funded via government grant (Basic Need Grant), which allocates funding to local authorities on an annual basis as a result of data provided to it about school capacities, Published Admission Numbers and projected future demand for places. The Programme is supplemented by additional funding provided by the County Council.
4. The SCRП represents a major programme of investment to address the deteriorating condition of schools that is beyond the scope of the Council's annual planned maintenance programme and for which the amount of capital funding delegated directly to individual schools is insufficient to address major items of work. Some funding for this programme is also provided by government grant (Capital Maintenance Grant), though the majority of the funding for the current SCRП is provided by the County Council.
5. The PSBP is a government funded and managed programme to rebuild entire schools, based on a formula that analyses repairs and maintenance costs against the costs of a

whole school rebuild. This programme will provide a total of 15 new schools across Nottinghamshire over the next 2-3 years – the most in any single local authority area.

6. Taken across the period 2011/12 to 2015/16, the total investment across the School Places Programme and the SCRP amounts to £127m. This does not include the value of the funding for Nottinghamshire schools via the PSBP that is managed by central government, which it is estimated would bring this total to approximately £200m.

### **School Places Programme**

7. At its meeting on 11 March 2013, the Children and Young People's Committee received a report setting out the basis of the School Places Programme for 2014, noting the additional capital funding that had been made available for school expansions within the County Council's 2013/14 budget. A list of the schools that will receive investment via the 2014 School Places Programme is attached as **Appendix 1**.
8. Further reports have since been received by Children and Young People's Committee in order that it could give its approval to undertaking the relevant statutory processes at those schools which require a significant expansion (greater than 25%), in line with the requirements of Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Equally, the Finance and Property Committee has approved reports setting out the funding allocations to specific schemes, whilst the Planning and Licensing Committee will receive reports seeking planning approval for all schemes over the coming months.
9. In the meantime, the 2013 School Places Programme has provided additional places at the following schools from September 2013:  
  
Croft Primary; Dalestorth Primary; Leen Mills Primary; Edmund Hillary Primary; Ordsall Primary; Arnold Mill Primary, Ernehale Infant; Berry Hill Primary, King Edward Primary; Rosebrook Primary; Newgate Lane Primary; Sutton Road Primary, Bishop Alexander Primary, Holy Trinity RC Primary; Carnarvon Primary, St Peter's Primary (East Bridgford).
10. Works to complete the significant expansion of two further schools, Heymann Primary School in West Bridgford, and St Peters CE Primary School in Mansfield, will be completed over the coming weeks for occupation during the Spring term.

### **Schools Capital Refurbishment Programme**

11. The current SCRP was approved at the meeting of the County Council in May 2011. The objective of the Programme is to maintain key elements of the fabric of the schools' estate and to address urgent health and safety matters. It focuses on major items of repair and maintenance in relation to roofs, external elevations, and mechanical / electrical installations, driven by information contained in schools' condition survey reports. It will ultimately deliver major refurbishment works at over 300 schools: effectively every school in the County that has not been recently rebuilt and / or received significant capital investment through other means.
12. The experience of delivering the first two years of the programme showed that projects at many schools required additional unforeseen works, beyond those identified within

condition survey reports, which has resulted in the Programme taking slightly longer to compete than had been originally anticipated. At the same time, the Council's resources have also been stretched by the increased number of projects required at schools around the County under the auspices of the School Places Programme in order to meet the statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places. Revised governance arrangements put in place earlier this year are providing rigorous cost control across the programme which is reported via Finance and Property Committee.

13. Currently, work is completed or underway at a little under 200 schools. The process of scheduling the planning and preparatory work at the remaining 120 schools is also underway, including procuring the necessary survey work to confirm the scope of works that will be undertaken, in line with the objectives of the Programme. Experience has shown that having up-to-date surveys, including those which are the responsibility of the school to procure, e.g. the periodic testing of electrical equipment, is vital to establishing clarity about the required works. Equally, some of the survey work, notably that relating to asbestos, can sometimes be more disruptive for the school than undertaking the actual refurbishment works.
14. Nevertheless, the Council is committed to completing the enhanced scope of works to all schools within the Programme. Originally envisaged as a 3-4 year programme, it has been re-phased with the aim that the works at all schools will be completed by September 2015, i.e. over a 4½ year period. Works that fall outside of the revised scope of the Programme, or which are beyond that which can be afforded within the agreed allocation of funds to individual projects, will only be undertaken if a school is able to add its own delegated funding to the available project budget.

### **Priority Schools Building Programme**

15. The PSBP is a central government funded and managed school rebuilding programme. It provides whole-school rebuilds based on a model that triangulates the condition of the fabric of the building, ongoing repairs and maintenance liabilities, and the cost of rebuilding. The County Council was more successful than any other local authority in terms of the number of successful bids for this programme. A total of 15 schools will be rebuilt through this programme, as listed in **Appendix 2**.
16. The Programme was to have been predominantly PFI funded, but is now mainly grant funded, including all of the Nottinghamshire school projects. Work at Fountaindale Special School began ahead of the other schools across the County, and is now on-site. The remaining schools are in the initial planning and preparatory stage of their respective projects. The new schools are due to be completed for occupation from late 2015 onwards.
17. The new schools will be rebuilt to a (standardised) baseline design. There is no formal expectation of a funding contribution from the Local Authority and thus there is no provision to do so within the Schools Capital Programme. However, the DfE funding model for construction is very tight. There is no provision for new furniture and equipment (it assumes re-use of existing), and our engagement with DfE colleagues managing the Nottinghamshire projects has indicated potential financial risks for the County Council in relation to a number of issues, including planning conditions and the asbestos-related costs of demolishing the existing buildings. Officers are continuing to

work closely with DfE officials to clarify the extent of the Council's role and responsibility, in particular its exposure to financial risk.

## **New Capital Strategy**

18. The SCRP described in this report was established in the context of a set of principles and priorities that underpinned the allocation of resources to it. This is currently being refreshed and updated in the form of a wider Capital Strategy which will set out the priorities that will determine future investment in the schools' estate. Similarly, a school places strategy is being developed that will drive the school places programme over the coming years in fulfilling the Local Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places across the County. Both of these strategies will be drafted as 'companion documents' to the Schools Policy, which was recently endorsed by this Committee and approved at Policy Committee at its meeting on 13 November 2013.

## **Other Options Considered**

19. No other options have been considered.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

20. Projected demand for school places indicate that without investment in additional school places at the locations identified there will be a shortfall in school places. The Local Authority would be in breach of its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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 School Places Programme seeks to ensure there will be sufficient school places for children living within the Local Authority area, and that the recommended 5% provision for the exercise of parental choice will be met.

## **Financial Implications**

23. Financial provision for the elements that comprise the Schools Capital Programme are reconciled annually as part of the Council's overall budget setting process, taking account of the most recent grant and other forms of income from government and other bodies that contribute to the overall funding of the Programme, together with the anticipated actual spend across the range of projects. Realistic assumptions about future sources of external income / grants have been built into the overall financial planning for the Programme, and robust arrangements are in place to monitor these over the course of the Programme.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty Implications**

24. Children within the Local Authority area will be able to access school places locally. All new build schemes will meet requirements for disabled access and special needs.

## **Human Rights Implications**

25. The provision of additional school places in refurbished schools will facilitate parental preference via the school admissions process

## **Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications**

26. All new build schemes will take account of safeguarding needs and requirements.

## **Human Resources Implications**

27. Where schools are expanding, appropriate levels of teaching staff will be appointed and funded from increases in the delegated school budget triggered by the increased number in pupils.

## **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

28. Increasing the number of school places is demonstrated by sustainable demand. All new projects will require planning consent and will meet Building Regulations which reflect environmental and sustainability targets. By providing local school places the need for travelling by car can be reduced.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) the progress in delivering the Schools Capital Programme be noted.
- 2) in addition to reports seeking approval from the Committee on specific issues relating to the capital programme as they arise, e.g. in relation statutory consultation on school expansions, a further progress report on the implementation of the Schools Capital Programme be provided in six months' time.
- 3) in the meantime, a new Capital Strategy be presented to the Committee for approval in the New Year.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Youth Families and Culture**

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### **Constitutional Comments (NAB 21/11/13)**

29. The Children and Young People's Committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (KLA 21/11/13)**

30. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 23 above.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

School Capital Strategy 2011/12 to 2013/14 – report to County Council on 19 May 2011

Schools Capital Programme to meet Basic Need 2014/15 – report to Children & Young People's Committee on 11 March 2013

Schools with an increase in school places of 25% or more – outcome of statutory consultation – report to Children & Young People's Committee on 10 June 2013

Schools with an increase in school places of 25% or more – outcome of published statutory notices – report to Children & Young People's Committee on 16 September 2013

Latest estimated cost: Pierrepont Gamston Primary School – report to Finance and Property Committee on 11 November 2013

Latest estimated cost: Chuter Ede Fernwood Annex – report to Finance and Property Committee on 11 November 2013

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.

C0332

### **School Places Programme 2014**

The following schools are earmarked for capital investment as part of the County Council's programme to provide additional school places during 2014:

- Beardall Street Primary
- Edgewood Primary
- Kirkby Woodhouse Primary
- Bramcote Hills Primary
- John Clifford Primary
- Round Hill Primary
- Coppice Farm Primary
- Hawthorne Primary
- Newstead Primary
- Richard Bonington Primary
- Forest Town Primary
- Chuter Ede Primary (Phase 2 Fernwood annexe)
- Pierrepont Gamston CE Primary
  
- The Holgate School

### **Priority Schools Building Programme**

The following Nottinghamshire schools are earmarked for capital investment under the auspices of the government's Priority Schools Building Programme:

- Fountaindale Special School
- Abbey Primary School
- Annie Holgate Infants / Annie Holgate Junior (bid for a new through-primary school building to support amalgamation of the two existing schools)
- Brierley Forest Primary (bid at the time for Carsic Infant and Junior on the same basis as Annie Holgate, above)
- John Davies Primary
- Leamington Primary
- Lynncroft Primary
- Ethel Wainwright Academy
- Rosebrook Primary
- Sunnyside Primary
  
- Newark Academy
- Serlby Park Academy (successful bids made submitted separately for the primary and secondary buildings)\*
- South Nottinghamshire Academy\*

= Bids submitted by the respective Academy Trusts

**9 December 2013****Agenda Item: 7**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**

### **ACHIEVING 2 YEAR OLDS FREE EARLY EDUCATION ENTITLEMENT**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Committee on the development of the free early education offer for 2 year olds in Nottinghamshire and to outline current progress with the roll out of the offer across Nottinghamshire.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The Government has introduced a new targeted entitlement for two year olds to access free early education (up to 15 hours per week), to help drive up social mobility and improve life chances. The initial focus is on disadvantaged children (those who are Looked After or who will be entitled to receive Free School Meals), who are currently less likely to access the benefits of early education. The new entitlement is being implemented in two phases: from September 2013 (phase one), around 130,000 (20%) two year olds in England have been entitled to access free early education places; from 2014 (phase two), the entitlement will be extended to around 260,000 (40%).
3. In Nottinghamshire, the delivery of early years provision is currently managed through a partnership between the Council, schools and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector providers, with provision including day nurseries, playgroups and childminders.
4. To support local authorities to target parents of eligible two-year olds proactively, the Department for Education (DfE) is providing each local authority with a list of potentially eligible parents in their area on a termly basis. The DfE provided data to the Council in July 2013 with 1,400 names of eligible children. The Early Years Service then contacted all parents of those eligible children to support them to access their entitlement.
5. The revenue funding for the additional places is delivered through the Council, via the Dedicated Schools Grant (£4.7m in 2013/14). In addition, there are two other one-off funding streams:-
  - Trajectory funding of £1.4m in 2013/14 (for capacity building purposes including training, staff recruitment & equipment)
  - Capital funding of £1.1m in 2013/14 (to develop provision/settings).

6. Thus far, in excess of 100 applications for the capital funding have been received, resulting in 43 being approved and a total of £900,000 being awarded to support the development of two new provisions in Mansfield and Netherfield plus a range of extension/reconfigurations of existing provision.
7. So far, £200,000 of the Trajectory funding has been awarded to support expansion of places, training for staff and equipment. Consideration is currently being given to the conversion of a proportion of the remaining funding to support the capital development that will be required for the further expansion of places from September 2014.
8. Nationally there has been a 60% take up rate for eligible children to date. However, in Nottinghamshire, there are 1,064 eligible 2 years olds (76%) currently accessing provision. **Table 1** below sets out where places have been taken up, and also provides further detail on the available places within each district/borough council area.

**Table 1**

<b>District</b>	<b>Eligible children September 2013</b>	<b>Ofsted registered day nursery/play group places available September 2013</b>
Ashfield	247	279
Bassetlaw	157	314
Broxtowe	135	207
Gedling	120	379
Mansfield	203	265
Newark & Sherwood	114	443
Rushcliffe	88	302
<b>Total</b>	<b>1064</b>	<b>2189</b>

## **Phase 2 Roll Out**

9. The Council is currently in a strong position to fully deliver the further expansion of the 2 year early education offer required from September 2014. In the main, parents will be able to choose the setting - day nursery, playgroup or child-minder - that is the most suitable for them and their child in their local area, and the Early Years Service will continue to support growth in the market for providing free child care to vulnerable 2 year olds. Paragraphs 10 and 11 below describe further work underway to support the expansion of places.
10. The DfE has made a strong recommendation that only provisions with a 'Good' or 'Outstanding' grade may be used to deliver places. The new early years Ofsted inspection framework is very challenging for early years settings. However, the Council's Early Years Specialist Teacher Team is currently engaged with those settings requiring improvement and is targeting its work to support their improvement (though this relies heavily on the cooperation and engagement of those settings).

11. The Government is also keen to encourage more schools to take younger children and provide a traditional nursery education, led by qualified teachers, which enables them to have an early education experience in a school environment. To support this approach the Department for Education is setting up pilot demonstration projects. Both Netherfield Primary School in Gedling district and Sir Edmund Hillary Primary School in Bassetlaw district have been accepted as part of this early work. The Council is working with both of these schools and the DfE to support the pilot which will create additional places in areas with high numbers of eligible children.

### **Other Options Considered**

12. No other options have been considered.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

13. To provide the Committee with a progress report on the 2013 roll out of the early education offer for disadvantaged 2 year olds.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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**

15. Parents with eligible children will have a choice of settings in most areas in the County; however where the eligible number of children is high and the availability of places is low, parents will have a more limited choice. Children's centres will provide additional support to parents who require extra help with finding available and suitable day care places.

### **Financial Implications**

16. Funding is provided by the Department for Education to support the provision of places, build capacity and for capital improvements. In April 2014 the revenue elements of this funding will be aligned with current revenue funding for the early education of 3 and 4 year olds.

### **Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications**

17. All settings operate within Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children's Board Procedures and all provision is regulated by Ofsted.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the development of the free early education programme for 2 year olds in Nottinghamshire and the plans to address capacity for the roll out of the offer for Nottinghamshire be noted.

**Derek Higton**  
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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (KLA 28/11/13)**

19. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 16 above

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Families in the Foundation Years - DfE, 2012  
Achieving 2 year olds free early education entitlement – report to Children & Young People's Committee on 8 July 2013

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0335

**9 December 2013****Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES  
AND CULTURAL SERVICES****UPDATE ON THE MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB INCLUDING  
THE EARLY HELP UNIT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide the Children and Young People's Committee with an overview of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub after the first 11 months of operation, including performance information, and an update on the Early Help Unit.

**Information and Advice****The Purpose of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub**

2. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is the single point of contact for all new safeguarding concerns relating to children and adults. It became operational in December 2012 for Children's Social Care and in January 2013 for Adult Safeguarding.
3. The MASH was set up to receive safeguarding concerns from professionals such as teachers and doctors as well as members of the public and family members. The intention was that, for those concerns that meet the threshold for Adult Safeguarding or Children's Social Care involvement, representatives from the different agencies in the MASH would collate information from their respective sources to build up a holistic picture of the circumstances of the case and the associated risks to the child or adult. As a result, better decisions would be made about what action to take and support will be targeted on the most urgent cases. Better co-ordination between agencies leads to an improved service for children, adults and families.
4. The MASH also provides advice and guidance for professionals with safeguarding concerns about a child or adult. The intention was that this would help to enforce the application of need thresholds, improve the quality of information provided and ensure that the appropriate level of support is offered. For those concerns that do not meet the threshold for Adult Safeguarding or Children's Social Care involvement, the MASH ensures that cases are passed to Early Help or other services as and when this is appropriate.
5. There are currently in excess of 70 professionals in the MASH, which is based at Mercury House, Annesley. These include: MASH Officers and Senior MASH

Officers; Nottinghamshire Police representatives; Social Workers and Team Managers from Children's Social Care; Advanced Social Work Practitioners from Adult Social Care and Health; the Probation Service; Education Representatives (3 seconded Head Teachers making up one full-time equivalent term time post); Trading Standards representatives; Early Help representative; County Council and Health Business Support; and Senior Practitioners from Health.

6. The MASH is managed by an Operational Manager, who was appointed because of his experience of setting up a MASH in Devon. He is managed by Children's Social Care, and reports regularly to the MASH Governance Group, which is chaired by the Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services. Line management of professionals within the MASH is provided by their own agencies; the Operational Manager has an overall co-ordinating and performance management role. In addition, members of the MASH Governance Group have been keeping relevant stakeholder boards updated e.g. Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Police Command.
7. The MASH design and processes were agreed by a variety of multi-agency working groups which began in December 2011. The processes are underpinned by an Information-Sharing Protocol and Agreement which has been signed by the agencies represented in the MASH. Information shared in the MASH is electronically stored in a secure portal.
8. The MASH set-up costs of £375,000 were met from the NCC Improvement Programme budget. Policy Committee agreed in September 2012 that annual recurring costs were to be met from County Council contingencies.

## **Performance**

9. Performance in the MASH is measured in a variety of ways by different systems. Monitoring of telephone calls into the MASH is done via the Customer Service Centre system. This shows that from becoming operational in December 2012 to the end of October 2013 20,887 calls have been taken. The average is 1,750 calls per month; June and July were exceptionally busy with over 2,000 calls being taken in each month. Call waiting times and abandonment rates are also monitored, and unsurprisingly show that call waiting times increase at times of peak activity. During November, the waiting time on the MASH children's public line averaged 2 minutes 21 seconds, and 2 minutes 32 seconds on the MASH children's professionals line. Waiting times do oscillate and various measures have been put into place to alleviate call waiting and abandonment rates. In November 3% of calls were abandoned on the MASH children's public line, and 11% on the MASH children's professionals line.
10. Enquiries can also come in by e-mail, fax and letter and an on-line referral form for non-urgent children's enquiries has recently been launched to give professionals another option to make a MASH enquiry at periods of peak demand and to try and address the rates of call abandonment.
11. MASH enquiries (i.e. those calls which result in information being taken for consideration by a social worker in the MASH) have totalled 15,547 children's

enquiries in 11 months. This equates to an average of just fewer than 1,500 per month; however there was a marked increase in July, when 1,904 enquiries were recorded.

12. Enquiries come in from a variety of sources and agencies. The Police refer the most cases (23%), followed by Health agencies (14%), schools and colleges (12%) and family members (11%).
13. In addition to the above enquiries the MASH also receives an average of 60 domestic violence notifications per day from the Police. This is a significant increase from 2012 when on average 25 notifications per day were generated. To cope with this increased demand a new process for dealing with a selection of domestic violence notifications was introduced in September 2013. This new process distinguishes between 'crimes' and 'non-crimes', or domestic violence as opposed to domestic abuse. A partnership domestic violence meeting is held on a daily basis to share information and make decisions. Agencies are responsible for delivering on the actions agreed at that meeting.
14. The volume of enquiries has created significant issues for agencies in the MASH in responding to requests for information. Timeliness of partner agencies' responses to information-sharing requests has been monitored and various approaches have been taken to managing the volume. Health partners have increased their business support and practitioner components; and decisions have been made at various stages about the type of enquiry for which information is requested.
15. In May 2013 Nottinghamshire was selected as one of eight authorities to be involved in a series of pilot projects on 'systems leadership', jointly supported through the Local Government Association and the NHS. The MASH was seen as an excellent example of partnership working, but offered a good opportunity to work on systems leadership to understand and find solutions to the information sharing challenges, particularly between the Health Service and the MASH. The outcomes from the review included increased resources from Police and Health, change in systems processes and workflow, improved access to health systems, a redrawn governance framework and a renewed commitment to underlying principles of the MASH, all of which are seen as important steps to integrating Health and Social Care services.
16. The percentage and number of children's MASH enquiries being passed through to Children's Social Care has increased since the MASH became operational.
17. In July 2013 1,046 Initial Assessments were completed, and in both August and September over 900 were completed each month. This is almost double the amount of assessments completed in the same period in 2012. There are a number of reasons for the increase in demand for children's social care services. For example, the MASH in Nottinghamshire is a new gateway which professionals want to use. There has also been a number of high profile cases in the national media regarding child protection: Kyra Ishaq, Daniel Pelka and Hamza Khan. The performance of child protection services in Birmingham and Doncaster has been in the spotlight of national government, and there is ongoing national high profile interest in child sexual exploitation. In this context, professionals understandably

interpret cases as meeting child protection thresholds and refer to the MASH rather than make more appropriate referrals to early help and targeted support services.

18. In recognition of the increasing numbers of assessments (some of which did not meet the threshold for Children's Social Care), plans were made to re-focus the Children's Social Work part of the MASH to give qualified social workers clearer responsibility for initial threshold discussions with referring agencies. This took effect during October and early indications are that this has had the desired effect of ensuring thresholds are being applied appropriately and therefore that the right children are being provided with appropriate protection. Just over 700 Initial Assessments were completed during October, allowing the service to focus on the most vulnerable children and families.
19. Performance in the MASH will come under particular scrutiny when the Council receives its inspection by OFSTED of services for children in need of help and protection. OFSTED will begin their inspection in the MASH to evidence the quality and safety of our referral and assessment services, and follow the journey of children and families through our early help and social care services. OFSTED are currently testing a new inspection framework in four local authorities, with a wider roll-out expected from January 2014.
20. There is a continuing challenge for staff in the MASH to gather good quality information from referrers. The Education representatives (seconded Head Teachers) in the MASH are doing some focussed work with schools, identifying those which consistently make poor quality referrals and working with them to improve the information provided. A similar model is being applied by Health representatives who are tackling poor quality referrals into the MASH. This approach will be extended in the future to colleagues in other agencies.
21. The success of the MASH is dependent on partners within it being able to share information on those children and families who meet the threshold for children's social care services, and the ability to process this information quickly and pass the assessments out to Children's Social Care. Children and families who have needs which do not meet the Children's Social Care threshold are directed to other services, and the relationship between Early Help services and Children's Social Care is crucial. In the future it is planned to unify the management arrangements between the MASH and the Early Help Unit to provide one point of contact for all vulnerable children and families.

### **Early Help Unit and early help dataset**

22. The Early Help Unit became operational on 2 September 2013. Based at Meadow House in Mansfield, the Unit provides a first point of contact for practitioners, parents or carers and young people wanting support and advice. The Unit accepts referrals on behalf of the County Council's early help and targeted support services, or signposts referrers onto non-NCC services.
23. **Table 1** below provides details of the number of requests for information and advice; and the number of requests for early help services dealt with by the Unit in its first two months of operating:

**Table 1:** Summary of the Early Help Unit's business during September & October 2013

<b>Nature of the business</b>	<b>September 2013</b>	<b>October 2013</b>	<b>Total</b>
Requests for information and advice	563	657	1,220
Requests for early help services (referrals)	110	205	315

24. From November 2013, the Early Help Unit has included duty desk responsibility for the County Council's homelessness support activity for young people.
25. Alongside the establishment of the Early Help Unit, an early help dataset is being developed which will include information about cases open to Children's Centres, Targeted Support, the Joint Access Teams (JATs) and Common Assessment Framework (CAFs) assessments. The Early Help data set will also record and track the progress of all MASH enquiries signposted to the Early Help Unit and forwarded to Early Help services for allocation.
26. The Early Help data set will allow reporting on a wide range of fields including:
  - a. source of the referral
  - b. reason for the referral
  - c. reason for the referral being declined by Early Help services
  - d. personal characteristics of the child / young person subject of the referral including location
  - e. reason for closure including the outcomes for the child, young person and their family.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

27. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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**

28. The MASH information sharing and analysis process will result in a more comprehensive assessment of need and risk at an earlier stage, resulting in Children's Social Care Services being targeted at the most vulnerable.

## **Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications**

29. Information sharing between agencies in the MASH results in early identification of child protection cases; ensures that all relevant available information is shared as soon as possible; and that the receiving social work team begins the investigation with a complete multi-agency package of information.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Committee notes and comments on the update on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Unit and the Early Help Unit.

**Anthony May**

**Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

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

### **Financial Comments (KLA 18/11/13)**

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

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0330

9 December 2013

Agenda Item: 9

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

### **PROVISION OF FUNDING FOR HOME EXTENSION TO ENABLE FIVE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN TO REMAIN WITH THEIR GRANDMOTHER AS THE SUBJECTS OF A SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDER THROUGHOUT THEIR CHILDHOOD**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to fund the cost of an extension to A's home to allow her to continue to care for her five grandchildren who have been placed with her since October 2012. A is seeking Special Guardianship Orders for all of the children.
2. The Local Authority has been directed by Nottingham County Court to report back on the funding request – the Court are of the view that A should be supported to enable her to care for the children as subjects of a Special Guardianship Order. The Children's Guardian is fully supportive of the plan that the children remain with their grandmother throughout their childhood.
3. Initial plans have been drawn up and estimates sought. Approval would also be required from the mortgage lender regarding the Local Authority's proposal to place a charge over the property. Once funding is agreed a planning application will be made.

#### **Information and Advice**

4. The Local Authority initiated care proceedings in relation to the children in November 2012. The children had been subjected to significant harm over a number of years. Assessments on the children's parents indicated they would not be able to provide care to the children. The Local Authority has a responsibility to identify family members who can provide permanent care in these situations. A was approached and indicated her willingness to be assessed as a permanent carer.
5. A lives in the property with her disabled daughter, B, who it is not anticipated will be moving to her own accommodation. The five children, three girls and two boys are aged between four and fourteen years of age.
6. The assessment of A has now been completed by the Local Authority and the placement of the five children with A is supported. The children have been living with their grandmother since October 2012. She has made an application for a Special Guardianship Order and the Local Authority will be asking for a Supervision Order to offer

support to the children and A for one year following the making of a Special Guardianship Order.

7. A's house comprises an entrance hallway at the side of the house and this leads to the bathroom and kitchen/dining area to the back of the house and the lounge to the front of the house. There is a driveway at the side of the house that leads to the garage and there is a small paved garden area at the back of the house as the existing extension to the kitchen and the conservatory takes up the majority of the garden. There are three bedrooms on the first floor.
8. The arrangements for the accommodation of all the people in the property are that the three girls currently share a double bedroom - the older girls share a bunk bed and the youngest child has her own bed. There is room in the bedroom for one or two of the children at a time to study to do their homework and for them to store their belongings. The two boys currently share a small single room, they have a bunk bed but the room is so small that they do not have room to store their clothes in the room or to do their homework in there. A has the other double room and B has moved from her former bedroom in order to accommodate the children and she now uses the conservatory as her bedroom.

#### **Other Options Considered**

9. The downstairs could be further extended to provide two single rooms one of which could be used for B and one of which could be used by one of the children.
10. The family could sell the house and buy another.
11. The children could move to Local Authority foster carers.

#### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

12. It is not suitable to extend the ground floor. A does not want the children to sleep on a different floor to her as she does not feel that she would be able to supervise and/or care for them adequately during the night. It would not provide her with an additional bathroom and it would take up the entire back garden thus taking away the small safe area that the children currently have to play in.
13. The family and children have their support networks locally and do not wish to move. Any move would be very difficult for B given her disability.
14. The Local Authority and Court do not support the option of the children being placed with foster carers. There is a statutory responsibility under the Children Act 1989 to support children to live within their families where possible. To move the children to foster carers would likely mean they would be separated which is not in their best interests. The costs of fostering are significantly higher.
15. A recommendation is made to provide funding to enable a first floor extension to be built to provide larger bedrooms for the children and an extra bathroom. The current accommodation cannot meet the needs of this family given the ages of the children and

their requirements for space now and as they all mature. It is also not suitable that B continue to sleep in the conservatory as she needs privacy and a bedroom for herself.

16. Quotations have been received to extend the first floor of the property which would enlarge the bedrooms the children currently sleep in and provide an additional first floor bathroom and toilet.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working 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**

18. Three quotations have been obtained. The estimated cost for the proposed extension will be £42,000 which includes architects drawings, planning permission, building regulations and VAT. The cost of the five children remaining in foster care until they are 18 years old is £826,156.
19. The cost of the extension, if approved, will be funded from the existing budget for support to Special Guardians. This cost is reflected in the current forecast for the service and can be contained within the Children's Social Care budget overall during the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years.

## **Human Rights Implications**

20. The option recommended provides the children with the right to family life under Article 8 Human Rights Act.

## **Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications**

21. These five children are subject to care proceedings in the County Court. This was due to them experiencing significant harm whilst living with their parents. The option to remain with their grandmother under a Special Guardianship Order gives them future security and protection from harm.

## **Implications for Service Users**

22. The five children can remain living together and with the maternal extended family. This is a permanent placement for the children where their needs can be safely met.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) approval is given for the extension to A's home be carried out at an estimated cost of £42,000 up to a maximum cost of £45,000.
- 2) a legal charge order is made, to ensure that the costs of the extension can be reclaimed/reimbursed if the children do not remain in this placement until adulthood.

**Steve Edwards**

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### **Constitutional Comments (SLB 14/11/13)**

22. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report as it is responsible for services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education or health.

### **Financial Comments (KLA 15/11/13)**

24. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraphs 18 and 19 above.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0321

**9 December 2013****Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE****THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT 4UTH AWARD  
2013****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report informs the Committee about the recent activity of the Young People's Service in facilitating the delivery of Nottinghamshire County Council's third annual Outstanding Achievement 4Uth Award.

**Information and Advice**

2. This is the third year that the County Council has organised the award with support from the Nottingham Post newspaper.
3. From April 2013, through the local media, members of the public, professionals, family members and friends were invited to nominate individual young people who have achieved beyond their own boundaries in their lives. 65 nominations were received from around the County from a range of individuals and organisations including family members, youth workers, teachers, members of the community and voluntary sector organisations.
4. This year has seen the most varied nominations in terms of the skills, talents and interests of young people. Nominations were received for young people because of their sporting prowess, achievements in the fields of arts and music, contributions to the local community, achievements at school, charitable work etc.
5. There has been a wealth of media interest in all of the nominated young people, which has resulted in the positive profile of all young people in the County being raised through numerous articles published about the positive impact they have made on their peers or their local communities.
6. Local panels of young people, selected from the District Scrutiny, Advisory and Development Boards and interested adults, met in the seven districts to select local winners. These seven district winners were presented with their awards at an awards evening. The overall winner of the 2013 award has been selected by a panel of judges which included elected members, the editor of the Nottingham Post, representatives from the voluntary sector and the Chairman of the Young People's Board.

7. The formal awards evening took place at County Hall on Friday 1 November 2013. The event was opened by Councillor Pauline Allan, Vice Chair of Nottinghamshire County Council, and compered by a young person from the County Youth Arts team. The audience was musically entertained by three local young singer/song writers.
8. Sarah Miles, the Ashfield District winner, was confirmed as the overall winner of the County award and she received an additional award from Councillor John Peck, Chair of the Children and Young People's Committee.

### **Other Options Considered**

9. The report is for noting only.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

10. The report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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**

12. This event has helped to raise a positive profile of young people within communities in Nottinghamshire.

### **Financial Implications**

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

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the recent activity of the Young People's Service in facilitating the delivery of Nottinghamshire County Council's third annual Outstanding Achievement 4Uth Award be noted.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture**

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**Constitutional Comments**

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

**Financial Comments (KLA 13/11/13)**

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

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0319



**9 December 2013****Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE****NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FUTURES GOVERNANCE  
ARRANGEMENTS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for the amendment of the current Members Agreement for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures (NNF) so that the Council is enabled to have direct control over its proposed subsidiary company, Nottinghamshire NEET Reduction Service, and to seek approval for the appointment of the Vice Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee, the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee and the Service Director for Youth, Families and Culture to the Board of the proposed subsidiary company.

**Information and Advice****Company Context**

2. NNF was originally established in 2001 as Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Connexions, as part of a governmental initiative to deliver information, advice, guidance and support services for young people aged thirteen to nineteen (up to 25 for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities).
3. In 2008 responsibility for providing Connexions Services was transferred from government to local authorities in each area. From this time the Company become jointly owned and controlled by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council as a company limited by guarantee. Following the "Machinery of Government" changes in 2009/10, the Company took on further responsibilities and changed its name to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures Limited.
4. The Company has been, as from 1 April 2008, controlled in a manner designed to ensure it would be treated as an "in house" entity, with close control over its management and direction by the Councils. This allows the Councils to receive services from NNF without going through a procurement exercise (required pursuant to the Public Contracts Regulations 2006), as allowed for in the so called 'Teckal exemption'. The circumstances which must exist for this exemption to apply occur when the third party which will provide the services:
  - is controlled by the contracting authorities in a similar way to which the contracting authorities control their own in-house departments; and
  - provides the essential part of its services back to the contracting authorities.

5. As a result of changes in education and children's social policy at central governmental level, and Council budgetary constraints, NNF as it is currently structured no longer meets the requirements of the exemption. In particular, NNF has broadened its business base and currently provides a varied range of skills/employment related services to a number of other bodies. This means that the majority of NNF income is now derived from non-Council sources. In the longer term, if NNF is to continue to successfully operate, it is likely that the percentage of work for external bodies will increase.
6. The Council is represented on the board of NNF by the Vice Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee, the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee and the Service Director for Youth, Families and Culture. This representation reflects the increasing role of the Company in wider skills and economic development activity. In the current year, it is anticipated that NNF will have a turnover of approximately £14million. As a not for profit company, any surpluses it makes on its contracted activities will be reinvested proportionately in its Nottingham and Nottinghamshire activities.

### **Value for Money Considerations**

7. The funding that the Council currently awards to NNF (£2.1million in 2013/14) is governed by a contract that sets out the Council's performance requirements as the commissioner of advice, information and guidance provision for vulnerable teenagers. The contract requires NNF to support the Council's Early Help offer by seconding its 50+ delivery staff into the Council's Targeted Support and Youth Justice Service. As such, NNF staff form a key component of this multi-agency service. The Council requires NNF to lead on its 16-18 year old NEET (not in education, employment or training) reduction activity; in this respect the Company has a long track record of success. Current NEET levels in Nottinghamshire are around 3%, which are lower than both statistical neighbours and the national average.
8. Similarly, NNF has a strong track record in respect of external inspection. Most recently, Ofsted inspected the Company's National Careers Service provision (the Company holds the East Midlands contract for this service) in August 2013 and awarded an overall "good" grade. Previous Ofsted inspections of the Company's advice, information and guidance provision have also resulted in "good" grades.
9. For these reasons, officers are satisfied that there is reasonable assurance that Futures offers an effective and efficient service.

### **Maintaining the Teckal Exemption**

10. In view of the close levels of integrated service delivery between NNF and County Council staff, the Company's high quality performance and its external inspection ratings, as set out in paragraphs 6-9, officers are of the view that it is appropriate to seek to maintain the current 'Teckal exemption', and award future contracts for this work without undergoing formal procurement processes. This approach would also save the significant costs usually associated with formal procurement routes. To enable this, NNF has begun the process of establishing a new subsidiary company to be the vehicle through which the Council will deliver those services that it wishes to secure from NNF. As with the NNF parent company, the subsidiary - to be known as Nottinghamshire NEET

Reduction Service - will remain in the ownership and control of Nottingham City and the County Council on a 50:50 basis.

11. Legal advice received by the Council confirms that subject to the structure of the subsidiary company being properly established, including the maintenance of sufficient levels of control by both Councils to ensure the delivery of their objectives, the 'Teckal exemption' will be maintained and the Authority will not be obliged to run a procurement exercise. This will require the current Members Agreement for NNF to be revised to provide for the direct control by both Councils over the subsidiary company in the same manner that it is exercised for the main company. The subsidiary will carry out the principle part of its activities with both the Nottinghamshire County and the Nottingham City Councils.

### **Other Options Considered**

12. Other options considered by officers have included the establishment of a formal procurement process for the work currently undertaken by NNF. The main body of this report outlines why this option is not recommended to be pursued.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

13. The maintenance of the 'Teckal exemption' will enable the Council to continue its current effective NEET reduction and integrated support work for vulnerable young people through arrangements that have a long track record of success.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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/Safeguarding Implications**

15. The maintenance of the current service delivery arrangements will secure continuing access to important support services for vulnerable teenagers and their families which constitute a significant component of Nottinghamshire's Early Help offer.

### **Financial Implications**

16. Committee approval for this report's recommendations will result in the saving of the costs associated with formal procurement processes.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Committee:

- 1) approves the amendment of the current Members Agreement for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Futures to provide for the direct control by the Council over its proposed subsidiary company, Nottinghamshire NEET Reduction Service.
- 2) approves the appointment of the Vice Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee, the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee and the Service Director for Youth, Families and Culture to the Board of the proposed subsidiary company.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture**

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### **Constitutional Comments (NAB 22/11/13)**

17. The Children and Young People's Committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (KLA 22/11/13)**

18. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 16 above.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Outside bodies report: Futures - report to Children's and Young People's Committee on 14 October 2013.

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.

C0334

**9 December 2013****Agenda Item: 12****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND  
INCLUSION****ANNIE HOLGATE COMMUNITY INFANT & NURSERY AND ANNIE HOLGATE  
COMMUNITY JUNIOR SCHOOLS, HUCKNALL - OUTCOME OF PUBLISHED  
SECTIONS 11 AND 15 NOTICE: SCHOOLS ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report informs Members of the approval by the Schools Adjudicator (SA) to amalgamate the above-named schools in their existing premises to form a single 3-11 years primary school, inclusive of early years provision, with effect from 1 September 2014.

**Information and Advice**

2. A formal proposal was agreed to be published by this Committee at its meeting on 10 June 2013. In accordance with the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006), the County Council is required to publish a Sections 11 and 15 Notice. An appropriate notice was subsequently published on 14 June 2013 which provided details of the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 of this report.
3. There is a six week period following the publication of notices during which objections and comments can be made. During the representation period which expired on 26 July 2013, no representations were received.
4. In accordance with the current statutory regulations under the EIA 2006, proposals promoting new schools fall to independent Schools Adjudicators to decide the outcome of such proposals.
5. The formal decision of the Schools Adjudicator to approve the amalgamation of Annie Holgate Infant and Nursery and Annie Holgate Junior Schools in existing premises was notified in a letter dated 6 November 2013 from the Office of the SA.
6. The DfE's Education Funding Agency is currently working with the County Council and the Annie Holgate Infant and Junior Schools to develop their proposal to replace the existing buildings with a new primary through the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme.

## **Other Options Considered**

7. One other possible option for the future of these two schools was considered:
  - both schools remain as separate infant and junior schools
8. The particular benefits of amalgamation include:
  - making more efficient use of available on-site accommodation to benefit not only the two schools, but also the local community as a whole;
  - a larger, single primary school will benefit from a combined budget and be a more viable provision of educational places for the community it will serve.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

9. Under the current provisions of the EIA 2006, proposals promoting new schools fall to independent Schools Adjudicators to decide the outcome of such proposals.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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**

11. When the proposal is implemented, pupils on roll at Annie Holgate Infant and Junior Schools at the time of closure will automatically transfer to the new school as appropriate.

## **Financial Implications**

12. As a result of the changes all local authorities have been required to make to school funding from April 2013, upon amalgamation, the new school will receive a single budget allocation based on the agreed local funding formula for schools of a similar size. However, for the first full financial year, the new school will receive transitional protection through the payment of a lump sum equal to 85% of the two lump sums that the schools would have received if they had not merged. As the new school will not be created until September 2014, the first full financial year of operation will be the 2015-16 financial year. The new school would therefore expect the lump sum element of their budget to be as follows:
  - 2014-15 (7/12 financial year) £116,667 (£100,000 x 2 schools x 7/12)
  - 2015-16 (full financial year) £170,000 (£100,000 x 2 schools x 85%)
  - 2016-17 (full financial year) £100,000 - school reverts to a single lump sum

## **Public Sector Equality Duty Implications**

13. Equal opportunities issues for staff will be addressed within an agreed enabling document which will follow an agreed standard format.
14. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is available as a background paper.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

15. Appropriate consideration has been given to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is the view of the County Council that this proposed amalgamation does not pose a significant risk to increasing criminal activity within the locality of the two schools.

## **Human Rights Implications**

16. Parental preference will continue to be facilitated.

## **Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications**

17. Any new build scheme will take account of safeguarding needs and requirements.

## **Human Resources Implications**

18. The governors of the new school will be supported by County Council officers to ensure that decisions about staffing in the school are made in accordance with employment law and the Local Authority's previously determined policies.

## **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

19. Any new build project will require planning approval and will meet Building Regulations which reflect sustainability and environmental targets.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That Committee notes the decision by the Schools Adjudicator to approve the County Council's proposal to amalgamate Annie Holgate Infant & Nursery and Annie Holgate Junior Schools in their existing premises to form a single 3-11 primary school, including provision for early years education places, with effect from 1 September 2014.

**John Slater**  
**Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion**

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## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## **Financial Comments (KLA 13/11/13)**

21. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 12 above, & are contained with the school's budget.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

- 1) Annie Holgate Community Infant & Nursery & Annie Holgate Community Junior Schools, Hucknall - possible amalgamation - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 10 June 2013 (previously published)
- 2) Sections 11 and 15 Notice (published on 14 June 2013)
- 3) Proposal determination letter from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator confirming the SA's decision (dated 6 November 2013)
- 4) Equality Impact Assessment

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**

Hucknall: Councillors Alice Grice, John Wilkinson and John Wilmott

C0323

9 December 2013

Agenda Item: 13

## **REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2013/14.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
3. The attached work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.
4. As part of the transparency introduced by the new committee arrangements, committees are expected to review day to day operational decisions made by officers using their delegated powers. It is anticipated that the committee will wish to commission periodic reports on such decisions. The committee is therefore requested to identify activities on which it would like to receive reports for inclusion in the work programme. It may be that the presentations about activities in the committee's remit will help to inform this.

#### **Other Options Considered**

4. None.

#### **Reason for Recommendation**

5. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

6. 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the committee's work programme be noted and consideration be given to any changes which the committee wishes to make

**Jayne Francis-Ward**  
**Corporate Director, Policy, Planning and Corporate Services**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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Democratic Services Officer  
T: 0115 9772794

## **Constitutional Comments (HD)**

7. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments (PS)**

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report. Any future reports to Committee on operational activities and officer working groups, will contain relevant financial information and comments.

## **Background Papers**

None

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

## **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2013-14**

<b><u>Report Title</u></b>	<b><u>Brief summary of agenda item</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>
<b>13 January 2014</b>		
Children's Social Care sufficiency report		Steve Edwards
Children's Social Care Health Check		Steve Edwards
Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan	Progress report	Steve Edwards
New Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014-16		Derek Higton
Raising the Participation Age (RPA) Plan update		John Slater
Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy annual performance report	Annual update	Derek Higton
Troubled Families Programme update		Derek Higton
Rota Visits	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards
Schools Forum	Annual officer group report	Anthony May
Work Programme		Anthony May
<b>10 February 2014</b>		
Performance reporting (Quarter 3 2013/14) – Services for Children and Young People	Quarterly performance report	Anthony May
Developing a new operating model for the CFCS department		Anthony May
Specialist SEBD provision & outcome of consultation on proposal on the closure of Daybrook Learning Centre	For decision	John Slater
Children's Social Care performance report		Steve Edwards
Authority governor appointments and reappointments and Local Authority appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report on appointments made	John Slater
Education Trust Board	Annual officer group report	Anthony May
Work Programme		Anthony May
<b>17 March 2014</b>		
Schools Capital Strategy		Derek Higton
School Places Strategy		John Slater
Nottinghamshire School Admission Arrangements 2015/16	For determination	John Slater
Financial support to students in post 16 education	Annual determination	John Slater
Proposed revision to the National Curriculum in England – report back on views of headteachers		John Slater
Progress report on Nottinghamshire Music Education Hub	<a href="#">Page 61 of 64</a>	Derek Higton

<b><u>Report Title</u></b>	<b><u>Brief summary of agenda item</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>
and response to Ofsted survey 'Music in Schools: what music hubs must do'		
National Minimum Fostering Allowances	Annual determination	Steve Edwards
Young People's Board	Six monthly officer group report	Derek Highton
Work Programme		Anthony May
<b>23 April 2014</b>		
Under 16 Home to School Transport 2014 and Post 16 Transport Policy 2014/15	Annual determination	John Slater
Nottinghamshire children's services quality assurance framework – outcomes/performance report	Six-monthly report	Derek Highton
Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Early Help Development Plan 2013-16: six monthly update		Derek Highton
Healthy Child Programme	For noting	Kate Allen
Work Programme		Anthony May
<b>19 May 2014</b>		
Performance reporting 2013/14) – Services for Children and Young People	Annual performance report	Anthony May
Exceptional payments for school clothing and footwear allowance 2014/15	Annual determination	John Slater
Authority governor appointments and reappointments and Local Authority appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report on appointments made	John Slater
Work Programme		Anthony May
<b>16 June 2014</b>		
Nottinghamshire Children's Trust (incl Locality Management Groups & CYPF Plan action/implementation plan)	Annual officer group report	Derek Highton
Work Programme		Anthony May
<b>14 July 2014</b>		
A Strategy for Closing the Educational Gaps in Nottinghamshire – six month review	Six monthly review report	John Slater
Rota Visits	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards
Locality Visits	Six-monthly report	Steve Edwards
Outside bodies report - Futures	Annual report	Derek Highton
Outside bodies report - SACRE	Annual report	John Slater

<b><u>Report Title</u></b>	<b><u>Brief summary of agenda item</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Officer</u></b>
Work Programme		Anthony May
<b>To be placed</b>		
Locality Visits review		Steve Edwards
Young People's Board	Presentation by young people	Derek Higon

