

# Children and Families Select Committee

**Monday, 19 December 2022 at 10:30**

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

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## AGENDA

- 1 Changes to Membership
  - a) To note that Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan has been appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor David Shaw
  - b) To note that Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Committee until the Annual Meeting of the Full Council in May 2023
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers
  - (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
  - (b) Private Interests (Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary)
- 4 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 10 October 2022 3 - 12
- 5 Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021-22 13 - 32
- 6 Special Educational Needs and Disability Provision and Sufficiency 33 - 42
- 7 Response from the Cabinet Member for Children and Families on How Awareness of the Financial Support for the Cost of School Uniform is Raised 43 - 44
- 8 Work Programme 45 - 60

## **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 Adrian Mann (Tel. 0115 804 4609) 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.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Meeting:	Children and Young People's Select Committee
Date:	Monday 10 October 2022 (commencing at 2:00pm)

**Membership:****County Councillors**

Sam Smith (Chairman)  
Michelle Welsh (Vice Chairman)

Calum Bailey ( <b>apologies</b> )	Roger Jackson
Anne Callaghan BEM	John Lee
Robert Corden	Dave Shaw
Debbie Darby	Nigel Turner
Errol Henry JP ( <b>apologies</b> )	

**Substitute Members**

Richard Butler for Calum Bailey  
Mike Pringle for Errol Henry JP

**Other County Councillors in attendance:**

Tracey Taylor - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

**Officers and colleagues in attendance:**

Amanda Collison - Service Director for Help, Care and Protection  
Martin Elliott - Senior Scrutiny Officer  
Ahmed Esat - Group Manager for Service Improvement  
Karen Hughman - Group Manager for Education Access, Standards and Safeguarding  
Adrian Mann - Democratic Services Officer  
Peter McConnochie - Service Director for Education Learning and Inclusion  
Lucy Peel - Service Director for Transformation and Improvement  
Colin Pettigrew - Corporate Director for Children and Families Services

## **1. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 27 June 2022, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Calum Bailey - Other County Council business  
Councillor Errol Henry JP - Other reasons

## **3. Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers**

No declarations of interests were made.

## **4. Ofsted Focused Visit – Outcome and Response**

Councillor Tracey Taylor (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Colin Pettigrew (Corporate Director for Children and Families Services), Amanda Collison (Service Director for Help, Care and Protection) and Ahmed Esat (Group Manager for Service Improvement) attended the meeting and presented a report on the outcomes of the recent Ofsted focused visit and the resulting improvement planning:

- The report stated that the Service achieved a ‘good’ rating in the last full Ofsted inspection and that it was anticipated that the next inspection would take place from late 2023 to early 2024. The Ofsted recent focused visit, which did not constitute a full inspection, took place during April 2022 and reviewed the arrangements for children in need or subject to a child protection plan.
- The report set out that the results of the visit were published in June in the form of a narrative letter. Eight key headline strengths were identified, with two particular areas noted where improvements had been achieved since the last full inspection. Three headline areas for improvement were noted:
  - a) Consistent provision and recording of purposeful direct work with children.
  - b) The quantity and quality of case file audits and their impact in identifying improvements for individual children and learning for the organisation.
  - c) The impact of supervision and management oversight in driving progress for all children.
- The report noted that Improvement planning was part of the Service’s Learning and Improvement Framework, to inform quality assurance activities and both strategic and operational priorities. The Ofsted findings were a significant driver for improvement plans and so were incorporated into actions being undertaken by the Service, which were reflected in Appendix B to the report.
- The report explained that the impact of improvement actions was measured through quality assurance activities, including the review of business intelligence and performance management data. Divisional Leadership Teams and the Service’s monthly Learning and Improvement Board evaluated the evidence of progress and impact on an ongoing basis, and this was incorporated into the annual self-evaluation undertaken as part of the Ofsted inspection cycle.

The Committee raised the following points in discussion:

- The Committee noted that the report highlighted some areas of concern where improvement was required and queried why these had not been fully achieved through the adoption of the improvement plan following the 2019 inspection – particularly in the context of evidencing direct work and providing consistent support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- The Committee asked for details of the current retention rates for in-house social workers in the Service, how many agency staff were being used, and whether there were any current special budgetary issues as a result. Members sought assurance that similar levels of consistency and outcomes were being delivered by both in-house and agency staff, and whether the appropriate standards were being met.
- The Committee sought assurance that, following the Coronavirus pandemic, social workers could now access an office easily to deposit sensitive and personal information securely and in a timely way.

In relation to the points raised by the Committee, the Cabinet Member and Officers provided the following responses:

- The focused visit had taken place over two days only, so it had provided an overview of the Service, rather than reviewing provision in significant detail. During the Coronavirus pandemic, social workers were not always able to access their offices easily to ensure that records were updated, but this was now no longer the case.
- It was acknowledged that SEND represented an area of great challenge, but that there was a clear focus on achieving consistency of practice across the Service.
- The Ofsted report did not address social worker staffing and retention levels, specifically. It was noted that there is a good balance between in-house and agency staff currently, with a strong core of Council social workers. However, the employment market is challenging both in terms of recruitment and retention, and more agency staff may be required in the future.
- It was explained that the nature of the market has meant that most in-house social worker recruits start as newly qualified, as it was difficult for the Council to compete with the private sector offer for the experienced social workers, who were in very high demand. There have been significant budget pressures across the care sector nationally and staffing costs were having a particular impact, especially when more external agency support was required.
- Assurance was given that there are no differences in expectation for the effective delivery of services between in-house and agency social workers, and robust systems and methodologies have been in place to ensure that there is consistency in delivery.

- A new direct working toolkit was launched to ensure that the very strong direct work carried out by social workers with children and young people at home was evidenced fully in their files in a timely and secure way.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions.

**RESOLVED (2022/002):**

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman receive a progress report in six months' time on the areas of practice in the Ofsted Focused Visit Outcome Letter identified as requiring improvement.
- 3) That further information on the use and number of agency staff, along with information on how agency staff are supervised within the Children and Young People's Services department, be circulated to the members of the Committee.

**5. Elective Home Education**

Councillor Tracey Taylor (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Colin Pettigrew (Corporate Director for Children and Families Services) and Peter McConnochie (Service Director for Education Learning and Inclusion) attended the meeting and presented a report on the current position relating to Elective Home Education (EHE) in Nottinghamshire:

- The report explained that parents had the legal right to withdraw a child from school. The school had a duty to notify the Council and remove the child's name from the school register, and the Council would then record the child as being in EHE. The parents then became elective home educators and were completely responsible for the costs, provision, management and delivery of the education of that child. There are no specific curricular requirements incumbent on elective home educators, and they could choose whether or not to engage with support offered by the Council.
- The report set out that, in Nottinghamshire, 1,370 children were recorded as being in EHE on 24 June 2022, representing an increase of 164 since 25 June 2021. Of these 1,370, 929 were receiving direct support from the Council's EHE team, while the parents/carers of 439 children declined Council involvement.
- The report noted that there are an unknown number of children who have always been in EHE and were enrolled at a school, and these children were not recorded as being in receipt of a home education unless they were brought to the attention of the Council by parents or via another means. Every effort was being made to identify these children by working in collaboration with other agencies and through the scrutiny of data at first admission to school, so the actual number was projected to be nevertheless low.

- The report established that the Schools Bill was introduced to Parliament in May 2022 and proposed measures to support the existing duties of Local Authorities to identify those children not in school and ensure they were receiving an efficient and suitable education. The first voluntary Children Not In School collection would take place in October 2022 and the Council was prepared to respond to this.

The Committee raised the following points in discussion:

- The Committee queried whether the reasons for the particularly high EHE figures in areas such as Newark were fully understood, and what resources were in place to support these children and their families.
- The Committee asked whether children in receipt of EHE had similar educational outcomes to those in mainstream education, whether they had access to equivalent educational and social structures, and how they accessed formal examinations.
- The Committee noted that the number of children in receipt of EHE were increasing, with some of the rise being a consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic, and asked what was being done to engage with the parents and carers of the 439 children who had declined support from the Council. Members sought assurances on the effectiveness of the web-based learning provision for children in EHE and asked how progress was being monitored.
- The Committee noted that a new Schools Bill was being introduced and asked how the new measures to support Local Authorities in identifying children not in school would be used to ensure that those children were receiving an efficient and suitable education, including through the creation of a compulsory register for children in receipt of EHE.
- The Committee observed that the trends for exclusion and EHE numbers for years 9-11 were very similar. Members asked to what degree a child being moved from mainstream schooling to EHE was the product of either leaving school due to being excluded (or being the victim of persistent bullying) and then being unable to find a new school place in-year, a breakdown in the relationship between parents and their child's school, or problems between an older child and their parents (where the child refuses to attend school). Members queried whether any individual schools had particularly high numbers of children leaving to enter EHE, what the backgrounds of these children were, and how many entered EHE following exclusion.
- The Committee noted that the parents of EHE children were not required to have any ongoing contact with the Council in relation to their child's education unless there was a 'cause for concern'. Members queried whose responsibility it was to report a 'cause for concern' (particularly if the relationship between the child, parents and school had broken down), how the report would be responded to, and who was responsible for the safeguarding of children in EHE.

In relation to the points raised by the Committee, the Cabinet Member and Officers provided the following responses:

- EHE numbers were greater in Newark firstly because it represents a larger geographical area and, secondly, because it has a relatively higher proportion of residents from Roma, Gypsy and Traveller backgrounds. A specialist adviser was put in place within the Council team to assist with carrying out effective engagement with and providing support to these communities.
- It was noted that children in EHE had access to exam centres, but that the primary challenge was in ensuring that they received the right form and coverage of education as provided in mainstream schools so that they could sit the exams (which were based on a fixed curriculum) effectively. It has been the case that some parents did not have the right skills to educate their children at home and did not have access to the same equipment and resources that were available in schools, and that EHE children might not have the same opportunity for engagement with wider social structures.
- It was explained that although there was a level of concern for any child not in school, EHE was an appropriate form of education in certain circumstances, and some EHE children had received a strong education and achieved good results. It was noted that it was not the case that all children in EHE required other services, including Social Care support.
- It was acknowledged that EHE levels had increased during the Coronavirus pandemic, though the numbers in Nottinghamshire were lower than the national average. The online 'NottAlone' resource had been produced and rolled out quickly and had performed very well – and represented a good focus for future development. A series of web-based educational resources were also available to parents. The Service followed up with parents if they declined support from the Council, particularly if there were other known service needs or issues within the family. However, the rates of engagement with EHE families were relatively high.
- To date, there had been no provision within legislation that obliged EHE parents to engage with the Council on the education of their children – though support was offered to all of these families. The Service was aware of the children who had entered EHE following a period of time in mainstream schooling, but was not necessarily aware of children who had never attended school and had always been educated at home. The Council had written to central Government to set out what it considered to be required to ensure that monitoring of all EHE children could be as robust as possible, and had engaged actively on what was needed from the new legislation.
- The Council had an EHE register in place already and so was in a strong position to respond to and implement the requirements of the new legislation effectively, which would ensure that all children had access to the best educational start that they could and that no-one fell outside of the existing structures. Although the establishment of a compulsory register in legislation for children in EHE was welcome, its effective implementation would result in an additional cost to the Council (such as for carrying out increased monitoring or using enforcement

powers), so full funding of this would be needed from Government to avoid the increase of financial pressure within the Service.

- The Council was aware of the schools that had higher rates of children entering EHE. There were peaks in numbers during Key Stages 3 and 4, so this was an area of concern and consideration was required as to why parents were taking their children into EHE at such a late stage in their school education. However, close engagement was in place with the affected schools, parents and children.
- It was noted that it was possible that some parents took their children into EHE as a result of an older child refusing to attend school, though the Council had processes in place to support both the parents and the school with attendance issues in these circumstances. All schools should have effective measures in place to respond to and address bullying. Support was provided to enable EHE children to re-enter mainstream education wherever possible and the upcoming new legislation should help to facilitate in-year admissions for children returning to school from EHE.
- Parents must inform the school if they intended to take their child into EHE, and the school would then inform the Council. In doing so, the school would raise any concerns or potential safeguarding issues, which would then be referred to the appropriate services, as required. A level of scrutiny was put in place to challenge parents seeing to take a child into EHE where this decision appeared to be inappropriate.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions.

**RESOLVED (2022/003):**

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That a progress report on the current position on Elective Home Education in Nottinghamshire be presented at the September 2023 meeting of the Committee.
- 3) That further data from the Elective Home Education Dashboard that provides information on the current cohort of electively home-educated children be circulated to the members of the Committee.
- 4) That information on the number of electively home-educated children in Years 9, 10 and 11 who have previously been excluded from school be circulated to the members of the Committee.
- 5) That information on the uptake and outcomes of the Wellbeing for Education Return Project and the NottAlone website be circulated to the members of the Committee.
- 6) That members of the Committee be involved in the review of the Council's Elective Home Education Policy that is scheduled to take place during 2023.

## **6. Financial Support for the Cost of School Uniforms**

Councillor Tracey Taylor (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People), Colin Pettigrew (Corporate Director for Children and Families Services), Peter McConnochie (Service Director for Education Learning and Inclusion) and Karen Hughman (Group Manager for Education Access, Standards and Safeguarding) attended the meeting and presented a report on the current school clothing allowances:

- The report set out that the Department for Education strongly encouraged schools to have a uniform, to play a key role in promoting a school ethos and providing a sense of belonging and identity, as well as setting an appropriate tone for education. Every education setting was free to choose the school uniform requirements for its organisation and could decide to not have a uniform, either for the whole setting or for selected year groups.
- The report noted, however, that the affordability of school uniforms for families on low income was a key concern. Most schools and academies in Nottinghamshire had additional systems of support for school uniforms for families who were facing exceptional difficulty and/or when there was a major change to the uniform of the school. The Council had also established a discretionary school clothing allowance, with an annual budget of £500, to meet requests for assistance from families in exceptional circumstances such as where school clothes have been lost due to fire, flood, theft, homelessness or fleeing domestic violence.

The Committee raised the following points in discussion:

- The Committee sought assurance that the level of annual budget for the allowance was sufficient to meet the anticipated demand. Members asked by what process applications were considered for approval, whether the budget could be increased in-year if demand required it, and how people who made unsuccessful applications could otherwise be supported with uniform costs.
- The Committee sought assurance that the allowance properly supported children in receipt of free school meals, and that it was comparable to those provided by other Local Authorities in the region.
- The Committee asked what steps the Council could take to help to ensure that all schools had uniform policies in place that were affordable to all families.
- The Committee noted that the remit of the current allowance was limited to a narrow range of emergency situations, but hoped that broader support for school uniform costs might be implemented in the future.
- The Committee sought assurance that the information about the allowance could be found easily by families – particularly when those families were in the type of emergency situation that would make them eligible for support.

In relation to the points raised by the Committee, the Cabinet Member and Officers provided the following responses:

- It was explained that the allowance was available to support all families resident in the County to replace school uniforms lost following specific emergency situations that had placed them in financial hardship, and compared favourably to the schemes available from other Local Authorities in the region. As such, it was not anticipated that the level of eligible demand for the allowance would increase significantly, and the current level of demand was being met from within the currently allocated budget.
- It was noted that applications for the allowance were processed by the School Admissions team, and that each application was assessed for approval against the written policy. Grants from the allowance were given on the basis of need, with a weighting towards children in secondary school.
- Central Government has issued guidance on uniform requirements and costs, which the Council supported and circulated to all schools. The Council had also written to schools where the concerns had been raised about the uniform requirements and costs, and provided advice to families on where and how they could challenge the school's policy. It was noted, however, that schools had the discretion to set their own policy on uniforms, and the Council did not have any direct powers of intervention.
- The allowance policy was agreed by the Council on an annual basis and would be reviewed next in 2023. It did not represent a general support scheme for meeting school uniform costs, which schools could seek to address through the Pupil Premium. It was noted that as schools set their own uniform policy, the Council was not in a position to introduce a more general support scheme for meeting uniform costs, as this could result in the Council indirectly subsidising schools' uniform pricing policies.
- It was advised that information on the allowance was available from School Admissions and via the MyNotts app. The allowance was intended as an important safety net, so any specific barriers to accessing the information should be referred to the appropriate officers for review. Consideration would be given to how information about the allowance could be passed on to eligible families through other services that would have contact with them in an emergency, such as the Fire and Rescue Service.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and Officers for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions.

**RESOLVED (2022/004):**

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with officers, gives consideration to how awareness of the Council's scheme for providing financial support for school uniform could be raised with elected members and relevant partner agencies.

- 3) That members of the Committee be involved in the review of the Council's policy on financial support for the provision of school uniform that is scheduled to take place before the start of the 2023/24 financial year.

## **7. Work Programme**

The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee's current work programme.

### **RESOLVED (2022/005):**

- 1) That the work programme be noted.
- 2) That Committee members make any further suggestions of items for inclusion on the work programme to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (subject to consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, and the required approval by the Chairman of the Overview Committee).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 2:37pm.

**Chairman:**



**19 December 2022**

**Agenda Item 5**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES**

### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

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

1. The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) annual report 2021/22, attached as **Appendix 1**, sets out what the NSCP has achieved over the 2021/22 reporting period and is provided for the Committee to scrutinise and to provide assurance that the partnership is fulfilling its duties.

#### **Information**

2. The NSCP provides the safeguarding arrangements required under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'. The purpose of safeguarding arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The NSCP is required to prepare an annual report and to submit this to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works for Children's Social Care Centre.

#### **Financial Implications**

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

#### **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

4. This report demonstrates how the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements have impacted on the safeguarding of children and young people in Nottinghamshire in the 2021/22 reporting period.

#### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Children and Families Select Committee considers the report.

**Laurence Jones**  
**Service Director, Commissioning and Resources**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**  
Sam Harris, Service Manager – Partnerships and Planning  
0115 8041972, [samantha.harris@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.harris@nottscc.gov.uk)

### **Constitutional Comments (LPW 28/11/22)**

5. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Families Select Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (CDS 22/11/22)**

6. 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.

- None

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

- All



## NSCP Annual Report 2021/22

### Safeguarding Children Arrangements for Nottinghamshire

#### Introduction

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) provides the safeguarding arrangements required under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018'. The purpose of safeguarding arrangements is to support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

#### *Vision and values*

The Partnership has set out its vision: -

***'That children and young people in Nottinghamshire grow up in a safe and stable environment and are supported to lead healthy, happy, and fulfilling lives'***

The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will:

- Work effectively as a partnership to protect children from harm.
- Build working relationships between partners which support a culture of high challenge and high support<sup>1</sup>.
- Be transparent and self-critical.
- Learn from local and national safeguarding practice and improve the way children are safeguarded.
- Listen and respond to children and young people and adult victims and survivors of child abuse to guide how services are delivered.
- Ensure services for children and families in Nottinghamshire support children and young people to stay safe, healthy and happy.
- Ensure services for children and families in Nottinghamshire support parents and carers to provide the best possible care for their children.

This report sets out what the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has achieved over the past year, including the following:

- An update on progress in relation to the safeguarding priorities for 2020-23 and the key areas of work to take forward.
- A summary of the decisions made in relation to local case reviews and the learning and actions taken from those reviews and national reviews.

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<sup>1</sup> The Strategic Leadership Group have amended this wording from 'constructive challenge' to reflect the ethos the partnership aspires towards.

- The effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements in practice.
- Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers.
- Examples of the ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

The safeguarding arrangements in Nottinghamshire are fully detailed in the safeguarding arrangements document published in line with national requirements on the NSCP website <https://nscp.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/about-the-partnership/>. The arrangements were last updated in January 2020<sup>2</sup>. They include details of the partners to the arrangements and explain how the functions of the Partnership are carried out through several different groups and led by the Strategic Leadership Group (SLG).

In the last year there have been significant changes within the partnership business unit with the Group Manager Joe Foley, Service Manager Steve Baumber and Development Manager Bob Ross all having retired in March and April 2022. The Strategic Leadership Group (SLG) and the new Group Manager (Claire Sampson) and Service Manager (Sam Harris) recognise Joe, Steve and Bob's diligent work in converting the Board to a partnership in 2018/19 and the significant impact each had on establishing the partnership in its current form, we thank them and wish them well.

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<sup>2</sup> Work is underway to review the safeguarding arrangements by the end of 2022.

## Safeguarding partnership activities and progress

The current NSCP Business Plan covers 2020-2023, having been updated in July 2021 by the SLG in order to streamline the seven priorities considered in the previous annual report into three key priorities with key enablers. Details of these priorities, achievements against them, the impact of the work undertaken and the areas requiring further action are detailed below.

### Priority 1

#### **Understanding and developing the role of the Safeguarding Partnership in evolving system arrangements**

Current key enablers:

*Ensure safeguarding priorities are considered in the development of the Integrated Care Partnership and the strategic plan.*

The Health and Care Act was published in April 2020 and the Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have been working together since to establish an Integrated Care Board and a blueprint for establishing the whole Notts Integrated Care System in line with NHS England requirements. In March 2022 NHS England recognised that Nottinghamshire and Bassetlaw's roll out was rated as 'amber', which recognised good progress made in line with most other CCGs across the country. Rosa Waddingham has been appointed as the Director of Nursing for the Notts ICB and as she has sat on the partnership Strategic Leadership Group since 2019 this allows for continuity in the existing discussion about health's interactions within the partnership. A safeguarding implementation plan is being developed, but NHS England's safeguarding assurance framework is currently being updated and is needed before the local implementation plan can be developed. It is hoped this will be achieved within the next 6 months.

*Increased coordination and working with other strategic partnerships to maximise impact.*

The particular focus for this enabler over the past year has been improved working with Nottingham City's Safeguarding Children Partnership. A joint neglect strategy has been developed and launched at a partnership forum in May 2021 with 77 attendees who reflected on the strategy throughout the afternoon and have taken it back into their own organisations. A joint steering group is also in place to develop a consistent approach to risks outside of the family to children from child criminal exploitation (CCE) and child sexual exploitation (CSE). City and County partnership processes are now fully aligned for CSE and are close to full alignment for CCE as is a joint Exploitation mission statement.

*Engagement with and representation on the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board*

The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board met for the first time on 4 April 2022 at which time the Nottinghamshire tackling domestic abuse plan was agreed. The plan has three priorities:

- Prioritising Prevention
- Supporting Victims
- Pursuing Perpetrators

A children and young person's sub-group has been established and is currently undertaking a local needs assessment due for completion early next year to inform a work plan for the group. The group will be the key conduit for interaction between the domestic abuse board and the NSCP.

### Key work to take forward

- Continued engagement with key initiatives such as the Integrated Care System and the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to ensure a strategic approach for the safeguarding of children and families.
- Develop the cross-authority Neglect Steering Group to drive, monitor and evaluate the Neglect Strategy.
- Conclude the work to fully align the CCE response across City and County and develop a plan to evaluate progress.
- To consider the government's Green and White papers and recommendations in respect of how better to engage schools and academies within the NSCP.

### Priority 2

#### Preventing abuse and neglect

Current key enablers:

#### *Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Child Neglect Strategy 2021 – 2024*

A cross authority steering group was established in November 2021 with terms of reference for the group finalised in February 2022. The group has commissioned the development of two animations to raise awareness about neglect across City and County both of which are due for completion in summer 2022. The NSCP has invested in additional temporary part time service manager post from January 2023. One of the key tasks of this post will be to drive the Neglect Strategy forward over the next twelve months.

#### *Nottinghamshire Early Help Strategy 2021 – 2025*

The Early Help Strategy was published in April 2021 and sets out the NSCP's ambitions for Early Help for Children and Families in Nottinghamshire, the principles that guide Early Help services, and our shared development priorities.

Nottinghamshire's Early Help Executive brings together senior stakeholders from across the partnership who are committed to the delivery of the strategy. It is a subgroup of the NSCP and its membership includes local authority children's services, health providers and commissioners, district councils, police, the Department of Work and Pensions and third sector partners.

This is a multi-year strategy spanning from 2021 to 2025, with an underlying theme of "community and connectedness" which underpins three areas for development: **Locality Family Hubs, community resilience and contextual approaches to working with families.**

In 2021/22 progress has been made to varying degrees in all three areas.

Work undertaken by the Executive has put Nottinghamshire in a good place to respond to the Governments' move towards **Family Hubs as a model of working.** Three Family Hub pilot sites have been proposed, with consultation and community engagement underway in Retford (Bassetlaw), Hawtonville (Newark) and Summerhouse (Sutton in Ashfield). The vision is that each Family Hub will have a network of services for children and families of all ages, working together in a more connected way with joint allocations meetings, common ways of working, improved information sharing and shared outcomes. Each hub will have both a physical and a virtual presence where families can go to get advice, help and support. Nottinghamshire was not successful in its bid to the Family Hubs Transformation Fund and has not been named as one of the 75 Local Authorities to

receive funding through the Family Hubs Start and For Life Package, which means there is no additional resource coming into the area to accelerate the establishment of Family Hubs. Nottinghamshire County Council have funded a temporary Family Hubs Development Manager and Family Hubs Data Officer to support the work of the Early Help Executive.

Through the **Community Resilience** work the aim is to reduce re-referrals into statutory services through sustainable community-based support for families and to foster a culture within services that values volunteers and supports them to develop skills and move towards employment. In 2021/22 services have been upskilling residents in to deliver services such as the peer-led breastfeeding support and volunteer led parenting programmes.

**Contextual Approaches to Working with Families** is an extension of whole family working. It means considering children and young people not just in the contexts of their families, but families within the context of their environment – both physical and virtual. We are seeking to better understand and support families in the context of their relationships and in 2021 we have launched the [relationships really matter](#) pages on Notts Help Yourself, and have trained professionals from across children’s services in Reducing Parental Conflict programmes. In 2022 the training offer will expand to a much wider range of partners including police and housing officers. We also want to ensure colleagues across the partnership know how to identify and protect children from contextual risks which is why several new learning events are now on offer through the NSCP on topics such as criminal exploitation, county lines and radicalisation. In 2022 there will be a focus on data maturity, and how information sharing and data matching can help us understand need in communities and to demonstrate the impact of non-statutory support and target resources effectively going forwards. This work closely links with the Whole Family Safeguarding approach being developed within Children’s Social Care and particularly the Multi-Disciplinary Team model referred to earlier in this report.

Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) is a volunteer lead parenting programme. In the last year 20 volunteers have been trained as parent group leaders. There has been a total of 14 ‘Being a Parent’ courses delivered, with 8 of these delivered virtually and 6 face to face. 82 parents and carers have attended these and have shared the following feedback through course evaluations.

*“I just would like to say thank you to the whole team who made me see parenting through a new set of eyes and that changing a few little things improves so much more.”*

*“Fantastic course, fantastic leaders and resources. The course has taken pressure off me to be a perfect parent, it has allowed me to feel normal as others have some of the same issues. The course has benefited the children immensely because I am calmer so are they. Thank You.”*

Volunteers have also delivered three ‘Being a Parent together’ courses, where couples attend together and consider the impact of relational conflict on their parenting. 20 parents/carers have completed these.

EPEC hub coordinators are employed to recruit, train and support volunteers. A key success of the programme is that volunteers have progressed into these roles this year with 2 volunteers now employed to coordinate the programmes.

We are ambitious to expand the scope of the programme and will be training more volunteers to lead new courses for parents of children with ASD, and Parents of Teenagers from September 2022.

### *Development of strengths-based approaches*

Strengths based Child Protection Conferences were started in April 2021. This was developed jointly with partners and the feedback from professionals and families has been overwhelmingly positive. A similar model has now been introduced for Looked After Reviews and children and young people report feeling far more included within their reviews and in some cases are being supported to chair the meeting themselves. Strength based practice is a practice methodology that requires constant review and reflection so that practice evolves to meet need. The Independent Chair Service over the next twelve months will continue to develop practice around conferences and reviews with a particular focus on participation and inclusion. Sessions on strengths-based practice have also been delivered to around 400 practitioners in 4 safeguarding children today seminar sessions through the 2021/22 reporting period.

### *Faith groups, sports clubs, and the voluntary sector action plan*

The introduction of new safeguarding arrangements under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 allowed greater flexibility for local implementation. The statutory guidance allowed safeguarding partners to identify 'relevant agencies' that must work in accordance with the arrangements. One of the objectives for the NSCP has been to expand the reach of the safeguarding arrangements and in the revised local arrangements, published in January 2020, the list of relevant agencies was extended to include Faith Groups, Active Notts (County Sports Partnership), Nottinghamshire Women's Aid and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Some initial work was undertaken to build connections with the additional relevant agencies through 2020. However, it became clear that a significant amount of further work was needed to broaden the reach and influence of the safeguarding arrangements in these sectors. The NSCP commissioned a seconded service manager, Hilary Poyner, in April 2021 to develop a sustainable approach for the Partnership to engage with the voluntary sector and promote safeguarding. Mapping exercises were completed along with initial engagement work leading into two online engagement events in October 2021. There was a strong attendance at the faith event with 42 churches represented and excellent feedback:

*'great idea to raise awareness amongst faith groups and encourage the sharing of ideas'*

*'good event, great mix of presenters, case studies and group work'*

*'great event and good to have something aimed specifically at faith groups'*

Whilst 32 sports and voluntary organisations booked onto their event, only 24 attended with Hilary observing that there was a more noticeable challenge in achieving effective engagement with smaller organisations. All participants rated the event as good or excellent.

A final report was presented to the SAIG in January 2022 and SAIG approved an action plan. The initial action to include a representative from the safeguarding churches network in the partnership forum was completed with plans to continue the action plan through 2022-23.

### *Alignment of responses to child sexual exploitation and extra familial harm across the two children's safeguarding partnerships and further explore opportunities for integration of the current pathways*

Along with the progress reported against the linked enabler in priority 1, a multi-agency audit was completed in November 2021 looking at Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). The approach in Nottinghamshire to Serious Youth Violence and Child Criminal Exploitation (SYVCCE) was developed

in 2019 and the audit considered the efficacy of this process and particularly the multi-agency working. Strong practice was identified for the young people assessed as high risk with **clear plans and proactive work aimed at reducing risk and safeguarding the young person's wellbeing**. Where the risk identified was moderate, there were **gaps in information sharing, joint working and mutual understanding of the risk along with limited engagement of the young person**. The discussion day also identified that professionals had a less well-formed understanding of CCE than of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) with this impacting professional confidence. A pilot has also been started in Bassetlaw with schools and the police having set up a connection mapping pilot to achieve earlier recognition of and response to CCE risk and activity. The continuous practice development in respect of CCE and CSE across the partnership continues to be overseen by the steering group.

#### Key work to take forward

- Delivering the faith groups, sports clubs and voluntary sector action plan and embedding the recommendations to improve information sharing and offer annual engagement events in addition to the partnership forum.
- Develop our ability, through data review and auditing, to understand the impact of non-statutory support to children and families.
- Further developing the partnership response to CCE, including continued training and incorporating the learning from the audit into the cross authority steering group.

### Priority 3

#### **Improving safeguarding practice**

##### *Rapid Review thematic analysis*

A triennial analysis of rapid reviews was completed in November 2021. This considered 25 rapid reviews completed by the NSCP since July 2018 and 5 Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LSCPR). The national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel agreed with the decisions of all 25 rapid reviews about whether to progress to an LSCPR. The themes identified were:

- 6 related to injuries to babies under 1 year old
- 2 concerned Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) – note that there were other SUDI deaths which were not subject to Rapid Review as abuse/neglect was not identified
- 4 concerned child criminal exploitation
- In 6 of the reviews, males connected to the child were not engaged – agencies were either not aware of the men or they were known but not sufficiently assessed
- 6 of the children were in local authority care at the time of the incident

The following safeguarding practice issues featured most frequently across the range of reviews undertaken:-

- Gaps in information sharing
- Quality of assessments
- Joint working
- Understanding what the child's daily life is like

These practice issues had been identified as the individual reviews were progressed and the NSCP learning and improvement framework has allowed us to move forward through other enablers identified in this plan (for example the safer sleep working group and the cross partnership criminal exploitation work). The learning and workforce development report also evidences some of the training delivered following the above reviews. It is unsurprising that learning from local reviews

reflects some of the issues that have been identified through a number of thematic reviews commissioned by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. The learning from these reviews is aligned to the learning from NSCP reviews.

#### *Developing understanding of diversity when working with Black, Asian and minority ethnic children and families in a safeguarding context*

The partnership learning co-ordinator, Trish Jordan, worked with partners to create a training offer with the first session to be offered on 27/04/22 and then regularly within the training offer ongoing. Attendance and feedback will be considered by the learning and workforce development group in late 2022. The newly seconded service manager will be working on expanding this enabler through 2022.

#### *Safer Sleeping working group action plan*

**Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy** – the Joint Nottingham/Nottinghamshire Child Death Overview Panel has been overseeing a number of actions in this regard and linking with the Cross Authority Safer Sleep Working Group. The message that everyone can play a role in reinforcing safer sleeping practices is being promoted and supported by a Risk Assessment Tool, training programme and new E learning module. References to safer sleeping have also been included in the Pathway to Provision and the Discharge Planning Template. In Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, the multi-agency safer sleep steering group meets quarterly. The main purpose of the group is to work collaboratively to ensure that practitioners working with families understand and are supported to implement safer sleeping advice. The steering group developed an action plan based on the national ‘Out of Routine’ report; a review of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) where children are considered at risk of significant harm. The report was published in July 2020 by the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. The action plan developed by the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire group focused on four key areas:

- Strategic response: Reviewing and updating policies and procedures to embed SUDI prevention in a wider safeguarding context.
- Workforce development: Taking a multi-agency approach to equipping practitioners with the knowledge and understanding appropriate to their role to promote safer sleeping, with a particular focus on where children are considered at risk of significant harm.
- Information, Interventions and Tools: Establishing and delivering a suite of safer sleep interventions appropriate to individual families and the level of risk identified.
- Working with families: Understanding the views of parents about Safer Sleep information

#### *Key achievements in the reporting period include:*

Safer Sleep messaging and associated risks included in:

- Neglect strategies (city and county)
- Pathway documents (city and county)-identifying levels of need for children and families and responding appropriately
- Joint inter-agency procedures-safeguarding

A Safer Sleep steering group has been established as a sub-group of the Best Start partnership (Nottinghamshire County) and safer sleep has been embedded in Children’s Services practice improvement workstreams (city and county). A Nottinghamshire wide annual report on deaths

related to unsafe sleep environments has been produced by the child death review nurses. The report was reviewed by the Safer Sleep Steering Group to help inform practice.

Safer Sleep tools and development opportunities are shared regularly with a wide range of practitioners in different settings. E learning/self directed learning is available to all partner agencies through city and county Safeguarding Children Partnerships (Level One). Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) training is provided virtually through city and county Safeguarding Children Partnerships to a wide range of practitioners (Level Two). Some 'in house' training delivered, for example Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Small Steps Big Changes/CityCare and Early Years (Nottingham City). The risk assessment tool and guidance has been refreshed and widely circulated. A survey 'Your Baby's Sleep' was refreshed in consultation with parents. Parents were encouraged to complete it using a digital platform and responses were anonymous. 152 responses were received and the findings from the survey are helping shape safer sleep messaging to parents.

#### *Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB) Steering Group*

The multi-agency arrangements for assessment and intervention continue to be overseen by the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP). The HSB steering group with senior representatives from the involved organisations continues to provide the direct oversight of the HSB panel, procedures, tools, and training. The panel ensures that there are sufficient trained staff to complete both specialist assessments and interventions as well as commissioned services where required. Progress is regularly monitored by reporting to the NSCP Safeguarding, Assurance and Improvement Group (SAIG). In August the annual report to SAIG evidenced that despite the increase in demand continued progress has been made in terms of developing specialist knowledge and the quality of assessments and interventions provided to children and young people and panel members continue to report that the panel is effective and that they regularly see pieces of good work and intervention plans. The key priorities for the forthcoming year are to continue to develop practice across the partnership but with a particular focus on early intervention and incorporating the voice of the child and families.

#### *Front door services – long term review of approach to explore needs led model and short-term MASH demand management*

2021/22 saw continued pressure in terms of high levels of safeguarding enquiries being made to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), including a significant number that lead to no further action. Individual agencies within the MASH worked proactively to ensure that enquiries could continue to be triaged effectively, with additional staff being deployed to work in the MASH and new models of working being developed, such as a "pod" model within children's social care. Consideration was also given to how partners could be more effectively supported in understanding thresholds, with the introduction of a pilot through the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care to provide safeguarding supervision to designated safeguarding leads within half of the county's secondary schools.

It was recognised by the NSCP that a review was needed of the model for receiving safeguarding enquiries, and as part of this the partnership held workshops exploring the concept of what a "needs-led" front door might look like. Aligned to this, the County Council initiated a project as part of its Improving Resident's Access programme to develop a needs-led front door approach and designing this new approach will be a key priority in 2022/23.

**Key work to take forward**

- Expanding work around understanding diversity in safeguarding contexts.
- Continued work on safer sleep, thinking in particular about the cost of living difficulties and implications for safer sleep through the coming winter. Continuing to ensure this learning is across all safeguarding professionals.
- Focussing on early intervention in the harmful sexual behaviour context along with better incorporation of the voices of children and families in this area.
- Continued work towards a finalised review and recommendations for the MASH and continued partnership work to manage short-term demand.

## Review of use of restraint within Clayfields

Clayfields House provides secure accommodation for up to 20 children and young people between the ages of 10 and 17 years of age. It is licenced by the Department of Education and inspected by Ofsted. The contract for the provision of services is reviewed through HM Prison and Probation Service and the Youth Custody Service. The NSCP is required to review the use of restraint at Clayfields House and include the outcome within its yearly report.

A comprehensive report and presentation have been provided to the Partnership by the Clayfields Service Manager and Independent Trainer providing details of the legal framework for Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPI), data on the use of restraint, quality assurance governance and staff support. It was noted that that statistics for RPI over the last year shows more RPI for young people of dual ethnicity, however this is accounted for by one young person of dual ethnicity being involved in a high number of RPIs. The SAIG agreed with the conclusions that:

- Staff are trained to a high standard using the Safety Intervention (CPI) form of physical intervention. This replaced the previously used MAPA system with an increased emphasis on the safety of all involved in an RIP.
- Internal and external monitoring of physical interventions are thorough, and the internal quality assurance regime is robust.
- In addition, young people have the space to debrief after an incident and for any feedback to be incorporated into their safety planning (e.g. if a young person may feel calmer with a female member of staff).

It should also be noted here that in the most recent two Ofsted Inspections Clayfields House was judged overall as being good – including their health and protection arrangements. The team will continue to build on the good practice recognised and report back to the Partnership in the coming year with oversight from the Clayfields Governance Board.

Case reviews

There is a statutory requirement on safeguarding partners to conduct a ‘Rapid Review’ when serious child safeguarding cases are identified. The reviews should be completed within 15 working days and a report provided to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (NCSPRP).

The NSCP remains committed to gathering as much learning as possible during the rapid review process and to only progressing to a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LSCPR) where necessary. Feedback from the NCSPRP during the reporting period has been good with some learning identified – here are some examples:

...good, succinct, and identified some good practice points and relevant learning, in particular around support for families... (2/22)

...your rapid review engaged with both parties and the learning has been taken forward. (3/22)

The rapid review would have been strengthened with more information and analysis about the stepmother. (6/21)

There were **7 rapid reviews** completed in the reporting period.

3 reviews related to death or physical harm by suspected non-accidental injury to young babies (under 3 months). 1 was the death of a newborn whose mother had learning disabilities and was unaware she was pregnant and did not seek medical help in time after the birth.

2 reviews were for teenage boys, 1 who was looked after and died by self-hanging the other was 17 and was badly injured by stabbing in a child criminal exploitation context, he had recently ceased being looked after.

1 was for a 3-year-old boy with additional needs who died from a brain injury believed to be non-accidental.

In addition, the panel very carefully considered the impact that Covid 19 may have had in each situation reviewed during the reporting period. There was impact noted in all 7 reviews of the reduction in face-to-face contact with professionals. There has been an increased focus on returning to face-to-face working across the partnership whilst retaining some of the benefits of remote working for professionals. There is a partnership focus to reintroduce face-to face child protection conferences and looked after reviews in some capacity over the coming months and although this is not a direct consequence of the learning from the reviews it is a contributing factor.

At the conclusion of this reporting period there were 4 ongoing LCSPRs, but for completeness one was published in May 2022 just after the reporting period ended and is therefore considered in detail on the next page.

## SN20 – “Jean”

This review was for a seventeen-month-old baby girl “Jean” who was scalded at her home address in March 2020 and died from her injuries. Her mother was subsequently convicted of murder in November 2020. There were substantial delays in undertaking this review due to the criminal and coronial processes. The coronial process concluded in November 2021 however publication was further delayed as further correspondence was awaited from the coroner.

The focus of concern was Jean’s mother’s vulnerability due to mental health and substance misuse problems and the impact these might have on Jean’s care. Jean’s mother made 8 repeated non-specific threats to harm strangers although at no time did she give any indication that she would deliberately cause harm to her child. The review concluded that Jean’s death could not have been anticipated or predicted.

The review highlighted issues in how children and adult health and social care work together and a need for better joint working to improve access to the expertise held within each service, to improve the quality of assessments of adults with parental responsibilities. It argued that improved assessment will help the implications of adult issues to be fully considered in relation to an adult’s parental responsibilities and for appropriate help provided. The review also highlighted the negative impact of long waiting lists for services in adult mental health service. The NSCP has begun work to explore models of integration or ways to develop closer working between adult and children’s health and social care services so that the services can undertake joint assessments of adults with parental responsibilities who have adult issues such as mental health problems, substance misuse, or being a victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse. This has included the development of a multi-disciplinary team in Newark and Sherwood which includes adult workers with specialisms in the areas identified above working within a child protection team.

The response from the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPRP) was received on the 9th of June 2022 and included the following feedback:

*We thought the review was clear and included helpful descriptions of practice and analysis of decision making at key points.*

*The themes were explored in a thorough and meaningful manner, helpfully drawing on relevant research, policy, and other reviews to inform the analysis and learning. The analysis was thoughtful and grounded in the realities of everyday practice and of family life. However, while it gave a sense of Jean’s life, we noted that the report seemed more focused on the impact of mental health problems on her mother’s ability to parent, rather than on Jean’s own lived experience.*

The actions from the review were progressed throughout the reporting year and at the end of the reporting period three out of the four had been completed. The fourth action relates to the multi-disciplinary team pilot referenced above. The CSPRP feedback noted their particular interest in this recommendation and asked to be kept informed of how the implementation of this recommendation worked out.

### Area of note: Delays in completion of LSCPRs and RRs

Jean's LCSPR was significantly delayed due to the conclusion of the criminal and then coronial process. Similar delays are noted for the remaining three LSCPRs. The NCSRP was critical of the delay for Jean's review, reminding the partnership of the relevant guidance containing a 6 month requirement unless in specific circumstances. In light of this the partnership review subgroup has considered the remaining three LSCPRs and were able to publish one in July with the other two due for publication in December and there is now a standing agenda item for the sub-group to ensure robust oversight of the timescales and improved communication with the panel should there be unavoidable delay.

The sub-group has also noted that whilst the quality of rapid reviews has remained very high during the reporting period, as evidenced by the NCSRP's 100% agreement to the recommendation regarding not progressing to LSCPR, there has been difficulty with the 15 day timescale in several of the reviews. The sub-group is therefore reviewing the current rapid review process to incorporate a second panel meeting at which final sign off is achieved, rather than a reliance on emails which it is felt has been the cause of delay that the new system will ameliorate. The new system for rapid review will be closely monitored through a transitional period to evaluate if these changes reduce delay by the NSCP Development Manager in combination with the SAIG and the independent scrutineer (Dr Mark Peel).

### Dissemination of learning from rapid reviews and LCSPRs

The learning from case reviews continues to be presented at the regular NSCP "Safeguarding Children Today" training events, and to influence the content of core safeguarding training. In addition, a triennial analysis of rapid reviews from the first three years of the new arrangements was completed and shared at the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership wider partnership forum in November 2021. The report included analysis of themes and the learning identified in the twenty-five rapid reviews completed between July 2018 and October 2021. A subsequent report was provided to the SAIG in February 2022 to provide assurance around the rapid review process and learning and improvement framework. Connectivity with learning from national reviews published in 2020 and 2021 was noted, namely

- It was hard to escape: Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation
- Out of routine: A review of sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI) in families where the children are considered at risk of significant harm
- The Myth of Invisible Men - Safeguarding Children under 1 from non-accidental injury caused by male carers.

### Impact of Rapid Reviews and LCSPR's on practice

The progress of recommendations from rapid reviews has been driven by the CSPR sub-group throughout the reporting year and reviewed at each quarterly meeting. Some issues identified by the work of the group are already known to organisations with existing work in place to improve practice and the impact of the reviews has been to highlight continuing challenges and emphasise the importance of making and maintaining improvements to practice.

3 key areas of impact have been:

- Improved the identification of electively home educated children (following RN19, an LSCPR detailed in the previous annual report)
- Ensured information regarding anorexia and eating disorders is readily available to families on partner's websites (following RN19)
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare Foundation Trust established a safeguarding single point of contact where staff can access safeguarding advice from a safeguarding lead (following one of the rapid reviews).

## Multi-agency training, guidance and procedures

### *Providing high-quality multi-agency training, linked to learning and improvement objectives*

This was the second year of offering training during the difficult times of the Covid 19 pandemic with the virus remaining a very present part of our lives. Despite this, partnership training has continued and further developed with a comprehensive offering of eLearning and virtual live training sessions.

Training provided through the partnership is informed by the learning needs identified through the NSCP Learning and Improvement Framework. [The following provides some examples from the training programme delivered during 2021/22 along with impact evaluations:](#)

- In response to the NSCP Business Priority 3 – *Improving Safeguarding Practice (Strategy Discussions)*, multi-agency training needs were analysed in relation to strategy discussions, joint investigations and child protection medicals and a training package was developed. Three events were delivered, offering places to 131 practitioners. The events were targeted at those most likely to be involved in strategy discussions with an emphasis on clear expectations on individual roles and responsibilities, recording and thresholds. Course evaluations evidenced that 37.8% of delegates rated themselves as having good/very good knowledge prior to attending the training which then **improved to 93.6%**, which is a positive measurement of the impact of the course. Feedback included: *“Very good training”. “The multi-agency training was excellent as often you don’t get the opportunity to network with other agencies, particularly paediatricians.”*
- As part of the ongoing work via the Safer Sleep working group, two training events were delivered called Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy and Safer Sleep for Babies to **200** practitioners. The training highlighted that SUDI prevention should be seen as safeguarding work for all professionals (not just midwives and health visitors). 81.5% of attendees were not from health so there was **a good multi-agency level of attendance** which would suggest that many partners will have further developed their understanding around this area and be able to use this knowledge to ensure

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Expanded multi-agency training pool. 38 partners delivered training in this period, with 4 external experts also commissioned.

Further creativity in online course design, enhanced interactivity and consistently positive evaluation feedback from this.

Continued ability to offer courses in response to changing safeguarding concerns; for example courses on young people impacted by self-harm and suicide and mental health awareness in relation to parents and carers.

10,364 training opportunities accessed across the partnership this reporting year.

safer sleep messages are shared with families across Nottinghamshire and help prevent further SUDI deaths.

- As part of our rolling programme, a new updated course to raise awareness of Perplexing Presentations including Fabricated or Induced Illness has been developed and delivered to 264 practitioners. The training included the new guidance from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. We have been delivering this course since 2014 and since then we have seen a steady increase in the number of enquires/referrals to our child protection services. The training has raised awareness of this form of abuse and given practitioners confidence in raising their concerns. The outcomes for children have been very positive as earlier intervention has meant fewer children have needed a child protection plan or been subject to legal proceedings. An example of feedback included: *“The course provided me with the knowledge of the topic and an understanding of how this can present. I will implement these skills in my daily practice with families.”*
- Working Together to Safeguard Children is our core training course to develop multi-agency safeguarding work. It has continued to be successfully delivered in two parts: Part 1- E Learning, Part 2 is a 3-hour virtual event, now incorporating break out rooms. Delegates on the 11 courses that were held during the year were asked about their levels of knowledge and skills relating to working together effectively – prior to the course 37.8% rated themselves as good/very good, which then improved to 93.3 % after completing the course. Feedback included: *“The training was really good and it was nice to hear from other professionals who work in different settings, it helped me to gain a bigger understanding and perspective on the whole picture when dealing with a safeguarding issue.”* *“I am new to safeguarding and this training has enhanced my knowledge to enable me to fulfil my role.”*

### Priorities for 2022/23

- L & WD Group members to continue to monitor and review the decision of when to start offering a blended approach of face-to-face classroom and virtual training events.
- The L & W D Group will continue to reflect and review how training is progressing, including attendance at events and support from partners regarding delivery of events.
- The L & W D Group will continue to oversee the cross authority inter-agency procedures, ensuring clearer links and references regarding the procedures are incorporated within the face to face/virtual and e learning courses.
- Further promote eLearning as an alternative option for learning and development and author any bespoke courses where a need is identified.
- Developing the training offer and procedures in line with the implementation of national reviews published this year (including the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care, the education white and green papers, national panel reviews and the independent review into child sexual abuse) and reviews undertaken by the partnership.





**19 December 2022**

**Agenda Item 6**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION, LEARNING AND INCLUSION**

### **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY PROVISION AND SUFFICIENCY**

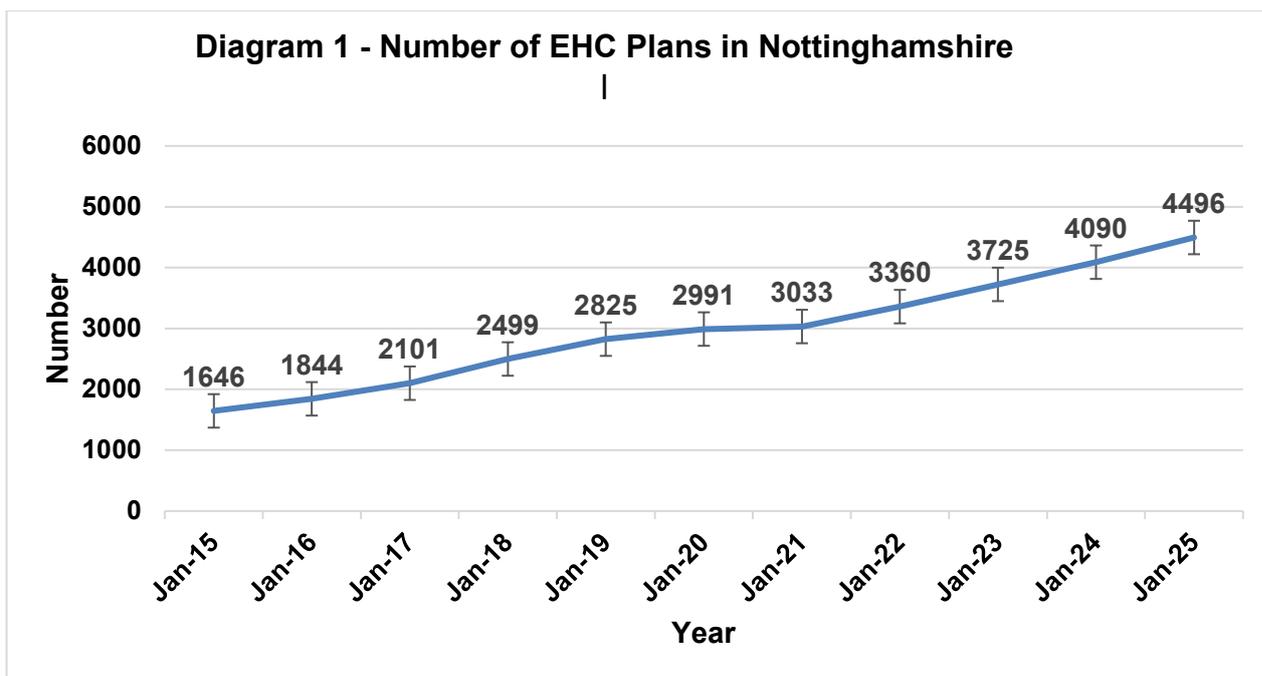
#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The report provides an overview to Members of how children and young people are being supported to remain in mainstream educational settings and the sufficiency of and planning for specialist educational provision to meet current and future demand.

#### **Pressures in the SEND system in Nottinghamshire**

2. The pressures on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) system across England, including Nottinghamshire, are well documented despite the considerable additional funding provided by the Department for Education (DfE) and local authorities. These pressures have developed due to a variety of reasons including:
  - There are now more children and young people with SEND.
    - Advancements in medical science means that more children and young people with life limiting conditions are living longer.
    - Significant increases both national and locally in the numbers of autistic children and young people.
    - The SEND needs of some children have become more complex, especially around social, emotional, and mental health.
  - The impact of Government legislation, for example the need to plan support for some young people with SEND until the age of 25.
  - Increasing demand exacerbated by pent-up demand following the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. The 2014 Children and Families Act replaced Statements of Special Educational Needs with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), which require a much lower threshold for an assessment than previously. The supporting legal framework has meant that nationally over 85% of challenges by parents, carers and young people of decisions relating to either EHC assessments, the issuing of EHCPs, the naming of placements, and specific provision have been successful.

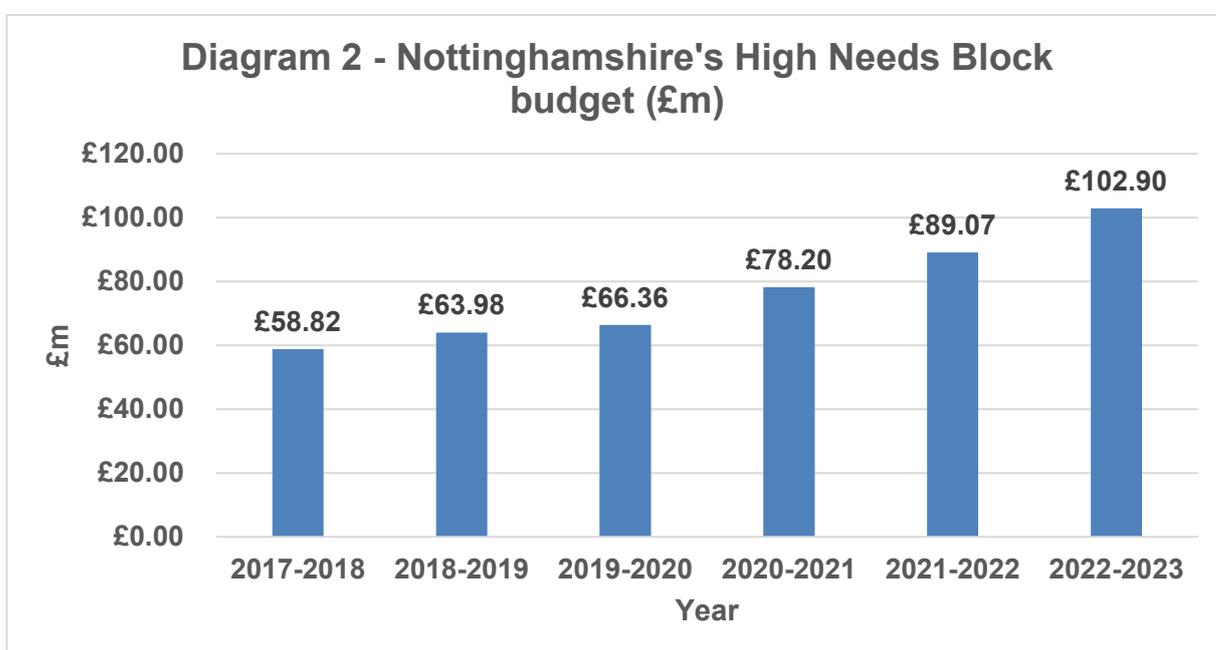
4. The County Council has had a long-term commitment to inclusion, which has been developed with school partners for over 30 years. However, the Government's focus on raising the level of attainment in schools has resulted in many settings becoming less inclusive and accepting of children and young people with SEND. Ofsted's current inspection framework for schools recognises this national trend and has a specific focus on the educational provision and support for children and young people in SEND.
5. In Nottinghamshire, most children and young people with SEND access their education in mainstream settings and many of these pupils have their needs met without an EHCP. Nottinghamshire County Council provides support services to ensure that schools have access to specialist advice and guidance in relation to a range of SEND needs. These include the Specialist Family Support Service, the Social Emotional and Mental Health Team, the Educational Psychology Service, the Health-Related Education Team and the Partnership Team. Overall in January 2022, 1.42% of children and young people in Nottinghamshire aged 0-25 had an EHCP, compared with an English average of 2.7% (Source: SEN2 2022 and Mid-Year Population).
6. Nottinghamshire has developed fair, proportionate and transparent arrangements for additional SEND funding over many years, predating the introduction of EHC Plans. These arrangements allow the professionals working the closest to the child or young person to be involved in any decision-making regarding support or changes to provision. A total of £16.561 million was devolved in 2021-2022 from three separate but related budgets: the Additional Family Needs budget, the Family Network Fund budget and the High-Level Needs budget. These budgets are in addition to the national expectation that schools will provide the first £6,000 spend on any targeted provision for a child or young person with SEND.
7. Despite these well-established routes for accessing SEND funding outside the EHCP process, there has been significant increases in the number of EHCPs in Nottinghamshire. The total number of EHCPs has increased from 2104 in January 2017 to 3360 in January 2022, an increase of 59.7%. It should be noted that 42.4% of these new EHCPs in Nottinghamshire resulted in a specialist educational placement. It is predicted that by January 2029 there will be an additional 2,500 EHCPs in Nottinghamshire requiring potentially another 1,000 plus specialist educational placements. Nationally, the increase in EHCPs was 64.7% over the same five-year period.
8. **Diagram 1** illustrates the growth in EHCPs in Nottinghamshire since 2015. The data for January 2023 to January 2025 is predicted numbers based upon the long-term trend in Nottinghamshire. At the end of October 2022, the number of EHCPs in Nottinghamshire was 3566, which is slightly below the trend shown in **Diagram 1**.



Source: SEN2

9. Many parents and carers see the EHCP process as providing certainty regarding provision for their child. Consequently, the first ten months of 2022 has seen an increase of 31% in the number of requests for EHC assessments when compared to the same period in 2021. This compares to a national annual increase of 23% in 2021 (19.8% in Nottinghamshire in 2021).
10. The increasing demand for EHC assessments and SEND provision and support is resulting in considerable pressures on local authority services including the Educational Psychology Service, Integrated Children’s Disability Service (ICDS) and the Children’s Commissioning Service.
11. Nottinghamshire County Council, working with the local School Forum, has successfully managed to keep the High Needs Block (HNB) revenue budget deficit to a relatively low level. In 2020-2021, the deficit was £2.473 million (3.2%), and in 2021-2022 it was £0.571 million (0.6%). This is despite being historically underfunded when compared with our statistical neighbours, though recent higher-than-average uplifts to the HNB Budget has reduced this difference. The DfE considers the County Council to have effectively managed its HNB budget.
12. Nationally, the DfE has two programmes supporting local authorities with HNB budget deficits. The Safety Valve Programme supports 20 local authorities with the highest deficits, and the Delivery Better Value Programme provides support and funding to the next 55 local authorities with the highest deficits. Many local authorities have annual deficits in the range of £30-£40 million. Kent County Council at the end of 2021-2022 had a cumulated deficit of £102 million, compared with Nottinghamshire’s annual HNB budget for 2021-2022 of £89 million.
13. In Nottinghamshire an increasing proportion of the HNB budget is being spent on specialist educational provision at the expense of top-up funding to mainstream schools to support children and young people with SEND:

- The percentage of the HNB Budget spent on specialist provision has increased from 60.9% in 2017-2018 (£36.323 million) to 66.0% in 2021-2022 (£58.760 million). This remains a lower proportion than most local authorities.
- Over the same period, the actual expenditure on specialist educational provision has increased by 61.7% compared to a 34.8% increase for devolved top-up funding to mainstream schools.
- The overall increase in the High Needs Block budget over these five years was £29.429 million, or 49.3%.
- **Diagram 2** shows the increase in the Nottinghamshire's share of the High Needs Block budget between 2017 and 2023.



Source: SEN2

14. Despite the relative success with managing the High Needs Block budget there are several significant risks and assumptions with our future budgets and financial stability. Some of the major ones are listed below:
- The continuing growth in the demand for EHCPs (especially following Covid-19) will continue at its current rate, or even increase further.
  - The impact of inflation especially on the cost of commissioned services such as specialist educational placements in the independent sector and the costs of capital projects.
  - Reductions in local government and education funding in response to the current economic climate.

15. The [SEND green paper](#) (*'right support, right place, right time'*) was published in March 2022. The consultation on the proposals closed on 22 July 2022 and the Government's response was expected before the end of the year. The proposals in the Green Paper did not suggest any changes to the legal threshold for EHC assessments or changes to the legal framework. Any resulting legislative changes are unlikely to happen until 2024.

### SEND Educational Provision and Sufficiency in Nottinghamshire

16. Nottinghamshire has 11 Special Schools/Academies. Most of the children and young people attending these settings have a primary need arising from autism or social emotional and mental health needs. Two of the eleven Special Schools and Academies are rated as excellent by Ofsted, eight as good and one special academy as inadequate earlier in 2022, with a new multi-Academy Trust taking the academy over. Nottinghamshire does not have any Pupil Referral Units.
17. Nottinghamshire has a much lower number of Special School and Academy places than the English, regional and statistical neighbours' averages, as illustrated in **Table 1**. The increase in the proportion of children and young people attending special schools and academies has been lower in Nottinghamshire since 2015-2016 compared to national, regional, or statistical neighbours' averages. Since 2016 the number of places available in Nottinghamshire Special Schools (maintained and Academies) has increased by less than 23% (945 in January 2016; 1170 in January 2022).

**Table 1 - Special School roll as a percentage of the overall school population**

	2015-2016	2021-2022	Difference
<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>0.79%</b>	<b>0.91%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>1.23%</b>	<b>1.58%</b>	<b>28.4%</b>
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>1.15%</b>	<b>1.45%</b>	<b>26.1%</b>
<b>Statistical neighbours</b>	<b>1.35%</b>	<b>1.71%</b>	<b>26.7%</b>

Source: [Schools, pupils and their characteristics: January 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2022)

18. Since 2019, the Local Authority has funded six (five secondary and one primary) Enhanced Provision Units across the County. These are intended for children and young people without an EHCP and are designed to be temporary placements before reintegration back into a mainstream placement or a special school.
19. In recent years there has been a considerable increase in the numbers of children and young people with EHCPs who are receiving their education on a one-to-one basis at home or in the community. In 2017-2018, there were 21 such children and young people at an annual cost of £431,029. By September 2022, the numbers had increased to 64 at an annual cost of £1,634,751.
20. Nottinghamshire County Council commissions in the region of 280 places from alternative education providers. This currently includes provision for 138 children and young people with EHCPs predominantly where autism and SEMH have been identified, as there is not enough appropriate specialist provision to meet their needs.
21. This growing need for specialist educational provision has meant:

- An increasing reliance on the independent sector. Nottinghamshire places a significantly higher percentage of children and young people with EHCPs in the independent sector (9.01% (Source: SEN2 2022)) than the national (6.21%) or statistical neighbours' averages (6.51%).
- On average the cost of a placement in an independent setting is £49,730, compared with £23,810 for a place in a Nottinghamshire Special School or Academy which increases the cost pressures on the High Needs Block budget. It is also unlikely that the independent sector will be able to keep up with the growing demand. Costs for independent day placements can be high as £165,000 per year, and over £250,000 for a residential placement.
- Children and young people requiring a specialist placement remain in mainstream settings until an appropriate specialist setting is available. In September 2022, 95 children and young people were in mainstream settings without an appropriate special school placement being available until September 2023.
- Increasing use of an already saturated market for Alternative Provision, especially for young people at Key Stages 3 and 4.
- In September 2022, there were 25 children and young people whose school placement was at significant risk of placement breakdown. Independent sector placements are being sought for these children and young people.

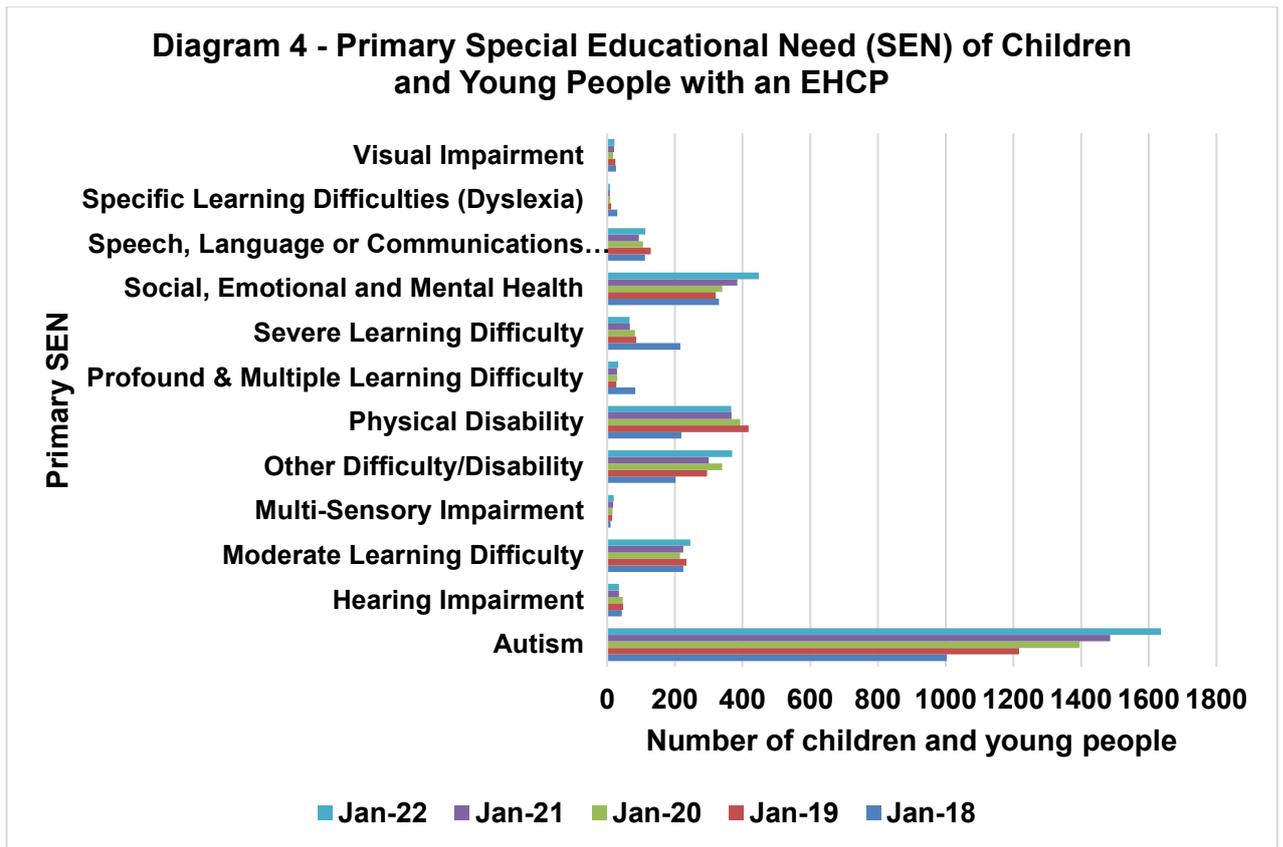
22. Managing this gap creates additional pressures on school partners, local authority services, the High Needs Block budget and above all on children and young people and their families.

### The County Council's response

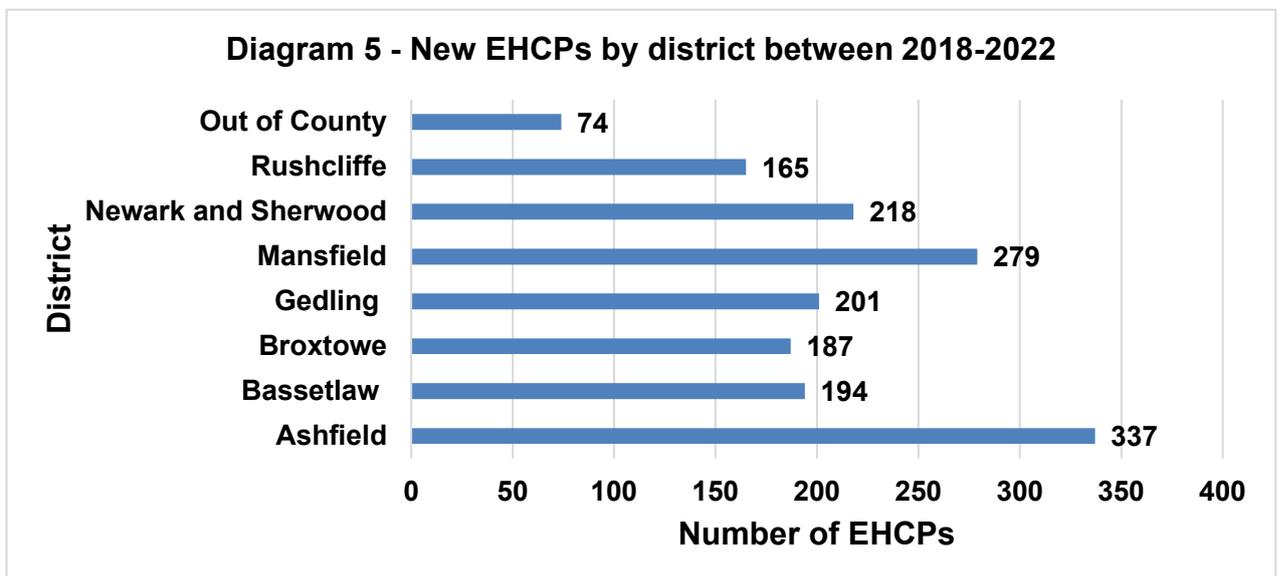
23. In September 2021, the County Council approved the [Nottinghamshire SEND Place Planning Strategy \(2021-2026\)](#). The headline requirements identified in the Strategy are for:

- Between 285 and 490 additional places in specialist provision by September 2026.
- Additional specialist provision that can meet the needs of pupils with Autism and with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH needs). 50% of all future new special school places need to be for young people with autism.
- Additional places to be focused on the Mansfield, Ashfield, and Gedling districts, where demand is highest.

24. **Diagrams 4 and 5** provides some of the data behind the recommendations of the Nottinghamshire SEND Place Planning Strategy. **Diagram 4** illustrates the growing numbers of children and young people with EHCPs who are identified with autism and increase in the numbers with SEMH needs. **Diagram 5** provides information about the location in the County where the growth in new EHCP plans between 2018 and 2022 has taken place.



Source SEN2



25. The SEND Place Planning Strategy stressed the importance of considering both the supply of high-quality provision and support, and how to reduce the demand for more specialist provision in Nottinghamshire.
26. The County Council is developing the structures required for decisions to be made as local as possible. Based upon three localities: North (Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood),

Central (Ashfield and Mansfield) and South (Broxtowe, Gedling, and Rushcliffe), locality groups of key local authority services together with school representatives will:

- Develop a stronger understanding of localities through analysis of data and shared expertise.
  - Promote a more effective and joined up response to children and young people’s special educational needs.
  - Focus on local solutions to local challenges.
  - Help partners make better use of diminishing resources, e.g., reduce duplication.
27. The County Council has also developed a capital programme to deliver additional specialist educational placements. The programme aims to deliver an additional 219 placements between 2018-2024 using the £9.837 million provided by the DfE between 2018-2022.
28. In March 2022, the Department for Education announced the High Needs Capital Allocations for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. Nottinghamshire will receive £25.151 million over the two years. There remains £900 million nationally to be allocated for 2025-2026. The County Council is committed to the building of at least one new special school with up to 160 places. In addition, the local authority has applied for a new special free school, as part of new wave of 40 special free schools nationally.
29. The SEND Place Planning Strategy also identified the need to develop several SEND Resource Units on existing school sites for young people with social emotional and mental health needs who would benefit from accessing the national curriculum for some of their learning during the school day. The first unit will be established in partnership with a special school academy in 2023, in the Mansfield area.
30. **Table 2** below provides a summary of current capital projects including the proposed new special school on a former school site at Ravensdale.

**Table 2 - Summary of current capital projects**

School site (District)	Number of places	Phase of placements	Stage of development	Anticipated delivery date
King Edward Satellite, (Mansfield)	24	Primary	On site	Dec 22
Newark Orchard, (Newark & Sherwood)	30	Primary / Secondary	On site	Dec 22 - Jan 23
Derrymount, (Gedling)	20	Primary	On site	Dec 22 - Jan 23
Bracken Hill, (Ashfield)	9	Primary	Planning approved	Aug 23 - Sep 23
Yeoman Park, (Mansfield) DfE lead project	28	Primary / Secondary	Design development	Aug 24
<i>Ravensdale, (Mansfield)</i>	<i>160 (initially 140)</i>	<i>Key Stage 3 and 4</i>	<i>Pre-development</i>	<i>Aug 25</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>271</b>			

31. The current capital programme as outlined in **Table 2** above leaves a gap of up to 219 places in the predicted provision required by September 2026 in the Nottinghamshire Place Planning Strategy. The County Council's ability to provide this additional capacity will depend upon the following four factors:
- a. The outcome of the application form for a special free school in Nottinghamshire.
  - b. The development of a new special academy in the South of the County by a multi-academy trust.
  - c. The DfE's High Needs Capital Allocation will continue with the third year (2025-2026) of funding.
  - d. Changes in demand for specialist educational provision due to improved parental confidence, and improved retention in mainstream provision.

### **Financial Implications**

32. The pressures on the HNB budget should be noted and though currently effectively managed in Nottinghamshire there are several risks to financial stability in the medium term including the increases in demand for specialist provision, and the impact of inflation. It is expected that future annual increases in the HNB budget will not be as significant, and local authorities from 2023-2024 will need to demonstrate their ability to cover deficits from their available reserves as the ring fence of deficits from councils' wider financial position in their statutory accounts comes to an end.
33. Decisions made today regarding specialist placements will impact on the HNB budget for the next 5 to 10 years. For example the commissioning of an independent specialist placement for a child aged 10 is likely to be required for at least the next 8 years (until they are 18 years old).

### **Implications for residents**

34. Currently, many children and young people are waiting too long for EHC assessments and the local authority is unable to provide appropriate specialist provision to meet their assessed needs. The current capital plans will meet some of these needs in the medium term but reducing the demand for EHC assessments will require other changes in the SEND system.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee:

- 1) considers the extent to which effective planning is taking place to ensure that there is sufficient specialist educational provision for children and young people in Nottinghamshire.
- 2) considers whether there are sufficient resources available to support children and young people with Special Educational Needs to remain in mainstream settings.

**Peter McConnochie**  
**Service Director for Education, Learning and Inclusion**

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

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### **Constitutional Comments (EKH 25/11/22)**

35. It is appropriate for this report to be considered by the Children and Families Select Committee.

### **Financial Comments (MDN 23/11/22)**

36. The pressures on the HNB budget should be noted and though currently effectively managed in Nottinghamshire there are several risks to financial stability in the medium-term, including the increases in demand for specialist provision and the impact of inflation. It is expected that future annual increases in the HNB budget will not be as significant, and local authorities from 2023-2024 will need to demonstrate their ability to cover deficits from their available reserves as the ring fence of deficits from councils' wider financial position in their statutory accounts comes to an end.

37. Decisions made today regarding specialist placements will impact on the HNB budget for the next 5 to 10 years. For example, the commissioning of an independent specialist placement for a child aged 10 is likely to be required for at least the next 8 years (until they are 18 years old).

38. Plans will continue to be made to utilise future increases in High Needs Block funding, taking particular account of potentially large areas of expenditure, such as the cost of places at new special school.

### **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.

- [Nottinghamshire SEND Place Planning Strategy \(2021-2026\)](#)
- [Nottinghamshire SEND Policy \(2020-2023\)](#)
- [Nottinghamshire SEND Strategic Action Plan \(2021-2023\)](#)

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

- All

CFS0004



**19 December 2022**

**Agenda Item 7**

## **RESPONSE OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

### **HOW AWARENESS OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE COST OF SCHOOL UNIFORM IS RAISED**

#### **Response**

1. The financial support in exceptional circumstances for the cost of school uniform is promoted and advertised through the Nottinghamshire County Council website, along with other elements of financial support: [Financial support | Nottinghamshire County Council](#).
2. The support available is accessible within two clicks from the landing page of the MyNotts app.
3. Awareness of the financial support in exceptional circumstances has been promoted through the Service Director's Education bulletin to schools, education settings and governors.
4. The financial support for the cost of school uniform in exceptional circumstances will be added to the school admissions training for Members.
5. Officers are raising awareness of the discretionary uniform support scheme with relevant partner organisations.

**Councillor Tracey Taylor  
Cabinet Member for Children and Families**



**19 December 2022**

**Agenda Item 8**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES**

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

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

1. To consider the Committee's work programme.

#### **Information**

2. The attached work programme (Appendix 1) will assist the management of the Committee's agenda, the scheduling of the Committee's business, and forward planning.
3. The work programme has been developed using suggestions submitted by Committee members, the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, and has been approved by the Overview Committee. The work programme will be reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and Committee meeting, where any member of the Committee will be able to suggest items for possible inclusion.

#### **Other Options Considered**

4. To not produce a work programme: this option is rejected as a clear work programme is required for the effective management of the Committee's agenda, the scheduling of its business, and forward planning.

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

5. To assist the Committee in preparing its business.

#### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance 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, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) That the work programme be noted.
- 2) That Committee members make any further suggestions for items for inclusion on the work programme for consideration by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, and subject to the required approval by the Chairman of the Overview Committee.

**Marjorie Toward**  
**Service Director for Customers, Governance and Employees**

For any enquiries about this report please contact:  
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[martin.elliott@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:martin.elliott@nottscc.gov.uk)

### **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 (NS)**

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 and Published Documents**

- None

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

- All

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Purpose/Outcomes</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>10 October 2022</b>	Elective Home Education	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	To scrutinise how the policy is working in supporting children and young people in receipt of Elective Home Education and how the Council is managing the increase of Elective Home Education students.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the report be noted.</li> <li>2. That a progress report on the current position on Elective Home Education in Nottinghamshire be presented at the September 2023 meeting of the Children and Young People’s Select Committee.</li> <li>3. That further data from the Elective Home Education Dashboard that provides information on the current cohort of electively home educated children be circulated to members of the Children and Young People’s Select Committee.</li> <li>4. That information on the number of electively home educated children in Years 9, 10 and 11 who have previously been excluded from school be circulated to members of the Children and Young People’s Select Committee.</li> <li>5. That information on the uptake and outcomes of the Wellbeing for Education Return Project and the NottAlone website be circulated to members of the Children and Young People’s Select Committee.</li> </ol>

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

				<p>6. That members of the Children and Young People’s Select Committee be involved in the review of the Council’s Elective Home Education Policy that is scheduled to take place during 2023.</p>
	<p>Financial Support for the Provision of School Uniform</p>	<p>Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services</p>	<p>To scrutinise the Council’s policy on the provision of financial support for the provision of School Uniform.</p>	<p>1. That the report be noted.</p> <p>2. That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with officers, gives consideration to how awareness of the Council’s scheme for providing financial support for school uniform could be raised with elected members and relevant partner agencies.</p> <p>3. That members of the Children and Young People’s Select Committee be involved in the review of the Council’s policy on financial support for the provision of school uniform that is scheduled to take place before the start of the 2023/24 financial year.</p>

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

	<p>Response to the Ofsted Focused visit to Nottinghamshire County Council children's services</p>	<p>Cabinet Member – Children and Young People's Services</p>	<p>To receive a progress report on the activity that is taking place and is planned in response to the outcome of the Ofsted Focused visit to Nottinghamshire County Council children's services.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the report be noted.</li> <li>2. That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Children and Young People's Select Committee receive a progress report on the areas of practice identified in the OFSTED Focused Visit Outcome Letter as requiring improvement in six-months' time.</li> <li>3. That further information on the on the use number of agency staff, along with information on how agency staff are supervised within the Children and Young People's Services department be circulated to members of the Children and Young People's Select Committee.</li> </ol>
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**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Member Responsibility	Purpose/Outcomes	Recommendations
19 December 2022	SEND provision and sufficiency	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	To scrutinise the Council’s activity regarding the provision and sustainability of educational provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.	
	Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	<p>To receive the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership’s Annual Report.</p> <p>To invite the Independent Scrutineer and the nominated senior officers from each of the safeguarding partners to attend the meeting.</p>	
	Financial Support for the Provision of School Uniform	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	<p>To receive a response from the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People’s Services on the resolution made at the October 2022 meeting <i>“That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with officers, gives consideration to how awareness of the Council’s scheme for providing financial support for school uniform could be raised with elected members and relevant partner agencies.”</i></p>	

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Purpose/Outcomes</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>20 March 2023</b>	Pupil Place Planning	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	To gain assurance that the Council’s activity around Pupil Place Planning for Secondary Education is able to sustainably and effectively meet the needs of families across Nottinghamshire into the future.	
	Development of a Local Authority Multi-Academy Trust	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	To provide members with the opportunity to feed into the development the Local Authority Multi-Academy Trust (dependent on the success of the bid to the Department for Education).	

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Purpose/Outcomes</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
19 June 2023	Provision of support to Looked After Children transitioning out of the care system	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	<p>To learn about the range and depth of support offered to Looked After Children by the Council as they transition out of the care system.</p> <p>To examine transition arrangements at other authorities and to learn about best practice.</p> <p>To make recommendations on how the transition arrangements could be further developed to provide the best possible outcomes to young people transitioning out of the care system.</p>	
	Child Poverty – Free School Meals	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	<p>To examine and scrutinise how the increase of children in receipt of Free School Meals is being used to plan and inform the provision of other support for children and families.</p>	

## WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022

### Items pending scheduling or removal

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Status</b>
Early Years – Affordability of Child Care	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	To make recommendations on how the Council can support the provision of, and access to affordable childcare across Nottinghamshire.	To be scheduled.  To agree with Chair and Vice-Chair the method used to examine the topic.
Fostering and adoption services	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	To scrutinise the Council’s activity regarding the provision and sustainability of fostering and adoption services.	To be scheduled.

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

**Reviews**

<b>Project Start Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Purpose of Review</b>	<b>Current Status and activity</b>
December 2022	Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's)	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People's Services	<p>To gain an understanding of the issues and challenges surrounding EHCP's.</p> <p>To gain assurance on the activities planned and taking place to enable the Council to meet statutory targets for the assessment of requests for EHCP's.</p> <p>To examine processes at other authorities and to make recommendations on how the processes surrounding EHCP's could operate to provide the best outcomes for children, young people and their families.</p>	

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

<b>Project Start Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Purpose of Review</b>	<b>Current Status and activity</b>
TBC	<p>Transition of service users from Children and Young People's Services to Adult Social Care Services</p> <p>Joint item with Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee</p>	<p>Cabinet Member – Children and Young People's Services</p> <p>Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care and Public Health</p>	<p>To examine the current procedures surrounding the transition of service users from Children's to Adult Services.</p> <p>To make recommendations on how procedures could be developed to ensure the best possible transition for each service user.</p>	

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

<b>Project Start Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Purpose of Review</b>	<b>Current Status and activity</b>
TBC	Child Poverty – Early years and school readiness	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	To investigate how children starting school are “school ready” and to make recommendations on how the number of children starting school as school ready could be maximised.	

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

<b>Project Start Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Purpose of Review</b>	<b>Current Status and activity</b>
TBC	Elective Home Education	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	<p>Resolved at the October 2022 meeting:</p> <p>That members of the Children and Young People’s Select Committee be involved in the review of the Council’s Elective Home Education Policy that is scheduled to take place during 2023.</p>	

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

<b>Project Start Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Purpose of Review</b>	<b>Current Status and activity</b>
TBC	Financial support for the provision of school uniform.	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	<p>Resolved at the October 2022 meeting:</p> <p>That members of the Children and Young People’s Select Committee be involved in the review of the Council’s policy on financial support for the provision of school uniform that is scheduled to take place before the start of the 2023/24 financial year.</p>	

**WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SELECT COMMITTEE: UPDATED: 10 October 2022**

**Items to be scheduled during 2023/24**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Responsibility</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Status</b>
Elective Home Education	Cabinet Member – Children and Young People’s Services	Resolved at October 2022 meeting:  That a progress report on the current position on Elective Home Education in Nottinghamshire be presented at the September 2023 meeting of the Children and Young People’s Select Committee.	To be scheduled for September 2023 meeting

