

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
COMMITTEE****OFSTED INSPECTION OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Full Council on the outcome of the Ofsted inspection of children's services that took place in May/June 2015.

Information and Advice

2. In March 2010, Nottinghamshire County Council received an inadequate rating for its safeguarding services. Following this inspection outcome an improvement notice was issued to the Council and a robust improvement plan was implemented. This was supported by significant financial investment and cross-party political support. In September 2011, the Council was re-inspected and safeguarding services were found to be adequate, with good capacity to improve. The inspection recognised the swift and decisive action taken and found the Council to be on a journey of improvement.
3. In November 2013, Ofsted introduced a new inspection framework for children's services, covering services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. This new framework was widely acknowledged to have raised the bar for achieving a 'good' inspection outcome, with the 'adequate' judgement replaced with 'requires improvement.'
4. Nottinghamshire County Council received its inspection under this framework in May and June 2015. The full inspection report was published on 20 July 2015 and is attached as **Appendix 1**.
5. Judgements achieved under the new framework were as follows:
 - Overall effectiveness – **good**
 - The experiences and progress of children who need help and protection – **good**
 - The experiences and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence – **good**; including graded judgements on:
 - Adoption performance – **good**
 - the experiences and progress of care leavers – **requires improvement**
 - Leadership, management and governance - **good**.
6. To put these judgements into context, only 27% of authorities inspected under the current framework have been judged to be good for overall effectiveness, with no authorities

judged to be outstanding, 55% of authorities requiring improvement and 18% judged to be inadequate (Ofsted data published September 2014).

7. The judgement of leaving care services as requiring improvement indicates that this area of service requires additional focus. The new strategy for looked after children and care leavers 2015-18, approved by Policy Committee in June 2015, provides the framework under which this will happen, with the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee playing an increased role in scrutiny.
8. The Council is now required to develop and submit an improvement plan to ensure that areas identified in the inspection as requiring further improvement are prioritised and achieved. This plan will be governed through existing arrangements, including through the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Young People's Committee.
9. At the same time as the inspection of children's services, a review of the effectiveness of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) was undertaken. This found the effectiveness of the Board to be good. The executive summary of the review and recommendations for improvement can be found in **Appendix 1**. The NSCB will be responsible for developing and monitoring its own improvement plan.

Other Options Considered

10. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. Ofsted inspections of children's services are the key measure of the effectiveness of service provision.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, 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.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

13. The inspection outcome demonstrates that children and young people in Nottinghamshire are effectively safeguarded.

Implications for Service Users

14. The inspection outcome demonstrates that children, young people and families in Nottinghamshire receive an effective service.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the outcome of the inspection of children's services that took place in May/June 2015 be noted.

Councillor John Peck JP
Chairman of Children & Young People's Committee

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 27/08/15)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

Looked After Children and Care Leavers 2015 - 18 – report to Policy Committee on 17 June 2015 (previously published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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