

Children and Young People's Committee

Monday, 10 November 2014 at 10:30

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

AGENDA

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3	Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below) (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)	
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Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Sara Allmond (Tel. 0115 977 3794) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (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 & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

Date 29th September 2014 (commencing at 10.30am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

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

	Roy Allan		Philip Owen
	John Allin		Sue Saddington
	Boyd Elliott	A	Gail Turner
A	Keith Longdon		John Wilmott

	Ex-officio (non-voting)
A	Alan Rhodes

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sara Allmond	Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Carl Bilbey	Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Alison Fawley	Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Anna Vincent	Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Steve Edwards	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Chris Harrison	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Jon Hawketts	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Derek Higon	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Mary Jarrett	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Laurence Jones	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Anthony May	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Philippa Milbourne	Children, Families and Cultural Services
John Slater	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Chris Warren	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Kate Allen	Adult, Social Care, Health & Public Protection
Phil Dent	Environment and Resources

Brendan Hodson Environment and Resources
Fiona McMahon Environment and Resources

MEMBERSHIP CHANGE

Councillor Gail Turner had been permanently appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor Jacky Williams.

Councillor Roy Allan had been appointed to the Committee in place of Councillor Alice Grice for this meeting only.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2014, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K Longdon (other reasons) and Cllr G Turner (other reasons).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 1 2014/15)

Jon Hawketts introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2014/068

That the performance of the Council's services for children and young people during the period 1 April to 30 June 2014 be noted.

RADCLIFFE ON TRENT INFANT & NURSERY AND RADCLIFFE ON TRENT JUNIOR SCHOOLS: POSSIBLE AMALGAMATION – OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AMALGAMATION

The Chairman introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2014/069

- 1) That the outcome of formal consultation with staff, governors, parents/carers, local community and other interested parties about the proposals referred to in paragraph 1 of the report be noted.
- 2) That Radcliffe-on-Trent Infant and Junior Schools would not amalgamate to form a primary school at this time.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S READINESS TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW SEND REFORMS

John Slater and Chris Harrison introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2014/070

That the progress made in implementing the SEND reforms in Nottinghamshire be noted.

THE TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Laurence Jones introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2014/071

- 1) That the update on the development of the Troubled Families Programme in Nottinghamshire be noted.
- 2) That a temporary post of Systems of Work Development Manager be established until 31 March 2015.

UPDATE AND FUTURE OPERATING MODEL OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE AND PETITION ABOUT THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE RESTRUCTURE

Chris Warren introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

A recorded vote was requested, the votes were as follows:

FOR

Roy Allan
John Allin
Kate Foale

John Peck
Liz Plant
John Wilmott

AGAINST

Boyd Elliott
Philip Owen

Sue Saddington

There were no abstentions.

RESOLVED 2014/072

- 1) That the revised Young People's Service structure be approved from 1 October 2014.

- 2) That the actions taken by the Service to mitigate the impact of the budget reductions agreed by Council in February 2014 be noted.
- 3) That in response to the received petition, the previously agreed Full Council decision of 27 February 2014 regarding the restructuring of the Young People's Service from 1 October 2014 be noted.

HEALTHY CHILD PROGRAMME AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Kate Allen introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2014/073

- 1) That the national Healthy Child Programme (HCP), focusing on the roles of Public Health (PH) nurses for children, young people and families be noted.
- 2) That the responsibilities placed on Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and NHS England Area Teams for commissioning the HCP and PH nursing services for children and young people be noted.
- 3) That the opportunities for future commissioning and delivery of PH nursing services, linking with NCC's early help offer to children, young people and families be noted.

BLOCK PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DIFFICULTIES (SEBD)

Steve Edwards, Mary Jarrett and Fiona McMahon gave a presentation and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2014/074

That approval be given to undertake a procurement exercise to identify two strategic partners from which to purchase a total of 24 residential care placements for Looked After Children assessed as having a social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD) and meeting the threshold for residential care.

ESTABLISHMENT AND REDESIGNATION OF POSTS IN CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

RESOLVED 2014/075

- 1) That the following four posts be established within Children's Social Care:
 - one Fostering Team Manager (0.5 fte Band D)
 - two Supervising Social Workers (2 fte Band A/B)
 - one Business Support Officer (1 fte grade 5) at Clayfields House Secure Unit.
- 2) That one Social Work post (1 fte Band B) be re-designated to that of a Practice Consultant (1 fte Band C).

- 3) That one Deputy Support Services Manager post (1 fte grade 5) at Clayfields House Secure Unit be disestablished.

PROVISION OF FUNDING FOR ADAPTATIONS TO LOCAL AUTHORITY FOSTER HOMES

RESOLVED 2014/076

- 1) That approval be given to provide funding of £30,000 for an adaptation to a Local Authority foster home to foster carers KOD and PP. Standard legal charges upon the foster carers' property would apply to protect the Local Authority.
- 2) That approval be given to provide funding of £100,000 for an adaptation to a Local Authority foster home to foster carers RJ and AJ. Standard legal charges upon the foster carers' property would apply to protect the Local Authority.
- 3) That approval be given to provide funding of £35,000 for an adaptation to a Local Authority foster home to foster carers JT and CT. Standard legal charges upon the foster carers' property would apply to protect the Local Authority.
- 4) That approval be given to provide funding of £23,000 for an adaptation to a Local Authority foster home to foster carers JW and RW. Standard legal charges upon the foster carers' property would apply to protect the Local Authority.
- 5) That approval be given to provide funding of £11,000 for an adaptation to a Local Authority foster home to foster carers JW and JW. Standard legal charges upon the foster carers' property would apply to protect the Local Authority.
- 6) That approval be given to provide funding of £48,000 for an adaptation to a Local Authority foster home to foster carers JJ and PJ. Standard legal charges upon the foster carers' property would apply to protect the Local Authority.

QUALITY AND IMPROVEMENT GROUP – STAFFING STRUCTURE

RESOLVED 2014/077

That approval be given to the staffing structure for the Quality and Improvement Group as set out in the report.

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

RESOLVED 2014/078

- 1) That the new appointments to Authority governor vacancies and re-appointments of Authority governors, who had reached the end of their term of office during the period 1 March to 30 September 2014, as listed in paragraph 9, be noted.

- 2) That the appointment of two Additional Authority governors to the Robin Hood Primary School governing body, as listed in paragraph 9, be noted.
- 3) That the nomination and appointment of Local Authority governors to reconstituted governing bodies, as listed in paragraph 10, be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2014/079

That the Committee's work programme be noted with an amendment to the programme that rota visits report be brought quarterly rather than 6 monthly.

The meeting closed at 11.38am

CHAIRMAN

M_29September2014

10 November 2014**Agenda Item: 04**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2013/14, which is available as a Background Paper.

Information and Advice

2. National statutory guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013', notes the requirement for the Chair of each Local Safeguarding Children Board to publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. This report should recognise achievements and the progress that has been made in the local authority area as well as providing a realistic assessment of the challenges that still remain and the action being taken to address them. The report should include lessons from reviews undertaken within the reporting period.
3. The Annual Report should be made available to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
4. The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) Annual Report outlines the context, both national and local, which has driven the work of the Board during the year.
5. The report identifies the governance and accountability arrangements and the organisational structure that supports the work of the Board together with the relevant areas of responsibility.
6. A key area of work for the Board is the provision of policies, procedures and guidance that detail the principles which underpin professional practice and the procedures to follow when child protection concerns emerge. In May 2014 a new set of procedures were published to reflect the changes of practice implicit within 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013' and take on board the recommendations of the Munro review into social work. The new procedures are web enabled and have a revised structure designed to be practically useful to staff. Users can quickly access key information and then choose to follow links to additional information on safeguarding in specific circumstances if required.

The learning from reviews and case audits has guided the inclusion of new and updated content.

7. A 'Learning and Improvement Framework' was developed and implemented during 2013/14 and details are set out within the new procedures. The framework aims to ensure that organisations learn from experience, act and secure improvement as a result.
8. During 2013-14 the NSCB has delivered a wide ranging programme of multi-agency training courses and seminars covering core safeguarding practice and more specialist subject areas. The impact of the training provision has been monitored and levels of reported confidence have significantly increased between pre and post course evaluations. In addition to courses and seminars e-learning is increasingly being used as an effective way to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect amongst the wider workforce. A new e-learning module on Child Sexual Exploitation has been introduced for 2014-15 along with a self-registration system to facilitate greater access.
9. The NSCB has continued to strengthen its arrangements for providing scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements. The report includes a section detailing the quality and effectiveness of arrangements and practice. Detailed data for the year is contained within an appendix to the report.
10. The Child Death Overview Panel has continued to conduct reviews into expected and unexpected child deaths. In response to a number of fatal road accidents involving young people the NSCB funded the development of a short film made by young people aimed at raising awareness of road safety issues to complement that already provided through schools and the NCC Road Safety Team. The film was launched at an event showcasing the creative skills of young people in the County and will be distributed, with accompanying lesson notes, to schools shortly. A serious case review commissioned in the previous year was completed and published. A further three serious case reviews were commissioned during the reporting period and these have now been completed with two of the reports published and the third awaiting the outcome of other proceedings. A summary of the learning from the case reviews completed during the year is included within the report.
11. Multi-agency audit arrangements have been considerably strengthened. A new sub-group to the Board has been formed with senior leadership and representation from partner agencies. The NSCB has received a report outlining the findings from the 'Voice of the Child' audit which examined how agencies listened and responded to the views of children. Further audits have been conducted to look at key areas of safeguarding including Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) and Missing Children and the programme of audits for 2014/15 has been developed and is ongoing.
12. The NSCB has focused its activity on priority groups of children including: children at risk of sexual exploitation; missing children; children at risk through domestic violence; and safeguarding looked after children. Details of the work carried out in these areas are provided.
13. The report shows the NSCB's multi-agency financial arrangements for 2013/14 and sets out the Board's priorities for 2014/15. It highlights the main contextual influences which will impact on safeguarding arrangements over the next period of time.

Other Options Considered

14. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

15. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2013/14, which is available as a Background Paper, be noted.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Steve Baumber
NSCB Business Manager
T: 0115 977 3935
E: steve.baumber@nottscs.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 23/10/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report 2013/14

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0501



Nottinghamshire
SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN Board

Working in Partnership to Safeguard
Children & Young People

ANNUAL REPORT

2013 – 2014

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Essential information

This report has been compiled on behalf of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) by Steve Baumber, NSCB Manager. The format and content has been guided by the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs suggested model for annual reports (May 2013). It has been produced in consultation with members of the NSCB Executive and approved by the NSCB. The content is drawn from the work of the NSCB and its sub groups including; reports presented to those groups; records of meetings; multi-agency audit findings; s.11 self-assessments; and the findings from serious case reviews and other forms of case review.

The report will be published in October 2014 and will be a public document.

For further information about the content of this report or the work of the NSCB please contact the NSCB office on 0115 9773935 or by email info.nscb@nottsc.gov.uk or visit the website at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb

FOREWORD FROM THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR

Foreword from the Independent Chair

Welcome to the 2013/14 Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) Annual Report. The report provides an overview of the Board's work during 2013/14, our view of the effectiveness of local arrangements for safeguarding children and young people, the challenges we face and our priorities for meeting these over the coming year and beyond. I hope that you find it informative and interesting.

I would like to thank all members of the Board, its sub groups, staff and the many individuals who have assisted the Board over the last year for their commitment and valued contribution. Without this the achievements outlined in this report would not have been possible. Particular thanks to Val Simnett and Neville Hall who have recently stepped down from chairing two of the NSCB sub groups, and to Cathy Burke and John Slater for taking on new roles.

Chris Few
NSCB Independent Chair
April 30, 2014

LOCAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Local background and context

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHY

(taken from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, census for Nottinghamshire and other data sources)

- Approximately 162,144 children and young people under the age of 18 years live in Nottinghamshire. This is 20.5% of the total population in the area.
- Approximately 17.1% of the local authority's children are living in poverty.
- The proportion of children entitled to free school meals:
 - in primary schools is 14.2% (the national average is 18.1%)
 - in secondary schools is 12.1% (the national average is 15.1%)
- Children and young people from minority ethnic groups account for 7.2% of all children living in the area, compared with 21% in the country as a whole.
- The largest minority ethnic groups of children and young people in the area are Any Other White Background, White and Black Caribbean and Any Other Mixed Background.
- According to the last available information the vast majority of children and young people have Christianity as their stated religion followed by of no religion or religion not stated. The largest religion after Christianity is the Muslim faith.
- The proportion of children and young people with English as an additional language:
 - in primary schools is 5.5% (the national average is 18.1%).
 - in secondary schools is 4.2% (the national average is 13.6%).

There are estimated to be between 7,000 and 12,000 children and young people with some form of disability (aged 0-19) in the county. More than one in six Nottinghamshire pupils have some kind of special educational need (SEN). Districts with the highest percentage of children with SEN are Mansfield (20.4%), Ashfield (19.1%) and Gedling (18.0%).

Census data identifies 2% of the 0-15 population as having caring responsibilities for another person. More recent estimates suggest that nearer 8% of young people (equating to 12,400 in Nottinghamshire) provide care.

LOCAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Between October 2013 and February 2014, 2708 early help initiations were recorded as part of the early help dataset. These relate to requests for services or to log early help assessments. Over eighty-eight percent of early help initiations were requests for services from early help services (fifty per cent for Children's Centres and forty-two per cent for Targeted Support). The remaining eleven per cent of early help initiations were for the logging of early help assessments with the Early Help Unit (forty-seven per cent were logged by schools). During the same period 826 early help (CAF) assessments were completed and 1797 cases closed by services.

In March 2013 there were 788 children in Nottinghamshire subject to a child protection plan which was much higher than the national average and our statistical neighbours. In response a significant amount of work including additional training and a multi agency audit of initial child protection conferences has taken place and at the end of March 2014 the number of children subject to a child protection plan had decreased to 587. Further details of work in this area are included later within this report.

There has been an overall decrease in numbers of looked after children during the year, from 892 at the beginning of April to 830 at the end of March 2014; the drop in numbers has been consistent since September 2013 when the number of looked after children stood at 906. Over the previous 4 years, Nottinghamshire's rate per 10,000 looked after children had increased from 36 to 53.9; as at the end of March 2014 this has dropped slightly to 51.2 and remains below that of statistical neighbours and England averages of 60.6 and 60 (figures as at end of 2012-13).

STRATEGIC PLANS AND STRATEGIES

The Health and Wellbeing Board produces the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups. The JSNA provides a picture of the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the local population and includes a chapter on Children and Young People with key messages. This chapter has recently been revised and will be available in September 2014 via <http://jsna.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/insight/Strategic-Framework/Nottinghamshire-JSNA.aspx>

The Health and Wellbeing Board then uses the JSNA to agree priorities in order to develop the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Strategy will, in turn, help to shape local health and social care commissioning plans. The NSCB uses the JSNA to inform its own priorities and during the year a breakout session of the NSCB was used to look in depth at the JSNA to ensure account was taken of the information contained within it. In due course the new Chapter on Children and Young People will be presented to the NSCB.

The new Children and Young People's Plan for 2014-16, was approved in March 2014. The plan guides the work of the Children's Trust and identifies the main activities that will be undertaken to improve the lives of children and young people. The plan was developed in collaboration with the

LOCAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

NSCB and the Independent Chair took an active role in the identification of the priorities and delivery arrangements.

Children and Young People's Plan 2014-16 Priorities:

- *Work together to keep children and young people safe*
- *Improve children and young people's health outcomes through the integrated commissioning of services*
- *Close the gap in educational attainment between disadvantaged children and young people and their peers*
- *Provide children and young people with the early help support that they need*
- *Deliver integrated services for children and young people with complex needs or disabilities*

This work is underpinned by a new approach to the integrated delivery of the County Council children's services with an emphasis on locality working

The relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board/Children's Trust and the NSCB is included within the governance and accountability section of this report but fundamentally exists to ensure that the strategies and plans developed by these bodies take full account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

The Safer Nottinghamshire Partnership has overall governance responsibilities for multiagency work to respond to and tackle domestic violence. Links have been established between the NSCB, Safer Nottinghamshire Partnership and Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure coordination of work to address the adverse impact that domestic violence has on children and young people as well as other public safety issues are likely to have on the safety and welfare of children. A number of NSCB members also sit on the Domestic Violence Executive, part of the Safer Nottinghamshire Partnership arrangements, providing direct lines of communication.

Statutory and legislative context

The NSCB was established in accordance with the Children Act 2004 and for the period covered by this report operated within the statutory guidance '*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013*'. The NSCB is independent and provides the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how organisations within Nottinghamshire cooperate to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and for ensuring the effectiveness of what they do.

Core functions of the NSCB are:

- Developing policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Nottinghamshire in particular:-
 - The action to take when there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare including thresholds for intervention
 - Training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children
 - Recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children
 - Investigation of allegations concerning persons who work with children
 - Safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered
 - Cooperation with neighbouring children's services authorities and their Board partners.
- Communicating to individuals and organisations in Nottinghamshire the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and raising awareness of how this can best be done.
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advising them on ways to improve.
- Participating in the planning of services for children in Nottinghamshire.
- Undertaking reviews of serious cases and advising the local authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned.
- Putting in place procedures to respond to unexpected child deaths and collecting and analysing information about all child deaths in Nottinghamshire.

The NSCB does not commission or deliver frontline services or have the power to direct other organisations but does have a role in making it clear where improvement is needed. Each Board partner retains their own lines of accountability for safeguarding. The NSCB continues to provide a full programme of multi-agency training.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

Governance and accountability arrangements

The NSCB has an independent chair, Chris Few, who was appointed to the role in 2009. His current tenure runs through to June 2015. The chair is responsible for making sure that the NSCB operates effectively and has a strong independent voice. The independent chair is accountable to the Chief Executive of the Local Authority for the effective operation of the NSCB and has regular meetings with the Chief Executive, the Lead Member of Children and Young People and the Principal Social Worker and with the Local Authority Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services, as part of scrutiny arrangements for the overall effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Nottinghamshire.

More widely, accountability for the effectiveness of the NSCB is through this annual report which is presented to the Local Authority Children and Young People's Committee, the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Police and Crime Commissioner. It is also published.

The NSCB is represented at the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Board ensuring that safeguarding children is a priority in their work. Members of the NSCB have contributed to the Children and Young People's Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Regular meetings between the chairs, and relevant officers, of the NSCB and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board have taken place recognising the connection between the two areas of work and providing the opportunity to share details of priorities and good practice.

A 'cross authority' group meets to coordinate the work of the NSCB and Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board. This group has a work plan which identifies joint areas of work and agreed actions with the main objectives being to avoid any duplication of effort for those agencies that work across local authority boundaries and to work collaboratively on shared priorities. There is a continuing commitment to maintain joint inter-agency safeguarding children procedures and practice guidance.

The NSCB Manager has continued to link in with the Nottinghamshire Young People's Board attending as required. Members of the NSCB also sit on the Strategic Management Board of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) ensuring connectivity with public protection work. The NSCB Chair, along with the chairs of other local partnership bodies, has regular meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

NSCB membership is drawn from agencies in Nottinghamshire that have a statutory duty to cooperate with the Local Authority in the establishment and operation of the board. In addition a representative

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

from the voluntary sector provides an invaluable link to the network of non-statutory organisations that provide services to children and families. During 2013/14 representation on the NSCB was strengthened by the inclusion of a senior manager from NCC Education and Inclusion Services. A representative from Public Health now attends the NSCB following the transfer of responsibility for public health commissioning to Nottinghamshire County Council. Two lay members sit on the Board and provide an important perspective to the NSCB on behalf of our communities and the lead member for Children's Social Care attends the Board as a participant observer. The contribution of designated health professionals advising the board and taking part in the activities of the sub groups continues to be a particular strength. A full list of members of the NSCB is attached as **Appendix A.**

The District and Borough Council Safeguarding Group provides an effective link between the safeguarding leads within the District and Borough Councils and the NSCB. This group remit has been extended to include safeguarding adult issues as many of the members have dual responsibilities and the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adult Board are represented providing a further opportunity to coordinate work. The forum for designated persons in education led by the Safeguarding Children in Education Officer (SCIEO), meets once a term and facilitates direct communication between the NSCB and a wider representation from education services, complementing the work of the education representative on the board.

The NSCB is supported through funding contributions by key partner agencies which finance the services of the independent chair and a small number of staff that facilitate the work of the board including; NSCB Manager, NSCB Administrator, Development Manager, Training Coordinator and Training Administrator. Partnership funding also supports the resourcing of the Safeguarding Children Information Management Team (SCIMT) which facilitates the communication of safeguarding information between local authority areas as well as providing a means for initial checks regarding child protection plans and children's social care involvement with families. A summary of the financial arrangements is included in **Appendix B.**

The NSCB has explored new ways to more effectively carry out its functions. A development day took place in April 2013 and the NSCB Constitution (available at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb) was revised to reflect new structures and responsibilities. The Constitution sets out how the NSCB operates, how decisions are made and details what inter-agency arrangements are in place to make sure that individuals and agencies effectively safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in Nottinghamshire. The role and expected performance of NSCB members is also defined

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

within the document. An accompanying organisational chart provides further detail on reporting arrangements.

The NSCB has met on four occasions during this year as part of its normal cycle of business meetings. A further extraordinary meeting was convened to consider the FN13 serious case review findings and approve the independent author's report.

An Executive group has delegated authority to deal with a range of issues on behalf of the full board including performance monitoring and overseeing the effective operation of the sub groups outlined below, this group also met on four occasions. The Executive is chaired by the Vice Chair of the NSCB who is the Assistant Director for Social Care at Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust. Its membership comprises the Chairs from each of the NSCB sub groups and senior decision makers from organisations represented on the Board. The NSCB has four sub groups to take forward specific areas of work and each one is chaired by a member of the board:-

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The work of this group was refocused during the year to take on a more strategic function with the Training Pool managing the delivery of multi-agency training. The group meets quarterly and is chaired by Joh Bryant (Head of Housing, Broxtowe Borough Council). It is responsible for evaluating learning from a range of sources and contributing to the dissemination of that learning; developing the NSCB multi-agency training programme and ensuring it is effectively delivered, evaluating the impact of NSCB training and quality assuring both multi-agency and single agency safeguarding training.

MULTI AGENCY AUDIT

A newly formed group created to strengthen the multi-agency audit work carried out by the NSCB under its Learning and Improvement Framework. The group was chaired by Anthony May (Corporate Director NCC Children, Families and Cultural Services and met every 2 months). The group was responsible for setting the NSCB audit programme for the year, ensuring the effective delivery of that programme, contributing to the dissemination of learning and impact evaluation arising from audits.

CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL

This panel meets every six weeks and until recently has been chaired by Val Simnett (Designated Nurse, Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)). The CDOP ensures that the NSCB gains a better understanding of how and why children in Nottinghamshire die and uses the collective

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

findings to take action to prevent deaths and improve the health and safety of all children in our communities. The panel is responsible for overseeing the immediate response to unexpected child deaths and for reviewing all child deaths

SERIOUS INCIDENT REVIEW

This group meets monthly and until recently was chaired by Neville Hall (Area Director CAFCASS). The group makes recommendations on whether there should be a review carried out in relation to the way a particular case was dealt with. Reviews recommended by the group could take the form of a Single Agency Review, a Multi-Agency Learning Review or a Serious Case Review. The NSCB Independent Chair decides when a SCR should be instigated. The Serious Incident Review group is responsible for formulating the scope and terms of reference for reviews, deciding on the appropriate methodology and then monitoring the completion of action plans arising from such reviews. The group ensures that the learning from reviews is disseminated through the appropriate mechanisms of the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

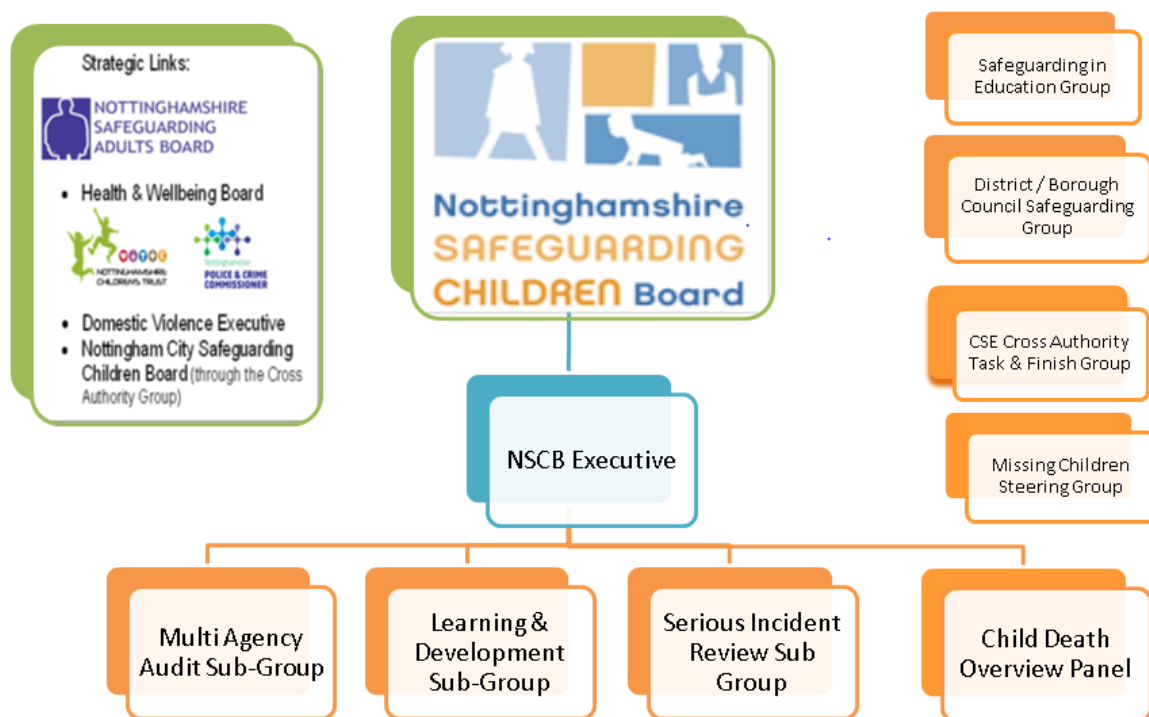
The NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework was developed and implemented during 2013-14 and is set out within the new interagency procedures. The purpose of the framework is to enable organisations to be clear about their responsibilities to learn from experience, act and secure improvement as a result.



The NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework components include gathering information from children and families, analysis of performance data on a range of activity from early help through a child's journey in the child protection process, feedback from frontline staff, section 11 audits (further detail later), reports on agencies' critical issues and learning from inspections and thematic reviews. The framework describes the way audit, serious case reviews, learning reviews and child death reviews contribute to developing learning, improving practice and the setting of priorities for the work of the Board.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

NSCB ORGANISATIONAL CHART AND STRATEGIC LINKS – 31 MARCH 2014



PROVISION OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE

Provision of policies, procedures and guidance

A new set of inter-agency safeguarding children procedures have been jointly developed with Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board in collaboration with Tri X, a company specialising in web based safeguarding procedures. A wide ranging consultation process took place to develop the procedures which included workshops involving practitioners and managers from partner agencies. The new procedures provide clear advice, and where appropriate instruction, about the actions which need to be carried out whilst being concise enough to be practically useful to staff. They reflect the changes to practice implicit within Working Together 2013 and take on board the recommendations of the Munro review into social work. Learning from local serious case reviews, learning reviews, audit and performance monitoring work have been incorporated into the procedures and guidance.

The core procedures section provides the frame of reference for multi-agency practice in Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City with key new or updated content including:

- *A greater emphasis on early help.*
- *An expanded and updated section on medical examinations.*
- *Updated material on bruising to babies and bite marks.*
- *A new chapter on assessment principles with links to more specific assessment processes.*
- *Re-written content in the child protection conference chapter.*
- *A new organised and complex abuse chapter.*
- *An updated and strengthened chapter on information sharing.*

Safeguarding and Practice Guides provide further guidance for practitioners and include new or updated content on the following:

Bullying

Children of parents with learning difficulties or mental health problems

Historical abuse

Effective core groups

Sexual abuse

Emotional abuse

PROVISION OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE

The impact the new inter-agency safeguarding children procedures and guidance have had will be evaluated through follow up workshops in September 2014 where information will be gathered from practitioners on how the procedures have supported frontline work. Early feedback has been positive with reports of improvements in correct procedures being followed. Systems to analyse the level of access to the procedures and practice guidance have been incorporated into the procedures and dip sampling will take place to get further direct evaluation from staff and inform future priorities.

Early Evidence of the New Interagency Safeguarding Procedures Taking Effect

A number of recent cases where there have been suspected bite marks to children have demonstrated improvements in practice through following the new procedures. The Police and forensic odontologists have been informed prior to medical assessments of the children and this has ensured that the correct expertise is available at the time of the assessment reducing the need for further examinations and therefore providing a better outcome for the children concerned.

The new interagency safeguarding procedures link to associated key documents and processes including the Pathway to Provision which sets out guidance for practitioners in identifying a child, young person and/or family's level of need, and referral pathways to the most appropriate service to provide support. In October 2013 the NSCB took responsibility for the approval of the revised Pathway to Provision in line with Working Together 2013 which requires Local Safeguarding Children Boards to provide policies and procedures on thresholds for intervention.

Pathway to Provision – Clear Thresholds for Accessing Services

As part of the approval process Board members took part in an exercise to review real life case studies taken from the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The application of the Pathway to Provision Guidance was tested and found to be effective overall. The decision taken by the MASH in one case was referred back for further consideration.

The NSCB website has been revised to improve accessibility to information. The site provides a source of information for the public on identification and responding to concerns for children and includes links to further advice, such as the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) E learning module for parents and carers. It also provides information for professionals in support of their work. Further improvements are planned as part of the Business Plan 2014-16 (**Appendix C**).

Learning and Development

During this period learning and developmental activities were supported by NCC Workforce and Development staff and the NSCB Manager until the appointment of an NSCB Training Coordinator in January 2014. A full NSCB training programme has been delivered during 2013/14 and since her appointment the new Training Coordinator has taken a lead role in refocussing the work of the Learning and Development Sub group and developing a new training strategy. The NSCB Training Pool, with an enthusiastic and committed membership drawn from partner agencies, delivers much of the NSCB Training Programme and their contributions are greatly appreciated.

Key Achievements

- Established and developed the new Learning and Development Sub group, with a clearer strategic focus. Members of the sub group reviewed and revised the terms of reference for the group to ensure compliance with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 and devised its yearly work plan ensuring that the group contributes to the effective implementation of the Nottinghamshire Learning and Improvement Framework and the key priorities of the NSCB.
- The 2013/14 Training Programme was agreed and delivered. All of the courses went ahead with the exception of two half day seminars on CSE, which were cancelled and replaced with full day courses following evaluation. In addition, as a result of a need identified through links with frontline practitioners additional training courses regarding child protection medical examinations were added to the programme and delivered.
- Links with the Child Death Overview Panel, Serious Case Review Sub group and Multi Agency Audit Sub group have been strengthened to ensure that learning gathered through these processes is effectively incorporated within the training programme and disseminated.
- The evaluation process for NSCB multi agency training has been strengthened and further developed. In addition to the immediate post course evaluation, a follow up process has been implemented to gather information about the impact training courses have made on practice and therefore the outcomes for children and young people.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

TRAINING DELIVERY

The Training Programme delivered comprised: E Learning, core safeguarding training events, and subject specific trainings events on key safeguarding issues identified throughout the year. The programme included a series of 'What's New in Safeguarding' seminars that were used to disseminate the learning from reviews and case audit as well as providing updates and new information on a range of other issues including; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Missing Children, E Safety, Managing Allegations and Private Fostering. A specific 'Learning from Case Reviews' seminar was held jointly with Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board and this addressed learning from local and regional reviews. Other methods of disseminating learning include briefings to specific staff groups by NSCB officers, the NSCB Newsletter, briefing papers to Board members and new 'Learning and Improvement Bulletins'. See **Appendix D** for details of training events delivered and take up by organisations. Attendance has remained consistent across all agencies but there has been a slight reduction in attendance as a whole which may be a consequence of the organisational change taking place in agencies over this period.

E learning continued to be offered to all partner agencies. The principal course, 'Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect' was available to staff from all partner agencies alongside specific versions for police staff and those who work with young people in an education setting. A total of 1,749 licences were allocated to users between the period of 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, in comparison to 4668 the previous year. The allocation of licences was much higher during the previous year due to Nottinghamshire Police issuing 3206 licences as part of an initiative to bring all frontline staffs' basic awareness of Child Protection up to date and the majority of them completed the course by November 2012. The completion rate (licences issued against courses completed) was 69% for this year (1331) and course completion reminders are sent out to encourage full completion of the modules.

In February 2014 a significant number of the NSCB members attended a two day Multi-Agency Critical Incident Exercise (MACIE) simulation exercise where senior and front line managers worked together on several real time child protection scenarios.

TRAINING IMPACT EVALUATION

Initial course evaluation and subsequent impact evaluation has been on-going throughout this period ensuring that all learning events are of a high quality, that any feedback is monitored and course content reviewed regularly. One of the key questions asked of participants attending the core safeguarding courses is whether they were satisfied with the course as a whole. The satisfaction levels with both core courses were very positive with 96% of course participants rating the 'Introduction to Safeguarding' course as either good or very good and 80 % rating the 'Working Together' course as good or very good, indicating that the courses met their intended learning outcomes.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Comments from Working Together Course Attendees

“As a health visitor I will use the learning in every aspect of my role. Particularly found the fact that the training was multi-agency useful, as allowed me to consider factors from other agencies perspectives and their role within safeguarding”

“I now feel much clearer on the child protection procedures and am more aware of my responsibilities in a core group”.

“I know now what is expected of me if I was asked to attend a child protection meeting. I feel confident in carrying out my responsibilities in Safeguarding children and know where to go for advice such as early help, Mash etc.”

The initial course evaluations include questions that are used to ascertain how attendees judged the benefit to them from attending the training. The data below is taken as an overall average from the Working Together courses over the year and indicates the difference in confidence levels pre and post course.

Question: Please rate your level of confidence in your knowledge and understanding of the child protection process?

	None	Limited	Some	Good	Very Good
Before	0.7%	6.7%	40.2%	45.7%	8%
After	0%	0%	4.6%	48%	41.9%

This indicates that there were a significant proportion of attendees who felt they had a good base knowledge before attending the course. Prior to the course 53.7 % of participants reported either good or very good levels of confidence in their knowledge and understanding and following the course this increased to 89.9%, demonstrating a positive shift in participant's levels of confidence. The additional comments provided by participants indicated that both the training input and opportunity to network and share information with other agencies contributed to the value of the course. Similar levels of increased confidence have been evident in further questions and data collated for the courses.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Training Evaluation Case Study

As members of the NSCB the Nottinghamshire CCGs are committed to ensuring that NHS organisations prioritise the needs of vulnerable children and families and safeguard their welfare. An example of a positive outcome from the NSCB child exploitation strategy during 2013-14 resulted in over 50 health staff from priority areas such as school nursing and sexual health services receiving training around recognising and responding to sexual exploitation.

A child in school made a disclosure raising concerns about sexual exploitation to a school nurse. As a result of the training that the school nurse had received, she responded appropriately resulting in the child and family receiving the right support and a subsequent police investigation leading to criminal prosecutions for sexual offences.

Those completing E Learning modules report high levels of satisfaction with 97% of learners saying they felt that the learning outcomes were either completely or mostly achieved.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

A Quality Assurance scheme was developed in 2012 in conjunction with Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board and the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children and Adults Board, in order to assure the quality of single agency training. Some initial work has taken place, in particular around gathering information about the suitability and experience of trainers and reviewing some introductory course materials, however further work needs to be completed to ensure this is fully implemented. The quality assurance process is currently being reviewed with the aim for a revised methodology to be fully implemented over the forthcoming year.

Learning and Development Priorities for 2014/15

- The Learning and Development Sub group will continue to develop its role within the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework to ensure that learning identified from Serious Case Reviews, Child Death Reviews, multi-agency audit and other sources is consistently disseminated and built into the training programme.
- Review and revise the training quality assurance scheme and ensure it is fully implemented.
- E learning opportunities will be expanded with the introduction of a CSE module and a self-registration system to accommodate greater numbers of users.
- Continue to strengthen the NSCB multi-agency training impact evaluation process, to ensure the impact of training is analysed on a more frequent basis and that evidence is collated on the impact the learning has on the outcomes for children and young people.

QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ARRANGEMENTS AND PRACTICE

Quality and effectiveness of arrangements and practice

The quality and effectiveness of safeguarding is tracked and monitored by the NSCB in a number of ways. A key element is the Performance Information Report (PIR) which is prepared each quarter and provides information and analysis on priority areas of performance including; early help; information sharing; section 47 enquiries; child protection conferences and plans; looked after reviews and youth justice data.

The PIR is presented to each NSCB Executive meeting and is supplemented with additional reports as required. The report is used on an ongoing basis to inform priorities for further exploration and challenge – for example the re-referrals audit by the local authority in February 2014 and the participation by agencies in child protection conferences which was examined in greater depth through the multi-agency Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) audit (see section later in this report). The Performance Information Report for 2013/14 is included in **Appendix E**.

EARLY HELP

Nottinghamshire Early Help Services are arranged in three locality areas, each with an early help offer and support services. The core early help offer comprises a number of children centres, youth centres and targeted support services which deliver across the 0 – 19 age range as well as supporting their parents, carers and families. Children and young people with an identified early help need will have an allocated lead professional either in one of these services or in a school, health setting or voluntary agency.

In September 2013 the Early Help Unit was established to work alongside the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and provide a single access point for referral of children in need of targeted early help services.

During the year the dataset regarding early help has been refined. To supplement this the NSCB commissioned a multi agency audit of referrals to the Early Help Unit. An internal review of the early help processes was also commissioned. Both of these pieces of work will report to the Board in 2014/15.

QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ARRANGEMENTS AND PRACTICE

CHILDREN SUBJECT TO CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

The Independent Chair Service, provided by Nottinghamshire County Council, includes Child Protection Coordinators (CPC) who chair Child Protection Conferences and complex strategy meetings. They have a central role in promoting quality in child protection practice, including ensuring that thresholds are applied consistently, and effective implementation of departmental and interagency policies and procedures.

The CPC is responsible for considering whether advocacy is required in order for the child's voice to be heard, and whether all possible has been done for the child to participate in the conference.

CPCs have been identified to take lead roles in specific areas, for example Child Sexual Exploitation, Fabricated and Induced Illness and the participation of children and young people in child protection processes.

CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

At the end of March 2014 there were 587 children subject to a child protection plan in Nottinghamshire, which was a marked decrease from the number of 788 children in March 2013. Work has been undertaken throughout the year due to awareness that the numbers of children on child protection plans in Nottinghamshire was so much higher than the national average and our statistical neighbours. There has been a sustained attention to thresholds by social work teams and CPCs, and children have only been made subject to a child protection plan, or remained subject to a plan if they have met the threshold for this.

There has been a small increase in numbers of complex multi-agency meetings chaired throughout the year, being 419 to the end of March 2014, compared to 384 in the previous year. 289 of these were as a result of allegations against professionals and 86 were as a result of concerns regarding child sexual exploitation.

CHILD PROTECTION REVIEWS

The timely review of child protection plans and distribution of the record of the meetings within the agreed timescale is an important aspect of child protection work. The year-end figure for Child Protection cases reviewed within timescale (NI 67) was 97.4%. This was slightly below the target of 98%. No reviews have been held out of timescale since October 2013. Due to sustained efforts by both business support staff and CPCs, the percentage of minutes distributed in timescale in the last

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quarter has averaged 97% a month. On the occasions when minutes are not distributed within 20 days of the conference the reasons for this are subject to management challenge.

QUALITY OF OUTLINE CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

Considerable work has been done to improve the quality of outline child protection plans, and Nottinghamshire County Council audits have found that the recommendations have become smarter. However in response to the awareness that the outline plans are too detailed further training is planned for CPCs and children's social work team managers which will explore the interface between outline and detailed child protection plans.

As part of their quality assurance role CPCs gather information and offer feedback in terms of what is being done well and what requires improvement in the child protection process. Certain information is passed to Children's Service Managers (CSMs) through the management information reports following each conference or meeting.

For ICPCs this includes comment on:

- The quality of reports
- Whether there has been any drift or delay in progressing the plan
- The engagement and participation of the young person and parents
- The quality of multi-agency working

For Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs) further comments are made on:

- Whether 'my protection plan' is completed (a questionnaire to gather children's views).
- Whether visits have been made to the child in timescale.
- Whether the core groups have been held in time.

In addition CPCs use the Independent Chair Service's dispute resolution process to bring urgent issues to the attention of team managers, and managers in external agencies. One hundred and forty-five alerts were raised in the reporting year, which was the first full year of this process being in use.

The following themes were identified through collation of management information forms and the alerts for the year:

- Engagement with parents and children by social workers was very good in the majority of cases.

QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ARRANGEMENTS AND PRACTICE

- The quality of multi-agency work at RCPCs and complex multi-agency meetings was noted to be overwhelmingly positive.
- The vast majority of core groups were held in the correct time scales.

Some areas for improvement were also identified as follows:

- Some social worker's assessments and risk analyses.
- Delay in a few cases in bringing children to ICPC.
- Some drift due to delay in assessments being completed or planned work not being actioned.
- Some problems in ensuring external organisations were invited in a timely way, which led to a few conferences not being quorate and unable to go ahead.
- Social workers not always visiting children at the frequency set out in the child protection plan.

There were 604 ICPCs, and 1285 RCPCs held in the reporting year, and it is notable that alerts were therefore raised following a very small proportion of conferences. Alerts were sent following 35 conferences raising the concern that drift was occurring, and following 29 conferences raising concerns that the plan was not adequately safeguarding the child.

Regarding the issues identified with the process of notifying external organisations of the need to attend conferences, CPCs raised 10 alerts for conferences when the invitations had not been sent out, and management information reports were sent through for 13 other conferences when chairs had identified that invitations were not sent out to key professionals. Although this is a small number of the total conferences, and only 8 in the year were reported as unable to go ahead due to being non-quorate, consideration is currently being given to how arrangements for the sending out of invitations could be improved. Issues with the non-attendance of external organisations were identified on only four occasions in the year. This is a strong indicator that in the vast majority of cases external organisations were invited and attended.

Nottinghamshire County Council's procedure and practice guidance (PPG) on child protection was revised and agreed in November 2013. The new guidance includes tools to assist staff in securing children's participation as well as updated versions of the agenda template and the agency checklist for social workers, which is used to help identify which organisations to invite to conferences. At the request of Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, invitations to ICPCs to various health professionals are copied to the safeguarding teams in order for attendance to be monitored and this requirement is included in the new PPG.

QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ARRANGEMENTS AND PRACTICE

COMPLAINTS REGARDING CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES

In the reporting period 7 complaints were responded to by the service managers responsible for the CPC service, 2 of these related to the same family. On 2 occasions complaints made were regarding the decision to make a child subject to a child protection plan, and 2 complaints were made related to information sharing. Other complaints related to the management of the meetings by the chairs. A specific outcome from the complaints received in this reported year was that business support staff and CPCs were reminded of the complaints procedure and a revised leaflet was supplied to CPCs to be given to parents should they enquire.

PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

My Protection Plan (MPP) was completed by two thirds of children over the age of 4. These are questionnaires which the social worker uses as a tool to gather the child's views at the time they are subject to a plan. This is a significant improvement from the previous year.

A sample of MPPs has been collated from the second and third quarter, and half of those who completed a questionnaire at the end of the child protection plan said that they thought the plan had made things better for them. The sample of plans looked at emphasised the importance of the child's relationship with their social worker, as 91% of the MPPs completed at the review of a plan said the child intended to use their social worker to express their views at the conference.

A range of comments were made by children on the MPP forms in the sample. These reflect the mixed views of children. Two such comments are as follows:

"...having a social worker made a difference...mum and dad got on better and it was nicer at home."

"We don't need protection, we're safe, happy and healthy".

In order to build a fuller picture this year a series of interviews have taken place with a sample of children, and their parents, whose plans have ended. The interviews were arranged and led by Children's Social Care Practice Support Service and was independent from the social workers involved with the children. Questions asked included;

- How well the child's social worker had explained the reasons for the Child Protection Conference?
- Did the social worker help the child to get their views across to the meeting? and

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- If they attended what their experience of the meeting was.

Children who took part in the interviews were also encouraged to send a 'message in a bottle' to the Service Director for Children's Social Care who in turn has replied to each message. The following are some examples of the messages sent

Dear Steve,
All of the social workers who has been seeing us are the kindest. I particularly like Julie.

I would like you to keep my Dad in jail. I want to stay here with my Mum and family forever as its much more safer here.

To Stu
I think my Social Worker is kind and funny some time.

my experience with my social worker Jane Bolton was warming made me feel comfortable made me feel like I know her for ages and would like to see her again :

A report outlining the findings from this work was presented to the NSCB Executive to support participation data within the PIR. The report noted an increase in the percentage of MPPs completed and an increase in the amount of comments made by children. This is a positive sign that children are engaging more with social workers in order to give their views. Directly relevant to the work of the CPCs is the positive conclusion that children's understanding of child protection processes is generally satisfactory. However children's participation in child protection processes was less clear. Out of the children interviewed, "some had attended, some had contributed and a small minority did not appear to have a clear (age appropriate) understanding".

NSCB leaflets for children and parents designed to explain what a child protection conference is, and what child protection is, have been revised and distributed this year.

QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ARRANGEMENTS AND PRACTICE

Data recorded by CPCs following each conference is that the views of the child were presented to 87.1% of RCPCs and to 76.5% of ICPCs in the reporting year. This is a positive picture, However the service is committed to reaching a position where voices of all children in the child protection process are heard and this remains therefore an area for further work. CPCs routinely consider whether an advocate should be considered for children to enable their views to be put across in the child protection process. As chairs, CPCs have a key role in championing the views of the child at child protection conferences.

Child Protection Conference Priorities for 2014-15

In order to develop the service further the following work is planned in the year ahead:

- Strengthening service user feedback from those attending meetings, children, parents and carers
 - Further work planned by practice support unit designed to gather the views of children and parents who have been subject to child protection plans
 - Feedback to be sought from attendees from conferences observed by Service Managers as part of ongoing QA process.
- Evaluation of the impact of the chairing of Supervision Order reviews by CPCs from 1st April. The aim of this was to provide more robust oversight of supervision orders.
- Evaluation of the impact of developing the CSE lead into a CSE coordinator role pilot, being 0.5 of a post.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the work currently undertaken by CPCs under their lead roles, in order to ensure knowledge base of CPCs is fully utilised in contributing to development of services to children in Nottinghamshire.
- Quality of outline plans to be further improved.

QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ARRANGEMENTS AND PRACTICE

SECTION 11 SELF-ASSESSMENT

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on key people and bodies to ensure that in discharging their functions they safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The NSCB is required to assess whether Board partners are effective in this regard and part of this process is the completion of a self-assessment by agencies known as the Section 11 Audit. The self-assessment tool used for the audit is based on the 'Markers of Good Practice' developed by the former NHS East Midlands Strategic Health Authority, now subsumed within NHS England. Health organisations still use the 'Markers of Good Practice' to assess their own safeguarding effectiveness and the continued alignment of the Section 11 self-assessment tool with the Markers of Good Practice minimises duplicated effort by health organisations whilst using a tried and tested safeguarding assessment tool. The audit requires agencies to assess their compliance with a series of standards, each standard includes details of the assurance required to satisfy that standard and the suggested method of measurement.

In September 2012 the NSCB agreed that the Section 11 Audit should be conducted as part of a two year cycle of self-assessment followed by monitoring of actions to address areas where organisations reported partial or non-compliance.

The audit identified a number of areas where further developmental work was required by some agencies: -

- Training - in particular the strengthening of systems used to monitor the provision of single and multi-agency safeguarding training to staff. Some agencies also reported that training materials required amendment to ensure issues around diversity were adequately incorporated
- Supervision – audit of supervision records and the monitoring of staff attendance at supervision sessions was identified as a gap by some agencies. Arrangements for providing child protection supervision was also a problem for some agencies - particularly those that had low levels of involvement in child protection cases
- Whole Family/Think Family – a number of agencies reported the need to increase understanding of the impact on children's welfare of any problems that mothers, fathers and other key carers are experiencing
- Knowledge of the procedures to follow in cases of forced marriage or honour-based violence was also identified as an area for development.

Organisations reporting partial compliance or non-compliance with any area of the self-assessment were requested to provide progress reports in October 2013 that detailed the work that had been completed and this was subsequently reported to the Board.

QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ARRANGEMENTS AND PRACTICE

The Multi Agency Audit Sub group agreed that the self-assessment tool for the 2014 Section 11 Audit should remain substantially the same as the tool used for the previous audit to allow comparison between the returns. Some minor revisions were required to take account of issues raised through the Learning and Improvement Framework and the self-assessment has now been distributed to partner agencies with completed returns required by the end of July 2014. Analysis of the returns will be presented to the NSCB Executive in early November 2014.

Review functions

Well established case review processes are in place within Nottinghamshire to ensure that agencies reflect on the quality of services provided and learn lessons to reduce the risk of harm to children in the future.

CHILD DEATH REVIEWS

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Whenever a child dies it is a personal tragedy for members of their family and friends. The CDOP reviews all child deaths in Nottinghamshire to identify what might be done to prevent similar deaths in the future. The panel includes Consultant Paediatricians, Specialist Nurses, Midwifery Services and the East Midlands Ambulance Service. Membership also includes representatives from Children, Families and Cultural Services of Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Police and Public Health. This year one of the NSCB lay members has joined the subgroup and this has brought an additional focus to the consideration of cases.

Arrangements are in place to ensure learning is shared between the Nottinghamshire CDOP and Nottingham City CDOP through regular cross authority events.

The panel has met seven times during the year and considered 44 cases (11 unexpected child deaths and 33 expected deaths). Extracts from the national data set submitted to the DfE can be found at **Appendix F** to this report. The number of child death reviews ongoing at the year-end has increased. This is due to a number of factors including the need to await the outcome of coronial proceedings, ongoing serious case reviews and the cancellation of a meeting during the year. This will be kept under review by the Chair with the NSCB Development Manager and the Child Death Administrator and additional subgroup meetings will be arranged as necessary. Of the 44 deaths reviewed, 10 were found to have modifiable factors and these resulted in action being taken by the subgroup as detailed below. There were 17 neonatal deaths reviewed by the panel, which is in line with previous years. It is noted that 18 of the deaths reviewed were attributable to known life limiting conditions – this figure is significantly higher than in the previous 3 years.

REVIEW FUNCTIONS

Child Death Review - Key Achievements

- A short film (available via the NSCB website) has been produced by young people to promote road safety in their peer group. The project that developed the film was funded by the NSCB following a number of fatal road accidents involving teenagers. Members of the CDOP and Nottinghamshire County Council's Road Safety Partnership helped facilitate young people's groups across the county to develop ideas for the film and students from West Notts College put those ideas into action and created a film which has now been launched. The aim of the project was to improve road safety awareness amongst older teenagers and reduce the number of road traffic fatalities. The sessions with young people's groups raised awareness of the issues amongst participants and the film is going to be distributed to schools with lesson plans and a further evaluation post distribution is planned.
- Messages have been promoted for:
 - the safe storage of medicines;
 - safe sleeping for babies and
 - bath-time safety for babies and young children.
- Rapid Response multi-agency training has been delivered to ensure that professionals know their responsibilities to work together immediately following the unexpected death of a child
- Child Protection Coordinators have been briefed in order to strengthen practice around initial and final case discussion meetings
- In the light of the increase in child deaths resulting from life limiting conditions, CDOP have ensured that the quality of palliative care and subsequent bereavement support provided have been reviewed when such cases are discussed. Feedback from the family is included within the review where this is available. There have been some notable examples of good practice, in particular around support for families where the end of life plan involves caring for the child at home. Amongst other things, this has involved consistency in the staff providing medical care going above and beyond to support families at such a distressing time. This reflects the improvements that partners have introduced over recent years to provide a service that enables families' wishes to be fulfilled.

The subgroup reviewed its terms of reference to ensure compliance with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013. The subgroup's links to the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework have been strengthened.

REVIEW FUNCTIONS

Child Death Review Priorities for 2014/15

- *The CDOP will work towards ensuring as wide dissemination as possible of the road safety film and evaluate the impact it has.*
- *Developing the role of the CDOP within the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework and, in particular, building appropriate links with the NSCB Training Coordinator to strengthen the dissemination of learning as it arises.*
- *Continuing the work to ensure clarity over information sharing processes at the early stages of each case so that all relevant information is shared in a proportionate way.*
- *Maintaining appropriate multi-agency attendance at the panel meetings.*
- *Strengthening communications with the registrar's service.*
- *Ensuring that the communication pathway to feedback to parents where appropriate after the completion of the CDOP process is clearly defined.*

SERIOUS INCIDENT REVIEWS

A range of reviews are commissioned by the NSCB to ensure that learning and areas for improvement are identified and, where appropriate actions to bring about change, are agreed.

The Serious Incident Review Group plays a key part in this function and its responsibilities have been set out earlier in this report. The subgroup includes representatives from Children, Families and Cultural Services of Nottinghamshire County Council, Police, Probation and the Health communities, including NHCT. Four cases were referred to the sub group during the year. A recommendation to conduct a serious case review was made with regard to two of the cases referred. The sub group proposed that a single agency Learning Review be conducted with regard to a further case and the remaining case resulted in a recommendation of no further action. The NSCB chair agreed with the recommendations from the sub group and in addition commissioned a further serious case review in response to additional information about a case emerging during the associated criminal trial and Family Court processes. When a review is commissioned a code is allocated (e.g. EN12) to preserve the anonymity of the families involved.

REVIEW FUNCTIONS

Serious Incident Reviews - Key achievements

- Two serious case reviews (EN12 and FN13) were completed during the year (2013/14) and the reports have been published through the NSCB web site [Serious case reviews - Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board - Nottinghamshire County Council](#). A further report related to the CN10 serious case review, which had been completed in September 2010, was published following the completion of criminal and coronial proceedings.
- A further two serious case reviews (GN13 and HN13) that were commenced during the year were completed in June 2014 and the reports will be published in due course once outstanding matters have been addressed.
- A single agency Learning Review was completed in October 2013 and the findings reported back to the sub group.
- The NSCB has maintained links with the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board during the course of a serious case review conducted by them into the death of a young adult to ensure relevant learning was shared.
- The Serious Incident Review Group has overseen the involvement of partner organisations in two reviews which are ongoing in neighbouring Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB).
- Responsibility for evaluating the impact of serious case reviews has transferred to the NSCB full Board – this has emphasised the importance of not only carrying out reviews effectively but ensuring that senior managers are held to account for delivering the changes required from reviews.
- The role of the Serious Incident Review Group as an integral part of the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework has been strengthened.
 - Active consideration of the appropriate methodology for reviews with a view to ensuring the most effective way of establishing the learning in each case is evident, for example traditional methodologies, Significant Incident Learning Process and learning reviews have all been used.
 - A flowchart has been developed to provide clarity on the process to be followed from consideration of referral of a case to the subgroup through to the conclusion of a review and subsequent impact evaluation.
 - The NSCB Chair's decision making has been facilitated and strengthened by the introduction of a new summary information form which provides an outline of the case, the subgroup's recommendation and the reasons for that recommendation.

REVIEW FUNCTIONS

- Progress with action plans arising from completed reviews has been monitored on a regular basis, to ensure appropriate scrutiny. The final two outstanding actions relating to DN11 were signed off as completed in October 2013. In addition, the individual agency and overview action plans relating to EN12 have been reviewed regularly throughout the year and 64 out of a total of 67 actions have been signed off.
- Tools linked to the learning from recent reviews, including the Bruising in Babies Pathway and Excellence in Safeguarding, have been disseminated to practitioners and the impact of these will be evaluated in due course.

Serious Incident Review Group Priorities for 2014/15

- *The Serious Incident Review Group will continue to develop its role within the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework and, in particular, building links with the NSCB Training Coordinator to strengthen the dissemination and impact of learning from reviews.*
- *The subgroup will also review the current serious case review toolkit to ensure compliance with Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 and to enable agencies to engage effectively in review processes.*

LEARNING FROM CASE REVIEWS COMPLETED DURING 2013-14

Summary of the learning identified from serious case reviews:-

Serious Case Review (EN12)

This review looked into the circumstances surrounding serious non accidental injuries being suffered by a premature baby shortly after discharge from hospital and the following learning was identified

- The significance of bruising to non-mobile babies.
- The potential challenges of caring for a premature baby and the importance of appropriate planning prior to discharge from hospital.
- The importance of seeing parents alone and raising the issue of domestic abuse throughout pregnancy.
- The importance of timely and accurate recording of information and accessing and giving proper weight to promptly recovered historical records.
- The importance of good quality supervision and ensuring that agency staff are skilled to deal with the tasks required by the role appointed to.

REVIEW FUNCTIONS

Serious Case Review (FN13)

This review related to historical serious sexual abuse that took place between 1997 and 2006 and the following learning was identified

- The voice of the child was not clearly heard and understood throughout the period by all agencies. In particular, the way in which the children's statements, allegations and retractions were viewed and the consequent impact on decision making – it was found that more weight was attached by professionals to a retraction than to an allegation and this influenced the decisions that were made.
- The failure to access and use a coherent and consistent theoretical model or framework to facilitate understanding and managing risk in sexual abuse.
- The lack of professional curiosity and willingness to intervene and take action. The review found that no-one was advocating for or championing the children and driving the case.

Learning Review

This learning review was commissioned following a baby receiving life threatening injuries – the baby's family had involvement with a range of health services and a reflective learning review was led by Val Simnett, the Designated Nurse for Nottinghamshire CCGs with support from Hannah Hogg, NSCB Development Manager. The following challenges and issues were identified:

- Practitioners acknowledged the difficulty sharing information between health recording systems which were not compatible. Staff had to try hard to find out whom to communicate with.
- Mental health workers have trouble identifying which workers were involved with families.
- Monthly midwifery/health visitor liaison meetings would be unpredictable depending on staffing situations and competing priorities
- Midwifery hand held notes did not identify the lead Obstetrician.
- Staff sickness and vacancies impacted on the level of service offered and professional priorities.
- Health visitors relied on midwifery communication of vulnerable women to enable them to prioritise ante-natal visits. Current electronic midwife health visitor communication systems were cumbersome and do not identify risk factors
- Health visitors providing services in some child health clinics had no access to records to alert them to vulnerable children or children at risk.
- Professionals acknowledged that the traditional format of child health clinics might not be conducive to access by mothers with mental health problems.

REVIEW FUNCTIONS

- Professionals accepted parental reports on changes in mental health care plans. These should have been confirmed by communication with the workers involved.

DISSEMINATION AND IMPACT EVALUATION

The Serious Case Review Reports for the above cases have been published and are available via the NSCB webpage [Serious case reviews - Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board - Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Learning from the reviews has been disseminated through:

- The 'What's New in Safeguarding' seminars.
- A Learning from Case Reviews seminar held jointly with Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board (including findings from regional reviews).
- The NSCB Newsletter.
- A serious case review briefing paper circulated to Board members which provided a summary of the issues identified from completed reviews and the emerging themes from those underway.
- A specific briefing paper regarding the Learning Review was developed for health practitioners and circulated by the Designated Nurse for Nottinghamshire CCGs.
- Briefings to specific staff groups.
- New 'Learning and Improvement' Bulletins.

The NSCB Training Coordinator has participated in the reviews at key stages to ensure that learning was incorporated within the NSCB Training Programme. Specific training events had been commissioned to address issues identified through reviews including neglect and sexual abuse.

Learning from recent reviews has been incorporated into the new NSCB Interagency Safeguarding Children Procedures and the new and revised content is detailed earlier within this report. The effectiveness of the new procedures will be evaluated through practitioner workshops and dip sampling.

REVIEW FUNCTIONS

The NSCB full Board now takes responsibility for evaluating the impact that implementing review recommendations has had and this is a reflection of the importance placed on improving practice under the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework.

In March 2014 the Board conducted an impact evaluation exercise for the EN12 serious case review. Each agency involved in the review was invited to provide feedback on the impact of the actions taken within their own organisation.

It was apparent that impact evaluation is an area still being developed by each agency and the Board as a whole. However, although some actions remain pending, it was noted that key areas had been addressed, including:

- Extensive training around referral pathways in district councils;
- Improved auditing of supervision in children's social care to ensure quality of focus and reflection is maintained;
- A focus within Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust on pathways for and barriers to learning with a significant positive impact and sustained improvement;
- A random check of GP practices which established that processes to flag cases are embedded and staff were aware of the relevant guidance – this has created greater awareness of children at risk;
- Discharge planning for babies has improved, with improved attendance by medical staff at discharge planning meetings, ensuring that any safeguarding issues are addressed.

It was acknowledged that it can be difficult to identify direct links between actions taken as a result of reviews and outcomes and that positive impact is often attributable to a combination of factors. However, the Board will continue to seek to establish the impact of reviews on the outcomes for children.

The Board has sought and received reassurance regarding the effectiveness of advocacy and short breaks arrangements for looked after children as a follow up to the DN11 serious case review where concerns about the provision of those services during that period had been identified.

MULTI-AGENCY AUDIT

Multi-agency audit

The profile and extent of multi-agency audit activity has greatly increased during the year. A new Multi-Agency Audit Sub group was established reporting directly to the Board with senior leadership and representation from partner agencies.

Key Achievements

- *An audit strategy, framework and process have been developed which sets out the purpose of multi-agency audit, the contribution it makes to the learning and improvement framework and key elements of multi-agency audit processes including the involvement of practitioners and the value of gathering the views of children and families.*
- *Audit findings are presented directly to the Board and used to challenge safeguarding practice.*
- *Two key multi-agency audits have been undertaken and reports presented to the Board outlining the findings.*

A multi-agency audit programme for 2014/15 has been agreed. The audit priorities have been guided by learning from serious case reviews, performance indicators, drilling down into known areas of concern identified through previous audits, feedback from learning and development forums/policy implementation and the need to establish a baseline assessment of performance

VOICE OF THE CHILD AUDIT

This audit was conducted to examine how agencies listened and responded to the views of children and young people. The subject of the audit was prompted by a report published by Ofsted which analysed 67 serious case reviews and highlighted the importance of listening to the voice of the child. The report concluded that in too many cases:

- The child was not seen frequently enough by the professionals involved, or was not asked about their views and feelings.
- Agencies did not listen to adults who tried to speak on behalf of the child and who had important information to contribute.
- Parents and carers prevented professionals from seeing and listening to the child.
- Practitioners focused too much on the needs of the parents, especially on vulnerable parents, and overlooked the implications for the child.

MULTI-AGENCY AUDIT

- Agencies did not interpret their findings well enough to protect the child.

The NSCB Voice of the Child Audit provided an opportunity for agencies to benchmark their practice against the five themes identified above and contribute to a multi-agency assessment of how well the voice of the child is heard and responded to across Nottinghamshire.

The audit findings were reassuring in that the vast majority of cases were rated satisfactory to excellent. In a very small number of cases the audit identified unsatisfactory practice that was specific to that particular case and was not reflective of the overall findings of that agency – these issues were immediately addressed by the agency concerned. The absence of information, particularly regarding religion but also to a lesser extent ethnicity, was identified as an issue by a number of agencies and had been highlighted in a previous audit. In the context of hearing the voice of the child it was recognised that the lack of information prevented an opportunity to consider the identity of the child to ensure that practice is sensitive to racial, cultural, linguistic and religious identity. Those agencies where recording of religion/ethnicity was identified as an issue included within their own recommendations actions to address this shortfall.

Voice of the Child Audit - Action taken

- *Agencies have been asked to evidence within the 2014 Section 11 audit how they hear the voice of the child in their policies and practice.*
- *Agency specific 'practice pointers' were developed and disseminated within those organisations.*
- *The learning from the audit has been incorporated within the NSCB training programme and reference to the generic practice pointers was included within the 'What's New in Safeguarding' series of events.*
- *The NSCB reinforced the need to record information regarding religion and ethnicity as this supports the voice of the child being heard.*

INITIAL CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCE AUDIT

Child Protection Conferences are a central element of the arrangements for planning measures to keep children at risk of significant harm safe. This area of safeguarding practice was identified as a subject for audit due to the following:

MULTI-AGENCY AUDIT

- High numbers of ICPCs compared to statistical neighbours.
- Comparatively high numbers of child protection plans which are ended at the first Review Child Protection Conference (3 months).
- Case Reviews which have highlighted issues related to ICPCs (e.g. Learning Review).
- The NSCB Voice of the Child audit identified the need to have explicit expectations for the engagement of and communication with children and young people to ensure that their voice is heard and acknowledged in all decision making and at all stages of the case.
- Concerns discussed at the NSCB regarding the apparent low participation at ICPCs by some agencies and the subsequent work overseen by the Performance and Quality Sub Group 2012/13 to improve this.
- Nottinghamshire County Council, Children's Social Care case review in March 2013 identified cases where there were low thresholds for child protection planning, child protection plans which lacked focus and records of ICPCs not being completed and distributed in a timely way.

The audit identified a number of aspects of Child Protection Conferences in which practice was not as effective as it should be, some of which also featured in the earlier review findings that prompted the audit. In particular in only 43% of the audited conferences did the outline Child Protection Plan address identified need and risk, have clear actions and timescales and identify what needed to change. There were also deficiencies identified in the way that children and their families were engaged with the conference process. The following issues were specifically highlighted for the Board to respond to:

- How children and young people can be supported to participate in the ICPC process and to have their wishes and feelings represented in the meeting in a meaningful way.
- How relevant professionals can participate in and record the outcomes of Child Protection Strategy Discussions where section 47 inquiries are initiated.
- Improving the process for inviting professionals to attend conferences, and
- Consideration of a longitudinal audit of the same cases to ascertain the long term impact of the child protection process on the outcomes for children.

MULTI-AGENCY AUDIT

ICPC Audit - Action taken

Following on from the presentation of the audit findings to the Board the following action was taken:

- *New Practice Guidance was provided for Children's Social Care staff which included updated information on the process for sending invitations to agencies, particularly health colleagues and the importance of involvement of families and children/young people.*
- *The NSCB Chair had written to all partners regarding engagement with conferences and provision of reports and suggestions made in response for ways to improve practice were provided to Children's Social Care to take forward:*
- *The audit findings were disseminated via the NSCB newsletter and through training provision.*
- *A generic template for child protection conference reports had been developed and circulated to partner organisations.*
- *Children's Social Care Practice Support Team carried out a series of interviews with children who were subject to child protection plans to find out what their views were on the way professionals worked with them and their experience of the child protection process. A questionnaire survey was used to complement the interviews with children and young people and gathered the views of parents and carers. The findings were presented to the NSCB Executive providing a valuable insight into what helped children feel safe and the real life experiences of children and young people on child protection plans. Overall the results were very positive and encouraging. It is planned to repeat the interviews in the future and expand the process to include Looked After Children.*
- *Two new guides for social workers have been prepared to improve the quality of participation by children and young people in Initial Child Protection Conferences and Review Child Protection Conferences – the guides provide useful background information, details of the availability of advocacy arrangements as well as tools to assist direct work with children.*
- *Continuing work around the Child Protection Conference process and the co-ordination of Child Protection Plans is being progressed including the use of secure email for conference invitations and further training to improve the quality of child protection plans.*

A follow up audit is scheduled to take place as part of the 2014/15 NSCB audit programme which will allow progress to be measured.

MULTI-AGENCY AUDIT

MISSING CHILDREN AUDIT

Missing children are identified as a vulnerable group and a priority area of work for the NSCB. A missing children audit was therefore commissioned and completed during the year to identify the quality and effectiveness of multi-agency working and the impact of multi-agency interventions on the outcomes for young people.

The following key findings were identified by the audit:

- The audit confirmed that the missing children protocol was embedded, with evidence of good and adequate work leading to positive outcomes for young people.
- There was evidence of multi-agency work across the majority of the cases. There continued to be engagement with health to share information about missing episodes.
- The voice of the child needed to be consistently and clearly heard through return interviews and planning.
- The quality of the inter-agency work was evident on relevant agency files.
- There was a need to evidence a persistent and supportive approach to the young person and their carers.

Action taken

The Missing Children Steering Group prepared an action plan in response to the audit findings and the following update provides a summary of the current position: -

- *The Missing Children Protocol has been updated and now incorporates the new DfE statutory guidance.*
- *The Targeted Support Service is reviewing their operation and practice - progress will be reported to the NSCB in September 2014.*
- *A review of the arrangements for the completion of return interviews is currently ongoing.*
- *The learning from this audit will be disseminated and incorporated into the planned multi-agency training events for 2014/15.*
- *Health professionals have put in place measures to ensure that relevant information about missing children is available to other health colleagues.*

MULTI-AGENCY AUDIT

Multi Agency Audit Priorities for 2014/15

- *Coordinate and oversee the delivery of the Multi Agency Audit Programme*
- *Develop the use of observational visits to contribute to the audit process*
- *Further strengthen the contribution that audit work makes to the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework*

ENGAGEMENT WITH AND PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN / EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Engagement with and participation of children / equality & diversity

ENGAGEMENT WITH AND PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN

Over the past year there has been an increased effort to ensure that the children and young people are engaged with and participate in the work of the Board and in decisions that affect them.

Examples of where this has been successfully achieved are provided within this report and include:

- Multi-Agency Audit: the NSCB Multi Agency Audit Framework includes an expectation that the views of children and young people will be gathered to inform multi-agency audit work. Young people contributed to the ICPC and Missing Children audits.
- Interviews with children on child protection plans: following the ICPC audit children and young people subject of child protection plans were interviewed by Children's Social Care Practice Support Workers and the findings reported to the NSCB Executive.
- Road Safety Awareness Film Project. This was a project funded by the Board which supported young people to develop a film to communicate to their peers the risks of not paying attention when using the road. The NSCB Manager and members of the CDOP attended the launch of the film as part of a week-long celebration of the creative skills of young people in Nottinghamshire.

The NSCB Manager continues to liaise with the Nottinghamshire Young People's Board. Further work to develop a statement of the purpose of engaging with the Nottinghamshire Young People's Board, the arrangements for doing so and how the effectiveness of this engagement will be measured is included within the Business Plan 2014-16. The Children's Trust Board have agreed a revised Participation Strategy and are undertaking work to ensure that services are accessible to children and young people – this is included within the Children and Young Persons Plan.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The Section 11 Audit includes a requirement for all agencies to assess whether services are provided in a way that does not discriminate. Equality Impact Assessments are completed for locally prepared practice guidance e.g. revisions to sexual abuse and domestic violence guidance. A focus on the child's identity is incorporated within all NSCB training courses and the content of the *Responding to*

ENGAGEMENT WITH AND PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN / EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Unexpected Deaths course has been amended to reflect diversity issues. The Voice of the Child Audit identified that recording of ethnicity and to a greater extent religious belief was still an issue. Agencies have been requested to take action to address this and communications highlighted the importance of gathering this information in order to appropriately respond to the needs of the child.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

Priority groups of children

The following section describes the work that is being carried out within Nottinghamshire to protect the most vulnerable children identified within the NSCB Business Plan

CHILDREN AT RISK OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) remains a high profile area of safeguarding children work and is a subject has attracted widespread concern.

A multi-agency group was established under the auspices of the NSCB and Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board to take forward developmental work related to CSE. The group meets quarterly and is chaired by a Detective Inspector from Nottinghamshire Police Sexual Exploitation Investigation Unit. The chair reports to the NSCB Executive on progress with the local strategy and action plan. Within Children's Social Care there is a strategic lead whose role is to support developments in this area of work.

CSE Key Achievements

- *Raising professional awareness of CSE through a range of training courses.*
- *Better engagement with children, young people and their families through a specially commissioned play and the recruitment of a project worker.*
- *Organisational issues – plans to further strengthen resources.*
- *Improved data collation and analysis.*

Training and professional awareness

Training has been provided as part of the NSCB training programme (details are contained in **Appendix D**), to raise professional awareness in identifying and responding to child sexual exploitation. A basic E learning module is now available to provide the opportunity for all staff, including those who have contact with children in more peripheral roles e.g. park rangers or licensing officers, to access training on this issue. This is important as it is recognised that some workers who do not work directly with children may be in positions to identify concerning behaviour and share intelligence.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

A practice forum, led by the NSPCC has been established and provides an opportunity for professionals to come together to discuss cases and share best practice and learning.

Engagement with children, young people and their families

Thirteen schools and academies have benefitted from a specially commissioned play performed by an educational theatre company. The play and an accompanying workshop aim to increase children's awareness of risks of sexual exploitation. Feedback was positive and all of the remaining schools and academies in Nottinghamshire have been offered one free performance with the option to purchase more during 2014/15.

It is important that parents and carers are also aware of the risks of sexual exploitation to support them in trying to keep their children safe. To facilitate this, a free E learning course developed by the voluntary sector, has been shared with a range of professionals who work with parents or carers with the request that they promote it. This included foster carers both within the local authority and the independent sector. All secondary schools and academies have also been asked by the Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services to promote the E learning with the parents of their pupils.

A child sexual exploitation project worker from the voluntary sector is now available to work with a number of children who may be at risk of, or experiencing, sexual exploitation. This post is available for a year and will be evaluated by their organisation in conjunction with officers from Children, Families and Cultural Services.

Further work is planned to promote the engagement of children by, for example, their participation in child sexual exploitation multiagency meetings.

Organisational issues

Nottinghamshire County Council in partnership with the NSCB has actively considered how to drive forward this work through the creation of a child sexual exploitation coordinator half time post by re-aligning responsibilities. It is expected that this work will commence during 2014/15 allowing a specific focus on key areas such as the engagement of young people and further develop joint working with the police.

In addition to the developmental work being undertaken, there is a well-established operational response to cases. Multi-agency strategy meetings are held for cases where it is identified that children or young people are at risk of, or are experiencing, child sexual exploitation. These meetings are chaired by a Child Protection Coordinator and relevant agencies are involved in order to ensure appropriate sharing of information and planning.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

Feedback from the 2013/14 Governor Compliance Checklist for schools, which is specifically for secondary schools and academies, has been evaluated. They were asked the question

Does your school include Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) within PHSE curriculum?

Twenty-two out of 46 secondary schools/academies returned the checklist and of these 16 responded to the question. Seven of the 16 include child sexual exploitation within the curriculum across all year groups and 9 across some. One learning centre also provides input across all year groups and 4 special schools confirmed that they provide work as appropriate to the needs of the children.

Promoted through Nottinghamshire County Council, the NSPCC continues to offer work to all schools with Year 5 and 6 pupils on 'keeping happy and safe' which includes an e-safety and exploitation angle. The Nottinghamshire County Council anti-bullying coordinator also offers e-safety sessions to parents and schools and other settings, predominantly in the primary sector. The aim of this training for schools is to promote the embedding of e-safety within the curriculum, and the ethos of the school, by raising awareness, showing and recommending resources and talking about the safeguarding issues for staff and students. For parents the emphasis is on keeping up to date with new technology and how young people are using it and how to support young people so they can grow up safely in the digital world. There are currently approximately 20 sessions provided each term.

Data Analysis

During 2013/14 104 sexual exploitation strategy meetings have been held in relation to 47 individual children. This is an increase in the number of meetings from the previous year and demonstrates a higher level of identification and referral to services. The risk of child sexual exploitation also features within some reports when children have gone missing. The police continue to investigate a range of cases linked to child sexual exploitation in collaboration with children's social care and other agencies and there have been convictions arising from their work.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

CSE Priorities for 2014/15

- Deliver training and awareness raising of CSE to professionals.
- Continue efforts to engage with secondary schools and academies in promoting the inclusion of CSE within their curriculum.
- To promote the Pintsize theatre tour of LUVU2 within all secondary schools and academies within Nottinghamshire and to consider how this can continue in the longer term.
- Further develop data analysis work to inform practice and strategic developments.
- Work towards establishing the CSE coordinator role within the local authority.
- Continue to raise parental and carer awareness of CSE and to increase their participation in the process where concerns have been identified about their children.

MISSING CHILDREN

Strategic and development work is overseen by a multi-agency steering group which meets quarterly. In addition to an annual report to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board, quarterly reports were provided to the NSCB through the Performance and Quality sub group. This group has now been disestablished and future reporting will be through a quarterly monitoring report to the Executive.

National and Local Strategy and Partnerships

The Department for Education has revised the 'Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care' (January 2014). This incorporates the April 2013 Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidance that adopts new definitions of 'missing' and 'absent' which is the most significant change to the process. The guidance continues to emphasise that children who go missing or run away, including those looked after, are vulnerable, potentially at risk and need to be safeguarded. The links between child sexual exploitation and children who go missing remain.

As a result, the local NSCB inter-agency protocol; *Children Who Go Missing From, Home, Care or Education (2012)* has been revised. Nottinghamshire Police will adopt the ACPO specific guidance for police officers in October 2014. The Nottinghamshire strategy and action plan has also been revised to reflect the changes.

Current Service Provision

Once reported to the police, a missing report is taken; when a young person is found a 'safe and well' check is completed by the police and notification sent to the Children Missing Officer (CMO) within Children's Social Care. The Police are the lead agency in trying to locate the child. The CMO applies the local protocol, forwarding on requests for a *return interview* or *multi-agency meeting* to the relevant

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

team within Children's Social Care or Targeted Support Services. The CMO monitors compliance, which continues to be one of the strengths of the system. The return interview aims to be completed within 72 hours. It provides an opportunity to understand why the young person has gone missing, to plan support and prevent or reduce future occurrences.

Records are maintained of the number of missing episodes and the number of individuals that these relate to.

Towards the end of 2013/14, aspects of the work completed by the discrete Missing Service, which was a partnership between Targeted Support Services and the voluntary sector, was decommissioned and the work absorbed within the Targeted Support Services.

Nottinghamshire Police have recruited three missing person's coordinators to support the full implementation of the ACPO guidance in October 2014.

It is acknowledged by Nottinghamshire Police that the sharing of information in a timely way in respect of children classified as 'absent' will be potentially a challenge as there is currently no automated process for this. Information regarding children classified as 'missing' will continue to be shared in an automated way.

Data Analysis

- Excluding Other Local Authority (OLA) Looked After Children, the number of missing episodes remained stable (1280 to 1282) but the number of individuals substantially decreased from 720 to 644. This mainly relates to a decrease in the number of young people missing from home.
- Regarding Nottinghamshire Looked After Children, there was an increase of 30 individual young people and 106 missing from care episodes. This is believed to be in part to increased reporting but also to an increase in the number of older looked after children within the care population. This will be monitored through the coming year. The data relating to looked after children suggests that they are more likely to go missing from external providers (i.e. non NCC provision) or when placed out of the county.
- There was a 51:49 male:female ratio of young people who go missing compared to 50:50 the previous year. When comparing episodes, however, it is 44:56 which indicates that females go missing more frequently. The ethnicity of children going missing largely reflects the child population within Nottinghamshire. The peak age range of children going missing is 13-17 years with 70% aged 13-16 years and a slight decrease in children less than 13 years during this year.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

- During the year, approximately 650 return interviews were completed; this represented an increase from 52% to 57% of requests, which was within the context of an additional number of return interviews completed (179). An additional 14% of young people would not engage, declined the offer or advice was given. The remaining 29% of return interview requests were not returned and there is thus still room for improvement although within a context of continuing improvements. The timeliness of return interviews completed within 72 hours continued to increase (51%) with the majority done within five days (70%) and 88% within 10 working days.
- 112 multi-agency meetings were held (an increase of 21) which was 64% of those requested which again reflects an improvement in practice although there is still potential for further enhancement.
- The reasons young people give for going missing are varied but are mostly about the relationship with their parents or boundary issues; but also some relate to school based issues.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

Missing Children - Key achievements

- *Developing an audit to quality assure the work we do: The scheduled NSCB audit was completed and details of the findings can be found in an earlier section of this report.*
- *Improving our engagement with young people to aid strategy and practice and ensure their voice is heard: This was a key feature of the NSCB audit and there has been a strong focus on the return interview.*
- *Ensuring a more sophisticated analysis of the data, looking at 'hot spots' and an understanding of any risk or harm the child has experienced: There has been improved scrutiny of and response to the data, for example, where a child's missing episodes have escalated, there has been liaison with the relevant service or where a children's home had an increase in notifications there was specific contact. To formalise this process, a cross-authority / multi-agency approach has been implemented through the introduction of a multiple missing and hotspots meeting at the end of April 2014.*
- *Monitoring the use of disruption tools by the police: The police have issued 17 child abduction warning notices against people who may pose a risk to children. This was in respect of eight children which is an increase from five the previous year. This can be an effective means of disrupting the relationship between the child and the adult harbouring them.*
- *Intelligence sharing between agencies. Intelligence has been shared on a case by case basis but it is recognised that this could be strengthened.*
- *Development work with the Looked After Children's Teams to improve the response to Looked After Children (LAC). A specific briefing was held with LAC social workers and team managers and there is ongoing communication with the Children Missing Officer and these teams. There is also connectivity with the Placements Service and other agencies around LAC both in and out of the County. A LAC team manager also sits on the missing children steering group.*

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

Missing Children Priorities for 2014/15

The work relating to missing children is robust but with areas for development operationally and strategically. The priorities for the coming year are:

- *Implement the revised NSCB missing children protocol and ensure a process for the timely notification of absence notifications is in place.*
- *Review arrangements for the completion of independent return interviews.*
- *Updating electronic reporting processes to reflect the revised protocol.*
- *Plan and deliver appropriate training events including a LAC specific event.*
- *Develop an ongoing audit process.*
- *Embed the missing coordinator role within the police and develop a process to strengthen intelligence sharing between agencies.*
- *Improve our engagement with young people and ensure their voice is heard through return interviews, planning and outcomes.*
- *Further develop the inter-agency multiple missing and hot spots meeting.*
- *Development of recording within health regarding young people who go missing.*

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

CHILDREN AT RISK THROUGH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR ABUSE

Children who live in a home where there is domestic violence are known to be at an increased risk of suffering harm. This connection has been understood for some time and recent case reviews carried out within Nottinghamshire have reinforced this. The proportion of children subject of child protection plans who live in households where domestic violence or abuse remains high (approximately 60% of the total number of children (**Appendix E**)).

Since April 2013 the definition of domestic violence has included 16 and 17 year old victims and there is increasing concern both locally and nationally about abuse in teenage relationships and teenagers abusing adult carers

Data analysis

Reports to Nottinghamshire Police about domestic violence have increased in the year 2013-14 by 1.6%. This is considered to be a positive outcome, the result of growing confidence in the Police response and the effectiveness of support services. However a steep rise of over 9% in domestic abuse crime is of concern. This follows a national trend so cannot be fully understood in the local context. The steepest rise has been in South Nottinghamshire which has historically had relatively low levels of domestic abuse. Only 13% of all victims report repeat crimes. This suggests that the increase may be about more people coming forward rather than failure to resolve existing cases. There continues to be a problem getting sufficient evidence to charge domestic abuse perpetrators but the figures on charging and prosecution show that when detection has been possible there are better outcomes in the criminal justice system.

Police Crime Data	Year to March 2013	Year to March 2014	%age change
Domestic Abuse Incidents	9854	10013	1.6% increase
Domestic Abuse Crimes	3897	4270	9.6% increase
Domestic Abuse Repeat Victims	13% of all victims	13% of all victims	No Change
Domestic Abuse Crimes detected	56.5%	49.7%	Negative Change
Sanctioned detections resulting in charge	46.7%	53.5%	Positive change
Successful Domestic Abuse Prosecutions	71.7%	73%	Positive change

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB) provides strategic leadership for the effective delivery of services to tackle domestic violence through its Domestic Violence Executive Group. Members of the NSCB sit on the Domestic Violence Executive and support connectivity between the two Boards.

A new joint SNB/NSCB initiative has been the formation of the Nottinghamshire Children and Young People Domestic Abuse Forum. The Forum brings together statutory and third sector partners working on all aspects of domestic abuse where children and young people are involved. It reports to the SNB, the Health and Wellbeing Board and NSCB. The initial work of the Forum has included the mapping out of services for children and young people and this has linked to the work of the NCC Targeted Support Service which is looking at pathways to support teenagers, training professionals about teenage violence and linking with other partners to improve outcomes for young victims and perpetrators.

Nottinghamshire Police has invested greatly in educating all police officers and frontline staff in relation to domestic abuse. The DASH risk assessment form that officers are required to complete has a section specifically to detail children who may be in need of safeguarding connected with the victim or perpetrators of domestic violence. The police reviewed their processes and from January 2nd 2014 greater officer professional judgement is allowed when completing the DASH. Each domestic abuse incident where children are connected is referred through to Children's Social Care via the Nottinghamshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Nottinghamshire Encompass

Starting with a pilot in September 2014 in Rushcliffe and Newark & Sherwood Districts, the Encompass Project, based in the MASH, will deliver alerts to schools and children's centres about children and young people present in households where high and medium risk domestic abuse takes place. This will bring schools and children's centres into the domestic abuse information sharing network already available to MASH partners. Schools will designate individuals to receive these alerts who will then use their judgement as to how to support the child, or refer them on to more specialist services. In January there will be a review of the pilot and any necessary revisions made to the model. Following this the Encompass Project will be extended across Nottinghamshire

Domestic Homicide Reviews

Since April 2011, community safety partnerships have been required to review cases of homicide where the victim is killed by a partner, former partner, or family member. The SNB oversees the effective completion of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR). Links between the NSCB and DHRs that involve children or young people are maintained through the NSCB Chair and Board members. The NSCB Chair has advised on the conduct of DHRs and preparation of DHR reports. In 2013/14 no reviews involving children were published.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

SAFEGUARDING LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) play an important part in safeguarding looked after children (children in the care of the local authority by virtue of a Court order or for a period longer than 24 hours). The IRO service is part of the Independent Chair Service (ICS) provided by Nottinghamshire County Council. The ICS is responsible for quality assuring social work practice in relation to children in public care or children subject to a child protection plan and to promote effective interagency working. The Independent Chairs have continued to contribute to the development and promotion of good practice by addressing concerns regarding care planning for children, identifying areas of development and highlighting good practice.

Independent Reviewing Officers were introduced to represent the interests of looked after children. The core purpose of the role is to ensure the care plan fully reflects the child's needs, that their wishes and feelings are sought and that the actions set out in the plan are consistent with Nottinghamshire County Council's legal responsibilities towards the child. The IRO also has a duty to monitor the Council's overall performance and challenge any poor practice in the care planning process. The IRO is responsible for making sure the child has access to an advocate and understands how they can support them during the review meeting.

If the IRO is unable to agree the plan for the child or young person then they can refer their concerns to CAFCASS, (Children and Family Court Advisory Service) who may consider taking legal action on behalf of the child or young person against the Local Authority.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

Looked After Children (LAC) - Key achievements

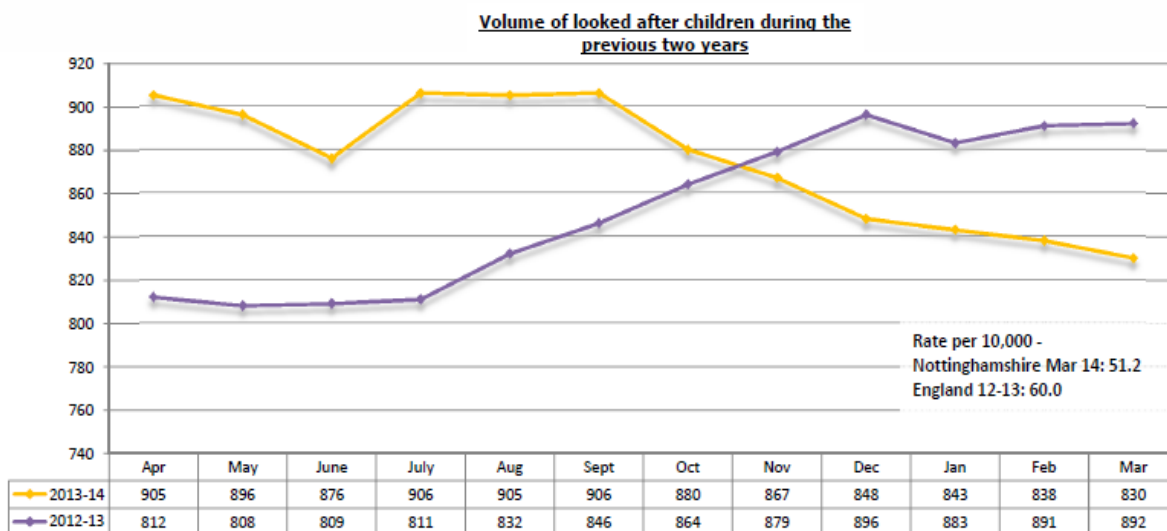
- During the year the IRO service developed arrangements for accessing independent legal advice through a spot purchase arrangement. This enables IROs to consult with an independent solicitor if there are any issues around the care plan.
- IROs have been identified to take on a lead role with specific topics (e.g. working with children who have disabilities) in order to develop specialist knowledge within the team
- Over the past year there have been continued efforts to increase the number of permanent staff within the service. There are currently 13.1 IRO, 10.5 permanent staff and 2.6 agency. Due to increased demands on LAC over recent years it was necessary to increase the number of IROs.
- Service Managers have observed the IROs in reviews and sought the views of agency representatives - generally positive feedback has been received about the chairing skills of the Nottinghamshire IROs.
- IROs are aware of the vulnerability of children on their caseload who live outside the local authority, those who go missing and those at risk of sexual exploitation. As a group they take extra care to ensure they are not further disadvantaged by services being delayed or by a lack of response to the concerns being highlighted. IROs track what is happening with the cases, making sure the social worker and agencies are adhering to required expectations of visits and meetings.
- Evidence of a more robust approach by IROs to challenging local authority practice.
- The introduction of a new alert system to raise concerns about partner agencies contributions to care plans.
- A signs and symbols leaflet has been developed for 0 to 18 year olds in consultation with young people, service providers, specialist schools, IROs with specialist knowledge of working with children who have disabilities. The leaflet has been designed to aid the communication of young people's views and wishes.

Data Analysis

Throughout 2013/14 there has been a focus in making sure permanency plans are in place for each looked after child and that adoption is being progressed as quickly as possible. A review for a looked after child forms part of a continuing planning process for that child and is held to make plans to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

On 31 March 2013, there were 892 children and young people looked after and the total number of LAC reviews between April-March 2014 was 2,722 and 95% of those, (2,579) were held within timescale. As can be seen from the chart below, there was a notable increase in LAC numbers from December 2012 to September 2013 however numbers have been relatively stable from Jan-March 2014.



- There has been a significant increase in the number of children and young people who have been made subject to special guardianship orders (SGOs) to former foster carers. This is seen as a positive outcome for children. During 2012-2013 8.4% of children left care due to an SGO being made whereas in 2013-2014 this increased to 15.9%.
- In most cases where a child who is the subject of a child protection plan becomes looked after they will no longer need to remain on a child protection plan. If they do it usually involves the case being presented to court and will be necessary to await the outcome before a decision on a single plan can be made. The IROs, in conjunction with the Child Protection Coordinators, have actively been addressing this to ensure children/young people are subject to one review process, at the end of March 2014, only 12 children were recorded as dual status, being looked after and subject to a child protection plan.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

As part of their quality assurance role the IROs will gather information about attendees with respect to their involvement and written contribution and will offer feedback on any particular practice issues to social care and other agencies. Where there are significant concerns relating to practice and drift, the IRO will initiate an alert and send it to the team manager or agency for their attention. During 2013-2014, a total of 192 alerts were raised. This is a significant increase over the previous two years and evidences that the IROs are being more robust in challenging the local authority where appropriate about concerns relating to practice, including any delay in progressing recommendations. The following themes were noted with regard to the alerts processed:

- Incomplete assessments causing delay in decisions about planning.
- Permanence options for young person not fully explored.
- Concerns around confidentiality of placement.
- Pathway plan not completed fully.
- Delay in requesting initial lac review when a child is placed with a family under regulation 24 .
- Delay in making application for court proceedings to be initiated to secure permanence for children.
- Increase in service being provided to child with disabilities.
- Delay in foster carers being assessed to possible adoption of fostered child.
- Lack of preparation for young person leaving care.
- Absence of appropriate paperwork; Personal Education Plan PEP, health assessment and essential information.
- Young person does not understand their care plan and why they are in LA care.

During 2013 the IRO service also introduced sending alerts to external agencies where there were concerns about their contribution to the needs of the child or young person's plan. Two alerts have been initiated and both related to education; concerns that School is not addressing matters in line with Educational Statement and a LAC placed in Nottingham had not yet been allocated a school. The dispute resolution process has been strengthened with greater service manager oversight with a robust system which is able to track and monitor responses in a timelier way. The majority of alerts issued have been resolved at Team Manager Level with a few being escalated to Service Manager Level.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

It is also important to note IROs also feedback positive practice to social workers and other agencies in respect of the work undertaken with looked after children.

Data has been collected by the IROs regarding a number of key tasks that are part of the processes to safeguard LAC and this further informs the quality assurance of this area of work. The following have been noted from this data collection:

- The LAC report prepared by the social worker is not consistently received prior to the review.
- IROs try to see the child/young person alone but sometimes they do not wish to meet with the IRO.
- If the child/young person attends the review then the IRO consults with them prior to the meeting starting.
- The “Listen to me” document is not consistently being used and this is being addressed by the IRO in the review.
- Efforts are made to hold the meeting at the venue of the child/young person’s choice but this is not always achievable.
- Children and young people are being consulted by IROs about whom they want to attend their review once they have established a good working relationship with them.

A detailed report will be provided with this information for social care teams and agencies to comment on good practice within the next 6 months.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

Participation and engagement of Looked After Children

The following examples illustrate the methods used to engage young people in the review process:

Child 1

A 17 year old person co-chaired their own review. This worked well as she has attended her reviews since she came into care when she was 12 and she has ongoing support from Children in Care Council which she is a member of. The IRO was impressed as the young person took control of their own care planning whilst discussing their current achievements and what they intend to do in the future once they left care.

Child 2

Involves a sibling group of three girls ranging from 12 to 7yrs, they choose not to attend the review meeting, but the IRO visits them in their foster home to see them alone and they also complete the Listen To Me document for the reviews

Child 3

12 year old person who is deaf and has complex emotional needs, the IRO visits him both at school and foster home to gain a better view of his current situation and needs. His foster carer and teacher provided sign language support. For future visits the IRO will be seeking an independent sign language worker to accompany them.

In order to share the wishes and feelings of children there are a number of good examples of how residential units, internal and private, provide detailed information about the child or young person being reviewed to their IRO. The information provided has been of great value and provides a story about the child or young person's progress and achievements in school and where they live.

When a longstanding IRO left the service in September 2013 she made great efforts to introduce the new IRO where she could and also wrote to the children and young people she had worked with for a long time to explain why she was leaving and provided a personal message about her involvement with them as their IRO.

Children with complex communication needs are generally provided with an IRO who has developed skills and has specialist knowledge in working with children with disabilities. It has been noted by the

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

two nominated IROs for these children that due to them strongly advocating on their behalf there is more evidence of participation occurring due to more creative ways being adopted in establishing their wishes and feelings.

Young People's achievements

IROs embrace the achievements of children through LAC reviews and here are some examples.

Child 1

As a consequence of early life experiences, two young people were lacking in confidence and self-esteem. Both have thrived in their foster placement, took up street dancing classes and have performed at numerous venues. One of them has a passion for computers and is studying with the view to a career in forensic technology.

Child 2

A young person attended a celebration event at County Hall in November 2013; they invited numerous adults who were involved in their life including their IRO. The young person was interviewed along with others by the local press and undertook a presentation. It was a proud occasion to see all the people involved with the young person offering her support at this event.

Child 3

A 13 year old recently took part in the National Roller Hockey competition and reached the semi-final where she received a bronze medal. The young person also played for the women's team where she reached the final and won the cup. Given these achievements the young person is due to go to the Youth Olympics in Las Vegas in July this year to compete in roller hockey.

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Safeguarding Looked After Children Priorities for 2014/2015

- Complete a questionnaire with children and young people to ascertain their views about the service they receive from the IROs. This will take place during June and the feedback will be collated by the Social Work Support Service.
- Liaise with the No Labels group to review the questionnaire used for 9 years upwards and with their assistance devise a questionnaire that can be used for children 5-9 years. Also to consider the possibility of producing child friendly minutes.
- Invite more young people to chair their meetings and explore with the NO Labels group of other creative ways of involving children and young people in their reviews.
- Strengthen and develop other ways of developing contact between the IRO and young person in between reviews.
- Implementation of the Signs and Symbols leaflet.
- Continue to meet CAFCASS to explore how we can work better together for the benefit of children and young people.
- Strengthen the involvement of IROs in particular groups focusing on looked after children, for example the Corporate Parenting committee.
- Undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the dispute resolution process and consider how IROs improve outcomes for looked after children.
- Service managers of the service to continue to observe IROs chairing reviews and invite feedback from carers, children, social workers and other agencies.

CHILDREN WITH PARENTS OR CARERS THAT HAVE MENTAL ILL HEALTH AND/OR DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

Nottinghamshire was one of nine areas which participated in an Ofsted thematic review of joint working between adult and children's services when parents or carers have mental health and/or drug and alcohol problems. This review was reported in March 2013 as "What about the children?" and made a number of recommendations to improve services. These centred on improving:

- Identification of children exposed to parental mental health and substance misuse and those who undertake carer roles.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

- Awareness by professionals working with parents of the impact that these issues have on children.
- Co-ordination and joint working between adult and children's services in relation to these families, throughout the process of assessment, planning and delivery of services.
- Quality assurance of this work.

A task and finish group of professionals was established to identify areas of work required locally to address these recommendations. The action plan drawn up by the group was presented to the NSCB and it was highlighted that a greater multi-agency focus was required and this led to a revised plan of work which is currently ongoing.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

PRIVATELY FOSTERED CHILDREN

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made privately for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. Close relative in this context means grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt or step-parent (by marriage).

Parents and private foster carers are legally obliged to inform children's social care at least 6 weeks before the child goes to live with a private foster carer or within 48 hours, if the arrangement is made in an emergency.

It is the duty of Nottinghamshire County Council to satisfy itself that the welfare of children who are, or will be, privately fostered within Nottinghamshire is being, or will be, satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted. The local authority must continue to satisfy itself that a private fostering arrangement is satisfactory by supervising, regulating and advising.

Children's Social Care responds to notifications of individual private fostering arrangements, where possible, before children and young people move in to live with their private fostering carer, by undertaking an assessment of the suitability of the arrangement and thereafter conducting regular visits

Ofsted have recently re-published an updated version of their report 'Private Fostering; better information, better understanding'. The report sets out key findings from further inspections of local authority private fostering arrangements and makes a number of recommendations particularly in relation to:

- Data collection.
- Improving arrangements for the self-evaluation of private fostering services.
- Better targeting of awareness raising work.

The report suggests that local authorities, local safeguarding children boards and the Department for Education should work together towards implementing the recommendations in the report.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

Private Fostering - Key achievements

- *A Service Manager in children's social care has been appointed as the operational lead for private fostering.*
- *A Practice Consultant from the Social Work Practice Support Service is currently undertaking briefings for staff in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub so that they are able to identify cases where a notification for private fostering should be made and staff are aware how to process cases as a notification of private fostering.*
- *Nottinghamshire County Council Customer Services have been provided with guidance on how to deal with general enquiries from members of the public regarding private fostering, any case specific enquiries are referred through to the MASH.*
- *A briefing was provided to the Children's Social Work Services Management Meeting emphasising the importance of identifying private fostering arrangements and complying with regulations concerning suitability assessments and visits.*
- *Two seminars were facilitated by the Designated Principal Child & Family Social Worker for health and education colleagues to improve their awareness of private fostering arrangements. Positive feedback was received from those that attended indicating that they had found them very informative and intended to cascade the information learnt to colleagues in their agencies.*
- *New 'episodes' have been developed for use in Framework-i (children's social care database) which support the assessment of suitability of placements and recording of visits.*
- *1:1 support from e-support workers has been introduced to support social workers using the new episodes and improve data quality.*
- *Public awareness of the notification requirements for private fostering arrangements through websites, leaflets and informing agencies.*

Data Analysis

Each local authority is required to submit data regarding private fostering arrangements in their area. This year's provisional return is attached at **Appendix I** and is currently being validated and may be subject to slight adjustment.

The data return includes information on the number of notifications of private fostering arrangements, the timeliness of the initial response to those notifications and subsequent compliance with visiting frequency requirements. The previous year's return has been included for comparison.

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

Although the legislation requires parents and carers to notify the local authority of their intention to enter into a private fostering arrangement it is more common for arrangements to be identified by children's social care or partner agencies – the term 'notification' is therefore a little misleading and in this context is used to describe when children's social care first become aware of a private fostering arrangement.

The number of new notifications received during 2013/14 increased to 25 which is a positive indication that more arrangements are being identified. Compliance with requirements to conduct an initial visit within 7 days was good (84%). Performance regarding frequency of visits was high with 92% of visits for new notifications being carried out within the 6 weekly requirements and 91% of visits for longer standing arrangements carried out within the required frequency of 6 weekly for the first year and then every 12 weeks thereafter.

Demographic data was not available at the time of preparing this report but will be included within the annual return.

The provisional data indicates an increase in performance across all the measures compared with the previous year. This is thought to be due to greater awareness of the local authority's responsibilities under the regulations and improved data quality, following on from the work listed under the key achievements section earlier. It is anticipated that annual data for other local authority areas will be published later in the year and this will allow a comparison of performance although it is acknowledged that normal statistical neighbour comparisons are invalid for this type of work because of the specific factors that can lead to a distortion of the figures (e.g. the existence of language colleges in some areas).

PRIORITY GROUPS OF CHILDREN

Private Fostering Arrangements Priorities for 2014/15

- Subject to further guidance and dialogue between the DfE, local authorities and LSCBs improve data collection by gathering information on:
 - How notifications/referrals were first made.
 - Categorising the types of young person by reason for placement.
 - How long individuals were living in their family placements before referral.
 - The proportion of self-referring cases (this is seen as an indicator of effectiveness).
 - Schools clarifying the numbers of children not living with their parents as part of the admissions process and annual returns.
- As a result of improved data collection improve the self-evaluation of private fostering services through the local authority annual report.
- Continue to target awareness raising work with education and health agencies.
- Continue to improve the quality and timeliness of social care assessments. The Social Work Practice Support Service will continue to work with Children's Social Care staff in relation to the quality of assessments and use of the electronic system in relation to accurate recording.
- The Social Work Practice Support Service currently has a leaflet project and is reviewing and updating leaflets, which will include private fostering leaflets.

There is evidence of improved performance in relation to the services provided regarding private fostering arrangements. Work around awareness raising and improving recording does seem to have had a positive effect. The number of notifications remains low which is acknowledged as an issue nationally. The Ofsted report referred to earlier suggests ways to further improve services and the developmental areas outlined include recommendations drawn from that report and planned local initiatives.

NSCB EFFECTIVENESS, CONTRIBUTION AND CHALLENGE

NSCB effectiveness, contribution and challenge

Throughout the course of the year the NSCB has sought to examine how it carries out its responsibilities and explore new, more effective ways, of working. Development sessions, self-assessments and the commissioning of an independent review into the effectiveness of the NSCB have been used to ensure that the Board is in a better position than ever to understand its strengths and weaknesses and to respond to the increasing demands.

Renewed focus to the way the NSCB operates

During the year changes have been made to the way the NSCB functions. The establishment of a new Multi-Agency Audit Sub Group led by the Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services, has significantly raised the profile of this work and emphasised the importance of multi-agency audit to understanding how safeguarding practice can be improved. Similarly transferring the responsibility for evaluating the impact of serious case reviews to the NSCB full Board demonstrates that learning and improvement is a fundamental element of its work. The NSCB Executive has taken on responsibility for ensuring that the NSCB subgroups are effectively carrying out their functions and NSCB members who lead these groups have an increased role in identifying any issues that require action. The NSCB Executive also examines performance data relating to key safeguarding activities.

The findings of the independent review into the effectiveness of the Board were presented at a specially convened meeting. The review found positive aspects of a well-functioning Board with significant progress having been made since the development day in April 2013. In particular it noted the work of the new audit group and the improvement in the effectiveness of Board meetings. Specific new work-streams arising from the review have been included within the business plan for 2014-16

(Appendix C)

NSCB members have brought to the attention of the Board findings from their own inspectorate and self-evaluation processes, this has included quality assurance audits related to CAFCASS and NHS Bassetlaw and the Nottinghamshire Police mock safeguarding inspection.

Emphasis on learning and improvement

The NSCB has demonstrated a continuing commitment to commission and conduct reviews, including serious case reviews, in order to identify how individuals and organisations can better work together to safeguard children. All of the serious case review reports have been published on completion of the reviews and once any associated criminal proceedings and/or inquests have taken place. This

NSCB EFFECTIVENESS, CONTRIBUTION AND CHALLENGE

demonstrates willingness by the NSCB and its partner agencies to be transparent and to share any learning from the reviews in order to improve safeguarding.

Resources to support the work of the Board have been strengthened during the year after a significant period where two NSCB Officer posts were unfilled. In July 2013 Hannah Hogg was appointed to the NSCB Development Manager role and in January 2014 Trish Jordan took on the role of NSCB Training Coordinator. The new appointments have made it possible to move forward NSCB work particularly around the implementation of the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework with increased attention to be given to disseminating the learning from reviews, drawing in learning from audit and incorporating key messages within the NSCB training programme and commissioning outside providers to deliver specific training events.

Frontline visits

The programme of visits by NSCB members to frontline practice has continued and contributes to efforts to achieve greater connectivity between the Board and operational staff; the visits have facilitated two way communications and provide opportunities to identify any issues impacting on child protection work. Visits have been carried out by NSCB members this year to District Child Protection Teams, Clayfields Secure Children's Home, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Early Help Unit. Reports outlining the findings from those visits, including any recommendations, have been presented to the Board. The following is a sample of those reports: -

Clayfields Secure Children's Home

'The atmosphere within the unit felt positive – the young people appeared relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings and in their relationships with staff despite the high security arrangements'

'Educational provision as described above appears to be having a significant impact on the self-esteem and life skills of the young residents'

A review of the consultation processes for young people was suggested by the NSCB members who visited following on from their discussions with residents who made it clear that they did not have confidence in the Young People's Council as a means of resolving issues.

MASH

'Specifically of interest was how schools and education were working within the Hub and the way that head teachers were sharing the role of link person which showed excellent partnership working, the

NSCB EFFECTIVENESS, CONTRIBUTION AND CHALLENGE

valuable work of the health service contacts who provided a link through all the different aspects of health and the recent integration with probation’.

Options for housing to be represented within the MASH are being explored by the District Safeguarding Group following the visit.

Early Help Unit

‘Experienced staff team who work closely together to ensure that the right help and support is found for each child and their family’

NSCB members were reminded of the need for consent from families to share information so that support can be offered.

Children's Social Care – District Child Protection Team

I came away from the day without concerns about practice, case-loads or staff morale. But this is highly demanding work and all three issues are critical areas of risk. The connections between the Board and the front line and senior managers and the front line need to be nurtured so that individuals and the organisation can be resilient when under pressure.

Overall the visits identified many positive aspects of front-line service delivery in the county and a commitment by staff to providing the best service possible. Where potential improvements were identified, in many cases by the staff spoken with, action to take these forward was agreed by the Board.

New interagency safeguarding procedures

The development and implementation of new interagency safeguarding children procedures provided an opportunity to further link in with frontline practitioners with workshops taking place to explore in depth current safeguarding practice and the procedures and guidance required to support it.

NSCB EFFECTIVENESS, CONTRIBUTION AND CHALLENGE

NSCB Challenging Organisations' Service Provision and Safeguarding Practice

This report provides details of where the NSCB has challenged organisations regarding services provided and safeguarding practice in order to test the adequacy of arrangements. This has been in connection with the findings of reviews and audit work, specific monitoring of key activities through the performance information report and scrutiny of plans prepared by other strategic partnerships; as well as issues brought to the attention of the Board by external organisations and individuals. The NSCB uses the regular meetings of the Board and Executive, as well as direct contact with agencies and partnerships by the independent chair, to challenge and seek assurance regarding performance. Whilst it is not possible to provide the details of all cases where challenge has taken place the following summary provides some of the most notable examples:

- The effectiveness of child protection planning arrangements
- Accommodation of looked after teenagers and care leavers.
- The provision of health services for children in care.
- The prominence accorded to children and young people in preparation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- The operation of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) - including need to address backlogs in dealing with domestic violence notifications and the application of thresholds.
- The response to children who have been sexually abused and specifically the provision for medical examination.
- Adult mental health, drug and alcohol issues and the response by relevant agencies to the Ofsted thematic inspection 'What About the Children?'
- The effectiveness of early help provision and interface of these services with statutory child protection arrangements
- The incidence of re-referral of children to the MASH.

EFFECTIVENESS OF SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS – ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

Effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements – issues, challenges and priorities

Whilst it is clear that the risk of harm to children and young people cannot be eliminated entirely and there is no complacency regarding the need to continually improve services and their coordination, the NSCB is satisfied, through its quality assurance, review and audit functions, that the arrangements to safeguard children put in place by its partner agencies are overall appropriate and effective. The Board is further satisfied that robust arrangements are in place to identify areas which should be improved and that key issues have been prioritised in the plans of the Board, its partner agencies, and other strategic partnerships.

We have identified three strategic priorities to drive the work of the NSCB over the next two years to correspond with the scope of the Children & Young People Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The priorities and actions will be reviewed annually in addition to the review of progress carried out each quarter by the Executive.

- Through a comprehensive understanding of the needs of children and young people in Nottinghamshire, to ensure that the work of the NSCB is focused on the most vulnerable, their safety and empowerment.
- To provide effective scrutiny of safeguarding outcomes for children and young people; embed the NSCB learning and improvement framework and ensure that training, procedures and guidance support improvements in safeguarding children.
- Strengthening the role and engagement of partner agencies in the work of the NSCB and developing a culture of open and transparent self-analysis. Improving communications with key stakeholders, in particular children and young people. Ensuring frameworks to support safeguarding are in place and that the NSCB is effective at the delivery of its core purpose (in line with Working Together 2013).

EFFECTIVENESS OF SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS – ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

The business plan attached as **Appendix C** sets out further details including the desired objectives under each priority and how it is planned to achieve them. The following are some key highlights:

- Embedding the NSCB learning and improvement framework to ensure that priority areas of safeguarding are clearly understood, appropriate actions are developed to improve practice and evidence of the impact on improving outcomes for children and young people is gathered.
- Continue implementation of plans to improve responses to particular groups of vulnerable children, including those who go missing and those at risk of sexual exploitation.
- Training – specific work to improve the NSCB training strategy and bring it up to date, review/refine and fully implement the quality assurance process, introduce an evaluation of the impact of procedures and practice guidance.
- Communications and engagement – specific work to include the updating of the communication and engagement strategy and a specific focus on how the NSCB communicates with and responds to the views of children and young people.
- Review the role of the Safeguarding Children Information Management Team in light of the introduction of the MASH.

Children and young people are key stakeholders in services which they and their families receive, and also in the partnership frameworks within which these services operate. Ensuring that their voices are heard in both respects remains a priority for the NSCB.

The delivery of action plans to reduce the risk of child sexual exploitation and/or children going missing is a key objective for the NSCB, as is ensuring that the response to children who disclose sexual abuse is effective. Supporting the development of the right services and providing revised interagency guidance and training are important priorities for the Board.

EFFECTIVENESS OF SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS – ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

Key Challenges for agencies and partnerships during 2014/5 and beyond

- Ensure that the responses by all agencies and organisations to resource constraints take a long term view on the need to reduce child abuse and neglect and contribute to breaking the inter-generational cycle of adverse outcomes for children.
- Ensure that in the delivery and review of all strategic partnership plans and agency service developments, the needs of and impact on children and young people are fully considered.
- Reassure and maintain the confidence of the people of Nottinghamshire, including the staff of partner agencies, in the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements; particularly in the context of local and national attention on responses to child sexual exploitation and historic sexual abuse.
- Ensure that arrangements for the introduction of the absent classification for missing children do not increase vulnerability and risk.
- Embed current initiatives to improve the robustness of child protection planning.
- Ensure piloting of the Safeguarding Assessment and Analysis Framework does not adversely impact on services outside of the pilot area.
- Ensure that the current review of CAMHS leads to provision of effective and coherent services for all children with mental health difficulties – including capacity in services for those who need in-patient treatment.
- Completion of the work in response to the 'What About the Children' thematic report to ensure that all children exposed to parental mental health and substance misuse issues are identified and responded to appropriately.
- Ensure that the comprehensive multi-agency approach to preventing and responding to Child Sexual Exploitation in Nottinghamshire is embedded into ongoing service provision.

Appendices

NSCB Annual Report 2013/14

Appendices

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Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board Membership (As at 31/07/2014)

Chris Few	NSCB Independent Chair
Julie Gardner	NSCB Vice Chair & Chair of NSCB Executive Associate Director of Social Care, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
Nottinghamshire County Council Representatives	
Anthony May	Corporate Director, Children, Families & Cultural Services
Steve Edwards	Service Director, Children's Social Care, Children, Families & Cultural Services
John Slater	Chair of NSCB Serious Incident Review Group Service Director - Education Standards and Inclusion, Children, Families & Cultural Services,
Laurence Jones	Group Manager, Targeted Support & Youth Justice Service
Pam Rosseter	Group Manager, Safeguarding and Independent Review & Quality Assurance, Children, Families & Cultural Services
Paul McKay	Service Director Joint Commissioning, Quality and Business Change, Adult Social Care and Health
Justine Gibling	Group Manager, Early Years and Early Intervention, Children, Families & Cultural Services
Gary Eves	Senior Public Health and Commissioning Manager
Health Community Representatives	
Cathy Burke	Chair of NSCB Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Consultant Nurse, Safeguarding, NHS Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group
Val Simnett	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children, NHS Newark & Sherwood, Mansfield & Ashfield, Nottingham West, Nottingham North and East and Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Groups
Dr Fiona Straw	Designated Dr for Safeguarding (South), Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
Deborah Oughtibridge	Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality, Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Elaine Moss	Director of Quality and Governance, Newark and Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group
Rebecca Stone	Assistant Director of Quality and Patient Safety, Nottingham North and East Clinical Commissioning Group

Alfonzo Tramontano	Assistant Director of Nursing, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Area Team, NHS Commissioning Board,
Denise Nightingale	Head of Service Improvement, NHS Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group
Dr Stephen Fowlie	Medical Director, Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust
Wendy Hazard	Clinical Quality Manager, Nottinghamshire Div. HQ, East Midlands Ambulance Service
Bushra Ismaiel	Consultant Community Paediatrician, Designated Doctor for Safeguarding, Lead Clinician for Community Services, Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals Trust
Andrew Haynes	Interim Medical Director of Nursing & Quality, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Other Agency Representatives	
Mark Taylor	Assistant Chief Executive, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company Ltd.
Nigel Hill	Head of Nottinghamshire, National Probation Service
Helen Chamberlain	Superintendent, Head of Public Protection, Nottinghamshire Police
Clare Taylor	Service Manager, CAFCASS
Joh Bryant	Chair of NSCB Learning & Development Sub Group and District/Borough Council Safeguarding Group Head of Housing, Broxtowe Borough Council
Sue Fenton	Voluntary Sector Representative Nottinghamshire Association of Voluntary Organisations Manager, Home Start Nottingham
Lay Members	
Victoria Morley	
Peter Wright	
Advisors to the Board	
Steve Baumber	NSCB Business Manager
Hannah Hogg	NSCB Development Manager
Trish Jordan	NSCB Training Coordinator
Participant Observer	
Councillor Kate Foale	Lead Member for Children's Social Care

NSCB Financial Arrangements

Agency contributions 2013-14

Agency	Basic contribution
Nottinghamshire County Council Children, Families and Cultural Services Department (includes £7,000 from Schools Forum)	£141,310
Nottinghamshire Probation Service	1,958
Nottinghamshire Police	17,612
Children & Families Courts Advisory Services	550
NHS Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group	23,000
NHS Newark & Sherwood, Mansfield & Ashfield, Nottingham West, Nottingham North and East and Rushcliffe Clinical Commissioning Groups	64,404
Total	£248,834

In addition to the above, there was a cumulative figure in reserves from 2012-13 of £104,176.

Expenditure 2013-14

	Actual spend at end of year March 2014
NSCB Administration/Independent Chair/Developmental work	£69,119
Safeguarding Children Information Management Team	£94,780
NSCB Training – delivery and staff costs	£77,621
Serious Case Reviews	£38,723
Total	£280,243

Outside the above arrangements, NCC and NHS Nottinghamshire County together meet the costs of the NSCB Manager post.

£30,249 was drawn down from reserves to contribute to the cost of serious case reviews as part of a planned reduction of the reserve

NSCB BUSINESS PLAN 2014 – 2016

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

BUSINESS PLAN 2014 – 2016



Independent Chair: Chris Few

Effective from: 1st April 2014

Review date: Progress will be reviewed quarterly through the NSCB Executive Group

Strategic Priorities:

We have identified three strategic priorities to drive the work of the NSCB over the next two years to correspond with the Children & Young People Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The priorities and actions will be reviewed annually in addition to the review of progress carried out each quarter by the Executive.

- Through a comprehensive understanding of the needs of children and young people in Nottinghamshire, to ensure that the work of the NSCB is focussed on the most vulnerable, their safety and empowerment
- To provide effective scrutiny of safeguarding outcomes for children and young people; embed the NSCB learning and improvement framework and ensure that training, procedures and guidance support improvements in safeguarding children
- Strengthening the role and engagement of partner agencies in the work of the NSCB and developing a culture of open and transparent self-analysis. Improving communications with key stakeholders, in particular children and young people. Ensuring frameworks to support safeguarding are in place and that the NSCB is effective at the delivery of its core purpose (in line with Working Together 2013)

Strategic Priority One		Through a comprehensive understanding of the needs of children and young people in Nottinghamshire, to ensure that the work of the NSCB and its partner agencies is focussed on the most vulnerable, their safety and empowerment			
Ref. No.	What do we want to achieve	How will we achieve this	Lead NSCB Member	Supporting NSCB Officer	When are we going to do this
1.1	Develop a full understanding of the population of children and young people in Nottinghamshire	Analysis of the current and projected needs of children and young people across Nottinghamshire will be provided to the Board and steer its planning priorities	NSCB Chair	NSCB Manager	June 2014
		Accessing partner agencies' reports on their engagement with children and young people, in particular how they ensure the views of children and young people are heard and responded to	NSCB Chair	NSCB Manager	Ongoing
		Details of the current situation regarding safeguarding children in education will be presented to the Board outlining emerging issues, managing allegations and the impact of the Safeguarding in Education Forum	Group Manager Safeguarding & Independent Review	NSCB Manager	June 2014
		Undertake an assessment of the level of Fabricated and Induced Illness and identify any practice issues Delivery of subject specific training on FII	Designated Doctors Bassetlaw and Nottinghamshire County	NSCB Training Coordinator	September 2014
		Establish an understanding of the extent of Female Genital Mutilation within Nottinghamshire through the provision of reports from the acute hospital trusts	Acute hospital trust NSCB representatives	NSCB Manager	September 2014

Ref. No.	What do we want to achieve	How will we achieve this	Lead NSCB Member	Supporting NSCB Officer	When are we going to do this
1.2	Ensure safeguarding practice in relation to particularly vulnerable children is effective	Child Sexual Exploitation Implementation of the local CSE action plan to ensure that children at risk of CSE are protected from harm, joint working in response to reports of CSE is effective and appropriate support is provided to the children affected	Head of Public Protection and Group Manager Safeguarding & Independent Review	NSCB Manager	Quarterly reports to the Executive
		Missing Children Implementation of missing children action plans including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of key performance indicators for inclusion in the Performance Information Report • Review and revise the Missing Children Protocol • Disseminate the learning from the multi-agency missing children audit 	Head of Public Protection and Group Manager Safeguarding & Independent Review	NSCB Manager	September 2014
				NSCB Manager	September 2014
				NSCB Manager	May 2014
		Children subject to sexual abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of sexual abuse revised interagency practice guidance and related training • Evaluation of the impact of work related to learning identified through serious case reviews 	L & D Sub group Chair	NSCB Training Coordinator	July 2014
			NSCB Chair	NSCB Development Manager	September 2014
		Children exposed to domestic abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work of the domestic abuse forum to be reported to the NSCB • Revise the domestic abuse practice guidance • Evaluation of the impact of work related to learning identified through serious case reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews 	CSC Service Director	NSCB Manager	October 2014
			CSC Service Director	NSCB Manager	October 2014
			NSCB Chair	NSCB Development Manager	December 2014

Ref. No.	What do we want to achieve	How will we achieve this	Lead NSCB Member	Supporting NSCB Officer	When are we going to do this
1.2 (cont.)	Ensure safeguarding practice in relation to particularly vulnerable children is effective (cont.)	Children living with parents/carers who misuse drugs/alcohol or have mental health issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive reports from the task and finish group including details of the review of current working practices 	CSC Service Director	NSCB Manager	June 2014
		Looked After Children Outcomes for LAC should be monitored by the NSCB including the stability of educational provision and quality of health provision Arrangements for external placements should be scrutinized	CSC Service Director	NSCB Manager	December 2014
		Vulnerable Young Families Support the ongoing development of the Family Nurse Partnerships	NSCB Chair	NSCB Manager	March 2015
		Children who self - harm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen multi-agency arrangements to respond to children who self - harm Evaluate the impact of work related to the learning from the NSAB review (F13) 	Group Manager Safeguarding & Independent Review/Targeted Support & Youth Justice Services/ Senior Public Health & Commissioning Manager	NSCB Manager	September 2014
			NSCB Chair	NSCB Development Manager	December 2014

Strategic Priority Two		To provide effective scrutiny of safeguarding outcomes for children and young people; embed the NSCB learning and improvement framework and ensure that training, procedures and guidance support improvements in safeguarding children			
Ref. No.	What do we want to achieve	How will we achieve this	Lead NSCB Member	Supporting NSCB Officer	When are we going to do this
2.1	Local organisations are able to improve services by learning from experience and particularly through understanding the way organisations work together to safeguard and protect the welfare of children.	Embed the effective implementation of the Learning and Improvement Framework	NSCB Chair	NSCB Manager	June 2014
		Develop the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework to fully describe the arrangements in place and to ensure that priority areas of safeguarding are clearly understood	NSCB Chair	NSCB Manager	June 2014
		A risk register for the Board should be developed that identifies key emerging issues that impact on safeguarding children within Nottinghamshire	NSCB Chair	NSCB Manager	June 2014
		Review each aspect of the framework to evaluate its effectiveness, ensuring that appropriate actions are developed to improve practice and evidence of the impact on improving outcomes for children and young people is gathered	NSCB Chair	NSCB Manager/ NSCB Development Manager/ NSCB Training Coordinator	November 2014
		Strengthen the process for evaluating the impact of responding to the learning from case reviews and multi-agency case audits	NSCB Chair	NSCB Development Manager	September 2014

Ref. No.	What do we want to achieve	How will we achieve this	Lead NSCB Member	Supporting NSCB Officer	When are we going to do this
2.2	The connectivity between training priorities/activities and learning through the NSCB Learning and Improvement Framework is clear and effective quality assurance processes are in place for training provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and revise the NSCB Training Strategy to ensure it reflects the requirements of Working Together 2013, Ofsted and local commissioning needs incorporating the broader learning and improvement activities that will impact on the wider workforce 	L & D Sub group Chair	NSCB Training Coordinator	May 2014
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and develop the Quality Assurance Scheme in relation to single and multi-agency training 	L & D Sub group Chair	NSCB Training Coordinator	June 2014
2.3	A comprehensive understanding of safeguarding outcomes for children and young people	<p>Performance information which includes evidence of outcomes will be regularly presented to the Executive and areas for action identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive will ensure that the performance information reporting arrangements take into account the feedback from the NSCB review meeting (10/02/14) and in particular includes information from across the partnership 	Chair of NSCB Executive	NSCB Manager	At each Executive meeting

Strategic Priority Three		Strengthening the role and engagement of partner agencies in the work of the NSCB and developing a culture of open and transparent self-analysis. Improving communications with key stakeholders, in particular children and young people. Ensuring frameworks to support safeguarding are in place and that the NSCB is effective at the delivery of its core purpose (in line with Working Together 2013)			
Ref. No.	What do we want to achieve	How will we achieve this	Lead NSCB Member	Supporting NSCB Officer	When are we going to do this
3.1	Frameworks for effective interagency safeguarding practice are in place	Review the role and function of the Safeguarding Children Information Management Team and how these functions map to the MASH arrangements and child protection processes	CSC Service Director	NSCB Manager	December 2014
		Provide scrutiny around the effectiveness of information sharing protocols	CSC Service Director	NSCB Development Manager	December 2014
		Provide scrutiny around the effectiveness of assessment processes	CSC Service Director	NSCB Manager	December 2014
		Monitor the impact of the Pathway to Provision (thresholds document) and oversee revisions	Group Manager NCC Early Help	NSCB Training Coordinator	March 2015
3.2	The role of members and engagement of partner agencies in the work of the NSCB will be strengthened	Induction arrangements for new NSCB members are reviewed and revised. Ongoing support is provided to the lay members to facilitate their full engagement with NSCB functions	NCC Lead Member & CSC Service Director	NSCB Manager	June 2014 & ongoing
		Representation on the NSCB from health organisations will be reviewed	NSCB Chair	NSCB Manager	September 2014
		Links between the NSCB and the education sector will be strengthened	Service Director, Education Standards & Inclusion	NSCB Manager	March 2015
		A Job Description and appraisal system for individual members will be introduced	NCC Lead Member & CSC Service Director	NSCB Manager	December 2014
		Increase the number of issues from their own organisations brought by NSCB members to the Board for scrutiny and collective challenge	NCC Lead Member & CSC Service Director	NSCB Manager	September 2014 & ongoing

Ref. No.	What do we want to achieve	How will we achieve this	Lead NSCB Member	Supporting NSCB Officer	When are we going to do this
3.3	Communicate the need to safeguard children and provide information on how this can best be done. Strengthen the NSCB connectivity with frontline practitioners	<p>A new NSCB website should be developed that provides easy access to clear information that will: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> equip professionals to work effectively to safeguard children inform the public on safeguarding issues and the role of the NSCB <p>This work should build on the revisions to the NCC hosted webpage</p>	NSCB Chair/Lay Members	NSCB Manager	June 2014
		<p>Following the implementation of the new interagency procedures in May 2014 the following is carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analysis of the access and use of the procedures and practice guidance Review and revision of the procedures and practice guidance taking into account the results of the above analysis and feedback received from other sources 	Service Director Education Standards & Inclusion	NSCB Development Manager/NSCB Training Coordinator	September 2014
		NSCB Newsletter to be published on a 6 monthly basis with additional bulletins every two months on specific issues	Group Manager Safeguarding & Independent Review	NSCB Training Coordinator	November 2014
		A programme of frontline visits by NSCB members should be carried out in order to connect with key safeguarding practitioners and processes and strengthen two way communications	NCC Lead Member & CSC Service Director	NSCB Manager	June 2014 and ongoing
		Update the NSCB Engagement and communication strategy to include development and implementation of initiatives which secure greater awareness by front-line practitioners of what the NSCB does and what difference it makes	Designated Doctor (FS) & Lay Member (VM)	NSCB Development Manager	December 2014

Ref. No.	What do we want to achieve	How will we achieve this	Lead NSCB Member	Supporting NSCB Officer	When are we going to do this
3.4	Effective communication and engagement with children and young people	Development of a statement of the purpose of engaging with the Nottinghamshire Young People's Board, the arrangements for doing so and how the effectiveness of this engagement will be measured	NSCB Chair	NSCB Development Manager	July 2014
		Invitation to representatives of the Young People's Board to attend an NSCB meeting to inform this work	NSCB Chair	NSCB Development Manager	June 2014
3.5	Agencies and strategic partnerships have safeguarding children as a central element of their planning, business and commissioning activity	The NSCB Annual Report challenges agencies about their responsibilities and performance with regard to safeguarding children	NSCB Chair	NSCB Manager	September 2014
		NSCB members challenge the activities of their own organisations, relevant to safeguarding children, through internal governance arrangements	NCC Lead Member & CSC Service Director	NSCB Manager	March 2015

NSCB Training Information

2013-14 Training Programme - course and attendance information

Course	Frequency	Content	No. of participants.
Introduction to Safeguarding Children	2	Basic safeguarding awareness, personal and organisational responsibilities- commissioned for those agencies that are unable to provide their own single agency introductory training	43
Working Together to Safeguard Children	17	Safeguarding legislation, policies and procedures. Effective assessments and analysis of risks. Communication and information sharing	401
What's New in Safeguarding	3	Briefing on current local and national safeguarding issues and 'refresher' for practitioners who may have attended core training events	293
Child Sexual Exploitation: Full day	4	How to identify and respond to children and young people who experience sexual exploitation; for all staff who work directly with children and young people.	121
Child Sexual Exploitation: Half day	3	Basic awareness of issues which affect children and young people who may experience sexual exploitation for all staff.	162
Working with Complex Cases	2	Explore and understand the complexities of multi-agency practice and consider the challenge of engaging parents and facing resilience.	56
Improving practice when working with Neglect Seminar	1	Raise awareness of recent learning about neglect and understand challenge of early identification and intervention.	70
Safeguarding Vulnerable Young People	1	How to recognise vulnerability in young people and increase practitioners confidence in working with young people and families, including contributing to assessments of need and risk	47
Child Protection Medicals	2	Provide clarity and resolve issues around Child protection medical examinations, incorporating the legal perspective	93
Learning lessons from serious Case Reviews	1	Disseminate lessons from the most recent SCR's in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire	95
Responding to unexpected child deaths	1	Details of the different components of the rapid response to an unexpected child death and the role of professionals involved in the process.	42
E Learning Courses	Unlimited	Basic awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect.	1747 Licences allocated. 1331 Passes.

Attendance at NSCB Multi-Agency training by agency/organisation

	2012/13	2013/14
Army	1	2
CAFCASS	7	13
Children Centres	121	159
District & Borough Councils	51	25
Health Sector	210	279
Nottingham University Hospitals Trust	8	17
County GP Consortium	37	18
Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals Trust	4	4
East Midlands Ambulance Service	3	4
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust(mental health services)	30	35
Bassetlaw Health Partnership	7	19
County Health Partnership	83	138
Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust	22	43
Others	16	1
Nottinghamshire County Council	450	410
Children Families & Cultural Services(service area not specified)	227	2
Children's Social care	117	239
Youth Families & Culture	43	8
Targeted Support & Youth Justice	52	94
Young Peoples Service	3	9
Early Years & Early Intervention	25	38
Education, Standards & Inclusion	22	15
Adult Social Care & Health	18	1
Environment & Recourses	32	3
Policy Planning & Corporate Services	5	0
Legal	0	1
Nottinghamshire Fire & rescue Service	6	3
Police	46	38
Nottinghamshire Probation Service	32	31
Private	54	42
Schools & Colleges	216	214
Voluntary Sector & Charities	155	121
Other	0	5
Grand Total	1441	1342



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD




2013/14

Performance Information Report

NSCB Performance Information Report

This report to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) sets out key performance information for this quarter. The indicators reported have been selected by the Board and include specific areas of practice previously reported through the Safeguarding Improvement Programme reporting arrangements which the Board agreed should continue to be monitored within this framework.

Where targets have been set the Nottinghamshire County Council corporate RAG rating definitions have been used: -

	Off target by 10% or more
	Off target by less than 10%
	On or above target

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD (2013/14)

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Key Headlines

	Good performance	2012/13	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Trend (Q1-Q4)
Enquiries & Referrals							
No. of Enquiries/Contacts to the MASH	N/A	15,642	4445	4735	4408	4248	↓
No. of Referrals completed by Children's Social Care	N/A	7806	2469	2708	1921	1963	↓
Re-referral Rate (%)	Lower	18.6	24.3	24.9	29.1	28.9	↑
Assessments							
Initial Assessment within timescale – 10 working days (%)	Higher	79.3	64.1	72.7	85.0	88.4	↑
No. of Initial Assessments	N/A	6105	2579	2941	2100	1883	↓
Core Assessment within timescale 35 working days (%)	Higher	3392	80.7	86.3	85.6	87.3	↑
No. of Core Assessments	N/A	82.2	689	684	634	505	↓
Looked After Children							
No. of Looked After Children	N/A	875	894	905	868	830	↓
No. of Admissions into care	N/A	365	112	91	74	69	↓
No. of Discharges from care	N/A	290	98	71	92	82	↓
Child Protection							
No. becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan	N/A	1002	323	238	274	170	↓
No. discontinued of a CP Plan	N/A	881	287	346	344	243	↑
No. of Children on a CP Plan	N/A	786	830	723	657	587	↓
% Children becoming subject of a CP Plan for a second or subsequent time	Lower	17.4	12.1	15.1	19.0	23.5	↑
% Children with CP Plans lasting 2 years or more	Lower	4.7	1.4	5.7	4.7	0.4	↓
% Child Protection Review timescale	Higher	97.5	99.8	99.6	97.2	97.4	↓

1. Nottinghamshire Early Help

Table 1.1 – Total number of CAF compliant assessments completed

	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3 - 2013			Qtr. 4 - 2014		
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Number of Assessments Completed	76	220	231	143	145	87	119

N.B. Work is ongoing to strengthen the validation of this data

Table 1.2 – Number of CAF compliant assessments by district

	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3 - 2013			Qtr. 4 - 2014		
District	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Ashfield	14	38	42	22	29	12	19
Bassetlaw	10	40	37	19	19	11	14
Broxtowe	7	18	32	15	16	9	23
Gedling	16	34	24	23	19	12	13
Mansfield	9	27	34	13	24	13	19
Newark	6	28	35	28	16	16	24
Rushcliffe	14	31	23	11	16	10	6
Nottingham City	0	3	3	8	3	3	0
Other	0	1	1	4	3	1	1
TOTAL	76	220	231	143	145	87	119

Table 1.3 – CAF compliant assessments by number and percentage of age band - Quarter 4 - 2013-2014

	<i>Qtr. 2</i>				<i>Qtr. 3 - 2013</i>				<i>Qtr. 4 - 2014</i>					
Age	Sept	%	Oct	%	Nov	%	Dec	%	Jan	%	Feb	%	Mar	%
Unborn	2	3	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aged 0-4	18	24	30	14	24	10	14	10	18	12	11	13	18	15
Aged 5-11	37	49	43	20	61	26	29	20	34	23	20	23	31	26
Aged 12-16	17	22	136	62	134	58	82	57	80	55	50	57	56	47
Aged 17+	2	3	10	5	12	5	15	10	13	9	6	7	14	12
Total	76	100	220	100	231	100	143	100	145	100	87	100	119	100

Early Help Service Assessments Completed Age Breakdown

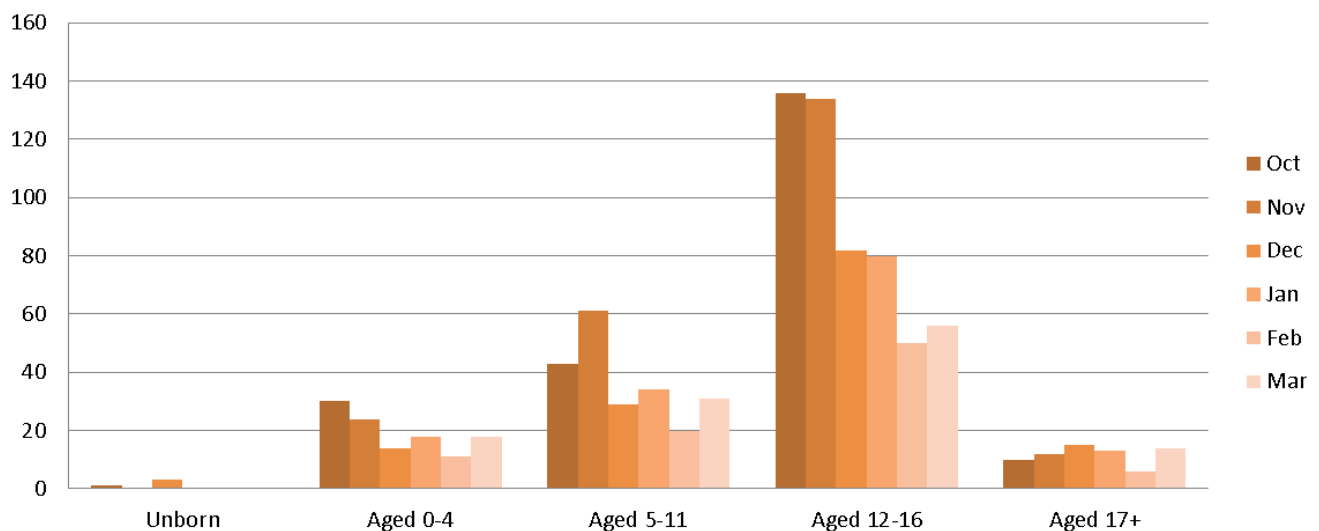
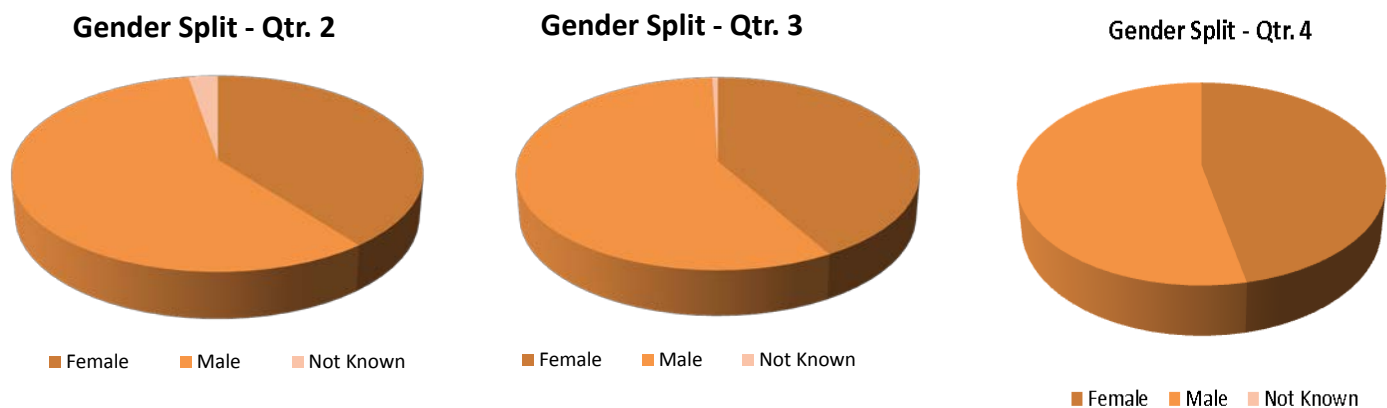


Table 1.4 – CAF compliant assessments by number and percentage of gender - Quarter 4 - 2013-2014

	<i>Qtr. 2</i>				<i>Qtr. 3 - 2013</i>				<i>Qtr. 4 - 2014</i>					
Gender	Sep	%	Oct	%	Nov	%	Dec	%	Jan	%	Feb	%	Mar	%
Female	30	39	91	41	95	41	62	43	58	40	43	49	63	53
Male	44	58	128	58	136	59	79	55	87	60	44	51	56	47
Not Known	2	3	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	76	100	220	100	231	100	143	100	145	100	87	100	119	100



Commentary – Nottinghamshire Early Help

Between October 2013 and February 2014, 2708 early help initiations were recorded as part of the early help dataset. During the same period 826 early help (CAF) assessments were completed and 1797 cases closed by services.

Over eighty-eight percent of early help initiations were requests for services from early help services (fifty per cent for Children's Centres and forty-two per cent for Targeted Support). The remaining eleven per cent of early help initiations were for the logging of early help assessments with the Early Help Unit (forty-seven per cent were logged by schools)

Between October 2013 and February 2014, the geographical distribution of completed assessments ranged from seventeen per cent in Ashfield and Mansfield to eleven per cent in Broxtowe and Rushcliffe.

The age distribution reflects the relatively high percentage of completed assessments by Targeted Support with over fifty-eight per cent of assessments completed with young people aged between 12 and 16 years of age between October 2013 and February 2014.

The breakdown by gender of completed assessments is fifty-seven per cent male and forty-two per cent female (the remainder being not known e.g. unborn) for the period October 2013 and February 2014

2. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

Table 2.1: Number of Enquiries into the MASH completed

	2013/14			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Ashfield	877	880	809	773
Mansfield	754	785	730	724
Bassetlaw	633	707	707	624
Newark	586	645	564	527
Broxtowe	511	476	509	529
Gedling	560	684	564	569
Rushcliffe	293	307	290	257
Out of County	57	96	83	77
Blank ¹	174	155	152	168
Nottinghamshire	4445	4735	4408	4248
Children with a Disability	26	56	50	60

¹ These enquiries are data quality issues and sent to the Framework team on a regular basis to be resolved.

Table 2.2 Outcome of Enquiries Completed

	2013/14			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Advice & Guidance only – No further action	291	379	586	336
MASH Enquiry Closed – No further action	1050	1197	1189	1338
Case closed after information sharing	317	225	419	252
Pass to other agency – No further action	126	36	23	7
Pass to Early Help – No further action	192	136	199	240
Pass to Assessment Teams	2469	2752	1924	1980
Total	4445	4725	4340	4153

Table 2.3: Repeat MASH Enquiries

	2013/14			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
No. of Children with more than 1 MASH Enquiry in the 3 month period	368	457	431	376
Percentage of children with more than 1 MASH enquiry in 3 month period	9.1	10.4	11.2	9.4



Table 2.4: Timeliness of the MASH Enquiry Process (Original Call Only)

	2013/14							
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
On time	820	52	977	60	594	45	523	40
Late	770	48	654	40	719	55	797	60
Total	1590	100	1631	100	1313	100	1320	100

Timescale = Red rated enquiries 4 hrs pre 14/7/13 and post this date 6 hrs, Amber rated enquiries 8.5 hrs , Green rated enquiries 25.5 hrs

3. Referrals & Assessments

Table 3.1: Referrals to Children's Social Care from the MASH

Table 3.1: Referrals to Children’s Social Care from the MASH		2012/13	Good	2012/13 Target	2013/14			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	No of child referrals completed*	7806	N/a	N/a	2469	5177	7098	9061
AP 04	Re-referrals within 12 months of previous referral as a % of child referrals started	18.6	Lower	26	24.3 	24.9 	29.1 	28.9 
NI 68	Referrals to children’s social care going on to initial assessment or strategy discussion (%)	91.9	Median	N/a	100**	100**	100**	100**

* The quarterly figures provided are accumulative across the year.

** The new definition of a child referral has changed to a completed MASH Decision with an outcome of "Undertake Initial Assessment" or "Strategy Discussion" therefore this indicator is always 100%.

Indicator Commentaries

AP04: Re-referrals into Children's Social Care:






The variable performance against this indicator has made it subject to management scrutiny for some time.

An independent audit of re-referrals was therefore commissioned in February 2014 and has identified issues with the categorisation of some repeat enquiries, suggesting that some in the sample audit (20 cases) were the first enquiry and not repeat enquiries, some matters were not repeat enquiries but had additional information received by MASH after the case has progressed, and some repeat enquiries showed that the previous contact/referral was well over one year ago. Of the 10 cases that did contain the same or similar re-referral information, only 4 may well not have been re-referrals if previous intervention had been more positive and proactive.

Overall the view of the audit was that the data concerning repeat MASH enquiries (re-referrals) is not wholly accurate, and that the true picture is of less concern. Further work is now being carried out to clarify the time and definition parameters for collection of data in relation to repeat MASH enquiries.

NI68: Referrals to Children's Social Care going on to initial assessment or strategy discussion:

Children's Social Care continues to focus efforts to apply the thresholds as set out in the Pathway to Provision guidance. Independent audit work has indicated that too much work is being progressed to Children's Social Care, resulting in no further action following initial assessment. With the changes made in the MASH in September 2013, qualified social worker triage should mean that a higher proportion of referrals appropriately go on to initial assessment. The introduction of an Early Help unit in September 2013 also supports effective sign-posting to early help services, rather than referral to children's social care services. From April 2014 management arrangements between the MASH and the Early Help Unit have been aligned to further support consistency of practice.

Table 3.2: Initial Assessments by Children's Social Care				2012/13	2013/14				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
	Initial Assessments completed within timescale			4844	1653	2137	1784	1665	7239
	Other initial assessments completed			1261	926	804	316	218	2264
	Total number of initial assessments			6105	2579	2941	2100	1883	9503
NI 59 AP01	Initial assessments completed within timescale (10 working days) (%)	Good	Target	2012/13	2013/14				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	For the year
		Higher	75.0	79.3	64.1 	72.7 	85.0 	88.4 	76.2 

Indicator Commentary






NI 59/AP01: Initial Assessments completed within timescale:

The completion of initial and core assessments has been retained within safeguarding practice whilst Nottinghamshire takes part in the DfE pilot of the Safeguarding Assessment and Analysis Framework (SAAF)

Performance in the timely completion of initial assessments has recovered well following the changes implemented to the MASH in September 2013 to address the volume of MASH enquiries being passed for initial assessment.

These changes were designed to bring children's social workers closer to initial call handling, so an appropriate and confident assessment of the information being presented can be made by a qualified social worker. Only those enquiries which meet the threshold for Children's Social Care should be progressed to Initial Assessment, following the social workers recommendation and with Team Manager oversight. In this way, the amount of work entering the system has been stemmed and allowed Children's Social Care to regain its focus on the most vulnerable children and families.

Table 3.3: Core Assessments by Children's Social Care

				2012/13	2013/14				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
	Completed within 35 working days of initial assessment			2787	556	590	543	441	2130
	Other core assessments completed (out of time)			605	133	94	91	64	382
	Total number of core assessments during year			3392	689	684	634	505	2512
NI 60 AP02	Core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement (%)	Good	Target	2012/13	2013/14				
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	For the year
		Higher	72.0	82.2	80.7 	86.3 	85.6 	87.3 	84.8 
















Indicator Commentary

NI 60/AP02: Core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement:

Performance in the timely completion of Core Assessments has remained strong throughout the year, with the number of core assessments being completed remaining at consistently manageable levels.

4. Section 47 Enquiries and Child Protection Conferences

Table 4.1: Section 47 (Children Act 1989) enquiries and child protection conferences

Table 4.1: Section 47 (Children Act 1989) enquiries and child protection conferences				2012/13	2013/14					
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	
	Number of children who were the subject of S.47 enquiries			2187	673	611	809	613	2729	
	Number of children who were the subject of Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs)			1008	395	273	320	215	1202	
	Number of ICPCs			585	201	127	161	123	604	
	Number of children whose ICPCs were held within 15 working days of the initiation of the S47 enquiries which led to the conference			873	371	245	300	203	1119	
	Percentage ICPCs held within 15 working days of the initiation of the S47 enquiries which led to the conference			86.6	93.9	89.7	93.8	94.4	93.1	
	Number of children who were the subject of Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs)			2463	623	652	599	567	2441	
	Number of Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs)			1345	343	371	296	289	1285	
	Number of dual status children (children on a child protection plan and looked after)			41	23	13	11	15	15	
	Number of dual status children who have been looked after for more than 3 months			8	1	2	2	1	1	
			Good	Target	2012/13	2013/14				
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
NI 65 AP06	Children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time (%)	Lower*	14	17.4	12.1 	15.1 	19.0 	23.5 	16.6 	
NI 64 AP05	Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more (%)	Lower*	5.7	4.7	1.4 	5.7 	4.7 	0.4 	3.4 	
NI 67 AP03	Child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales (%)	Higher	98	97.5	99.8 	99.6 	97.2 	97.4 	97.4 	

NB. End of year totals will sometimes be different to the cumulative total of the information shown for each quarter because annual data relates to individual children

Indicator Commentaries

Commentary: NI 64: Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more (%):

During the January to March 2014 quarter, child protection plans were ceased for 243 children. Of these, only 1 child had had a plan lasting for 2 years or more. This performance reflects the commitment to child protection plans being progressed in a timely manner and has resulted in performance well within the target figure - the year end figure being 3.3%.

Commentary: NI 65: Children becoming the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time:

During the 4th quarter, 170 children became subject to a child protection plan, of these 40 children had been subject to a plan on at least one previous occasion. This reflects a high proportion for the quarter and was a particular issue in March with 32.8% of plans being repeat plans - this was significantly higher than any other month during the year and resulted in the year end figure being 18.2% which is over the target figure set of 14%. An external audit had considered repeat plans earlier in the year and had found that the thresholds used were generally in line with expectations. The number of repeat plans in March was 19 - which in itself was not significantly higher than some previous months but the total number of new plans was only 58, hence the high proportion. Performance in this area needs to be considered together with the low number of 2 year plus plans. However, it is important to note that this indicator is reported without any time period applied between the ending of the previous plan and the beginning of the new plan. When considering the percentage of children becoming subject to a repeat plan within 2 years of the previous plan ceasing, the figure drops to 8.5% (87 children from the total number of children becoming subject of a plan of 1,018).

Commentary: NI 67: Child Protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales (%):

There were a total number of review conferences during the year of 1285 which reviewed the plans of 2441 children. The drop in performance was significantly impacted by one review conference in October being out of timescale - this conference considered the plans for 6 children, hence the impact on overall figures. The figures for statistical neighbours and England average for 2012-13 (latest figures available) were 95.9 and 96.2 respectively.

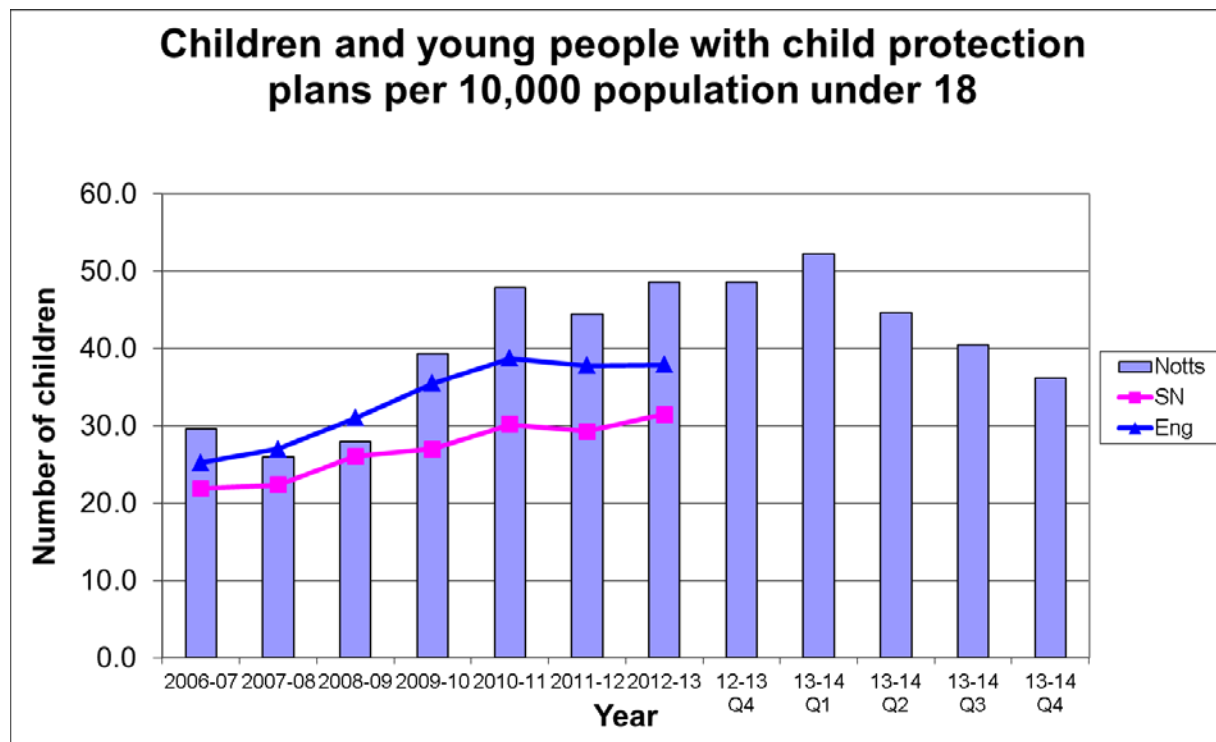
5. Children and Young People subject of a Child Protection Plan

Table 5.1: District and Locality Analysis

District	2012/13	2013/14			
	31/03/13	30/06/13	30/09/13	31/12/13	31/03/14
Ashfield	123	137	115	132	115
Mansfield	132	159	127	120	84
MAN/ASHFIELD	255	296	242	252	199
Bassetlaw	172	171	150	92	75
Newark	176	163	137	127	141
NEW/BASS	348	334	287	219	216
Broxtowe	39	60	48	57	71
Gedling	67	83	75	77	61
Rushcliffe	48	37	33	22	20
BGR	154	180	156	156	152
Others	31	37	18	30	20
TOTAL:	788	847	723	657	587

All figures are snapshot figures taken at the end of the month

Table 5.2: National Comparison Graph



Commentary: Children subject to a Child Protection Plan – rate per 10,000

At the end of March 2014, there were 587 children subject to a child protection plan in Nottinghamshire. This signified a continual decrease over the year - at the end of March 2013 there had been 788 children subject to a plan. This decrease in numbers reflects a continued focus on ensuring that children's plans are progressed in a timely way, a commitment that children will only be subject to a plan for the least amount of time commensurate with their need for protection and a renewed focus on thresholds. Nottinghamshire has had a high number of children subject to a plan over recent years, compared with statistical neighbours and England average rate per 10,000. As at the end of March 2013, the Nottinghamshire rate was 48.6 compared with 31.5 and 37.9 respectively. By the end of March 2014, Nottinghamshire's rate has dropped to 36.2 – therefore now more in line with both statistical neighbours and England averages compared to the latest figures available.

Table 5.3: Age, Gender and Ethnicity of Children Subject of a Child Protection Plan

Gender	31/03/13		30/06/13		30/09/13		31/12/13		31/03/14	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	389	49.4	416	49.1	359	49.7	322	49.5	295	50.3
Female	388	49.2	423	49.9	358	49.5	325	49.0	282	48.0
Unborn/Gender n/k	11	1.4	8	0.9	6	0.8	10	1.5	10	1.7
TOTAL:	788	100	847	100	723	100	657	100	587	100

All figures are snapshot figures taken at the end of the month

Age	31/03/13		30/06/13		30/09/13		31/12/13		31/03/14	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Unborn children	12	1.5	10	1.2	6	0.8	14	2.1	9	1.5
Aged under 1 year	70	8.9	88	10.4	63	8.7	62	9.4	75	12.8
Aged 1-4 years	241	30.6	231	27.3	207	28.6	209	31.8	174	29.6
Aged 5-9 years	238	30.2	276	32.6	239	33.1	198	30.1	176	30.0
Aged 10-15 years	204	25.9	217	25.6	188	26.0	149	22.7	133	22.7
16 and over	23	2.9	25	3.0	20	2.8	25	3.8	20	3.4
TOTAL:	788	100.0	847	100	723	100.0	657	100	587	100

All figures are snapshot figures taken at the end of the month

Ethnicity	31/03/13		30/06/13		30/09/13		31/12/13		31/03/14	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
White British	713	84.2	667	84.6	615	85.1	539	82.0	493	84.0
Polish or other Eastern Europe	11	1.3	10	1.3	12	1.7	13	2.0	8	1.4
Any other white background	7	0.8	3	0.4	13	1.8	16	2.4	12	2.0
Mixed background	57	6.7	54	6.9	53	7.3	53	8.1	45	7.7
Asian background	32	3.8	16	2.0	13	1.8	21	3.2	16	2.7
Black background	3	0.4	3	0.4	3	0.4	2	0.3	2	0.3
Any other ethnic group	5	0.6	7	0.9	3	0.4	8	1.2	5	0.9
Not known/unborn	19	2.2	28	3.6	11	1.5	5	0.8	6	1.0
Total:	847	100	788	100	723	100	657	100	587	100

All figures are snapshot figures taken at the end of the month

Table 5.4: Child Protection Category for Children Subject of a Child Protection Plan

Child Protection Category	31/03/13		30/06/13		30/09/13		31/12/13		31/03/14	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Emotional	95	11.2	100	12.7	105	14.5	136	20.7	136	23.2
Neglect	219	25.9	221	28.0	217	30.0	251	38.2	256	43.6
Physical	89	10.5	61	7.7	66	9.1	56	8.5	34	5.8
Sexual	44	5.2	42	5.3	43	5.9	31	4.7	28	4.8
Multiple:										
Emotional, Neglect	56	6.6	60	7.6	41	5.7	41	6.2	28	4.8
Emotional, Neglect, Physical	23	2.7	12	1.5	22	3.0	6	0.9	2	0.3
Emotional, Neglect, Physical, Sexual	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Emotional, Neglect, Sexual	1	0.1	6	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Emotional, Physical	261	30.8	214	27.2	185	25.6	118	18.0	73	12.4
Emotional, Physical, Sexual	0	0.0	12	1.5	1	0.1	2	0.3	0	0.0
Emotional, Sexual	11	1.3	6	0.8	10	1.4	6	0.9	7	1.2
Neglect, Physical	22	2.6	23	2.9	16	2.2	7	1.1	14	2.4
Neglect, Physical, Sexual	0	0.0	4	0.5	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Neglect, Sexual	17	2.0	24	3.0	10	1.4	3	0.5	9	1.5
Physical, Sexual	9	1.1	2	0.3	6	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0

Table 5.5: Child Protection Category for Children Subject of a Child Protection Plan by District

	Ash	Mans	Bass	New	Brox	Ged	Rush	Other
Child Protection Category								
Emotional	14	28	25	17	17	19	8	8
Neglect	63	31	24	79	23	22	4	10
Physical	14	6	3	4	4	1	1	1
Sexual	4	0	4	5	5	8	2	0
Multiple categories	20	19	19	36	22	11	5	1

Table 5.6 Children Subject of a Child Protection Plan with Domestic Violence

	2012/13	2013/14			
Children subject of a Child Protection Plan with Domestic Violence*	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of children subject of a CPP	793	847	723	657	587
Number of children subject of a CPP with Domestic Violence	470	485	415	384	338
% with Domestic Violence	59.3%	57.3%	57.4%	58.4%	57.6%

6. Participation by Children and Young Persons in Child Protection Conferences

Table 6.1: How the views of the child/young person were obtained ICPCs

	2013/14									
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Child under 4 at the time of the conference and views not obtained	122	30.9	91	33.5	119	36.8	76	35.2	408	33.9
Child attends and speaks for themselves	5	1.3	3	1.1	9	2.8	5	2.3	22	1.8
Child attends and an advocate speaks for them	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Child attends and conveys their views non-verbally	3	0.8	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	4	0.3
Child attends; does not speak for themselves/convey their views	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1
Child does not attend but asks an advocate to speak for them	39	9.9	12	4.4	11	3.4	13	6.0	75	6.2
Child does not attend but conveys their feelings to the conference	117	29.6	96	35.3	109	33.7	70	32.4	392	32.5
Child does not attend nor convey their views to the conference	88	22.3	67	24.6	73	22.6	48	22.2	276	22.9
Not obtained	20	5.1	3	1.1	1	0.3	4	1.9	28	2.3
Total	395	100	272	100	323	100	215	100	1205	100

Table 6.2: How the views of the child/young person were obtained RCPCs

	2013/14									
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Child under 4 at the time of the conference and views not obtained	156	25.0	195	29.9	150	25.0	183	32.0	684	28.0
Child attends and speaks for themselves	11	1.8	9	1.4	12	2.0	5	0.9	37	1.5
Child attends and an advocate speaks for them	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Child attends and conveys their views non-verbally	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	0	0.0	3	0.1
Child attends; does not speak for themselves/convey their views	1	0.2	2	0.3	0	0.0	1	0.2	4	0.2
Child does not attend but asks an advocate to speak for them	32	5.1	47	7.2	21	3.5	17	3.0	117	4.8
Child does not attend but conveys their feelings to the conference	237	38.0	285	43.7	307	51.3	269	47.1	1098	45.0
Child does not attend nor convey their views to the conference	91	14.6	48	7.4	87	14.5	90	15.8	316	12.9
Not obtained	93	14.9	65	10.0	21	3.5	6	1.1	185	7.6
Total	623	100	652	100	599	100	567	100	2441	100

Commentary – Child Participation Rates in ICPCs & RCPCs

In the last quarter of the year, there was a reduction in the number of occasions where children were recorded as neither attending the ICPC nor their views being conveyed - from 73 the previous quarter to 48. From the total number of 798 occasions where children over the age of 4 were subject to an ICPC, direct attendance was recorded 27 times with a further 467 records of children having their views shared either by an advocate or another means. However, there is a significant number where the child's views are recorded as not being shared. The picture is more positive for review child protection conferences. Again there is only a fairly small number of direct attendance recorded (45 from an overall total of 1,761 over 4 years of age) but a further 1,215 are recorded as having their views shared. The percentage of children where views are recorded as not being shared is half that in respect of initial conferences (17.9%:34.6%). During the year there has been improvement in recording to support more accurate data collation and specific work undertaken to improve the ways in which children views can be shared. There have been some examples of good practice in this respect and this will be built on over the next year.

7. Participation by Family & Friends in ICPCs & RCPCs

Table 7.1 Participation by family/carers and friends in ICPCs

Annual 13-14	No. of Conferences	No. Invited	No. Attended	No. Sent Report	No. Sent Apologies	No. Participated	% Attended	% Participated
Parent/ stepparent/ partner of parent	564	1082	863	2	142	863	79.8	79.8
Friends/supporter	85	107	105	0	0	105	98.1	98.1
Foster carer	3	3	3	0	0	3	100	100
Other Family Member	203	274	250	0	20	250	91.2	91.2
Other household member	13	14	14	0	0	14	100	100
Other involved professional	283	538	332	165	169	382	61.7	71
Overall total	574	2018	1567	167	331	1617	77.7	80.1

NB An invitee is classed as 'Participated' if they 'Attended' or 'Sent a report' or both

Table 7.2 Participation by family/carers and friends in RCPCs

Annual 13-14	No. of Conferences	No. Invited	No. Attended	No. Sent Report	No. Sent Apologies	No. Participated	% Attended	% Participated
Parent/ stepparent/ partner of parent	1042	1970	1458	3	346	1458	74	74
Friends/supporter	104	117	112	0	3	112	95.7	95.7
Foster carer	10	12	10	0	2	10	83.3	83.3
Other Family Member	363	495	419	0	65	419	84.6	84.6
Other household member	22	26	23	0	2	23	88.5	88.5
Other involved professional	505	910	532	270	297	609	58.5	66.9
Overall total	1069	3530	2554	273	715	2631	72.4	74.5

NB An invitee is classed as 'Participated' if they 'Attended' or 'Sent a report' or both

8. Participation by Organisations in ICPCs & RCPCs

Table 8.1 Participations by Organisations in ICPCs

Annual 13-14	No. of Conferences	No. Invited	No. Attended	No. Sent Report	No. Sent Apologies	No. Participated	% Attended	% Participated
CFCS - Children's Social Care	588	1208	1011	591	186	1052	83.7	87.1
CFCS - Other staff	149	216	164	92	46	179	75.9	82.9
Health - Bassetlaw	137	365	171	190	168	260	46.8	71.2
Health - County	487	1413	750	713	542	978	53.1	69.2
Police staff	241	290	136	53	121	163	46.9	56.2
Probation	79	92	54	51	30	71	58.7	77.2
Legal Services	31	38	37	0	1	37	97	97
Voluntary organisation	21	23	11	11	9	16	48	70
School	389	624	468	377	126	522	75.0	83.7
Staff from other LAs	105	183	121	66	54	134	66.1	73.2
Total	589	4452	2923	2144	1283	3412	65.7	76.6

Please see appendix E1 for a more detailed breakdown of the attendees. NB An invitee is classed as 'Participated' if they 'Attended' or 'Sent a report' or both

Table 8.2 Participation by Organisations in RCPCs









Annual 13-14	No. of Conferences	No. Invited	No. Attended	No. Sent Report	No. Sent Apologies	No. Participated	% Attended	% Participated
CFCS - Children's Social Care	1089	1603	1264	1009	309	1340	78.9	83.6
CFCS - Other staff	310	424	311	167	85	334	73.3	78.8
Health - Bassetlaw	260	652	316	319	284	429	48.5	65.8
Health - County	886	2395	1271	1266	891	1591	53.1	66.4
Police staff	171	196	89	16	79	98	45.4	50.0
Probation	176	200	111	110	75	146	55.5	73.0
Legal Services	45	53	53	0	0	53	100	100
Voluntary organisation	40	53	37	16	15	38	70	72
School	793	1274	1001	747	230	1090	78.6	85.6
Staff from other LAs	163	297	175	99	108	199	58.9	67.0
Total	1104	7147	4628	3749	2076	5318	64.8	74.4

Please see appendix E1 for a more detailed breakdown of the attendees. NB An invitee is classed as 'Participated' if they 'Attended' or 'Sent a report' or both

9. Looked After Children

Table 9.1:

Looked After Children General Statistics

Table 9.1: Looked After Children General Statistics				2012/13	2013/14			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	Number of children who are looked after			875	894	905	868	830
	LAC rate per 10,000 (Annual) added to report			54.0	55.1	55.8	53.5	51.2
		Good	Target	2012/13	2013/14			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales (%)	Higher	98.0	85.0	94.9 	93.5 	91.7 	90.3 
NI 62 AP09	Looked after children with 3 or more placements in any one year (%)	Lower	8.5	6.2	7.0 	7.5 	9.7 	11.6 
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement (%)	Higher*	N/A	75	69.8	70.0	71.4	73.6

The timescale definitions for NI66 and NI63 are complex and follow the original definitions set out by the Department for Education

Indicator Commentaries

Commentary: Looked After Children – rate per 10,000

There has been an overall decrease in numbers of looked after children during the year, from 892 at the beginning of April to 830 at the end of March 2014; the drop in numbers has been consistent since September 2013 when the number of looked after children stood at 906. Timely progression of children's cases through to permanency by adoption, Special Guardianship and Residence Orders is seen as a significant factor in this stabilising and gradual decrease in numbers. Over the previous 4 years, Nottinghamshire's rate per 10,000 looked after children had increased from 36 to 53.9; as at the end of March 2014 this has dropped slightly to 51.2 and remains below that of statistical neighbours and England averages of 60.6 and 60 (figures as at end of 2012-13).

Commentary: NI 66: Looked after children cases which were reviewed within timescales (%)

The NI66 indicator considers the cohort of children looked after at the end of March for more than 4 weeks and who have had all their reviews completed within timescale during the year. Using this calculation, at the year-end 90.3% of such children had had all reviews within timescale. Whilst this is below the locally set target of 98%, it represents an improvement in practice from the previous year where the year-end figure had been 84.5%. There is no update benchmarking for this indicator as the DfE has not published figures since 2009-2010. It is understood that this has been due to some concern regarding data accuracy from some authorities, although not Nottinghamshire. Information continues to be submitted to the DfE. During the year, a total number of 2,439 LAC reviews were held; using a calculation of how many of these were completed within timescale gives a year end figure of 96%. Work has been undertaken during the year to improve the timeliness in particular of first reviews and those where children have become looked after following placements within family/friends.

Table 9.2: Care Leavers**

		Good	Target	2012/13
NI 147 AP11	% of care leavers in suitable accommodation	Higher	N/A	87%
NI 148	% of care leavers in EET	Higher	N/A	63%

****n.b. Figures for 2013/14 have yet to be validated and released by the DfE**

Table 9.3: Adoption

Table 9.3: Adoption		Good	2012/13	2013/14			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
AP 07A (1)	Average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)	Lower	625 (days)	532 (days)	580 (days)	587 (days)	574 (days)
AP 07B (1)	Average time between a LA receiving Court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	Lower	217 (days)	249 (days)	280 (days)	277 (days)	283 (days)
(1)	% of children who wait less than 20 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family	Higher	57%	57%	68%	65%	59%

(1) All quarterly figures on these indicators are year to date (cumulative) and are currently provisional figures undergoing validation and could be subject to change.

Indicator Commentaries

Commentary: Average time between a child entering care and moving in with their adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)

The average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family continues to remain below the target set for 2013/14 representing good performance. The number of days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family fell in the fourth quarter to 574 days which is a three month reduction in time compared to the same quarter last year.










Commentary: Average time between a Local Authority receiving Court Authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)

Performance for this measure continues to remain above the 213 days target representing an area for improvement. During the last three quarters outcomes for this measure have remained relatively static at around 280 days after witnessing an increase from the 249 days reported in quarter one. However, the service has seen significant increases in the number of children being adopted and is yet to see the impact of a reorganisation on this indicator due to a number of older cases still being actioned during the last year. Early indications show an improving picture on this measure which should be reflected in future reporting periods.

Commentary - % of children who wait less than 20 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family.

After an introduction of a revised performance measure of 20 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family in 2013-14 (formerly 21 months), outcomes for this measure have remained relatively static (with the exception of quarter 2) over the year at around 59%. This is nine percentage points above the target set for the year which represents good performance.

10. Youth Offending

		Good	Target	2012/13	2013/14			
					Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
NI 111	First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10-17 (per 100,000)*	Lower	295	351	64 	125 	207 	*
EP02	Custodial Remands Actual numbers (young people)	Lower	Lower than or equal to 2012-13	N/A	2 	4 	11 	*
	Custodial Sentences Actual numbers (young people)	Lower	Lower than or equal to 2012-13	N/A	3 	7 	15 	*

* Data is one quarter in arrears

Indicator Commentaries

Commentary: NI 111 – Reduce the number of first time entrants to youth justice system aged 10-17

There has been a slight increase in the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system. There were 60 actual FTEs (compared to 47 and 44 in quarters 1 and 2 respectively and 52 for the same period in 2012/13). This equates to 82 young people per 100,000 10-17 population.

When broken down by district Ashfield continues to have the highest number of FTEs by population, although this is attributable to a higher number of FTEs in quarter one of the year. For the first 6 months of the Newark and Sherwood and Broxtowe had the next highest proportion of first time entrants per 10-17 population (as reported in the performance report for Quarter 2). However these appear to have levelled off and during quarter 3 Gedling had a high number FTEs entering the YJS.

Whilst the quarter 3 increase in FTEs may be a 'blip' attributable to the festive period, it is of concern that crime prevention referrals into the Youth Justice Service have been steadily declining. Whilst diversionary activities (reported in quarter 2) are either underway or about to take the first tranche of referrals, targeting of individuals and channelling these into the Youth Justice Service for diversionary activities appears to have reduced. Work has been underway to increase the number of referrals from the police but to date there has been no discernible impact or increase in referral rates. There has also been a drop in the number of referrals from community safety teams as well as a number of cases where the Youth Justice Service has not been consulted in the making of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and have only been alerted to the existence of these when the young person appears before the courts for breach of this order. Opportunities to either intervene early prior to the making of an ASBO or to offer support in the guise of an individual support order have been missed and in these cases the young person becomes a first time entrant.

Commentary: Custodial Remands Actual numbers (young people)

There were 5 remands into secure accommodation in quarter 3, making 11 remands year to date, slightly lower than the same period last year (12). Four of the remands made were as a result of either serious offending resulting in a subsequent custodial sentence, or due to persistent non-compliance coupled with further offending or offending whilst on bail. With regards to the fifth remand into custody, this was for a short period of time. The team manager reviewed the case and highlighted a number of practice points for the team which could have led to a remand on bail. A bail application was prepared for a subsequent remand but was not presented as the crown prosecution service were not prepared for a bail application. On his next appearance 4 days later before the Crown Court, bail was granted subject to stringent conditions. Out of the five remands, one could possibly have been prevented by more robust action and as identified the team manager has raised the practice points from this with individual team members and in a team meeting. It is of note that this measure presents some risk as if there is more than one remand during Quarter 4, the figures for 2012/13 will have been exceeded.

Commentary: Custodial Sentences Actual numbers (young people)

During quarter 3 there were 5 young people sentenced to custody (compared to 4 in the same period in 2012/13). To date there have been 15 custodial sentences. As with the remand target, the achievement of this target is at risk as any more than one further period of custody will place this target at a higher level than 2012/13. Of the 5 young people sentenced to custody, custody was unavoidable for two of them by virtue of already being a serving prisoner at the point of sentence or due to the very serious nature of the offences. With regards to the remaining three, all credible sentences had been exhausted due to persistent non-compliance coupled with further offending.

11. Children's Social Care Workforce

Please note: The figures below are collected as part of the DFE's Children's Social Work Data collection, year ending 30th September 2013. All figures provided within this section are provisional and subject to change.

Table 11.1: Vacancy Rate

	Qualified Social Worker	SIP target	Full time equivalent (FTE) as at 30 th Sept 2013
	Vacancy rate	7%	10.2

This rate is calculated by using the number of children's social workers within Nottinghamshire (excluding the number of agency social workers) and the number of children's social worker vacancies including those covered by agency workers.

Table 11.2: Turn-over

	Qualified Social Worker	SIP target	Full time equivalent as at 30 th Sept 2013
	Turnover rate	10%	14.3

The turn-over rate is calculated by using the number of new people joining a vacant social worker post and the number of people leaving a social worker post for the year ending 30th September 2013.

Table 11.3 Sickness Absence

	Qualified Social Worker	SIP target	% Year ending 30 th Sept 2013
	Sickness Absence	N/A	5.8%

The number of days missed due to sickness in the previous 12 months is used to calculate this indicator against the total number of FTE social worker days.

Table 11.4 Percentage of agency workers

	% of full time equivalent social worker posts covered by agency staff	SIP target	As at 30th Sept 2013
	% of agency social workers	N/A	5.9%

The number of FTE social workers is used to work out a percentage of social workers that are agency as at the end of September 2013.

Appendix E1

Attendance by organisations in Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs)

Organisation	No. of Conferences	No. Invited	No. Attended	No. Sent Report	No. Sent Apologies	No. Participated	% Attended	% Participated
CFCS - EDT	3	3	3	1	0	3	100	100
CFCS - Other social worker	190	232	211	35	19	216	90.9	93.1
CFCS - Other team manager	21	23	17	3	4	17	73.9	73.9
CFCS - Residential worker	2	2	2	1	0	2	100	100
CFCS - Responsible service manager	9	9	3	1	6	3	33.3	33.3
CFCS - Responsible social worker	571	669	611	524	51	646	91.3	96.6
CFCS - Responsible team manager	210	222	117	8	105	117	52.7	52.7
CFCS - Student social worker	28	29	28	8	1	29	96.6	100
CFCS - Trainee social worker	19	19	19	10	0	19	100	100
CFCS - Children's Social Care	588	1208	1011	591	186	1052	83.7	87.1
CFCS - Educational psychologist	6	6	1	1	5	1	16.7	16.7
CFCS - Educational Welfare Officer	7	7	6	5	1	7	85.7	100
CFCS - Other staff	47	59	48	17	9	52	81.4	88.1
CFCS - Targeted family support services	91	120	94	60	24	102	78.3	85
CFCS - Youth Offending Service	16	22	15	8	5	16	68.2	72.7
CFCS - Youth Services	2	2	0	1	2	1	0	50
CFCS - Other staff	149	216	164	92	46	179	75.9	82.9
Health (Bassetlaw) - Consultant paediatrician	23	25	0	11	19	11	0	44
Health (Bassetlaw) - GP	95	101	4	43	84	46	4	45.5
Health (Bassetlaw) - Health Visitor	79	95	74	60	19	87	77.9	91.6
Health (Bassetlaw) - Mental health worker	12	19	7	8	10	13	36.8	68.4
Health (Bassetlaw) - Midwife	17	25	18	8	7	18	72	72
Health (Bassetlaw) - School nurse	52	72	54	43	16	62	75	86.1
Health (Bassetlaw) - Substance misuse worker	22	28	14	17	13	23	50	82.1
Health - Bassetlaw	137	365	171	190	168	260	46.8	71.2
Health (County) - Consultant paediatrician	51	60	18	25	36	38	30	63.3
Health (County) - GP	383	406	12	119	314	126	3	31
Health (County) - Health visitor	290	363	299	237	54	333	82.4	91.7
Health (County) - Mental health worker	34	48	24	9	15	28	50	58.3
Health (County) - Midwife	84	128	88	50	35	99	68.8	77.3
Health (County) - School nurse	264	334	266	229	61	299	79.6	89.5
Health (County) - Substance misuse worker	52	74	43	44	27	55	58.1	74.3
Health - County	487	1413	750	713	542	978	53.1	69.2
Police - CAIU	110	124	59	29	53	73	47.6	58.9
Police - Divisional	119	141	67	20	57	79	47.5	56
Police - Domestic Abuse Unit	24	25	10	4	11	11	40	44
Police staff	241	290	136	53	121	163	46.9	56.2
OLA - Foster Carer	1	2	2	0	0	2	100	100
OLA - GP	6	7	0	3	6	3	0	42.9
OLA - Health visitor	4	5	1	2	3	2	20	40
OLA - Midwife	4	5	4	3	1	4	80	80
OLA - Other involved professional	67	113	79	34	30	83	69.9	73.5
OLA - Police	7	9	5	2	2	6	55.6	66.7
OLA - School	11	16	9	9	7	11	56.3	68.8
OLA - Social Care	21	22	18	11	4	20	81.8	90.9
OLA - Voluntary organisation	3	4	3	2	1	3	75	75
Staff from other LAs	105	183	121	66	54	134	66.1	73.2
Probation	79	92	54	51	30	71	58.7	77.2
School	389	624	468	377	126	522	75	83.7
Voluntary organisation	21	23	11	11	9	16	47.8	69.6
Legal Services	31	38	37	0	1	37	97.4	97.4
Total	589	4452	2923	2144	1283	3412	65.7	76.6

Attendance by organisations in Review Child Protection Conferences (RCPCs)

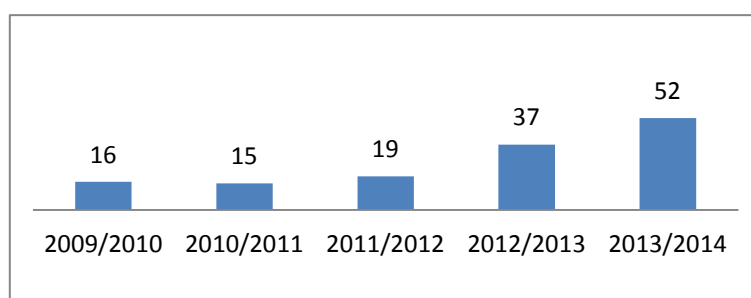
Organisation	No. of Conferences	No. Invited	No. Attended	No. Sent Report	No. Sent Apologies	No. Participated	% Attended	% Participated
CFCS - EDT	2	2	2	0	0	2	100	100
CFCS - Other social worker	161	172	149	29	18	152	86.6	88.4
CFCS - Other team manager	11	11	8	1	1	8	72.7	72.7
CFCS - Residential worker	2	3	3	0	0	3	100	100
CFCS - Responsible service manager	16	17	8	4	9	8	47.1	47.1
CFCS - Responsible social worker	1061	1102	998	956	86	1067	90.6	96.8
CFCS - Responsible team manager	259	262	66	10	192	68	25.2	26
CFCS - Student social worker	20	20	17	6	3	19	85	95
CFCS - Trainee social worker	14	14	13	3	0	13	92.9	92.9
CFCS - Children's Social Care	1089	1603	1264	1009	309	1340	78.9	83.6
CFCS - Educational psychologist	16	17	8	2	8	9	47.1	52.9
CFCS - Educational Welfare Officer	9	9	9	5	0	9	100	100
CFCS - Other staff	112	138	107	32	17	112	77.5	81.2
CFCS - Targeted family support services	187	220	157	111	52	173	71.4	78.6
CFCS - Youth Offending Service	24	28	23	14	4	23	82.1	82.1
CFCS - Youth Services	12	12	7	3	4	8	58.3	66.7
CFCS - Other staff	310	424	311	167	85	334	73.3	78.8
Health (Bassetlaw) - Consultant paediatrician	30	34	1	7	22	7	2.9	20.6
Health (Bassetlaw) - GP	197	200	3	65	167	66	1.5	33
Health (Bassetlaw) - Health Visitor	127	150	132	109	16	145	88	96.7
Health (Bassetlaw) - Mental health worker	22	28	8	5	17	11	28.6	39.3
Health (Bassetlaw) - Midwife	10	10	3	2	7	4	30	40
Health (Bassetlaw) - School nurse	148	187	146	106	36	163	78.1	87.2
Health (Bassetlaw) - Substance misuse worker	35	43	23	25	19	33	53.5	76.7
Health - Bassetlaw	260	652	316	319	284	429	48.5	65.8
Health (County) - Consultant paediatrician	85	96	15	14	59	26	15.6	27.1
Health (County) - GP	682	722	16	174	541	182	2.2	25.2
Health (County) - Health visitor	526	655	568	484	80	619	86.7	94.5
Health (County) - Mental health worker	76	85	40	22	34	45	47.1	52.9
Health (County) - Midwife	58	69	41	26	23	46	59.4	66.7
Health (County) - School nurse	512	615	498	457	105	557	81	90.6
Health (County) - Substance misuse worker	119	153	93	89	49	116	60.8	75.8
Health - County	886	2395	1271	1266	891	1591	53.1	66.4
Police - CAIU	44	49	16	4	24	18	32.7	36.7
Police - Divisional	119	135	69	12	49	76	51.1	56.3
Police - Domestic Abuse Unit	12	12	4	0	6	4	33.3	33.3
Police staff	171	196	89	16	79	98	45.4	50.0
OLA - Foster Carer	2	2	2	0	0	2	100	100
OLA - GP	13	13	0	4	11	4	0	30.8
OLA - Health visitor	9	9	9	5	0	9	100	100
OLA - Midwife	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OLA - Other involved professional	117	207	118	59	84	134	57	64.7
OLA - Police	3	3	0	1	2	1	0	33.3
OLA - School	35	46	37	28	6	40	80.4	87
OLA - Social Care	14	14	8	2	3	8	57.1	57.1
OLA - Voluntary organisation	2	3	1	0	2	1	33.3	33.3
Staff from other LAs	163	297	175	99	108	199	58.9	67.0
Probation	176	200	111	110	75	146	55.5	73
School	793	1274	1001	747	230	1090	78.6	85.6
Voluntary organisation	40	53	37	16	15	38	69.8	71.7
Legal Services	45	53	53	0	0	53	100	100
Total	1104	7147	4628	3749	2076	5318	64.8	74.4

Child Deaths Data

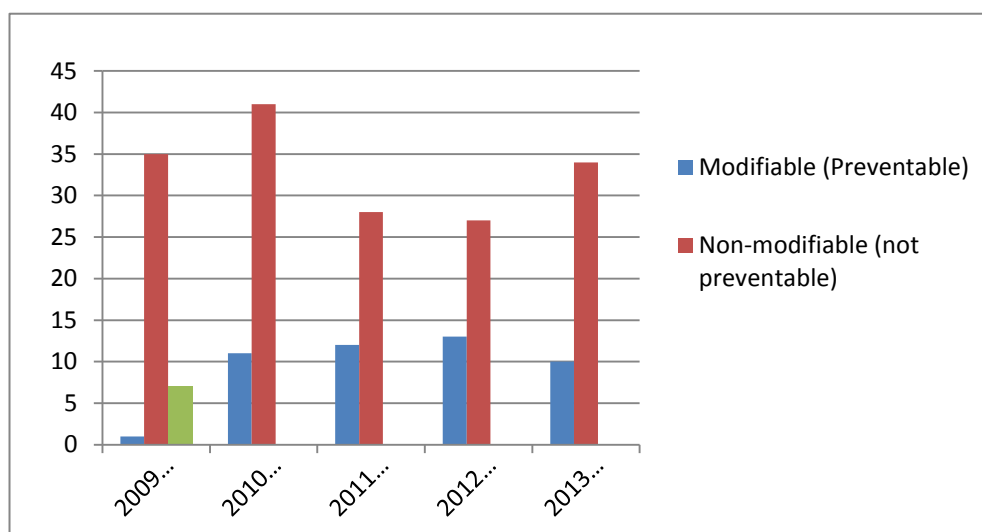
Number of child deaths notifications April 2009- March 2014

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Expected Deaths	33	31	30	33	40
Unexpected Deaths	15	18	15	24	19
Total notifications	48	49	45	57	59

Number of child death reviews which were ongoing at year end



Number of child deaths reviewed in the reportable year which were deemed to have modifiable/non-modifiable factors (2009-2010 reviews were defined as preventable/potentially preventable/not preventable)



Category of child deaths reviewed during reporting period

	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
Category 1: Deliberately inflicted injury, abuse or neglect	0	1	0	0	0
Category 2: Suicide or deliberate self-inflicted harm	0	1	1	1	1
Category 3: Trauma and other external factors	3	3	4	4	7
Category 4: Malignancy	2	2	2	0	4
Category 5: Acute medical or surgical condition	3	3	2	3	1
Category 6: Chronic medical condition	4	0	1	0	1
Category 7: Chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies	11	16	7	10	9
Category 8: Perinatal/neonatal event	11	19	17	14	16
Category 9: Infection	5	3	2	2	3
Category 10: Sudden unexpected, unexplained death	4	4	4	6	2

Age groups of children whose deaths were reviewed during the reportable year

	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
0-27 days	16	26	19	15	20
28-364 days	10	12	9	12	8
1 – 4 years	3	2	3	2	5
5 – 9 years	2	3	1	1	1
10 – 14 years	6	1	3	5	6
15 – 17 years	6	8	5	5	4

Number of deaths which were caused by the events below which were reviewed during the reporting period.

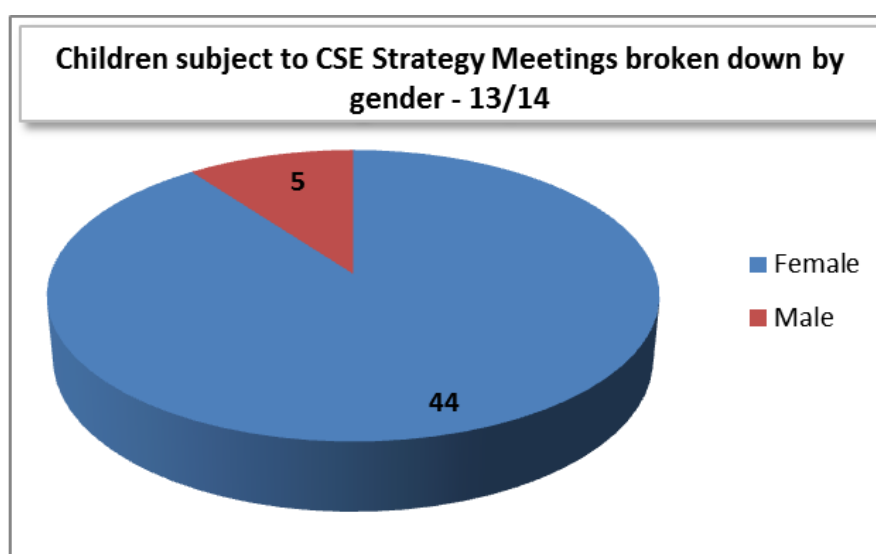
	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
Neonatal death	11	20	18	20	17
Known life limiting condition	16	7	8	5	18
Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI)	4	3	4	7	4
Road traffic Accident/collision	2	1	2	3	4
Drowning	0	1	1	0	0
Fire and burns	1	0	0	0	0
Other non-intentional injury/accident/trauma	0	1	1	1	0
Apparent suicide	0	1	1	1	0
Other	9	18	5	3	1

Child Sexual Exploitation Data

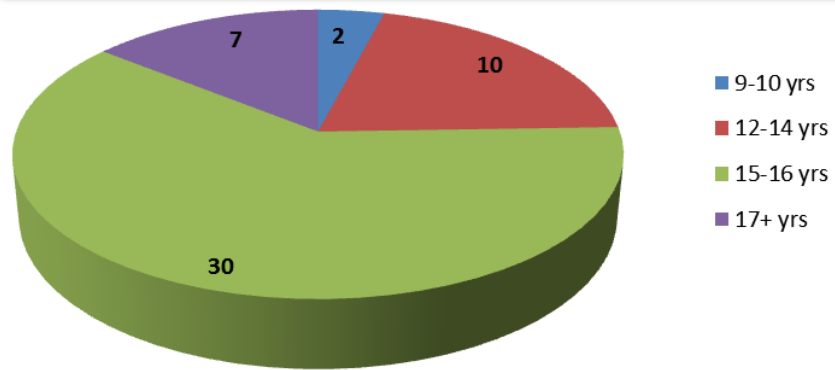
From NCC CSE strategy meeting for 2013/14 and for the Police open cases:
CSE strategy meetings: 47 children – 105 meetings.

CSE strategy meetings 2013/14 (where locality clear)	
Ashfield	3
Bassetlaw	4
Broxtowe	13
Gedling	4
Mansfield	13
Newark	3
Rushcliffe	3

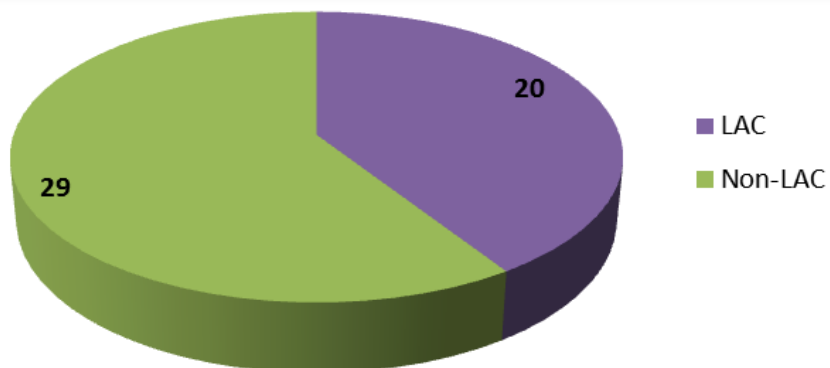
Open Police cases (June 2014)		
Type	Number	Location
Organised abuse	3	Wollaton
		Broxtowe
		Ashfield
High risk /organised	1	Broxtowe
Low level grooming	15	
	1	Arnold
	5	Ashfield
	1	Eastwood
	1	Gedling
	3	Mansfield
	1	Newark
	3	Rushcliffe



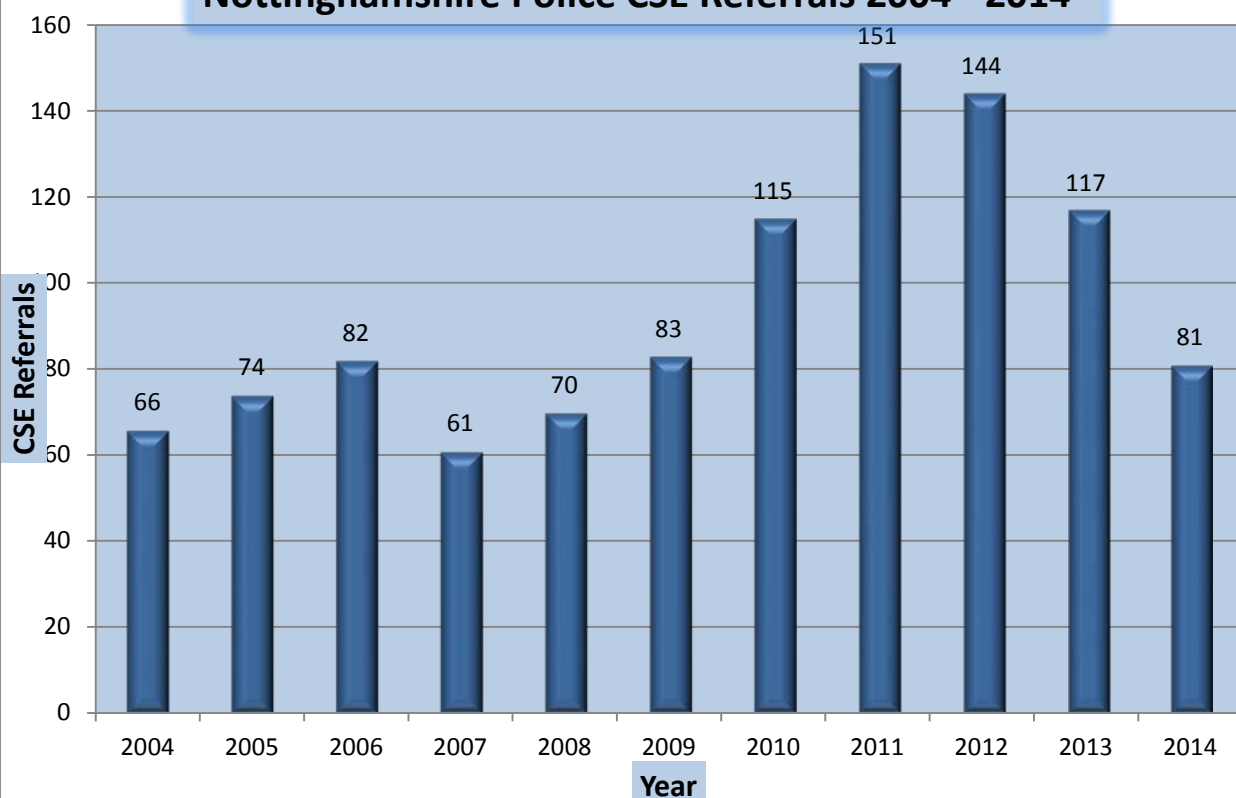
Children subject to CSE Strategy Meetings broken down by age - 13/14



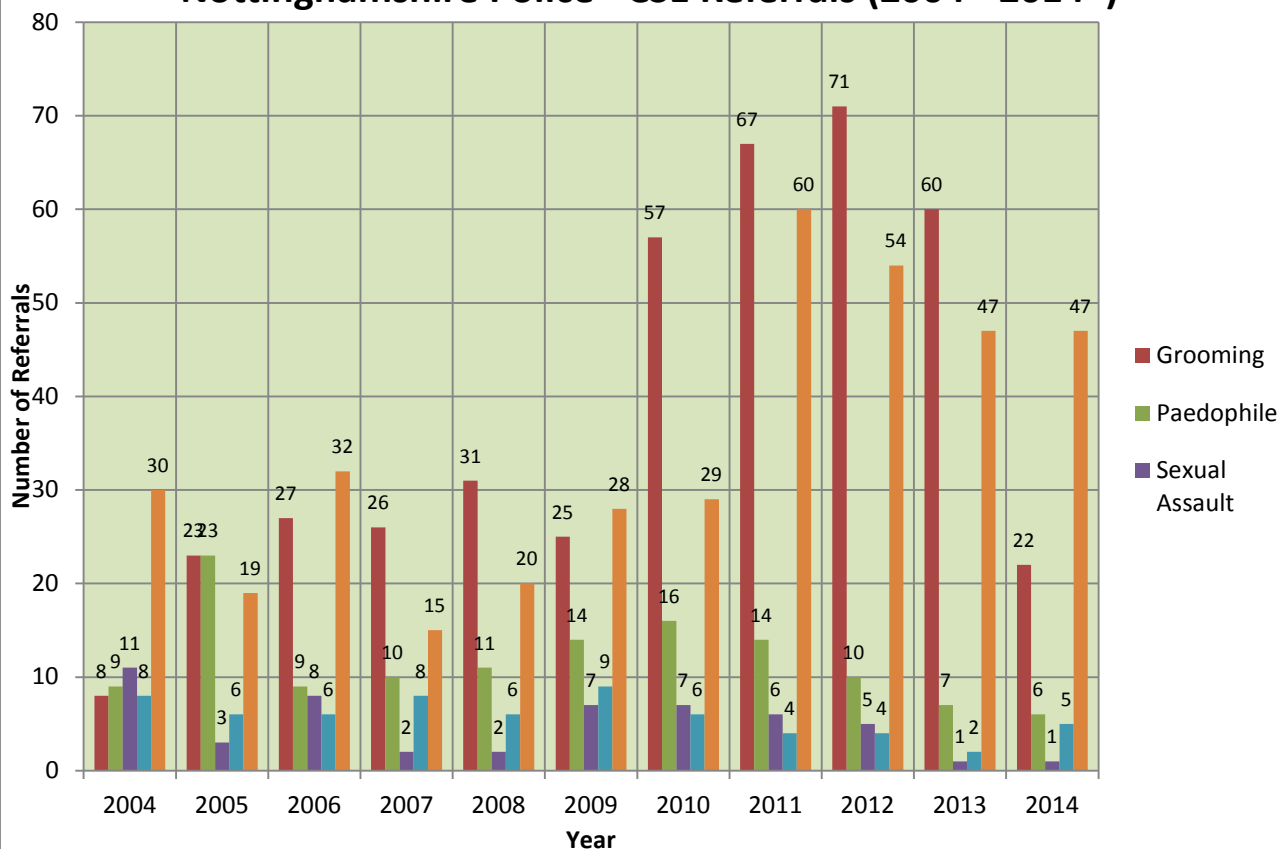
Children subject to CSE Strategy Meetings broken down by LAC Status - 13/14



Nottinghamshire Police CSE Referrals 2004 - 2014*

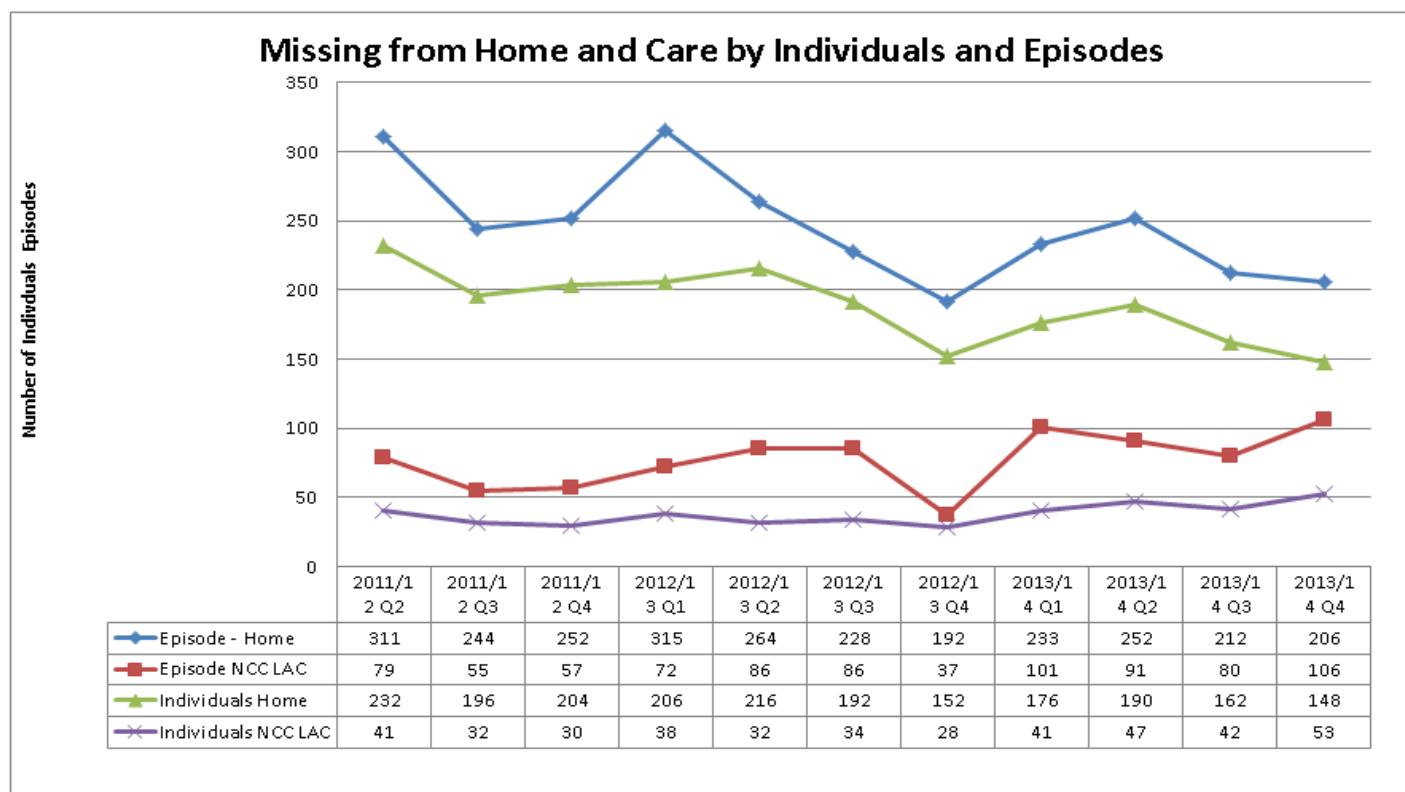


Nottinghamshire Police - CSE Referrals (2004 - 2014*)

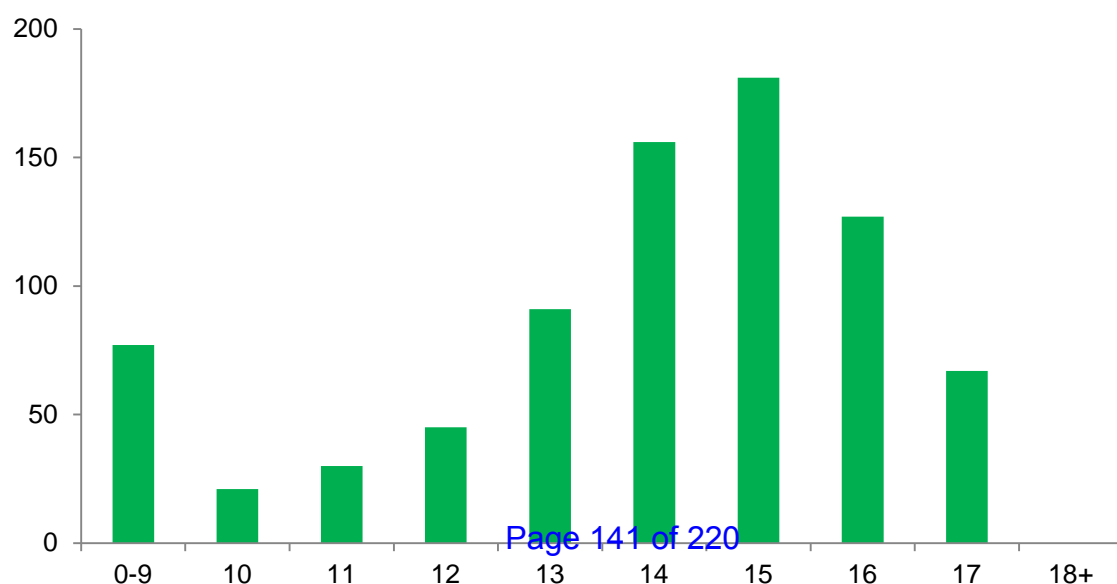


*This data includes Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire CSE referrals to the police, 2014 data is upto the end of September 2014

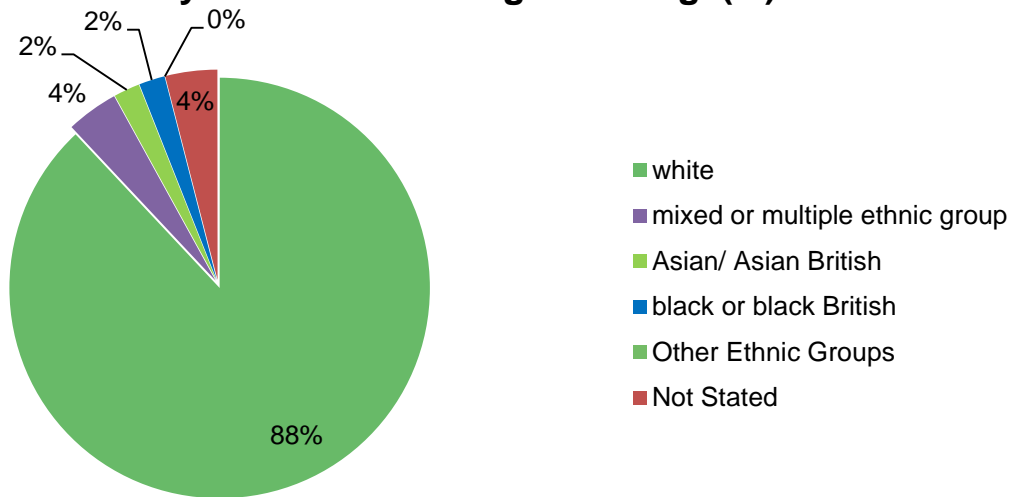
Missing Children Data for 2013 – 2014 (including previous years comparators for missing individuals and episodes)



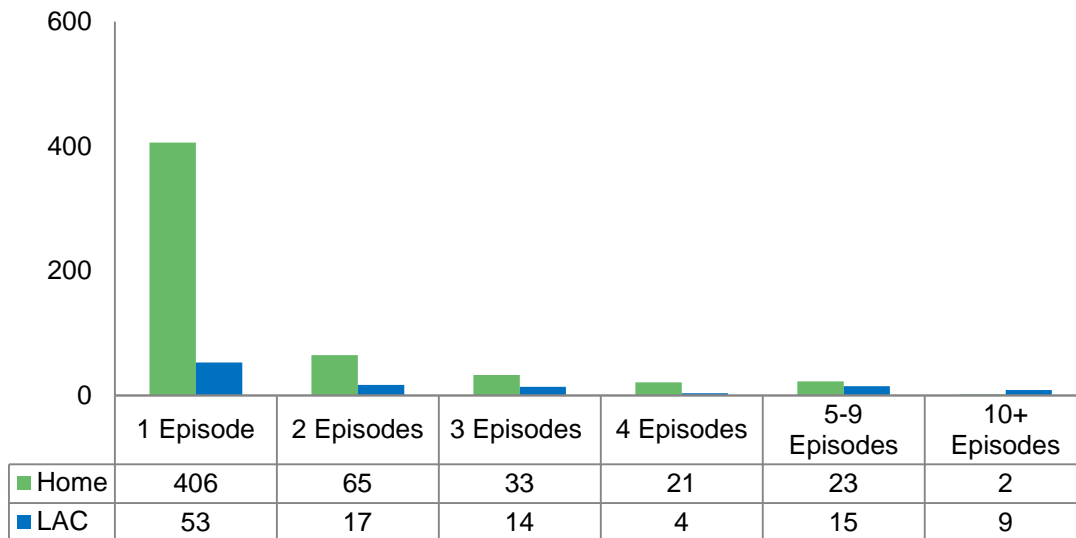
Ages of all individual children who went missing



Ethnicity of Children who go missing (%)



How many missing episodes do individual children have?



Private Fostering Arrangements Data

	Question	Year to 31 March 2013	Year to 31 March 2014
1	Number of notifications of new private fostering arrangements received during the year in accordance with Regulation 3(1) and Regulation 5(1) of the 2 Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 :	17	25
2	Number of cases where action was taken in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 4(1) and Regulation 7(1) of the Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005 for carrying out visits :	17	25
3	Of these, the number of cases where this action was taken within 7 working days of receipt of notification of the private fostering arrangement:	12	21
4	Number of new arrangements that began during the year :	17	25
5	The number of private fostering arrangements that began after the start of the reporting year where visits were made at intervals of not more than six weeks	9	23
6	The number of private fostering arrangements that began before the start of the reporting year and continued into the reporting year:	10	11
7	The number of private fostering arrangements as reported in Question 6 where scheduled visits were completed in the required timescale	8	10
8	Number of private fostering arrangements that ended during the year	19	14
9	Number of children under private fostering arrangements on 31 st March	9	22

10 November 2014**Agenda Item: 05****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF POLICY, PLANNING &
CORPORATE SERVICES****SCHOOL ADMISSIONS APPEALS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To respond to Members' requests for further information on the school admissions appeals process.

Information and AdviceStatutory Context

2. All Admission Authorities (including academies) are required to follow the Department for Education's School Admissions Code when setting and applying their admission arrangements (the Committee agreed the latest version of the admission arrangements for 2015/16 at its meeting on 17 March 2014).
3. There is a statutory requirement to provide a right of appeal for parents/carers for any unsuccessful school applications (first admissions, secondary schools and in-year transfers). Such appeals are held in line with the School Admissions Code and the related School Admissions Appeals Code. It is worth noting that only a very small percentage of applicants do not receive their first preference of school and seek an appeal.

Panel Members and Clerks

4. The County Council is required to appoint independent volunteer Panel Members to deal with admission appeals and their decisions are binding on the Admission Authority. The Council currently has a pool of 49 Panel Members. Each Panel needs at least 1 Member with an education background and 1 Lay Member (Panels of 3 Members are used for logistical and cost reasons although larger sized Panels are permissible). Panel Members have been recruited via advertisements and occasionally via recommendations from other Panel Members. Panels should represent the communities we serve although it is not always possible to get as wide a cross-representation as desired due to the timing of hearings (largely held during office hours) and the time commitment involved.
5. The hearings are usually clerked by officers from Democratic Services or Legal Services. Update and refresher training is organised annually for Clerks and Panel Members, using both in-house and external trainers. Democratic Services also link into the National Association of School Admissions Clerks as a means of sharing best practice.

6. The majority of admission appeal hearings organised by the Council are for the Council's own community and voluntary controlled schools. However, Democratic Services also provide appeals support to a growing number of Academies as part of the Services to Schools offer, thereby bringing in additional income and helping to address concerns that appellants may receive a different quality of service in their appeals for academies.
7. Appeal hearings follow the rules of natural justice. Both parties (admission authority and appellant) present their cases in the presence of each other and the Panel. Translations and interpreters are provided where requested (although very few such requests are received). Multiple hearings are organised where there are more than two sets of appellants applying for the same year group of a school and different decision-making rules apply for such hearings.

Decision-making

8. In all appeals, the Panel's decision-making is undertaken in private and has to be confirmed in writing within 5 working days of a hearing. The Clerk plays no part in the decision-making although has a role in ensuring that each Panel Member provides adequate reasons for their decisions, makes decisions in line with the legal requirements and is consistent in terms of their own decision-making within each hearing.
9. Some concerns have recently been raised about the consistency of decision-making by Panels. In response to such concerns, it should be noted that a Panel is not required to have reference to any decisions of a previous Panel for the same school or other schools in making their decisions. Panel members are expected to make their decisions based on the information presented by both parties in writing and in person at each hearing.

Types of Appeals

10. There are broadly two different types of Admission Appeals:-

(1) Normal prejudice – two stage appeal (can be primary or secondary)

- i) Stage 1 – the Admission Authority has to prove to the Panel that the admission arrangements are lawful and have been correctly and impartially applied and that to admit any further child/children (not the specific child/children appealing) to the school would cause prejudice to the provision of efficient education or to the efficient use of resources.
- ii) Stage 2 – if the Panel accepts the Admission Authority's case at Stage 1 then an appeal moves onto the next stage where the appellant's reasons for wanting the school are considered. The Panel then decides whether the impact on the child outweighs the prejudice to the school.

(2) Infant Class Size (ICS) Prejudice / Future ICS Prejudice

- i) ICS regulations mean that a class where the majority of children are of infant age (Years Reception, 1 & 2) cannot contain more than 30 pupils with a single teacher

(unless the additional pupils meet one of the legally prescribed grounds for being 'excepted pupils').

- ii) ICS Prejudice (and Future ICS prejudice) applies in cases where the admission of a further child / children would result in a class of more than 30 pupils (or would do so in future years) and there are no measures which the school can take to counter that without causing prejudice to the provision of efficient education or to the efficient use of resources.
- iii) In such cases a Panel can only legally allow the appeal where one of the following grounds apply:-
 - a. the admission would not breach the infant class size limit;
 - b. the admission arrangements were not lawful and if they had been the child would have obtained a place;
 - c. the admission arrangements were not correctly and impartially applied and if they had been the child would have obtained a place;
 - d. the decision (to refuse admission) was not one which a reasonable authority would have made in the circumstances of the case.

11. With regard to the consideration of reasonableness in such cases, the Appeals Code underlines the high threshold for finding an admission authority's decision to refuse admission unreasonable. The Local Government Ombudsman, in guidance for appellants, has underlined that circumstances where a parent is expected to get different children to different schools at the same time does not in itself meet the threshold of unreasonableness.

12. It is worth noting that, due to these restricted grounds, the chances of an appellant being successful in an ICS appeal are far slimmer than in normal prejudice appeals. The following figures for the 2014/15 academic year (up to 1 September 2014) help to illustrate that point:-

Appeal Type	Heard	Successful	Unsuccessful
Infant Class Size	252	7 (2.8%)	245 (97.2%)
Future Infant Class Size	19	2 (10.5%)	17 (89.5%)
Normal Prejudice	101	49 (48.5%)	52 (51.5%)
Total	372	58 (15.6%)	314 (84.4%)

13. In the past, some Panel Members have raised concerns about the lack of discretion they can exercise in ICS appeals compared to normal prejudice appeals. One of the existing Panel Members has recently contacted their local MP to express similar concerns about the ICS regulations and processes and the subsequent impact upon families. A briefing has been arranged for the MP to help explain the process and to clarify Members' concerns. A number of other MPs have also raised concerns on behalf of their constituents this year.

14. The following table provides a breakdown of the total number of appeals lodged and heard for the Council's community and voluntary controlled schools and their outcomes in recent academic years:-

Academic year	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Primary (incl. ICS)							
Lodged	412	472	492	595	422	481	512
Withdrawn settled	196	192	184	280	133	131	140
Heard	216	280	308	315	289	350	372
Successful	69	109	108	77	57	77	58
Unsuccessful	147	171	200	238	232	273	314
Secondary							
Lodged	230	194	158	87	47	3	0
Withdrawn settled	90	100	56	32	20	2	0
Heard	140	94	102	55	27	1	0
Successful	73	66	63	21	11	1	0
Unsuccessful	67	28	39	34	16	0	0
Total							
Total Lodged	642	666	650	682	469	484	512
Total Heard	356	374	410	370	316	351	372
Total Successful	142	175	171	98	68	78	58
Total Unsuccessful	214	199	239	272	248	273	314

Complaints Process

15. Following an appeal hearing, appellants can complain to the Local Government Ombudsman (for maintained schools) or to the Education Funding Agency (for Academies) if they feel that their application or subsequent appeal was not properly dealt with. The County Council has dealt with thirteen Ombudsman investigations for this academic year, which is in line with numbers in recent years. Of those thirteen investigations, only two so far have had a negative finding, with the Ombudsman investigator recommending that a place be offered to one child and a fresh hearing be arranged in the other case.

Other Options Considered

16. To not provide an update but Members have requested further information on the admission appeals process.

Reason for Recommendations

17. To maximise understanding of the appeals process amongst County Councillors and other elected representatives.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

Democratic Services continually review their practice around education appeals to maximise levels of understanding and participation from both parties (admission authorities and appellants) in the process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Members note the information on the school admissions appeals process contained in the report.

**JAYNE FRANCIS-WARD
CORPORATE DIRECTOR
POLICY, PLANNING & CORPORATE SERVICES**

For any enquiries about this report please contact Keith Ford, Team Manager Democratic Services

Constitutional Comments

19. As this report is only for noting, Constitutional comments are not required.

Financial Comments (SEM 17/10/14)]

20. There are no specific 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.

- School Admissions Code (published)
- School Admissions Appeals Code (published)
- Local Government Ombudsman Findings (contains exempt elements)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

10 November 2014**Agenda Item: 06****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND
CULTURAL SERVICES****PERFORMANCE REPORTING (QUARTER 2 – 2014-15) - SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a summary of the performance of the Council's services for children and young people between 1 July and 30 September 2014.

Information and Advice**Performance Reporting for 2014/15**

2. This report forms the second quarterly performance report for 2014/15, reporting on performance for the 2014/15 financial year.
3. At its meeting on 16 July 2012, the Committee agreed to receive a report each quarter, reviewing performance across the full range of services provided to children and young people. Quarterly reports would be in addition to other reports that might be presented to the Committee from time to time, providing detailed performance-related information about specific initiatives, projects or services. As agreed at this meeting, quantitative performance reporting to the Committee is measured via key performance indicators (KPIs), which cover the full range of services to children and young people.
4. Performance data is set out in the table at **Appendix 1**. For each KPI, current performance is compared to the national average, for England, and that of the Council's children's services statistical neighbours, where this data is available. The statistical neighbour local authorities are¹:
 1. Cumbria
 2. Derbyshire
 3. Dudley
 4. Kent
 5. Lancashire
 6. Lincolnshire
 7. Northamptonshire

¹ Nottinghamshire's Statistical Neighbours will be changing to the following authorities from October 2014: Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, Worcestershire, Cumbria, Northamptonshire, Essex, Kent, Cheshire West and Chester, and Warwickshire

8. Staffordshire
9. Swindon
10. Wigan

5. In addition, for each KPI, the table indicates whether performance has improved (+), declined (-), or remained the same (=) over the current reporting period.
6. Although performance will be reported on a quarterly basis, not all KPIs are equally sensitive to quarterly fluctuation. The most up-to-date information available will be provided for each KPI but it should be noted that a number of performance indicators are annually based, and for these data is unchanged from the 2013/14 annual performance report, presented to this Committee in May 2014. This includes most indicators for educational attainment, including Key Stage 4, GCSE and A level results. Data included here is for the 2012/13 academic year.

Key messages

Protecting the most vulnerable and ensuring that children in our care experience high quality and stable support²:

7. In Children's Social Care, 78.7% of Initial Assessments were completed to timescale in 2014/15 Quarter 2, a reduction compared with 79.0% in 2014/15 Quarter 1. However, performance remains considerably better than the overall performance for 2013/14 (76.2%). Slightly weaker performance in the timely completion of Initial Assessments in August (73.6%) impacted on overall quarterly performance, although this still remains above the target figure. This reduction in performance in August was mainly due to staff absence during the traditional holiday period, but the number of Initial Assessments being completed each month has remained consistent, providing assurance that appropriate thresholds are being consistently applied in the MASH.
8. Performance in the timely completion of Core Assessments continues to improve in 2014/15 Quarter 2 to 89.6%, compared with 87.8% in 2014/15 Quarter 1. Performance in the timely completion of Core Assessments was strong throughout the quarter, even though the number completed in July (258) and August (230) were the highest in 2014.
9. The percentage of re-referrals to Children's Social Care was 28.0% in 2014/15 Quarter 2, compared with 25.4% in 2014/15 Quarter 4. The re-referral rate was above target in both July and August, but reduced in September to the target rate of 25%. The number of re-referrals was actually only high in July (220), with August (147) and September (134) being the lowest number in the last 12 months. Management analysis has shown why work comes back into the system, highlighting patterns of families experiencing domestic abuse and challenging adolescent behaviour as the two main causes of repeat MASH enquiries. The pilot of Encompass Nottinghamshire began in September to offer support to children affected by domestic abuse in their school and early years settings and the pathway for teenagers with challenging behaviour is also included in the review of Family Support Services which has just begun, as part of the Children's Social Care Transformation Programme.
10. In 2014/15 Quarter 2, 28% of the 193 children who became subject to a child protection plan had been subject to a plan on at least one previous occasion. This is well above the local target of 14% and is a significant increase on the end of March 2014 figure of

² Please note the figures relating to Children's Social Care are provisional ones

18.2%. This issue has been raised with Child Protection Coordinators and social care managers to promote senior managerial oversight for those children who have previously been subject to a plan coming back into a child protection process. Neglect and domestic violence are often features of these cases.

11. The proportion of Looked After Children who had three or more placements in any one year was 12.7% in 2014/15 Quarter 2, compared with 12.1% in 2014/15 Quarter 1. There has been a small increase in this figure; however this must be seen in the context of placing children in their permanent placements more swiftly which is positive in terms of children achieving permanence in a timelier manner.

Educational standards and closing the attainment gap:

12. For most of the KPIs relating to educational attainment, the most recent available data is for the 2012/13 academic year, which has already been included in previous performance reports to the Committee. Data for the 2013/14 academic year will be reported as it becomes available. This will include data on attainment at Key Stage 4, GCSE and A level.
13. The data included in this report for the attainment gap at age 11 years and at age 16 years is also for the academic year 2012/13. For 2013/14, the attainment gap measure will compare the attainment of pupils who are eligible for the pupil premium with that of their peers. The pupil premium is additional funding given to publicly funded schools in England and is paid to schools according to the number of pupils who have been registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years or who have been in Local Authority care for six months or longer.
14. The percentage of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in academic years 12-14 remains low, and has reduced to 1.8% in September compared with 3.6% in June. However, as the department is in the process of confirming the destinations of young people who completed Year 11 in July 2014, the proportion whose current destination was classified as unknown at the end of September increased to 14.3%. A short term, intensive "Not Known Reduction Plan" is currently being implemented however, and is already having a significant positive impact upon the volume of young people whose post-16 destination is Not Known. This improved performance will be reflected in the third quarter performance information presented to Committee.

Early Help Support:

15. A number of KPIs monitor effectiveness across a range of services that provide early help to children, young people and families.
16. The numbers of children and young people engaged in positive activities by the Youth Service or accessing Outdoor and Environmental Education after the first six months of 2014/15 are on profile for the year.
17. Children's Centres continue to reach a significant proportion of their target group of families living in low income areas. For 2014/15 Quarter 2, the number of families in these areas who were registered with Children's Centres was 84.8%, compared with 82.0% in 2014/15 Quarter 1. The proportion of families seen during 2014/15 Quarter 2 was 46.5%, compared with 41.6% in 2013/14 Quarter 1 (as this indicator is cumulative, comparisons are made with performance for the equivalent quarter in the previous year). This represents an increase of 11.8% over the 12 months.

18. The numbers of first time entrants to the Youth Justice Service continue to decrease, to 65 per 100,000 young people in 2014/15 Quarter 1 compared with 70 per 100,000 in 2013/14 Quarter 1 (data for this KPI is always available one quarter in arrears and as it is a cumulative indicator, comparison is made with performance for the equivalent quarter in the previous year). This represents a year-on-year reduction of 7.1%.

Education Health Care Plan:

19. The Education Health Care (EHC) Plan has been introduced to bring together the families and agencies for children and young people aged 0-25 years with Special Educational Needs and complex disabilities, so that they have coordinated individual support plans across a range of services. Nottinghamshire has been a pathfinder area for this work and has implemented the EHC Plan ahead of it becoming a national requirement in September 2014. There were a total of 61 EHC Plans finalised and issued throughout 2014/15 Quarter 2, compared with 67 in 2014/15 Quarter 1. In comparison there were 60 statements of SEN issued in 2013/14 Quarter 2 of the previous year.

Other Options Considered

20. The process for presenting performance information set out in this report is in line with corporate guidance, which has itself been established following an appropriate analysis of alternative options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

21. The recommendation for quarterly reporting to Committee, and the KPIs that will form the basis of the report, is in line with the established processes of reporting and publishing performance information across all of the services within the Children, Families and Cultural Services department.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee notes the performance of the Council's services for children and young people during the period 1 July to 30 September 2014.

Anthony May
Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 23/10/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0504

Children and Young People's Committee: Performance for Quarter 2 (2014/15)

For Nottinghamshire, the performance data available at the end of September 2014 is reported. The most recent data for national average and children's services statistical neighbours is reported, where available. Please note, comparisons may be indicative only, as the reporting periods are not necessarily aligned. Where Nottinghamshire performance meets or exceeds the latest national performance information, this is highlighted by the emboldened boxes.

Key: (p) = provisional data; (+) = better than previous value; (-) = worse than previous value; (=) = same as previous value; (n/a) = not comparable to previous value

Outcome	Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire							National Average	Statistical Neighbours
		Data updated since previous report?	2013/14 Annual Performance	Current Reporting Period	Current Value		Previous Reporting Period	Previous Value		
The most vulnerable children will be effectively protected and supported and children will stay with their families wherever this is possible and safe for them	Initial assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within timescales	Yes	76.2%	2014/15 Q2	78.7% (Provisional)	(-)	2014/15 Q1	79.0%	75.5% (2012/13)	76.6% (2012/13)
	Core assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within timescales	Yes	84.8%	2014/15 Q2	89.6% (Provisional)	(+)	2014/15 Q1	87.8%	76.7% (2012/13)	76.8% (2012/13)
	Percentage of child protection cases reviewed within timescale	Yes	97.4%	2014/15 Q2	97.8% (Provisional)	(-)	2014/15 Q1	98.2%	96.2% (2012/13)	95.9% (2012/13)
	Re-referrals to Children's Social Care	Yes	26.5%	2014/15 Q2	28.0% (Provisional)	(-)	2014/15 Q1	25.4%	24.9% (2012/13)	24.5% (2012/13)
	Children who are subject to a child protection plan for 2 years or more	Yes	3.3%	2014/15 Q2	2.3% (Provisional)	(+)	2014/15 Q1	3.3%	5.2% (2012/13)	4.4% (2012/13)
	Children becoming the subject of a child protection plan on more than one occasion	Yes	18.2%	2014/15 Q2	28.0% (Provisional)	(-)	2014/15 Q1	22.9%	14.9% (2012/13)	15.5% (2012/13)
Children in our care will experience high quality and stable support	Percentage of children adopted who were placed with their adopters within 16 months (487 days) of becoming looked after*	Yes	59%	2014/15 Q2	37.0% (Provisional)	(+)	2014/15 Q1	32%*	55% (2010-13)	53% (2010-13)
	Average time between a LA receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)	Yes	283 days	2014/15 Q2	350 days (Provisional)	(-)	2014/15 Q1	340 days	210 days (2010-13)	223 days (2010-13)
	Looked after children with 3 or more placements in any one year	Yes	11.6%	2014/15 Q2	12.7% (Provisional)	(-)	2014/15 Q1	12.1%	11.1% (2012/13)	11.3% (2012/13)
	Percentage of looked after children cases reviewed within timescale	Yes	90.1%	2014/15 Q2	88.5% (Provisional)	(-)	2014/15 Q1	93.3%	–	–
	Percentage of care leavers in suitable accommodation	No	82.0%	2013/14 annual	82.0% ³	(-)	2012/13 annual	87.0%	87.9% (2012/13)	86.9% (2012/13)

³ This data relates to a small number of young people. Those regarded by the Department for Education as in unsuitable accommodation included unaccompanied asylum seekers, who left the country for a variety of reasons, and other young people who were in custody. All other Nottinghamshire young people leaving care were in accommodation regarded as suitable.

* This indicator definition changes every year with a new threshold set by the Department for Education. The threshold for 2012/13 was 20 months, 2013/14 was 18 months and 2014/15 is now 16 months.

Outcome	Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire							National Average	Statistical Neighbours
		Data updated since previous report?	2013/14 Annual Performance		Current Reporting Period	Current Value		Previous Reporting Period		
Children and young people will attain higher educational standards than the national average and attend good and outstanding schools	Early years foundation stage attainment (Reaching a 'Good Level of Development' - at least expected in all early learning goals in all prime areas and in the specific areas of literacy and mathematics)	No	2013/14 academic		61.7%	(+)	2012/13 academic	56.6%	52.0% (2012/13)	55.8% (2012/13)
	Pupils achieving Level 4 in reading, writing & mathematics at age 11	No	2012/13 academic		76.8%	n/a	Assessment criteria changed for 2012/13		75.0% ⁴ (2012/13)	75.5% (2012/13)
	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent (including English & maths)	No	2012/13 academic		63.4%	(+)	2011/12 academic	60.6%	59.2% (2012/13)	60.1% (2012/13)
	Percentage of young people who have attained a full Level 3 qualification by 19	No	2012/13 academic		47.9% ⁵	(-)	2011/12 academic	48.7%	59.1% ⁶ (2012/13)	54.6% (2012/13)
	Percentage of A level entries at A*-E grades	No	2012/13 academic		98.0%	(+)	2011/12 academic	97.5%	98.7% (2012/13)	–
	Percentage of A level entries at A*-B grades	No	2012/13 academic		46.2%	(+)	2011/12 academic	43.4%	53.3% (2012/13)	–
	Primary schools judged by Ofsted as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour	Yes	n/a	As at June 2014	92.4%	(+)	As at Mar 2014	91.2%	93.7% (June 2014)	93.5% (Jun 2014)
	Secondary schools judged by Ofsted as having good/outstanding standards of behaviour	Yes	n/a	As at June 2014	82.9%	(-)	As at Mar 2014	87.2%	84.6% (June 2014)	84.1% (Jun 2014)
	Number of primary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate)	Yes	n/a	As at June 2014	6 (provisional)	(+)	As at Mar 2014	8	–	–
	Number of secondary schools in an Ofsted category (Inadequate)	Yes	n/a	As at June 2014	2 (provisional)	(=)	As at Mar 2014	2	–	–
We will close the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and young people and their peers	Attainment gap at age 11 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest (<i>FSM during past six years</i>)	No	2012/13 academic		19.9%	n/a	Assessment criteria changed for 2012/13		18.7% (2012/13)	–
	Attainment gap at age 16 between pupils taking free school meals and the rest (<i>FSM during past six years</i>)	No	2012/13 academic		31.5%	(-)	2011/12 academic	30.7%	26.5% (2012/13)	–
	Rate of permanent exclusions from school	No	2012/13 academic		0.07%	(+)	2011/12 academic	0.09%	0.06% (2012/13)	0.08% (2012/13)
	Percentage of young people who have not attained a Level 2 qualification in English & maths at age 16 who go on to attain Level 2 or higher in both by the end of the academic year in which they turn 19	No	2012/13 academic		13.6%	(-)	2011/12 academic	16.0%	16.3% (2012/13)	15.9% (2012/13)
	Participation in education, employment and training (EET) in academic years 12-14	Yes	85.7% (2013-14 Q4)	2014/15 Q2	84.0%	(-)	2014/15 Q1	82.27 %	82.4% (2013-4 Q4)	81.8% (2013-4 Q1)
	Percentage not in education, employment or training (NEET) in academic years 12-14	Yes	3.4% (2013-14 Q4)	2014/15 Q2	1.8%	(+)	2014/15 Q1	3.6%	5.3% (2013-4 Q4)	5.5% (2013-4 Q4)

⁴ Previously recorded as 76.0%

⁵ Maintained sector only

⁶ Includes independent sector

Outcome	Key Performance Indicator	Nottinghamshire							National Average	Statistical Neighbours
		Data updated since previous report?	2013/14 Annual Performance	Current Reporting Period	Current Value		Previous Reporting Period	Previous Value		
	Percentage whose destination is not known in academic years 12-14	Yes	10.3%(2013-14 Q4)	2014/15 Q2	14.3%	(-)	2014/15 Q1	14.0%	6.9% (2013-4 Q4)	6.3% (2013-4 Q4)
Children, young people and their families will receive the early help support they require to be safe, healthy and thriving	Dependent children in households whose income is below 60% of the national median income	No	2011 annual		17.0%	(+)	2010 annual	17.1%	20.1% (2011)	–
	Percentage of children aged 0-4 living in low income areas registered with children's centres (snapshot)	Yes	79%	2014-15 Q2	84.8%	(+)	2014/15 Q1	82.0%	–	–
	Percentage of children aged 0-4 living in low income areas seen at children's centres (cumulative)	No	57% ⁷	2014-15 Q2	46.5% ⁸	(+)	2013/14 Q2	41.6%	–	–
	Percentage of two year olds taking up their free entitlement	No	Annual	Annual	85%	(+)	March 2014	75%	–	–
	Percentage of children's centres achieving good or better in Ofsted inspections	No	2013/14 annual / cumulative		65%	(-)	2012/13	80%	–	–
	Numbers of individual children and young people engaged in positive activities delivered by the Young People's Service (cumulative)	Yes	33260 ⁵	2014-15 Q2	12500	(+)	2014/15 Q1	8390	–	–
	Numbers of children and young people accessing Outdoor and Environmental Education (cumulative)	Yes	n/a	2014-15 Q2	16640	(+)	2014/15 Q1	8743	–	–
	Percentage of overall absence in primary, secondary and special schools	No	2012/13 academic		5.3%	(-)	2011/12 academic	5.0%	5.2% (2012/13)	5.2% (2012/13)
	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 (per 100,000) (cumulative)	Yes	298 ²	2014-15 Q1	65	(+)	2013/14 Q1	70	–	–
	Numbers exiting substance misuse treatment in a planned manner	Yes	74.6%	2014/15 Q2	82.3%	(+)	2014/15 Q1	78.3%	–	–
Children and young people will have improved health outcomes	Under 18 conception rate (per thousand females aged 15-17)	No	2012 annual		29.4	(+)	2011 annual	31.9	27.7 (2012)	28.3 (2012)
	Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks, incl. mixed feeding methods (Nottinghamshire NHS)	Yes	40.2%	2014/15 Q1	40.0%	(+)	2013/14 Q4	39.8%	47.2% (2012/13)	42.3% (2012/13)
	Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks, incl. mixed feeding methods (Bassetlaw NHS)	Yes	34.4%	2014/15 Q1	38.2%	(+)	2013/14 Q4	34.4%	47.2% (2012/13)	42.3% (2012/13)
	The number of individual children and young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan in place (a statutory requirement from 1 September 2014)	Yes	n/a	2014/15 Q2	61	(-)	2014/15 Q1	67	–	–

⁷ Data for this indicator is cumulative and therefore performance is compared with performance for the equivalent quarter in 2013/14

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

1. To present a summary of the impact of Nottinghamshire's Closing the Educational Gaps (CtG) Strategy 2012-2014.

Information and Advice**Context**

2. The CtG Strategy was approved by Full Council on 29 March 2012. It sets out Nottinghamshire County Council's long term commitment to ensuring that the full range of services and partners work coherently with schools and other educational settings to maximise the impact of available resources in further improving the attainment and progress of vulnerable groups of learners.

Key actions and impact to date:

3. The key actions identified in the CtG Strategy continue to provide the focus of our collaborative working between all partners named within the Strategy.
4. The **CtG Performance Board** meets termly to review the Strategy and to hold each service/team to account for the impact of CtG activities. Membership includes Group/Team Managers from across Children, Families and Cultural Services (CFCS). Public Health is also now represented on the Board. A primary head teacher from the "Together for Newark" Steering Group also sits on the Board and provides advice and feedback about locality working to close gaps. The Strategy has been included within Nottinghamshire's revised Early Help Strategy. CtG pledges have also been revised within Nottinghamshire's refreshed Child Poverty Strategy.
5. Nottinghamshire's **Data and Performance Team (DPT)** provides the CtG Board with a wide range of CtG datasets in order to assess impact, identify areas of greatest need, areas for improvement and examples of good practice that can be shared and built upon.

6. **Early analysis of the 2014 provisional attainment data** for pupils who were eligible for free school meals at some point in the past 6 years (**FSM6**) shows that continued improvements have been made in terms of narrowing gaps at key thresholds as follows:
- at Key Stage 2, Nottinghamshire schools have narrowed the gap between FSM6 and Non FSM6 from 19.9% in 2013 to 16.5% in 2014 – representing a narrowing of 3.4%;
 - at Key Stage 4 (based on all entries), there has been a similar rate of improvement over the past year. The gap narrowed from 31.5% in 2013 to 27.4% in 2014 – representing a narrowing of 4.1%.
7. A more detailed analysis of Nottinghamshire's validated FSM6 outcomes, including trends analysis and national comparisons, will be available in the spring term of 2015.
8. Good progress has been made on key actions taken by the **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy and Provision** teams. An agreed strategy to improve provision and outcomes for children and young people with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) has been largely delivered. There has been a 30% reduction in exclusions over the last two years. School capacity to provide appropriate support for pupils with SEBD has been significantly enhanced through local partnership working, peer support and challenge coupled with programmes of professional development. The Education, Health and Care pathfinder has successfully developed a pathway to ensure key partners work with families and their children or young people with special educational, health and/or care needs to agree effective and efficient ways to support these vulnerable learners to achieve their full potential.
9. **Latest analysis of the 2014 attainment data for pupils with Special Educational Needs** (SEN) shows that year on year improvements have been made in terms of narrowing gaps as follows:
- at Key Stage 2, Nottinghamshire schools have narrowed the gap between SEN and Non SEN pupils from 57.2% in 2013 to 53.9% in 2014 – representing a narrowing of 3.3%;
 - at Key Stage 4, there has been a similar rate of improvement over the last year. The gap narrowed from 47.2% in 2013 to 43% in 2014 – representing a narrowing of 4.2%.
10. Nottinghamshire's **Admissions Team** continues to work closely with schools to ensure that the Fair Access Protocol is used effectively and consistently so that all learners without a school place are rapidly offered an appropriate placement to maximize their time spent in learning. The average waiting time for a school place was reduced from 94 days in the autumn term 2012 to 25 days in the similar period in 2013. In addition, the longest waiting period for a school place for an individual pupil has reduced from 467 days in 2011-12 to 178 days in 2012-13.
11. **Targeted Support and Youth Justice (TSYJ)** teams continue to work with vulnerable students who meet the thresholds for Early Help, Supporting Families or Youth Justice and for whom attendance is an issue. The rate of persistent absence for 2012-13 was 4.8% compared to 4.9% for 2011-12. Overall absence rates increased from 5.0% to 5.4%

with an increase in absences authorised by schools. The TSYJ teams also support 16-18 year olds who are at risk of not being in education, employment or training (NEET). Current data shows that Nottinghamshire continues to have low levels of NEET. The three month average figure for NEET (November 2013 to January 2014) was 2.8% compared to an England average of 4.7%. Participation (In Learning) was 90.6% compared to an England average of 83.2%. The percentage of young people 'Not Known' was 5.5% compared to an England average of 8.0%.

12. On 1 April 2014, **The Early Help Unit** was aligned with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to provide improved access to early help through a single point of access to all support services for vulnerable children, young people and their families. During October 2013 to March 2014, 945 early help assessments were completed. Early help services fully resolved 55% of referrals between January and March 2014 and partially resolved a further 12%. 13% of referrals were not resolved. A further 8% were not progressed due to consent being withdrawn. 3% have been referred to Children's Social Care. 4% have been referred to another service. 1% have moved out of the area and a further 4% had not been recorded at the time of this data collation.
13. **The Early Years and Early Intervention team** makes a strong and significant contribution to the CtG Strategy. 79% of all children living in low income areas are currently registered with one of Nottinghamshire's 58 children's centres and just over half of these have accessed children's centre services. Over the next two years, free early education places will be targeted to 40% of all two year olds in England (3,700 children in Nottinghamshire). The Government expects all two year olds to have access to a place in a setting that has been rated at least 'Good' by Ofsted. Of those providers inspected in Nottinghamshire, 76% have been rated as being either Good or Outstanding.
14. The **Education Improvement Service (EIS)** has successfully delivered a wide range of conferences, sold offer networks and head teacher briefings and services to ensure school leaders and governors have access to national and international speakers, latest research and innovative practice to close educational gaps. Close collaboration between the EIS and the **Governing Body Service** has increased the range of opportunities for advice, support and training for Nottinghamshire governors to fulfil their enhanced role in terms of monitoring the use of Pupil Premium funding to close gaps. The EIS continues to effectively promote, commission and model a wide range of collaborative activities between and across CFCS services.
15. **The 'Together for Newark' (TfN) pilot** was initially formed as a two year 'Closing the Gaps' strategy in the autumn of 2012 to look at improving locality-based working between partners in one geographical area of Nottinghamshire. The aim was to support children and young people from pre-school into further and higher education so that they are able to achieve their full potential. The pilot is underpinned by three principles:
 - what works best rather than just what works
 - releasing capacity
 - collective decisions based on analysis not assumption.
16. The **Newark Town Steering Group** represents partners from a wide range of services and educational settings in the town, including the Newark and Sherwood District Council. This group has developed a clear, strategic plan based on a range of CtG

activities and has established a structure and process for local governance, decision-making and shared accountability for closing educational gaps within the town.

17. Interim evaluations of the TfN pilot have been carried out separately by researchers from **Nottingham Trent University and from Manchester University** to further inform local and LA planning for closing the gaps. Early findings from research activities indicate that:

“...locality working in Newark Town has already made a positive impact on education provision and wider learning opportunities in Newark. Within a year, focused activities have led Newark’s schools and services to start to collectively address barriers, concerns and issues identified by local families and professionals.” Professor Gill Richards, Nottingham Trent University.

“TfN has established a strong steering group which: (i) brings together schools and wider partners – namely local authority and district council officers; (ii) draws on a wide range of intelligence about the situation in Newark and professional knowledge; and (iii) has created a framework for stimulating and monitoring the development of new working groups and activities.... TfN has generated a considerable range of activity which has been inclusive of a wide range of partners and responded to a wide range of concerns. Those involved have reported positive impacts for children and families, and for professional practices and relationships.” Professor Alan Dyson and Dr Kirsten Kerr, Centre for Equity in Education at Manchester University.

2014 provisional outcomes for Newark and Sherwood District at Key Stage 2 compared to other districts and Nottinghamshire overall

- *the combined outcomes for the FSM6 pupils in Newark and Sherwood District are much improved over the 2 years of the Closing the Educational Gaps Strategy and are noticeably greater than all other districts and Nottinghamshire as a whole. For instance, Newark and Sherwood primary schools’ attainment for FSM6 pupils on this measure improved by 11.7% between 2012 and 2014 whereas the Nottinghamshire improvement stands at 6.3%.*
 - *the performance across Nottinghamshire on this indicator has improved by 4.4% between 2013-14 compared with a rise of 1.9% in the previous year indicating an impact of the universal Closing the Gap Strategy across Nottinghamshire.*
 - *provisional data for 2014 indicates that the FSM6/Non FSM6 gap for the Newark and Sherwood District has narrowed between 2012 and 2014 by 10.5 percentage points compared to a Nottinghamshire gap reduction of 5.8%. This reduction is also significantly greater than in all other districts.*
18. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) sees this way of working in local areas as the future for the greater involvement of local communities in influencing and determining the direction of improvement in education in their area, particularly at a time when difficult funding decisions are being made. Following robust external evaluations by our external research partners, NCC is currently in consultation with the educational settings and wider partners within the **Worksop district** in order to extend and build upon this model of partnership and collaborative working.

19. A further report which will seek Members' approval for an update of the Strategy to run from 2015/16 will be brought to the Committee early in the New Year. This report will also update Members with validated, individually pupil tracked data to provide greater precision to the process of evaluation of effectiveness.

Other Options Considered

20. No other options were considered.

Reason for Recommendations

21. Latest impact data and external research evaluation indicates that the CtG Strategy is having a positive impact on narrowing the gaps for vulnerable and/or disadvantaged learners. There is growing evidence that cross service/phase collaborative working at County and locality level is beginning to develop new ways of working focused on earlier intervention to close gaps and ensure vulnerable learners meet their potential.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the impact of the Closing the Educational Gaps Strategy 2012-14 be noted.

John Slater
Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 28/10/14)

24. There are no financial implications arising directly from the 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.

A Strategy for Closing the Nottinghamshire Educational Gaps 2012-14

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0455

10 November 2014**Agenda Item: 08****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAISING OF THE PARTICIPATION AGE
STRATEGY FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide the Committee with an update on implementation of the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) in Nottinghamshire and to present the RPA Strategy for the Council and our partners.
2. To invite the Committee to comment on the Department's Raising the Participation Age Strategy (attached as **Appendix 1**) and recommend it to Policy Committee for approval at its meeting on 10 December 2014.

Information and Advice

3. The Raising of the Participation Age came into effect from June 2013, when all young people completing year 11 became subject to a duty to participate in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 years of age. RPA is being phased in and, as such, from 26 June 2015 the duty to participate will be extended to a young person's 18th birthday. The three primary routes for young people to participate are:
 - full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider
 - full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training
 - an Apprenticeship/Traineeship.
4. Under RPA, the duty to participate resides with the young person. In order to satisfy that duty, young people in full-time learning will access 540 guided learning hours per year. Those in employment or volunteering will do so for an average of 20 hours per week as a minimum, and in addition will access 280 guided learning hours a year. Young people in an apprenticeship and the new traineeships also meet the duty to participate.
5. For young people who are being home educated, there is no hourly requirement of education, and the amount and content of that education is at the discretion of the home educator. In most circumstances it will be the young person themselves who will state that they are home-educated. Where a local authority believes there is some doubt in the

matter they may wish to seek confirmation of this from the parent or guardian, but no on-going monitoring of the education is required.

6. Local authorities have existing responsibilities to support young people into education or training. These include a responsibility to:
 - secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for 13-19 year olds
 - make available support to encourage, enable and assist young people aged 13-19 years and young adults aged 20-24 with a Learning Difficulty Assessment to participate in education and training.
7. In order to meet these responsibilities, local authorities are expected to track participation in line with National Client Caseload Information System (NCCIS) requirements and to ensure that young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) are supported.
8. The Education and Skills Act (ESA) 2008 places two new duties on local authorities in relation to RPA:
 - promoting the effective participation of all 16 and 17 year old residents in the local authority area, and
 - making arrangements to identify young people resident in the local authority area who are not participating.
9. Local authorities are expected to meet any costs incurred in the delivery of these duties from their overall budgets. In addition, local authorities are expected to lead the local implementation of the September Guarantee, which is an offer of a place in learning for young people leaving year 11 and all 17 year old Nottinghamshire residents.
10. In relation to RPA, schools and colleges are under a duty to secure access to independent face-to-face careers guidance for pupils in year 8-13 where it is the most suitable support for young people to make successful transitions. The duty particularly applies for children from disadvantaged backgrounds or those who have special educational needs, learning difficulties or disabilities. An equivalent requirement applies to 16-18 year olds in colleges through funding agreements. Schools are expected to engage, as appropriate, in partnership with external, expert careers providers, but are otherwise free to make arrangements that fit the needs and circumstances of their students.
11. Under the ESA 2008, providers of education or training for 16 and 17 year olds are under two duties in relation to RPA. They must:
 - promote good attendance of 16 and 17 year olds
 - inform local authority support services if a young person (aged 16 or 17 years) has dropped out of learning. This is so the young person can be contacted swiftly and offered support to help them re-engage.
12. The Education and Skills Act 2008 also placed a requirement on employers to take certain actions in respect of young people who meet the duty to participate in order to enable and encourage them to combine work with education/training.

13. Although the 2008 legislation contains an intention to apply enforcement options on young people and employers who fail in their duties, these are not being implemented at this stage. However, they remain in statute and could be introduced in the future.
14. In November 2012, the Local Authority assessed its readiness to implement RPA against a DfE Toolkit and following this a Raising of the Participation Age 'Action Plan' was developed for Nottinghamshire to ensure that the Local Authority had adequate arrangements in place to meet its duties.
15. According to draft RPA participation data released by the DfE in March 2014, 92.7% of young people aged 16 and 17 in Nottinghamshire were participating in education and/or training compared to 90.8% regionally and 90.3% across England.
16. During 2014 the RPA Plan was reviewed and a more detailed Raising the Participation Age Strategy was developed. The proposed Strategy, attached as **Appendix 1**, describes the activities the Local Authority is committed to delivering through both its Targeted Support services and School Improvement service alongside its partners to ensure we can continue to deliver our obligations under RPA with more limited resources.

Other Options Considered

17. No alternative options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

18. The rationale for the recommendation is to ensure that the Local Authority with its key partners has in place a Strategy for the Raising of the Participation Age which enables us to continue to fulfil our duties under RPA and has engagement with key 14-19 partners and stakeholders.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) notes the update on implementation of the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) in Nottinghamshire
- 2) comments on the proposed Raising the Participation Age Strategy and recommends it to Policy Committee for approval at its meeting on 10 December 2014.

John Slater
Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion

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Constitutional Comments (LM 23/10/14)

20. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (KLA 23/10/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0480



Policy Library Pro Forma

This information will be used to add a policy, procedure, guidance or strategy to the Policy Library.

Title: Raising the Participation Age Strategy

Aim / Summary:

Document type (please choose one)

Policy		Guidance	
Strategy	√	Procedure	

Approved by:

Version number:

Date approved:

Proposed review date:

Subject Areas (choose all relevant)

About the Council		Older people	
Births, Deaths, Marriages		Parking	
Business		Recycling and Waste	
Children and Families	√	Roads	
Countryside & Environment		Schools	
History and Heritage		Social Care	
Jobs		Staff	
Leisure		Travel and Transport	
libraries			

Author:

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Responsible team:

TSYJ/EIS

Contact number:

Contact email:

Please include any supporting documents

1.

2.

3.

Review date

Amendments



Raising the Participation Age Strategy

Foreword

“We want Nottinghamshire to be a place where everyone is able to enjoy a good quality of life. Ensuring that children, young people and families are supported as an investment in our future, for all residents in Nottinghamshire. This investment needs to ensure that services that support attainment and achievement are primarily focussed toward those young people, families and communities in greatest need.” **Strategic Plan 2014-18**

Through the Local Authority Strategic Plan, Nottinghamshire has made clear its commitment to working in partnership with schools, academies, further education and skills providers and employers to ensure young people make a successful transition into adult life. This means young people gaining the skills, qualifications and experience they need to enter the labour market with confidence and ambition.

Our strategic Plan makes a particular commitment to use the increasingly scarce resources available to the Local Authority to direct support to children and young people from the most deprived areas and with the greatest need.

The case for raising the participation age was made by the Department for Education in their publication ***“Raising Expectations: staying on in education and training post-16 From Policy to legislation”*** (DfE November 2007) which stated:

‘The benefits of participating in learning post-16, both to individuals and to the economy and society at large, are significant and growing. Our ambition is to realise those benefits for all young people. It is time to make a reality of our long held ambition for all young people to stay on in learning until 18’.

‘Raising the Participation Age’ (RPA) was introduced through the Education and Skills Act 2008. The Legislation brought about a change in the minimum age at which young people in England can leave learning.

RPA is being introduced in two phases. Since September 2013, young people are required to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17, or until completion of a full Level 3 (defined as two or more A Levels or their equivalent in vocational qualifications), whichever is the sooner.

From 2015, they will be required to continue in learning until their 18th birthday.

RPA does not necessarily mean young people must stay in school beyond the age of 16; they are able to choose from one of the following options:

- Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider.
- Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training.
- An Apprenticeship.

The duty to participate resides with the individual young person. An intention outlined in the legislation to apply enforcement options on young people and employers who fail in their duties are not being implemented at this stage, but remain in statute and could be introduced in the future.

Responsibilities for Local Authorities:

The Education and Skills Act 2008 placed the following duty on Local Authorities:

- To promote the effective participation in education or training of young people in their area.
- To make arrangements to identify young people not participating in education, employment or training (NEET) – i.e. maintaining a comprehensive tracking system at primary, secondary and post 16.

These complement existing duties to:

- Secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all 16-19 year olds.
- Have processes in place to deliver the September Guarantee.
- Track young peoples' participation.

Responsibilities for Schools, Academies and Post 16 Learning Providers:

The Act placed the following duty on learning providers:

- To promote good attendance of 16 and 17 year olds.
- To inform local authority support services if a young person has dropped out so that they can be contacted swiftly and offered support.

Responsibilities for Employers:

Employers must ensure that where a young person is employed for more than 20 hours per week, they allow them to undertake accredited training for a minimum of 280 guided learning hours per year (equivalent to one day per week). If the 16 or 17 year old is working less than 20 hours per week or less than 8 weeks in a row there is **no requirement**.

If the employer is not providing accredited training then they are required to:

- Check that the young person is enrolled on some accredited learning/training;
- Agree reasonable hours off work to allow access to training

1. Context

- ✓ There are 785,802 people living in Nottinghamshire County Local Authority Area.
- ✓ According to the 2011 ONS Census almost 20,000 of these are aged 16-17.
- ✓ Almost 40,000 young people aged 16-19 live in Nottinghamshire. (2011 Census)
- ✓ There are about 8,500 young people in the Year 11 cohort for all maintained schools and academies in Nottinghamshire.



- ✓ NEET for 16-18 year olds in Nottinghamshire is low and remains below the England Average.
- ✓ Participation rates for 16 and 17 year olds remain stable at about 90%
- ✓ The proportion of young people whose Education, Employment or Training status is not known to the Authority is below the England average
- ✓ According to the new destination measures, Nottinghamshire is above the national and regional average for students leaving year 11 and moving into a sustained Year 12 Education and Training destination (sustained over two terms).

- ✓ Levels of persistent absence in Nottinghamshire declined slightly between the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years but remains above the England Average
- ✓ Overall absence rates are broadly in line with the England and Regional Averages
- ✓ KS4 Attainment has been improving year on year and is now above the England average for the proportion of pupils achieving 5 A*-C Grades at GCSE including English and Maths
- ✓ The proportion of young people with a L3 Qualification at 19 has been increasing year on year but remains below the England Average.



RPA Strategy and links to other Corporate and Partnership Plans and Strategies:



This Raising the Participation Age Strategy does not stand alone.

It is one of a number of plans and strategies for Nottinghamshire that aim to:

- ✓ increase aspirations within local communities
- ✓ address poverty and deprivation
- ✓ engage with employers and support the local economy
- ✓ close the attainment gap for young people
- ✓ ensure the most vulnerable children and young people are supported.

Within Nottinghamshire's overarching Strategic Plan 2014-18, the Local Authority has made a number of commitments in relation to children and young people including that:

- The most vulnerable children will be effectively protected and supported
- More young people will be in work, education or training. Closer working relationships between schools, academies further education and skills, employers and higher education, to develop young people for early identifiable career pathways
- Our children and young people will attain higher educational standards than the national average in good and outstanding schools
- Additional school places will be available where they are most needed
- Children and young people receive the help and support they require to be safe and thrive
- Young people are supported to reach their potential.

Nottinghamshire Local Authority and its partners have committed to increasing the skills of its young people by offering:

- high quality information, advice and guidance and guidance (IAG), and
- support and provision that meets the needs of young people, and the demands of local employers.

In addition, through our 'Early Help' arrangements, there will be targeted support and early intervention for vulnerable young people and their families to address any issues which could become barriers to participation.

2. Our strategy for RPA for Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire Local Authority recognises it has a new relationship with schools, academies, further education and skills providers who enjoy increased autonomy.

Within this context, the authority remains committed to working together with partners to ensure young people have an experience of education which is positive, and that enables them to reach their potential, and that equips them with the skills, qualifications and confidence they need in readiness for the world of work.

The ambition is that partners will work together, with a common purpose, to help raise young people's aspirations and, to ensure the right opportunities and support are available to fulfil those aspirations.

To support this ambition the authority will:

- Maintain our drive to improve educational outcomes across the full range of providers serving Nottinghamshire's children and young people, with a particular focus on attainment at KS4 and at age 19.
- Maintain our understanding of the needs of young people in Nottinghamshire so that they are able to participate in learning up to the age of 18. with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.
- Influence wherever possible, the local education and training landscape to ensure that the appropriate provision is available, and in the right locations. So that it is accessible to all who need/wish to participate.
- Ensure that there is a variety of vocational pathways and accreditation models available which encourage young people to want to stay on in learning to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding, that enables them to move on to the next stage of their lives at 19 years of age.
- Support the provision of high quality careers guidance from age 13 to all learners so they all make the right choices first time.
- Provide Strategic Leadership that encourages Nottinghamshire's education and training providers, and employers, to work together collaboratively to raise attainment, and support the most vulnerable learners.
- Maintain data and tracking mechanisms that support the early identification of young people at risk of becoming NEET, and, to support sustainable progression by putting in place early intervention strategies.
- Provide 'Early Help' to the most vulnerable young people that enables them to engage with and participate in learning.
- Ensure young people, parents, employers and education and training providers are clear about their duties under the Raising of the Participation Age.

3. How we will deliver the Strategy

What we aim to achieve

What we will do

How we will measure success

Support the provision of high quality careers guidance from age 13 to all learners so they all make the right choices first time

Provide support and challenge to schools and post 16 providers, to ensure they meet their duty to offer independent and impartial careers guidance

Work with the National Careers Service provider to help broker links between schools, further education and skills and local employers

Provide careers advice for Looked After Children who require support for their successful transition

The proportion of young people remaining in learning after KS4

Post 16 progression measures for Nottinghamshire indicate a high level of retention in learning post 16

The proportion of Looked After Children who are NEET

Provide strategic leadership that encourages education and training providers, and employers to work together collaboratively to raise attainment, and support the most vulnerable learners

We will work with schools to challenge poor standards and provide support to help deliver improvements

We will ensure that support is targeted where there are the most profound gaps in educational attainment

Increase the % of children achieving 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE - including both Maths and English

Narrow the attainment gap at ages 11 and 16 between pupils eligible for free school meals and the rest

Maintain our drive to improve educational outcomes across the full range of providers serving Nottinghamshire's children and young people with a particular focus on attainment at KS4 and at age 19

Work in partnership with education and training providers and employers to ensure a varied and engaging post 16 curriculum is in place

Work in partnership with schools through our 'Early Help' offer to address pupil absence

Increase level 3 Attainment at 19 to be above the England Average.

Reduce overall and persistent absence to below the England average.

Influence wherever possible, the local education and training landscape to ensure the appropriate provision is available, in the right location, so that it is accessible to all who need to participate

We will work with post 16 skills providers to challenge poor standards and provide support to help deliver improvements

Work in partnership with Providers delivers NEET reduction activity including the DWP, the Youth Contract and ESF.

Work with employers to increase training opportunities for young people, particularly through traineeships and apprenticeships.

Nottinghamshire providers of further education and skills will be graded 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted

Reduction in the proportion of young people in NEET.

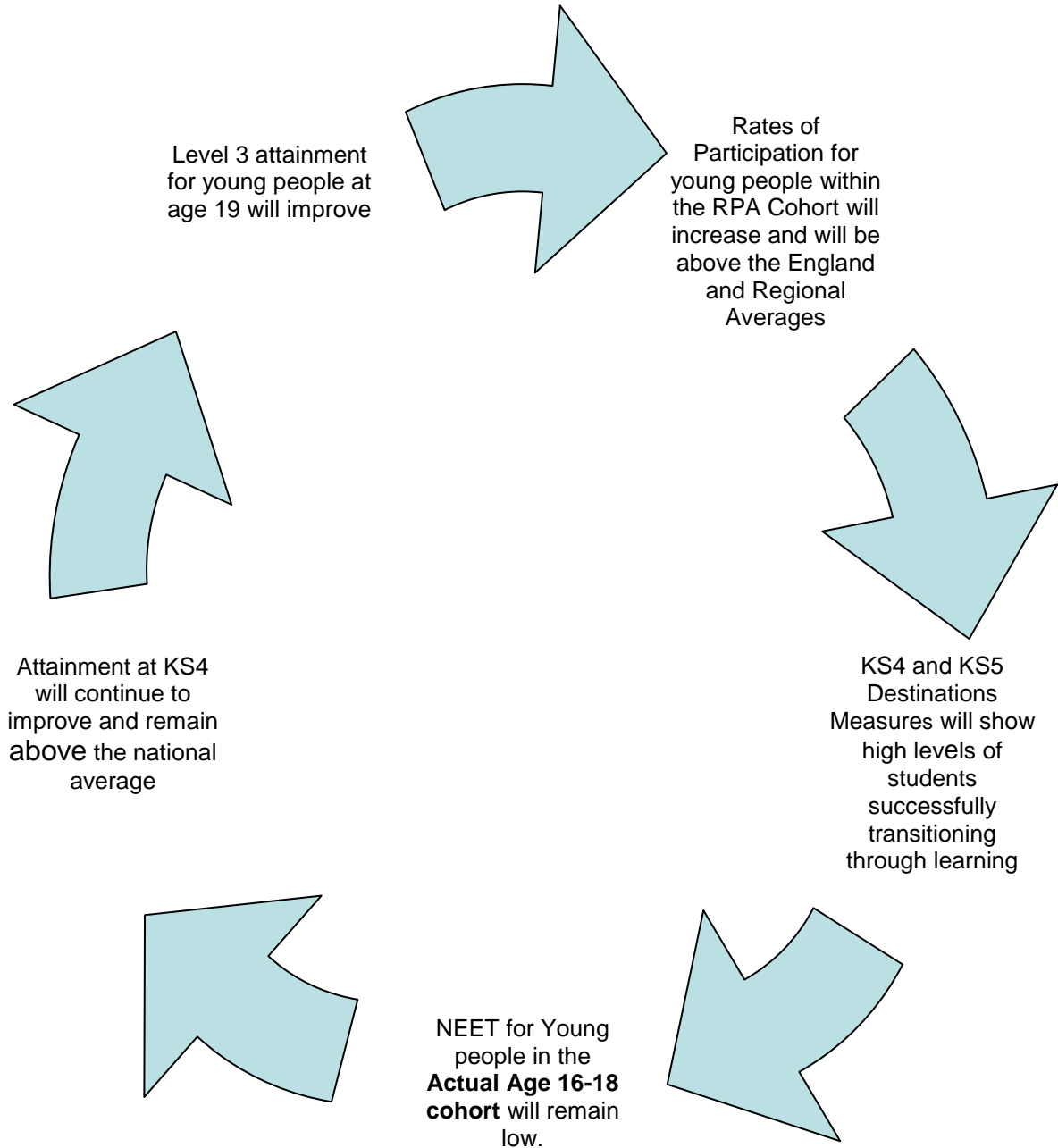
Ensure that there is a variety of vocational pathways and models of accreditation available which that encourage young people to want to stay on in learning to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding which enables them to move on to the next stage in their lives at 19 years of age

Increase the number of young people engaged in traineeships and apprenticeships across Nottinghamshire.

What we aim to achieve	What we will do	How we will measure success
Provide 'Early Help' to the most vulnerable young people that enables them to engage with and participate in learning	<p>Implement a Risk of NEET Indicator tool using Family Fisher Trust Student Explorer data so that these young people can be targeted for support with transition during KS4.</p> <p>Reduce the % of children not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the Actual Age 16-18 cohort</p> <p>Reduce the numbers of young people who are missing education, with a focus on those not receiving their full education entitlement</p> <p>Introduce Education, Health and Care Plans for young people with complex SEND needs, and ensure that a local offer is in place, that can be easily understood by parents and young people.</p> <p>Support young people with BESD through local behaviour partnerships that enable them to remain engaged with learning</p>	<p>Low levels of NEET at the end of KS4 particularly for vulnerable groups</p> <p>Maintain low levels of NEET</p> <p>Reduce the number of young people, known to the authority, not receiving their full educational entitlement.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of young people who are excluded from school</p>
<p>Maintain data and tracking mechanisms which support early identification of young people at risk of becoming NEET and to support sustainable progression by putting in place early intervention strategies</p> <p>Maintain our understanding of the needs of young people in Nottinghamshire so that they are able to participate in learning up to 18 years of age, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Track young people who drop out of learning post 16 and provide support</p> <p>Share destinations data with schools and academies to support the identification of young people who are NEET. What about FE and skills?</p> <p>Monitor the proportion of young people from vulnerable groups who are NEET</p>	<p>Maintain relatively low levels of 'not known' within the available resources, and maintain low NEET.</p> <p>Reduce the gap in the proportion of young people from vulnerable groups who are NEET compared to the overall cohort</p>
Ensure young people, parents and education and training providers are clear about their duties under the Raising of the Participation Age	Deliver a communications plan that raises awareness of RPA for parents and young people and alerts education and training providers and employers of their duties	The duties and responsibilities around RPA are understood by: parents, young people, schools, academies, further education and skills providers and employers across Nottinghamshire

4. How you will know that we have achieved this

You will know that we are successfully implementing the Raising of the Participation age because:



Related Documents/Web links

- Increasing opportunities for young people and helping them to achieve their potential: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-opportunities-for-young-people-and-helping-them-to-achieve-their-potential>
- Increasing the participation of young people in education and training: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151655/http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/laupdates/a00201156/participation-yp-in-et>
- Building Engagement-Building Futures; <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151655/http://education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/participation/a00200853/building-engagement-building-futures>
- Increasing the participation of young people in education and training; <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/strategy/laupdates/a00201156/participation-yp-in-et>
- The Importance of Teaching: <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-of-teaching-and-leadership>
- 'Hidden Talents: exploiting the link between engagement of young people and the economy'; NFER; March 2011; http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/HITA01/HITA01_home.cfm
- Supporting Youth Unemployment: An overview of the Coalition Government's Approach ; HM Government ; May 2011; <http://fskills.idoxgroup.com/sds/search/download.do;jsessionid=2222A8BA6170819A779914A780A15F83?ref=B20649>;
- Increasing the number of academies and free schools to create a better and more diverse school system; <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-the-number-of-academies-and-free-schools-to-create-a-better-and-more-diverse-school-system>
- Reforming qualifications and the curriculum to better prepare pupils for life after school; <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reforming-qualifications-and-the-curriculum-to-better-prepare-pupils-for-life-after-school>
- Raising the achievement of disadvantaged children <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/raising-the-achievement-of-disadvantaged-children>
- Increasing options and improving provision for children with special educational needs (SEN) <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-options-and-improving-provision-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-sen>
- Improving the quality of further education and skills training; <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-of-further-education-and-skills-training>

- Richard Review of Apprenticeships; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-richard-review-of-apprenticeships>
- Skills for sustainable growth: strategy document; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skills-for-sustainable-growth-strategy-document>
- 16 to 19 study programmes: work experience; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-work-experience-as-a-part-of-16-to-19-study-programmes>
- Careers guidance provision for young people in schools; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-guidance-for-young-people-in-schools>
- Careers guidance: advice for schools; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/careers-guidance-advice-for-schools>
- Research into the phase 4 locally-led delivery projects for raising the participation age; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-into-the-phase-4-locally-led-delivery-projects-for-raising-the-participation-age>
- Participation of young people: education, employment and training; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/participation-of-young-people-education-employment-and-training>
- Going in the right direction? Careers guidance in schools from September 2012 (Ofsted); <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/going-right-direction-careers-guidance-schools-september-2012>

10 November 2014**Agenda Item: 09**

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY STRATEGY REFRESH

Purpose of the Report

1. To note the refreshed Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy and seek Committee approval for the supporting annual action plan.

Information and Advice

2. The Child Poverty Act 2010 placed statutory duties upon top tier local authorities and their named partners to prepare a joint child poverty strategy which set out the measures that the local authority and each partner proposed to take to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their area.
3. Nottinghamshire's first Child Poverty Strategy "*Building Aspiration: Working Together to Tackle Child and Family Poverty*" was approved at County Council on 22 September 2011.
4. The Nottinghamshire Strategy was refreshed in Spring 2014 to reflect:
 - updated data on child poverty levels in Nottinghamshire
 - a revised action plan
 - revised governance and performance management arrangements
 - changes in the way that public services are funded and delivered.
5. The refreshed Strategy reflects all partners' recognition of the far reaching, multi-faceted effects of poverty on Nottinghamshire families and a commitment to continue tackling the causes and mitigating the effects of poverty. It is also a response to evidence that demonstrates a link between the negative consequences of poverty and an increased demand for services. In an environment where local authorities and partners are seeking to make significant savings, this correlation cannot be ignored.

Definitions of Child Poverty

6. Child poverty is now measured using the Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure¹, which was established in 2011. It defines the proportion of children living in

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/fpersonal-tax-credits-children-in-low-income-families-local-measure>

families either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with a reported income which is less than 60% of national median income.

Levels of child poverty in Nottinghamshire

7. The latest data for 2012 was published in October 2014 by HMRC using the revised measure, reflecting that 16% of children in Nottinghamshire were defined as living in poverty. Levels of child poverty in Nottinghamshire as a whole are slightly below the England average of 18.6%. In Nottinghamshire, 52 out of 172 wards have levels of child poverty over the England average of 18.6% and 10 out of 172 wards have levels of child poverty which exceed 30%.
8. The Institute of Fiscal Studies has predicted that relative child poverty nationally will stand at 24% by the financial year 2020/21 – which is higher than the target of 10% set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010.
9. Both the national and local picture, therefore, present significant challenges for Nottinghamshire in tackling child poverty and the refreshed Strategy attempts to do this by focusing partner actions where poverty has been identified to be highest.

National and local context

10. The Government published a new Child Poverty Strategy in June 2014. In it, the Government re-affirms its commitment to ending child poverty in the UK by 2020 and sees this as being important for economic growth. The Strategy aims to tackle child poverty through creating jobs, supporting families into work, making work pay, tackling low pay and helping people move into better paid jobs.
11. It identifies Local Enterprise Partnerships as having a key role in tackling child poverty. It also identifies education as being a key mechanism for preventing poor children becoming poor adults and, in particular, emphasises the importance of access to high quality early education, which it intends to support through the introduction of the Early Years Pupil Premium.
12. There is now a significant amount of evidence to support the view that welfare reform, stagnant wages and fuel price increases are having an impact on low income families. There has also been a growth in “payday lenders”, who offer short-term loans with high interest rates and who have developed high profile marketing strategies. In response to this, a number of local authorities have established Fairness Commissions to gather evidence around the impact of child poverty and to highlight issues in this area.
13. The refresh of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy (attached as **Appendix 1**) builds on key plans and strategies in Nottinghamshire, including the Early Years Strategy, the Closing the Educational Gaps Strategy, and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It is also informed by evidence from national sources including the Sutton Trust, the Early Intervention Foundation, the Child Poverty Action Group and the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer.
14. Since the original Strategy was written, the landscape of children’s services has also changed significantly with developments for the Pupil Premium and renewed

commitment from Government to support the Troubled Families programme until 2020. The emergence of the Local Enterprise Partnership (D2N2) has seen economic growth being planned on a cross-authority basis.

15. On an East Midlands level, the national Child Poverty Unit originally developed regional activity around child poverty and the current Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Reference Group is re-establishing a regional group, which will provide a forum for cross-authority learning and co-operation.

Governance and monitoring arrangements

16. The governance and monitoring arrangements reflect the changed landscape outlined above, with increased emphasis on local accountability.
17. Nottinghamshire's Early Help offer is monitored on a locality level by the Early Help Implementation Groups (EHIGs) and on a district level by the Locality Management Groups (LMGs). These groups are multi-agency partnerships, chaired by NCC officers, and focus on district priorities and performance to meet a number of key targets, including those relating to child and family poverty.
18. The Strategy refresh is also driven by the recognition that a key way of mitigating the effects of child poverty is through the actions of partners on a local level and, in particular, targeting work in child poverty hotspots.
19. To support this work in 2014/15, the role of monitoring performance to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty will be carried out through EHIGs and LMGs, and reported to the Child Poverty Reference Group. The Child Poverty Reference Group is made up from a wide range of partners from across health, education, police, district councils, churches and the voluntary sector. In turn the Child Poverty Reference Group will report on County-wide performance to the Children's Trust and Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

Action Plan

20. The revised annual action plan (attached as **Appendix 2**) recognises that a significant amount of activity is already taking place across the County to address child poverty, and that this is reflected in key plans including the Early Help Development Plan, the Closing the Educational Gaps Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Community Safety Strategy and district council strategic plans. Therefore, the action plan seeks to add value by:
 - focusing on areas where a partnership approach will increase impact
 - focusing on areas where further action is needed and where influence and impact is greatest.
21. Implicit in this is the recognition that tackling child poverty is everybody's business, not just that of children's services.
22. The action plan is a "live" document which will be further developed and refined as work continues and new partners emerge. Partners will be kept informed about progress on the action plan via a quarterly newsletter; this will serve to inspire people as well as

inform them. A refreshed action plan will also be brought to Committee annually for approval. This will ensure that actions remain relevant and do not duplicate other plans.

23. The plan format and content has been developed drawing on models from across the region and seeks to build on and streamline existing pledges. It focuses on three key areas:

- short term – mitigating the effects of poverty
- medium term – moving people out of poverty
- long term – preventing poor children from becoming poor adults.

Other Options Considered

24. None

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

25. To achieve Committee approval for partnership actions to tackle Child Poverty in Nottinghamshire.

Statutory and Policy Implications

26. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

27. Activity set out in the Strategy and action plan will be delivered within the resource base available to individual services.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the refreshed Child and Family Poverty Strategy be noted
- 2) the supporting annual action plan be approved.

Derek Highton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 24/10/14)

28. Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report

Financial Comments (KLA 23/10/14)

29. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraph 27 above.

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.

Building Aspiration: Working Together to Tackle Child and Family Poverty (Sept 2011)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0465

October 2014 Update to

Building Aspiration: Working Together to Tackle
Child and Family Poverty in Nottinghamshire

**Developed by the Tackling Child Poverty
Reference Group**

- What is child poverty?
- Why tackling child poverty is still important to Nottinghamshire
- How the strategy is developing
- Next steps

1. Introduction

Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners have created a vision to support the Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy. All partners signed up to the following vision:

Nottinghamshire's Vision: Our ambition is for Nottinghamshire to be a place where children grow up free from deprivation and disadvantage, and birth and social background do not hold people back from achieving their potential.

Nottinghamshire's strategic objective: We will work together to reduce levels of child poverty and to mitigate the effects of child poverty on children, young people and families, as well as on future generations.

The refresh to the Strategy includes:

- new data on child poverty levels in Nottinghamshire
- a new action plan
- revised governance and performance management arrangements.

i What is Child Poverty?

Child Poverty is measured using the Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure¹, which was established in **2011**. It defines the proportion of children living in families either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with a reported income which is less than 60% of national median income.

Previously known as the Revised Local Child Poverty Measure or National Indicator 116, this measure was renamed Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure to help distinguish these statistics from the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) publication, which provides the definitive national measure of relative child poverty as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Under the Child Poverty Act 2010 a child is defined as being in relative poverty if they live in a household with an income of less than 60% of the national median income. The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure is based on administrative tax credits and benefit data sources and includes children who are living in families either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits with reported income less than 60% of median income.

ii Why tackling child poverty is still important to Nottinghamshire

Poverty can have a profound impact on the child, their family, and the rest of society. It often sets in motion a deepening spiral of social exclusion, creating problems in education, employment, mental and physical health and social interaction. We understand that tackling child poverty will improve the life chances of children and their parents now and in years to come. Tackling child poverty is not just about children and is a deep rooted issue affecting many of our communities. To this end, tackling child poverty is everybody's business and should be reflected in agency plans across the board.

¹ <http://www.gov.uk/personal-tax-credits-children-in-low-income-families-local-measure>

Levels of child poverty in Nottinghamshire are slightly below the national and regional estimates. In 2008 it was reported that 16.8% of children (under the age of 20 years) were living in poverty in the County. In 2010 across Nottinghamshire 27,950 children and young people aged 0-19 years (*All Children*) were identified as living in poverty, which equates to 17.1% of the 0-19 years population. In 2011 that figure was reported as 27,700 equating to 17% of the population – a decrease by 0.1%. However, it should be noted that because of the change to the measure these figures are not directly comparable. The latest data, published in September 2014, reports that 26,225 children are living in poverty across Nottinghamshire, equating to 16% of the population, although it should be noted that this data only covers 2012.

Across Nottinghamshire there is some variation in the percentage of children living in poverty. According to the 2014 statistics:

- 72 wards out of 172 have levels of child poverty over the Notts average of 16%
- 52 wards out of 172 have levels of child poverty over the England average of 18.6%
- 10 wards out of 172 have levels of child poverty which exceed 30%.

The environment for tackling child poverty remains challenging. Welfare reform, rising fuel and food prices and lowering wages mean that child poverty figures are predicted to rise nationally over the next few years. The Institute of Fiscal Studies has predicted that relative child poverty will stand at 24% by the financial year 2020/21 – significantly more than the target of 10% set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010. This makes it more important than ever that we focus on effectively mitigating the effects of poverty on children.

2. How the Child Poverty Strategy for Nottinghamshire is developing

Version 1 of the Strategy was developed in partnership and aimed to ensure that work to tackle poverty is embedded into the core business of Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners. The Child Poverty Reference Group asked Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners to adapt and align their existing priorities to tackle child poverty and provide evidence of its impact.

Version 1 of the Strategy was developed using findings from a comprehensive needs assessment, which included a service mapping exercise and literature review containing evidence of what works to reduce child poverty and what mitigates against the effects associated with it. A key recommendation of the needs assessment included the need to use evidence based practice to ensure the interventions we prioritise will have greatest impact.

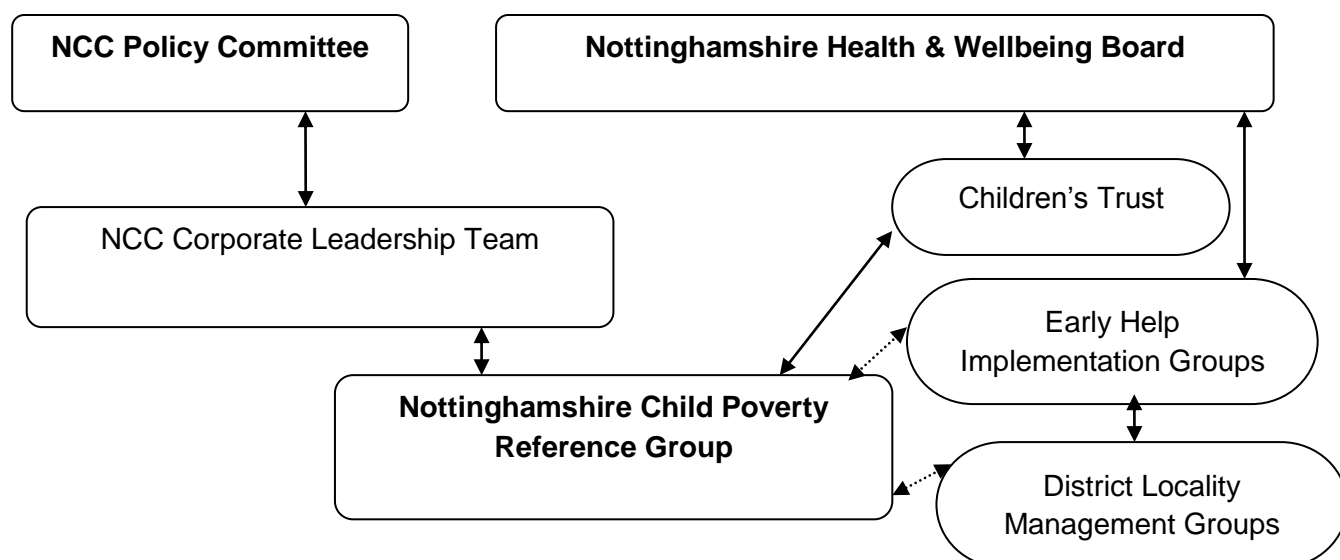
The findings from the needs assessment generated a series of recommendations which have been disseminated widely to inform the actions included in this Strategy. All partner organisations were asked to consider the recommendations which included evidence of what works, to inform a series of organisational pledges.

This refresh of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy develops the dependencies on other key strategies, including the national 2014 Child Poverty Strategy, the Early Years Strategy, the Closing the Educational Gaps Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It is also informed by evidence from the Sutton Trust, the Early Intervention Foundation and the annual report of the Chief Medical Officer. It is overarched by the Early Help Development Plan. The national 2014 Child Poverty Strategy re-affirms the Government's commitment to eradicating Child Poverty by 2020. It seeks to achieve this through creating jobs, supporting families into work, making work pay, tackling low pay and moving people into better paid jobs.

The Early Help offer is monitored on a locality level by the Early Help Implementation Groups and on a district level by the Locality Management Groups. These groups are multi-agency partnerships, chaired by NCC officers, and focus on district priorities and performance to meet a number of key targets.

The Strategy is also driven by the recognition that the effects of child poverty can be best mitigated by actions of partners on a local level and, in particular, targeting work in child poverty hotspots. This includes working with partners to implement the top ten tips for tackling child poverty on a district and ward basis. It is also about partners working together at a local level to ensure the most effective use of key funding streams such as those delivered through the Pupil Premium and Troubled Families. The development of locality based, integrated teams also provides an opportunity to further develop this work.

To this end, in 2014-15 the role of monitoring and reporting on performance to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty will be carried out through the Early Help Implementation Groups and the Locality Management Groups, and reported back to the Child Poverty Reference group. In turn the Child Poverty Reference Group will report on the County-wide performance to the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board.



3. What we are aiming to achieve

The group recognises that the causes of poverty are multi-faceted and any effective strategy must address the primary, secondary and tertiary causes of poverty. There is also the recognition that child poverty levels are likely to rise in the current economic climate. However, there is a lot of evidence to support the view that by building resilience in children, adults and communities, we can mitigate the effects of poverty and prevent poor children becoming poor adults.

4. Our overall approach

We have developed a more focussed action plan, which builds on and streamlines the child poverty pledges approach.

This plan recognises that a significant amount of activity is already taking place across the County to address child poverty and this is reflected in key plans including the Early Help

Development Plan, the Closing the Educational Gaps Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Community Safety Strategy and district council strategic plans.

Therefore, the plan seeks to add value by:-

- focusing on areas where a partnership approach will increase impact
- focusing on areas where further action is needed and where influence and impact is greatest.

Implicit in this is the recognition that tackling child poverty is everybody's business, not just Children and Young People's Services.

The plan format and content has been developed by drawing on models from across the region. It focuses on three key areas:-

- **short term** – mitigating the effects of poverty
- **medium term** – moving people out of poverty
- **long term** – preventing poor children from becoming poor adults.

5. Next Steps

- We will link with others both regionally and nationally to tackle child poverty and apply best practice from other areas in Nottinghamshire
- We will work with the Early Help Implementation Groups, Locality Management Groups and locality based teams to ensure that child poverty pledges are reflected in locality action plans and that support for families experiencing the effects of poverty is effectively mapped
- We will roll out child poverty training for frontline practitioners to ensure that their work is effective in tackling child poverty and its effects
- We will work with elected members to further engage them in the work of the Child Poverty Reference Group and the Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Commission
- The Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Child Poverty Reference Group
- We will engage children and families experiencing poverty in order to evaluate progress and ensure that the Strategy is effective in meeting the needs of the poorest families in Nottinghamshire
- We will work with workforce development leads across the partnership to ensure the training and development needs of Nottinghamshire's workforce are identified and addressed in order to enable practitioners to take an active approach to identification and support for children and families in poverty.

The next review of the strategy will take place in October 2015.

For more information contact:

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Child Poverty Action Plan – October 2014 – October 2015

Strategy Theme	Action	How	By Who
Mitigating the effects of poverty (short term)	Ensure all frontline staff are aware of the effects of poverty on families and what they can do to tackle it	Roll out child poverty awareness training for staff working with children and families	Early Years and Early Intervention Service
	Increase families' money management skills	<p>Disseminate and promote money management training tools across services via Locality Management Groups</p> <p>Ensure staff across services effectively signpost to specialist debt and money management advice where needed</p> <p>Churches to develop capacity to provide money management training for families.</p>	District councils, voluntary sector, schools, churches, Nottinghamshire County Council

Strategy Theme	Action	How	By Who
	Ensure that families at risk of homelessness are effectively supported	<p>Provide and maintain a high quality housing options service and council tax support scheme</p> <p>Ensure staff across services effectively signpost families to these services</p>	

Strategy Theme	Action	How	By Who
Moving out of poverty (medium term)	Increase families' income through tackling fuel poverty	Promote the development of bulk buying energy schemes for communities	Nottinghamshire County Council and district councils
	Championing the Living Wage with wider employers	Countywide publicity campaign highlighting the benefits of being a living wage employer Encouraging commissioned services to pay the Living Wage and discouraging the use of zero hours contracts Engaging with employers via D2N2/Sheffield City	Nottinghamshire County Council and district councils, voluntary sector, churches
	Challenging the aggressive marketing and promotion of payday lending companies	Restrict access to payday lending websites on public computers Explore how planning policy may be used to restrict the creation of "shop front" premises in town centres	Nottinghamshire County Council and commissioned partners, district councils, voluntary sector

Strategy Theme	Action	How	By Who
	Supporting the further development of credit unions as a source of affordable banking for families	All services to actively promote credit unions via publicity materials and signposting Services to promote the use of credit unions to their staff	Nottinghamshire County Council, commissioned partners, health, voluntary sector
	Support access to Jobcentre Plus and wider employment support to enable unemployed parents to move into work	Memorandum of Agreement between Children's Centres and Job Centre Plus to be signed and implemented Explore the development of Community Transport models to remove barriers to travelling to work	Nottinghamshire County Council, district councils, commissioned partners
Preventing poor children from becoming poor adults (long term)	Establishing Locality Management Groups as the key engine of delivery of child poverty work in districts	Locality Management Groups to build links with Food Banks and to support their local co-ordination Locality Management groups to map and maintain information about services that	Nottinghamshire County Council, district councils, health, schools, voluntary sector, churches. District councils, Nottinghamshire County Council, health

Strategy Theme	Action	How	By Who
		<p>may support poor families</p> <p>Locality Management Groups to build their own evidence base around what works in tackling child poverty through partnerships with universities</p>	
	Support children's access to high quality early education	<p>All services to actively promote the access to early education offer to eligible families</p> <p>Children's Centres to pro-actively use data to identify and engage with eligible families</p>	Nottinghamshire County Council and commissioned partners, health, schools, district councils
	Working collaboratively with schools around further developing effective family support	Explore and develop models of wider support for school family support staff	Nottinghamshire County Council schools and commissioned partners

Strategy Theme	Action	How	By Who
Cross-cutting	<p>Establish a Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Commission to develop and share good practice, gather evidence of what works, influence key partners and maintain a high profile for child poverty issues</p> <p>Re-establish a regional child poverty network</p> <p>Produce a quarterly newsletter informing staff and the public of progress on the action plan and what is being done to tackle child poverty</p>		<p>Child Poverty Reference Group</p> <p>Nottinghamshire County Council</p> <p>Early Years and Early Intervention</p>

10 November 2014

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIP (KTP)

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Committee with information about the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) between Children, Families and Cultural Services and Nottingham Trent University.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire's Children, Families and Cultural Services department is in the process of developing a revised operating model based on the following principles:
 - we will target our resources where they are needed most
 - we will integrate and align our services in localities, and make accessing them as easy as possible
 - we will help children, young people and families as early as possible, to deliver better outcomes for them
 - we will keep children together with their families where it is safe to do so
 - we will help and support families to achieve their potential.
3. The operating model aims to enable the following outcomes to be achieved:
 - the most **vulnerable children will be effectively protected and supported**
 - **children will stay with their families** wherever this is possible and safe for them
 - **children in our care will experience high quality and stable support**
 - **children and young people will attain higher educational standards** than the national average and attend good and outstanding schools
 - **we will close the attainment gap** between disadvantaged children and young people and their peers
 - **children, young people and their families will receive the early help support** they require to be safe, healthy and thriving
 - **children and young people will have improved health outcomes**
 - all residents will have **access to high quality and sustainable cultural services.**
4. There has been recognition in the department of the need to ensure that services provided to children and families are evidence-based and informed by research, thus maximising the possibility of securing improved outcomes for children and families, and

reducing the need for higher cost statutory interventions. In order to facilitate this, in January 2014 the Council entered into a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with Nottingham Trent University. The KTP project will last for 30 months, providing the Council with the opportunity to access academic skills and expertise, and apply them to the area of effective family support.

5. Knowledge Transfer Partnerships have a long history in the UK, dating back to the 1970s. Where originally projects were focused specifically on engineering processes, over time this has diversified, and there are currently around 700 such projects running in a variety of settings. This KTP is jointly funded by the Council and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), which is the gold standard of research funding. Funding for the project covers supervision from organisations, substantial training and personal development for the associate, and provisions for equipment and resources. KTP projects benefit both organisations through strengthened relationships, a continual flow of knowledge and experience, and a range of positive outputs and outcomes. The project provides a unique opportunity to utilise academic expertise and evidence to directly inform strategic planning and practice.
6. Catherine Goodall is the KTP Associate, a Design and Implementation Analyst tasked with researching, mapping and evaluating current processes and services, and designing data collection methods. With a background in the Social Sciences, a Master's Degree in International Relations, and research experience, Catherine is well placed as a lead on this project. The skills required for the KTP project such as sustained project management, research expertise, data handling, and a range of other skills, can be strengthened through supervision and support at both organisations, personal development opportunities and training.
7. Specifically, the KTP in Nottinghamshire involves:
 - undertaking literature reviews of the evidence base for structured parenting programmes and of whole family approaches and making recommendations to inform the department's family support offer within the revised operating model
 - engaging children, young people and families in reviewing and developing the key elements of family support through a participatory action research approach
 - collaborating with a range of managers and practitioners to ensure that changes are appropriate, informed by practice expertise and implemented efficiently
 - developing a consistent and structured approach to targeting parenting programmes based on need, and measuring the impact of such programmes
 - embedding evaluative approaches within the wider department, ensuring there is a culture of assessing the impact of interventions with children and families, and using evidence to inform commissioning.
8. To date, initial literature reviews of the evidence base for effective parenting programmes and approaches to working with families have been completed. The latter is being used to inform the decision making process for the methodology to be used across children's services (both early help and social care) for the assessment and planning of children's needs. This decision will be taken by the end of the calendar year, in order to undertake the necessary implementation planning prior to 'go live' in April 2015, to align with the single assessment for social care and the launch of the Integrated Family and Youth Support arrangements.

9. In relation to parenting, a pilot is being developed to standardise the assessment of parenting needs, identify and target appropriate and relevant parenting support, and provide a standardised and rigorous data collection process to evaluate impact. This pilot will form part of the Integrated Family and Youth Support arrangements. Workshops with a range of practitioners across the County have been conducted to guide the initial design of the pilot. Once implemented, the pilot will be tested, evaluated and adapted as necessary.
10. Throughout the KTP, children, young people and their families will be involved through Participatory Action Research (PAR). Meaningful and sustained engagement of children and young people ensures that the project is grounded in local need, and that services users are given the opportunity to shape and evaluate changes to service design and delivery. Ethical approval for this research has already been gained through the University's standard procedures.
11. Overall the project aims to use the expertise of the partners, rigorous and methodical research, and the experiences and views of children and young people, to improve practice within children's services, with the aim of improving outcomes and better meeting the needs of children and young people in Nottinghamshire.

Other Options Considered

12. This report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. This report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee notes the information about the Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) between Children, Families and Cultural Services and Nottingham Trent University.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 22/10/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0459

10 November 2014**Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****ROTA VISITS TO CHILDREN'S HOMES: APRIL AND MAY 2014****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee of the outcome of six-monthly rota visits to Nottinghamshire County Council's children's homes that took place in April and May 2014.

Information and Advice

2. **Lyndene** was visited on 22 May 2014 by Councillor John Allin, who noted that the home's external and internal decoration was well maintained. He recorded that care staff work hard to support and help young people plan for their semi independence and preparation for when they leave Lyndene. There were no recommendations.
3. **Caudwell House** was visited on 21 May 2014 by Councillor Boyd Elliott. During the visit, Councillor Elliott noted that the home was very well maintained, with an excellent standard of cleanliness and that all the bedrooms were personalised. Young people were supported to take part in their reviews and decision making processes where appropriate. He observed secure and informed relationships with carers and young people, where education, leisure and independence support are actively promoted. Councillor Elliott made two recommendations:

- current arrangements for Regulation 33 visits are costly

We now have an arrangement with a pool of visitors, who claim for their mileage only

- that the current unit costs are accurate

This work is constantly under review with colleagues in Finance, linked in with occupancy figures.

4. **Minster View** was visited on 23 April 2014 by Councillor Elliott. He was satisfied that all building work since his previous visit had been completed and the scaffolding was gone. He recorded that there was evidence that all young people's health and educational needs were met within their individual care plans. Councillor Elliott noted that young people are involved in decision making dependent on their level of understanding and can choose their day to day activities, integrating well within the local community and

they are supported well during transitions to adult placements. Councillor Elliott made one recommendation:

- carry on the visits and improve our contact and interaction with the home. Show, in some way, commendation for the home's manager and staff for the continued outstanding Ofsted reports.

5. **Oakhurst** was visited by Councillor Colleen Harwood on 19 May 2014. She described the home as homely and welcoming, where young people participate in decisions from menu planning to choosing their activities, and that appropriate oversight and actions are taken in relation to sanctions and physical interventions. Councillor Harwood recorded that she was very disappointed that recommendations from her last visit in October 2013 were still to be carried out, and she therefore made two recommendations:

- that immediate repair and refurbishment of the downstairs bathroom be completed

This work has now started

- that Wi-Fi is made available

This is also currently being completed.

6. **West View** was visited on 1 May 2014 by Councillor Philip Owen. He noted that comments made in his previous visit have been addressed, but queried the absence of corporate signage identifying the home. The Service Manager responsible for the home has replied to Councillor Owen on this matter explaining that there is a formal sign identifying West View fixed to the front wall of the property. This does not incorporate the Nottinghamshire County Council corporate logo. Consultation with young people has resulted in this decision being made as young people generally do not want their home to be identified to the general public. There are also safeguarding and confidentiality implications highlighting the home as a Local Authority Home. Councillor Owen noted that there is now meaningful consultation offered by CAMHS, and that young people are actively involved in planning menus and activities. Young people have education plans in place and are encouraged to identify other interests, with one young person involved in a music project and another supported to make an application to join the army. He observed a robust system of sanctions and rewards in place, and an active response to young people's absence without permission from the home. This included going out to look for young people and bringing them home. He noted concern about the high level of assaults on staff, and stated this needed to have a full report to the Committee covering the whole of the County. Councillor Owen made three recommendations:

- policy review regarding assaults on staff

A separate report will be presented to the Committee

- policy review regarding involvement of police in incidents to drug misuse

The policy regarding contacting the police in respect of Children in Residential Care which includes substance misuse was amended in 2012 and the Residential Homes are working to this policy.

- a decision required on further delegation of budget to the home so that they can effect minor works themselves

The handy person is able to carry out minor works and therefore budget delegation in this area is not an issue. The issue relates to the lack of flexibility in being able to gain quotes from local companies to complete building works rather than the often more costly option of using County Supplies. Further advice is being sought regarding this issue.

7. **The Big House** was visited by Councillor Jacky Williams on 24 April 2014. She reported the external condition of the home deterioration, noting that the use of the building once the new build is completed needs consideration and repair. She reported that the home is clean and welcoming inside, with a large inviting play area outside. Young people are supported to experience as many activities as possible, both inside and outside of the home, making full use of the proximity to Sherwood Forest. Young people have individual diets, with attention given to foods that affect behaviours. Councillor Williams queried the food budget allowance being adequate for the home. There were two recommendations:

- consider a review of the provisions budget

This is monitored during monthly budget reports, with adjustment made where identified

- consider future use of the building and the extent of repairs/refurbishment that can be undertaken.

8. **Clayfields House** was visited on 27 May 2014 by Councillors Liz Plant and Jacky Williams. There were two separate reports following the visit. Both Councillors noted that the work on the vocational unit is progressing well with the internal condition of the home clean and brightly painted. Bedrooms were reported as being homely and highly personalised. Councillor Williams noted that the kitchen is 5* rated and young people meet with the catering manager to discuss their menus. Some young people can prepare their own breakfasts and undertake work experience within the catering environment. Risk assessments are regularly reviewed and understood by all staff, who have an annual training programme including child protection and bullying. All young people are supported to attend their reviews, young people's meetings, and Clayfields Council. Both Councillors noted that young people have clear education plans with Personal Education Plans (PEPs) in place, where young people show very positive outcomes. Ofsted has recently judged the education provision at Clayfields as Outstanding. Councillor Williams noted the concerns expressed by the Centre's Manager about the current welfare placement policy. There were no recommendations.

9. When any recommendations are made by Councillors in their rota visit reports, officers act on those recommendations.

Additional visits

10. In addition to the rota visits, Councillor Kate Foale makes regular informal visits to Nottinghamshire's children's homes and children's homes run by external providers where Nottinghamshire's children are placed.

Options Considered

11. As this is a report for noting, it is not necessary to consider other options.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the outcome of the six-monthly rota visits to Nottinghamshire County Council's children's homes that took place in April and May 2014 be noted.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 23/10/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0503

10 November 2014**Agenda Item: 12****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTORS, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE AND
EDUCATION, STANDARDS AND INCLUSION****ESTABLISHMENT OF POSTS IN CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURAL
SERVICES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval to establish the following posts:
 - a) Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)/ Early Help Unit (EHU) Operational Manager (1 full-time equivalent (fte) Band E) and MASH Education Adviser (1 fte, Soulbury points 21 to 24), both of which are currently temporary to the end of March 2015
 - b) Looked After Children (LAC) Achievement Officer (1 fte, Band A) and LAC Education Technical Specialist Senior Practitioner (1 fte, indicative Band A) within the Virtual School for Looked After Children
 - c) Occupational Therapy (OT) Service Organiser (1 fte, Grade 4), to address current service pressures and anticipated risks to service delivery.

Information and Advice**Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) posts**

2. The MASH is the County's first point of contact for new safeguarding concerns and provides an environment for the sharing of information between a number of agencies, helping to protect the most vulnerable children and adults from harm, neglect and abuse.
3. The post of MASH Operational Manager was created and appointed to in September 2012, on a temporary basis. The MASH Operational Manager has overall responsibility for: the safe delivery of MASH services; business continuity; the facilitation of positive partner working relationships; performance reporting and management; the MASH working environment including health and safety; working with ICT colleagues on the development and delivery of MASH ICT solutions; and management of the Education Adviser and the MASH Officers. The post-holder also has responsibility for the relevant parts of the MASH budget.
4. In March 2014, agreement was given to the internal recruitment of a temporary (12 months) MASH Operational Manager. In preparation for the co-location of the Early Help

Unit (EHU) with the MASH, some operational responsibilities for the EHU were added to the job description.

5. When the MASH became operational in December 2012 there was an acknowledgement that input from schools to the information-sharing process was essential, and that head teachers and designated teachers would respond more positively to these requests if they were made by a peer. Between April 2013 and April 2014 there was head teacher presence in the MASH, initially for 2 days per week, then for all 5 days. In December 2013 a 12 month Education Adviser post secondment or temporary (12 month) opportunity was advertised. The current post holder started in April 2014.
6. The MASH Education Adviser post has developed since this appointment. As well as contributing to the information-sharing process in the MASH, the Education Adviser has contributed to: Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) multi-agency safeguarding training; designated teacher training; the Encompass programme development, including delivering briefings to all head teachers and senior leaders; delivering presentations to MASH Head Teacher open days, and generally acting as an ambassador for the MASH. Her head teacher experience has been invaluable.
7. The permanent establishment of both posts will provide the necessary resilience to enable the MASH to continue to improve on service provision in the future.

Virtual School for Looked After Children posts

8. Local authorities have a statutory duty to promote the education of children and young people who are 'Looked After'. In Nottinghamshire, the Virtual School for Looked After Children (LAC) aims to improve the educational outcomes of all children and young people in its care as well as those looked after by a different authority but attending Nottinghamshire schools and educational settings. In partnership with headteachers, governing bodies and other educational providers, the Virtual School ensures that the educational outcomes of LAC is a key priority for all schools and settings providing statutory education to Looked After Children.
9. A short analysis of the Virtual Schools in neighbouring authorities suggests that Nottinghamshire's Virtual School is small. This in itself is not necessarily an issue as the Virtual School is underpinned by partnership with Nottinghamshire schools. It is headteachers and governing bodies who are directly responsible to ensure high quality provision for every LAC in their school and are responsible for their outcomes. Ofsted hold all schools to account during inspection in relation to vulnerable pupils, including LAC.
10. The Virtual School provided by advisers is valued by schools and other key stakeholders such as education psychologists and social workers. No LAC has been permanently excluded in recent years and fixed term exclusions continue to be rare. LAC Achievement Officers play a key role in mediating additional and different provision at times of crisis in a school or other appropriate setting. If, however, the Virtual School is able to add value to the outcomes at key stage 4, increased capacity is required to develop long term and sustainable strategies across Nottinghamshire schools in particular. Therefore, a fourth LAC Achievement Officer is required to increase the team's capacity to support Nottinghamshire LAC.

11. The effectiveness of the Virtual School is underpinned by rigorous and accurate tracking and data analysis. The Virtual School's data processes continue to require improvement and the Virtual School does not have the capacity to analyse this pupil level data. The creation of a LAC Education Technical Specialist Senior Practitioner will ensure a daily and continued focus on tracking pupil attainment and progress. The systems to collect and analyse this data continue to be a challenge and the creation of this post would ensure that reliable and robust data could inform the targeted deployment of LAC officers to intervene earlier when LAC's attainment and/or progress stall.

Occupational Therapy Service Organiser post

12. Since its establishment in April 2008 the Children's Countywide Occupational Therapy (OT) Service has experienced ongoing high levels of demand. Between 2009 and 2012 the service received substantial investment which has seen the staffing structure grow from 3 fte Qualified Occupational Therapists and a 0.5 fte OT Team Manager to 11.75 OTs and 2 Team Managers.
13. The OT Service has implemented revised ways of working and has delivered specialist equipment through a clinic environment which has produced a 25% reduction of expenditure on the OT Integrated Community Equipment Loan Service (ICELS) budget and has been recognised nationally as good practice.
14. Despite this, the OT service continues to receive an increase in referral requests for OT assessment and intervention. The service attempts to deliver these assessments and interventions in a timely way and has set its own performance targets. 3 OT Assistant (OTA) posts have been created to support the streamlined processes that have been implemented in the service
15. The OT Service has seen a 46% increase in Initial Assessments and 168% increase in Fast Track Assessments, both of which are managed by the OTAs. Many of these requests come to a central OT duty desk, which is primarily staffed by OTAs on a rotational basis. Because of this increase in demand and the need for the OTAs to staff the duty desk, the OT service is no longer able to achieve its assessment timeframe targets. This means that disabled children could be left waiting for longer periods for assessment by OT/OTAs and provision of equipment.
16. The establishment of a full-time OT Service Organiser post would enable one person to manage the incoming referrals and requests for advice, guidance and information. This proposal would result in a worker dedicated to delivering an OT service at duty point and would release a significant proportion of both OTAs' and Qualified OTs' clinical time back into frontline fieldwork to address the service's statutory core duty of assessment and intervention.

Other Options Considered

17. With regard to the MASH/EHU Operational Manager and MASH Education Adviser posts, consideration has been given to extending the current temporary contracts, which are due to end in March/April 2015. However, it is anticipated that both posts will be essential to

the successful operation of the MASH in the future so need to be permanently established.

18. Consideration has also been given to not recruiting to either of these roles once the current temporary contracts come to an end. It is assessed that this would pose a significant risk to the function of the MASH and would impact negatively on the reputation of the County Council.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

19. The MASH has been operational for almost 2 years. During this time processes have been refined and become more efficient and effective. There are plans to locate the EHU in the same worksite as the MASH. These posts are integral to the continued development of the MASH and the EHU. Both posts entail significant leadership responsibilities and contribute to positive outcomes for Nottinghamshire children and families.
20. The attainment of LAC, particularly at key stage 4, continues to require improvement and therefore there is a significant need to increase the capacity of the Virtual School to support and challenge schools and other providers.
21. It is recommended that the OT Service Organiser post be established for a minimum period of 2 years to help maintain a safe service and enable the service to address its statutory duties.

Statutory and Policy Implications

22. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

23. The cost of establishing the two MASH posts is £129,032 per annum which can be met from within the existing permanent budget for the MASH.
24. The establishment of a LAC Achievement Officer will be funded fully by the Virtual School's budget. The Senior Professional Practitioner post will be funded by Children's Social Care. Both posts are permanent and have been incorporated into the medium and long term financial planning of the respective budgets.
25. The funding of the proposed OT Service organiser post is to be met from within the existing OT and Personalisation budget and would require an annual financial commitment of £24,480.

Human Resources Implications

26. The MASH/EHU Operational Manager post went through job evaluation prior to the current post-holder being employed. It is a Band E post. The current Education Adviser post-holder is appointed on a Soulbury Grade; it is recommended that the appropriate band for this post is Soulbury 21-24. As both posts were advertised and appointed to on a temporary basis, recruitment to permanent posts will take place, subject to the Vacancy Control Process.

Implications for Service Users

27. The MASH has made a positive contribution to safeguarding services for children and adults. It is the first point of contact for Children's Social Care and through its information-sharing process ensures that the most vulnerable children are identified quickly and that they receive appropriate services.

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications

28. Information sharing between agencies in the MASH results in early identification of child protection cases; ensures that all relevant available information is shared as soon as possible, and that the receiving social work team begins the investigation with a complete multi-agency package of information.
29. The proposed OT Service Organiser post aims to ensure that the current established Qualified OT and OT Assistant resource is used to progress OT assessment and intervention for vulnerable children and families in a timelier manner than is currently being managed.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the establishment of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)/ Early Help Unit (EHU) Operational Manager (1 fte, Band E) post be approved
- 2) the establishment of a MASH Education Adviser (1 fte, Soulbury points 21 to 24) post be approved
- 3) the establishment of a Looked After Children (LAC) Achievement Officer (1 fte, Band A) post within the Virtual School for Looked After Children be approved
- 4) the establishment of a LAC Education Technical Specialist Senior Practitioner (1 fte, indicative Band A) post within the Virtual School for Looked After Children be approved
- 5) the establishment of an Occupational Therapy Service Organiser (1 fte, Grade 4) post in Children's Social Care be approved.

Steve Edwards
Service Director
Children's Social Care

John Slater
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Education Standards and Inclusion

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Occupational Therapy post:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 23/10/14)

30. The Committee has the responsibility for approval of departmental staffing structures. The proposals in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.
31. The Employment Procedure Rules provide that the report to Committee include the required advice and HR comments and that the recognised trade unions be consulted on all proposed changes to staffing structures (and any views given should be fully considered prior to a decision being made).

Financial Comments (KLA 23/10/14)

32. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraphs 23 to 25 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0507

10 November 2014**Agenda Item: 13****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****WORK PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2014/15.

Information and Advice

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

Other Options Considered

4. None.

Reason for Recommendation

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (HD)

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

Financial Comments (PS)

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

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2014-15

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER
8 December 2014		
Evaluation of implementation of alternative provision for pupils at risk of permanent exclusion		John Slater
Approval to consult on closure of Oakdale Pupil Referral Unit	For decision	John Slater
Universal infant free school meals – update		Jas Hundal
Transformation Programme update		Steve Edwards
Integrated Family Review – progress report		Derek Higon
Permanent establishment of the Early Help Unit	For decision	Steve Edwards
Options for Children's Disability Service		Steve Edwards
Children's Disability Service – development of personalisation		Steve Edwards
Social Work Retention Strategy		Steve Edwards
Work of the Family Nurse Partnership		Derek Higon
Provision of funding for adaptations to Local Authority foster home (Special Guardianship Order)	For decision	Steve Edwards
Authority governor appointments and reappointments and Local Authority governor appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report on appointments made	John Slater
Nottinghamshire Outstanding Achievement 4Uth Award 2014	Annual update report	Derek Higon
National Children and Adult Services Conference 2014	Report back on attendance	Anthony May
Work Programme		Anthony May
12 January 2015		
School Capital Programme update	Six month update report	Derek Higon
Child Sexual Exploitation update	Six monthly update report	Steve Edwards
CAMHS commissioning plan	For information	Kate Allen
Schools Forum	Annual officer group report	Anthony May
Rota Visits	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards
Work Programme		Anthony May
9 February 2015		
Performance reporting (Quarter 3 2014/15) – Services for	Quarterly performance report	Anthony May

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER
Children and Young People		
A Strategy for Closing the Educational Gaps in Nottinghamshire update		John Slater
Financial support for students in post 16 education	Annual determination	John Slater
Education Trust Board	Annual officer group report	Anthony May
Children's Social Work Health Check 2015		Steve Edwards
Designated Principal Child and Family Social Worker - annual report		Steve Edwards
Leaving Care: From Care 2 Work quality mark		Steve Edwards
Work Programme		Anthony May
9 March 2015		
Performance figures for Nottinghamshire schools and academies – Summer 2014	For information	John Slater
Nottinghamshire School Admission Arrangements 2016/17	For determination	John Slater
National Minimum Fostering Allowances and Fees for Foster Carers	Annual determination	Steve Edwards
National School Food Plan - progress		Jas Hundal
Restructuring of Outdoor and Environmental Education Service	For decision	Derek Higton
Authority governor appointments and reappointments and Local Authority governor appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report on appointments made	John Slater
Work Programme		Anthony May
20 April 2015		
Under 16 Home to School Transport 2015 and Post 16 Transport Policy 2015/16	Annual determination.	John Slater
Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Early Help Development Plan 2013-16: six monthly update		Derek Higton
Work Programme		Anthony May
18 May 2015		
A Strategy for Closing the Educational Gaps in Nottinghamshire – month review	Six monthly review report	John Slater
Performance reporting (2014/15) – Services for Children and Young People	Annual performance report	Anthony May

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER
Work Programme		Anthony May
15 June 2015		
Exceptional payments for school clothing and footwear 2014/15	Annual determination	John Slater
Children's Social Work Health Check Action Plan 2015 – progress report	Progress report.	Steve Edwards
Authority governor appointments and reappointments and Local Authority governor appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report on appointments made	John Slater
Work Programme		Anthony May
13 July 2015		
Rota Visits to children's homes	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards
School Capital Programme update	Six month update report	Derek Higton
Youth Justice Plan 2015-16		Derek Higton
Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy annual performance report	Annual update	Derek Higton
Children who go missing from home or care: end of year report 2014/15	For information	Steve Edwards
Child Sexual Exploitation update	Six monthly update report	Steve Edwards
Nottinghamshire Children's Trust	Annual officer group report	Derek Higton
Members' visit to Outdoor & Environmental Education residential centres	For decision	Derek Higton
National Children and Adult Services Conference 2015	For decision	Anthony May
Work Programme		Anthony May
To be placed		
Integrated assessment framework	For noting	
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – information sharing		Steve Edwards
Work of the CDS/Short Breaks services	Presentation and possible choir	Steve Edwards

