



**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

Director of Education Pam Tulley  
County Hall  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham  
NG2 7QP

Tel (0115) 977 3353

E mail: pam.tully@education.nottsccl.gov.uk

**Please Ask For** Nigel Farrow  
**Direct Line** 0115 977 3008  
**E-Mail Address** Nigel.farrow@nottsccl.gov.uk  
**Date** 12 September 2005

Sue Harrison  
Office for Standards in Education  
Carolyn Merry  
Business Relationship Manager,  
CSCI

Dear Sue and Carolyn,

**Children's services APA self-assessment for Nottinghamshire**

We thought you would appreciate a covering letter that contains key hyperlinks and a glossary of terms provided in the 'jargon buster' that follows on from this letter.

The APA process has been a very worthwhile, if sometimes frustrating, exercise in deepening mutual understanding of the way in which roles, responsibilities and services contribute to improving the life chances of children in Nottinghamshire. The frustration has arisen from the lack of clarity and the developing information as the process neared its completion. We have sent our comments, as requested, on the revised education APA data set to Ofsted. For completeness, this commentary also follows on from this letter.

We have taken a rigorous and thorough approach to the self-assessment, which is backed up by an audit trail to the evidence that supports our judgements. The self-assessment has been discussed and agreed with colleagues from other agencies and senior colleagues within the County Council.

The criteria for reaching a judgement about overall grades have been scrutinised carefully. As ever is the case, when the criteria are not tightly prescribed across the grade boundaries, the discussion and scrutiny have been intense, and, on balance, we decided to round each self-assessment score to the nearest whole integer.

The self-assessment is backed up by a number of inter-agency plans and strategies, local statutory plans and business plans. Major plans are:

- Child Plan, 2002 - 5, our last children's services plan, available at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nottschildplan.pdf](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nottschildplan.pdf)

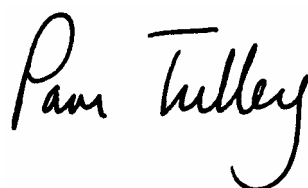
Visit our website at: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)



- The LEA strategic plan 2005/06, Education Development Plan (EDP) 2002-2007 and EDP update for 2005/06 all available at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/performanceplansandpublications.htm](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/performanceplansandpublications.htm)

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Nigel Farrow, Children's Services Development Manager or myself.

Yours sincerely



Pam Tulley  
Director of Education

## Jargon Buster

Term	Definition
ACPC	Area Child Protection Committee
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CMB	Corporate Management Board
CSAG	Children's Services Action Group
CYPSP	Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership
E2E	Education to Employment
EBD	Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties
EDP	Education Development Plan
EOTAS	Educated Otherwise Than at School
EWO	Education Welfare Officer
EYDCP	Early Years Development & Childcare Partnership
GOEM	Government Officers for the East Midlands
IEP	Individual Education Plan
ISA	Information Sharing & Assessment
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Children
LEA	Local Education Authority
LIG	Leadership Incentive Grant
LMC	Local Management Committee
LSC	Learning Skills Council
LSCB	Local Children's Safeguarding Board
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
NAVO	Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations
NELI	Newark Extended Learning Initiative
NSF	National Service Framework
PSDI	Personal and Social Development Initiative
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
PSA	Public Service Agreement
PSS	Personal Social Services
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SRE	Sex and Relationships Education
YET	Youth Engagement Team
YOS	Youth Offending Service

## Nottinghamshire LEA: Comments on the Ofsted 2005 APA Education Summary sheet (amended version 19.5.05)

Having received the amended data sheet very late in the day in relation to the APA submission, there are several issues we would wish to raise and would welcome your response:

- Page 1: *AEW (LAC) 1* - refers on the sheet to Form 4 PI 54d % schools with inadequate sixth forms - this must be wrongly coded as it is not an indicator for Looked after Children. The actual indicator itself from Form 4 is not a useful one, as this refers to one school that was removed from the category a year ago. Given that it is coded D and therefore looks as if it is a major concern, this is very misleading.
- Page 1: *School inspection section 10 indicators* - The values for the indicators on this page are new (ref E&A19- E&A27) - we have not seen them in this format before and they aggregate primary and secondary data. This presents an inaccurate picture for Nottinghamshire where our primary performance is above and well above the national average for these measures but our secondary performance is below. The use of a crude aggregation masks significant information and is misleading.
- Page 1: *Ofsted Form 4 data on underachieving schools* - (ref E&A22). We recognise that this is from Form 4 but the data refers to schools in this category from 2000 and does not represent an accurate picture - the grade of D for this indicator is misleading because it refers to only 3 schools out of 370, two of which are no longer in this category. Given that Ofsted update this data regularly and this was recently published on the Ofsted website, would it be possible to use up to date data instead of form 4 which refers to 2003?
- Page 1: *Ofsted Form 4 PI66 % of pupils with statements* - (ref E&A (SEN/dis)1). This indicator is perverse and very misleading for Nottinghamshire. Nottinghamshire has one of the lowest numbers of statements in the country but is held up by the DfES as a national example of good practice because of its very high level of inclusion of pupils with special educational needs in mainstream schools (double the national average). In Nottinghamshire pupils do not need a statement to access resources and therefore few pupils have statements. This indicator penalises an authority which is highly inclusive (many of the children with SEN in Nottinghamshire would be in special schools in other LEAs) and delivering the government's agenda for inclusion.
- Page 2: *Value added measures key stage 1 to key stage 2* - (ref E&A8). The data for the value added score for Nottinghamshire at 99.9 is the same as that shown on the local authority grid profile dated 12 April final V1, however the grade is given as C on the profile and D on this new data summary sheet. Please could you clarify the reason for this?
- Page 2: *the data for the Youth Services* - this is not, as you indicate, included in the APA toolkit. The figure of 2.3% (ref 3.12.3) refers to the % of youth service budget as a % of the whole education budget. We would like clarification as to

where this figure originates - we presume it refers to 2002-2003 data taken from the Ofsted inspection form 2 using the section 52 figure of 2002-2003. Should this be the case, this seems to be very old data and we would ask why the figure has not been extracted from the section 52 data for 2004-2005. The latest figure from the national youth agency annual audit is 1.34% and from the section 52 statement the figure is 1.72%.

- Page 2: *the data for the Youth Services* - (ref 3.12.2). The figure given (2003 data) does not reflect the current position in Nottinghamshire which is 1:304. Would it be possible to use up to date data?
- Page 2: *the data for the Youth Services* - (ref 3.12.4). We would like clarification for the source of this data - the figure of £133.83 does not match the national youth agency data or that from Section 52.
- Page 2: *the data for the Youth Services* - (ref 3.12.6). We would like clarification of the source of this data as it does not match the national youth agency data.
- Page 3: *Section 10 inspection data*: There is quite rightly an acknowledgement (health warning at foot of page) that the data may not be representative for the LEA. We would want this to be emphasised - in the case of Nottinghamshire, the secondary school data refers only to 8 schools, of which two are in Ofsted categories and one has been closed by the LEA because of its poor performance. This clearly does not present a representative view. In addition, the small sample of primary schools does not reflect the very positive performance of primary schools that is clearly shown in the ongoing annual Ofsted statistical profile where Nottinghamshire schools are above the average in all key measures (teaching/learning/leadership etc).
- Page 4: *list of Section 10 school inspections*: school URN1311588 refers to the Martlet PRU. This school was closed and the URN should refer to the Bassetlaw PRU.