

APPENDIX A

LEADER'S STATEMENT TO FULL COUNCIL ON THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2016 REGARDING HISTORIC CHILD ABUSE

Members will be aware that yesterday saw the sentencing of an ex-employee of Nottinghamshire County Council, former residential social worker Andris Logins, for a string of serious sexual offences committed against children in his and our care in the 1980s. Members will also recall that I stood in this chamber last November and pledged to make an unreserved apology if this Council was found to have failed to protect children in its care. That moment has now arrived.

To the victims and their families, I wholeheartedly and unreservedly apologise when, as a Council, we fail in our duty of care to protect you. I want to pay tribute to the bravery, courage and persistence of these victims who at last have seen justice prevail with a lengthy custodial sentence for a man who betrayed his position of trust. It was our role to keep children safe and we clearly didn't, which is a deep source of regret. These offences took place more than 30 years ago and it is important to assure people that residential children's homes of the 1980s bear no resemblance to those of today.

The Goddard Inquiry will further examine the scale and nature of historic child sexual abuse in Nottinghamshire and we will cooperate fully with this Inquiry and ongoing police investigations.

This case sends out a clear message to the victims of abuse that your experiences are being listened to and believed and I would encourage anyone who has suffered abuse of any kind to come forward and report it to ourselves or to Nottinghamshire Police. While we can't change the past, we can affect the present. Be reassured that as a Council we will do everything in our power to help make sure the children in our care are kept safe.

