

Children and Young People's Committee

Monday, 15 June 2015 at 10:30

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

AGENDA

- 1 To note the Appointment by the County Council on 14 May 2015 of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee
- 2 To note the Membership of the Committee
- 3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 May 2015 3 - 6
- 4 Apologies for Absence
- 5 Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
 - (a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
 - (b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary)
- 6 Approval of school holiday and term time dates for LA maintained schools in Nottinghamshire 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 7 - 18
- 7 Exceptional payments for school clothing and footwear 2015-16 19 - 22
- 8 Children missing education update 23 - 34
- 9 Nottinghamshire's small schools working group 35 - 40
- 10 The impact of Early Help in Nottinghamshire 41 - 58
- 11 Nottinghamshire code of conduct for issuing fines for pupil absences - amendment to threshold 59 - 64

12	Establishment of children missing officer post and joint funding for specialist police officer post	65 - 68
13	Authority governor appointments and reappointments and LA governor appointments to school governing bodies	69 - 74
14	Work programme	75 - 78

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 18 May 2015 (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)

	John Allin	Philip Owen
	Boyd Elliott	Sue Saddington
	Alice Grice	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

Penny Spice	Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection
Georgina Carnill	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Steve Edwards	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Peter Gaw	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Dawn Godfrey	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Jon Hawketts	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Derek Higton	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Nicola Hughes	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Irene Kakoullis	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Liz Maslen	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Denis McCarthy	Children, Families and Cultural Services
John Slater	Children, Families and Cultural Services
Sara Allmond	Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Matthew Garrard	Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Will Hurst	Policy, Planning and Corporate Services
Kate Allen	Public Health

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2015, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and were signed by the Chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Longdon (medical/illness).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

AGENDA ORDER

The Chairman agreed to take agenda item 11 – Looked After Children and Care Leavers Strategy 2015-18 first as the officer presenting the report was required at another meeting.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY 2015-18

Dawn Godfrey introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2015/039

That the report be noted and recommended to Policy Committee for approval at its meeting on 17th June 2015.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING 2014/15 – SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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

RESOLVED 2015/040

That the performance of the Council's services for children and young people during the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 be noted.

A STRATEGY FOR CLOSING THE EDUCATIONAL GAPS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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

RESOLVED 2015/041

That the impact of Nottinghamshire's Closing the Educational Gaps Strategy be noted.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES HEALTH CHECK SURVEY 2015

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

RESOLVED 2015/042

- 1) That the summary of responses to the Children's Services Health Check Report 2015 and recommendations be noted.
- 2) That progress on the implementation of the subsequent action plan be monitored by the Children Services Leadership Team with key outcomes informing a revised Children's Services Workforce Development Strategy

HEALTHY CHILD PROGRAMME AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING – COMMISSIONING PLAN

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

RESOLVED 2015/043

That the proposed commissioning timetable for the Healthy Child Programme 0-19 (Health Visiting, School Nursing and National Child Measurement Programme) be noted.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2015

Irene Kakoullis and Nicola Hughes introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2015/044

- 1) That the sufficiency of early years and childcare places in Nottinghamshire in 2015 be noted.
- 2) That the priority actions listed in paragraph six of the report be endorsed by the Committee.

ARTS AND MUSIC SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: NEW OPERATING MODEL - GOVERNANCE

Peter Gaw introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2015/045

- 1) That it be agreed that a Community Benefit Society be the legal form for the new arm's length operating organisation for Arts and Music Services for young people alongside Libraries, Arts, Archives, Information and Learning Services.
- 2) That the award for the delivery of Arts and Music Services for young people be included within the award for the provision of Libraries, Archives, Arts and Learning Services.

YOUNG CARERS UPDATE

Denis McCarthy and Penny Spice introduced the report and responded to questions and comments from Members.

RESOLVED 2015/046

That the update on the identification of and support to young carers be noted.

URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE – CHILDREN'S COUNTYWISE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TOP-UP PAYMENT REQUEST

RESOLVED 2015/047

That the urgent approval by the Chief Executive on 24 April 2015 for a top-up payment of £19,595.50 to be made to support the provision of a new build adaptation, where these costs exceed the mandatory government Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) of £30,000, be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED 2015/048

That the Committee's work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 12.31pm

CHAIRMAN

15 June 2015

Agenda Item: 06

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS & INCLUSION**APPROVAL OF SCHOOL HOLIDAY AND TERM TIME DATES FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITY MAINTAINED SCHOOLS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
2016/17, 2017/18 & 2018/19****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for school holiday and term dates for Local Authority maintained schools in Nottinghamshire for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19, as presented in **Appendix 1**.

Information and Advice

2. The 1996 Education Act gives local authorities a duty to determine school term dates. Schools must be open to pupils for 190 days in an academic year, and 195 days for teachers. The responsibility for setting school holiday and term time dates for all community and voluntary controlled schools within Nottinghamshire lies with the Local Authority (LA). It should be noted that Foundation, Trust, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies are responsible for setting their own holiday patterns.
3. Holiday dates for LA maintained schools in Nottinghamshire are already set up to 2015/16 from the previous consultation that took place in 2012. At the moment, it is unclear whether the Deregulation Bill, that suggests all schools can set their own term dates from September 2015, will come into law. However, at present, the County Council retains a legal responsibility to set holiday dates and even if the 'Deregulation Bill' becomes law in 2015, it is suggested that the LA continues to provide a framework set of dates that schools in Nottinghamshire could follow.
4. When setting dates for future years, the following principles are used:
 - the pattern must comprise 190 pupil days and 195 teacher days
 - ensure that teaching and learning blocks are as equal in length as possible
 - avoid split weeks where possible
 - take account of patterns which our neighbouring local authorities are proposing or adopting
 - individual schools are responsible for setting their own teacher training days (the Council suggests one of these days be taken the first day back in September).

5. A period of consultation on proposed dates took place between 10 February 2015 and 10 April 2015, which allowed schools, parents and other organisations the opportunity to comment and suggest any changes to specific days, within the Local Authority's preferred model of 3 terms, with a spring break in the first two weeks of April.
6. In total, 120 responses were received through the electronic survey monkey platform. Two responses were received by email. The overall response was 61% agreeing with the proposed dates. 39% did not wholly agree with the proposed dates, mostly suggesting changes to specific days within the proposed pattern. A summary of responses to the consultation is attached as **Appendix 2**.
7. Comments received on the proposed dates can be summarised as follows:
 - Nottinghamshire County Council school holiday pattern is different to that of other local authorities
 - a different holiday pattern to other local authorities would allow cheaper holidays
 - the length of autumn term
 - split weeks
 - Easter holiday
 - shorter summer holiday.
8. Following the consultation, it has been decided that whilst some individuals would have preferred slightly different days for some terms, the proposed dates should stand. A detailed response is attached as **Appendix 2**.

Other Local Authorities

9. In setting dates, consideration has been given to term dates of neighbouring authorities, particularly Derbyshire and Nottingham City:
 - **Nottingham City** has a different model to Nottinghamshire having adopted a 5 week summer break, a 2 week October half term break, with a fixed spring break. They have currently only set dates up to 2015/16.
 - **Leicestershire and Leicester City** have traditionally adopted a model that is up to two weeks earlier than other authorities for the summer break and subsequent half term breaks. The Nottinghamshire pattern has always differed from these authorities.
 - **Derbyshire** follow the traditional 3 term pattern with the spring break determined by the Easter Bank holiday dates. As a result of this, the February half term and Easter break has sometimes differed by 1 week. Christmas and summer holiday dates have broadly been the same, differing by the odd day. Derbyshire has already consulted and set their holiday patterns up to 2018/19 and consideration has been given to their pattern where possible.
 - **Derby City** follows a traditional 3 term pattern, similar to that of Derbyshire.

Other Options Considered

10. Nottinghamshire could simply follow the pattern of another local authority. However, this would have meant changes to the model which has previously been agreed.

Reasons for Recommendation

11. A comprehensive consultation took place in 2012. The process of setting dates for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 has therefore reflected these outcomes by following the fixed spring term model.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health 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.

Crime and Disorder Implications

13. Due consideration has been given to crime and disorder issues. The Police services and other voluntary bodies who provide out of holiday care and educational opportunity have key roles to play in reducing crime and increasing self-confidence, emotional resilience for any child or young person engaging with holiday provision.

Finance Implications

14. There are no direct costs involved in the process of setting school holiday dates.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the suggested school holiday and term dates for Local Authority maintained schools in Nottinghamshire for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19, as set out as **Appendix 1**, be approved.

John Slater

Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Marion Clay

Group Manager, Support to Schools

T: 0115 9772073

E: marion.clay@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (KK 26/05/15)

15. The proposal in this report is within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (SS 29/05/15)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

School term and holiday patterns 2013-2016 - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 June 2012

School holiday and term dates for Local Authority maintained schools in Nottinghamshire for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 9 February 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

C0648

Nottinghamshire School Holidays 2016-17

APPENDIX 1

1 August 2016 - 31 July 2017

DRAFT

August 2016

M	1	8	15	22	29	
T	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24	31	
T	4	11	18	25		
F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		

September 2016

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		6	13	20	27	
		7	14	21	28	
	1	8	15	22	29	
	2	9	16	23	30	
	3	10	17	24		
	4	11	18	25		

October 2016

	3	10	17	24	31	
	4	11	18	25		
	5	12	19	26		
	6	13	20	27		
	7	14	21	28		
1	8	15	22	29		
2	9	16	23	30		

November 2016

M		7	14	21	28	
T	1	8	15	22	29	
W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	3	10	17	24		
F	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		
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December 2016

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		6	13	20	27	
		7	14	21	28	
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	2	9	16	23	30	
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January 2017

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	3	10	17	24	31	
	4	11	18	25		
	5	12	19	26		
	6	13	20	27		
	7	14	21	28		
1	8	15	22	29		

February 2017

M		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
W	1	8	15	22		
T	2	9	16	23		
F	3	10	17	24		
S	4	11	18	25		
S	5	12	19	26		

March 2017

		6	13	20	27	
		7	14	21	28	
	1	8	15	22	29	
	2	9	16	23	30	
	3	10	17	24	31	
	4	11	18	25		
	5	12	19	26		

April 2017

		3	10	17	24	
		4	11	18	25	
		5	12	19	26	
		6	13	20	27	
		7	14	21	28	
	1	8	15	22	29	
	2	9	16	23	30	

May 2017

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T	2	9	16	23	30	
W	3	10	17	24	31	
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F	5	12	19	26		
S	6	13	20	27		
S	7	14	21	28		

June 2017

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		7	14	21	28	
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	2	9	16	23	30	
	3	10	17	24		
	4	11	18	25		

July 2017

	3	10	17	24	31	
	4	11	18	25		
	5	12	19	26		
	6	13	20	27		
	7	14	21	28		
1	8	15	22	29		
2	9	16	23	30		



School holidays



Public holidays



Administration day

Half term 1 7 weeks
 Half term 2 7 weeks, 2 days
 Half term 3 5 weeks, 3 days
 Half term 4 6 weeks
 Half term 5 5 weeks, 3 days
 Half term 6 7 weeks, 2 days

Autumn term 2016 72 days
 Spring term 2017 58 days
 Summer term 2017 65 days

Nottinghamshire School Holidays 2017-18

1 August 2017 - 31 July 2018

DRAFT

August 2017

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T	1	8	15	22	29	
W	2	9	16	23	30	
T	3	10	17	24	31	
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September 2017

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October 2017

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November 2017

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December 2017

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January 2018

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February 2018

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March 2018

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April 2018

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May 2018

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June 2018

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July 2018

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School holidays



Public holidays



Administration day

Half term 1 6 weeks, 4 days
 Half term 2 8 weeks
 Half term 3 6 weeks
 Half term 4 4 weeks, 4 days
 Half term 5 5 weeks, 4 days
 Half term 6 7 weeks, 3 days

Autumn term 2017 74 days
 Spring term 2018 54 days
 Summer term 2018 67 days

Nottinghamshire School Holidays 2018-19

1 August 2018 - 31 July 2019

DRAFT

August 2018

M		6	13	20	27	
T		7	14	21	28	
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September 2018

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October 2018

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November 2018

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December 2018

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January 2019

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February 2019

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March 2019

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April 2019

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May 2019

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June 2019

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July 2019

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	4	11	18	25		
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	7	14	21	28		



School holidays



Public holidays



Administration day

Half term 1 7 weeks, 4 days
 Half term 2 7 weeks
 Half term 3 6 weeks
 Half term 4 6 weeks
 Half term 5 4 weeks, 3 days
 Half term 6 7 weeks, 3 days

Autumn term 2018 74 days
 Spring term 2019 60 days
 Summer term 2019 61 days

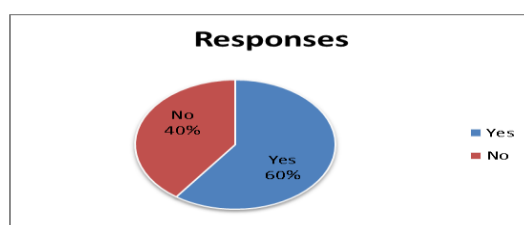
Consultation on School Holiday and Term Time Dates for Local Authority Maintained Schools in Nottinghamshire.

May 2015

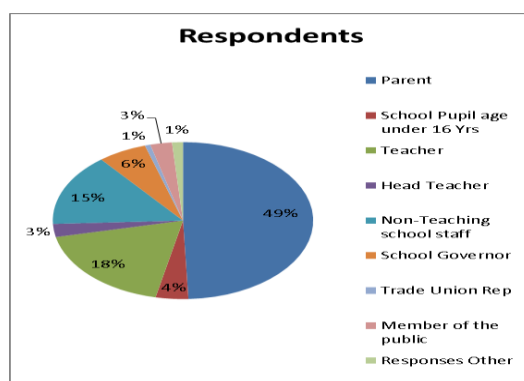
Consultation Feedback

- A period of consultation took place between 10 February 2015 and 10 April 2015 which allowed schools, parents and other organisations the opportunity to comment on the proposed holiday and term dates for 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.
- Survey Monkey was used to develop a public questionnaire around 3 key questions:

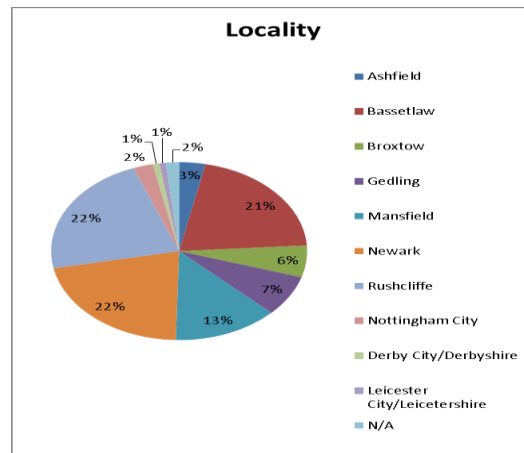
1) Do you agree with the model proposed for 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019?



2) Are you responding as:



3) Where is the educational establishment that you/your child study/work located?



- An opportunity was provided to allow respondents to provide free text to explain their reasoning for their responses.
- There were **120** responses in total, with **73 (61%) agreeing** with the dates proposed
- Four people added a comment to the 'Yes/no' question and analysis of these responses suggests that **1** respondent fully agreed with the proposed holiday pattern and **3** respondents partially agree, with some reservations.
- Of the **78** other free text comments, concerns were raised around 6 key themes:
 - 1) **16** respondents raised concerns that Nottinghamshire County Council school holiday pattern is different to that of other local authorities, these concerns were raised in relation to teachers working in different authorities to that where their own children attend school, difficulties arranging childcare and difficulties facing working parents.
 - 2) **9** respondents suggested the development of a holiday pattern that is different to other local authorities thus allowing access to cheap holidays
 - 3) **16** respondents raised concerns about the Autumn term being too long especially in relation to younger children and the impact this will have on them
 - 4) **16** respondents raised concerns in relation to split weeks and finding these difficult to manage in relation to holidays and child care.
 - 5) **12** respondents raised concerns about the fixed spring break holiday as opposed to the holiday being arranged around the Easter bank holiday.
 - 6) **9** respondents requested shorter summer holidays and longer half term breaks suggesting a 5 term year.
- A number of responses made suggestions in relation to specific years and dates. Primarily, these were to avoid split weeks and/or to ensure that the Christmas break was neither too early nor too late. These suggestions have been considered and informed the final recommendations.

LA response to Consultation feedback.

1) Nottinghamshire County Council school holiday pattern is different to that of other local authorities:

There is no regional or national directive for the setting of holiday dates and individual local authorities set their own patterns based on local criteria. Currently, all Academies are responsible for setting their own dates and some choose to set a different pattern to that of the local authority

and indeed neighbouring local authorities. It will therefore be the case that variation of school holidays between authorities will continue.

2) The development of a holiday pattern that is different to other local authorities thus allowing access to cheap holidays:

When setting school holidays dates, the local authority considers where possible, patterns of neighbouring authorities which allows better planning for teachers, parents and the local community. The possibility of cheap holidays is not a consideration when setting school term dates.

3) The length of Autumn term:

Autumn term is always the longest term each year. It was felt that one or two extra days at the end of term was better than having two more split weeks.

4) Split weeks:

Whilst we try to avoid split weeks, it is inevitable that some terms will have to have split weeks to allow the statutory number of teaching days (190)

5) fixed spring break holiday:

There was extensive consultation in 2012 which determined the preferred model of a fixed spring break.

6) Shorter summer holidays:

There was extensive consultation in 2012 which determined the preferred model of retaining a 6 week summer break.

15 June 2015**Agenda Item: 07****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****EXCEPTIONAL PAYMENTS FOR SCHOOL CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR
2015/2016****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval to continue to adopt an agreed scale of payments for school clothing and footwear allowances paid under the category of exceptional circumstances, subject to discretion.

Information and advice

2. School clothing allowances are discretionary and any allowance scheme must be funded by the County Council. Discretionary school clothing allowance has not been available since 2010/2011 for families living in Nottinghamshire. However, the County Council retains discretion to consider requests from families for support with clothing and footwear under exceptional circumstances. Discretionary payments of £140 were made during the 2014/2015 financial year.
3. In order not to fetter its discretion, the County Council must consider, under Section 510 of the Education Act 1996 and Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2002, requests for assistance from families in exceptional circumstances. This applies to all school age children and to families living outside the county if their children attend County schools.
4. Exceptional circumstances are defined as “families who have experienced and can demonstrate severe hardship which has resulted in the family being unable to afford the cost of school uniform and where this affects the ability of the children attending school”. Included in this category would be families who have lost clothes in a fire, a flood, theft, have been made homeless or are fleeing domestic violence.
5. In order to ensure that there is consistency and fairness in the amounts paid out under the category of exceptional circumstances, it is proposed to continue to adopt, as a guide only, a scale of payments up to a maximum allowance of £50 per qualifying pupil:
 - 25% of the full allowance to infant school children
 - 50% of the full allowance to junior school and year 11 children
 - 75% of the full allowance to other secondary school children.

6. This is a guide only, as the County Council must consider the circumstances of individual cases in order not to fetter its discretion.

Other options considered

7. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for recommendation/s

8. In line with the County Council's financial regulations, school clothing and footwear allowances are reviewed annually and as explained in this report it is proposed to continue to provide a fair and consistent approach for determining the amount of allowances paid under the exceptional circumstances category.

Statutory and policy implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, 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.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

10. The provision of clothing and footwear allowances remains an element of the County Council's overall programme to overcome social and educational disadvantage and the County Council will continue to consider requests for provision of clothing assistance support for pupils from financially disadvantaged backgrounds in exceptional cases.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That approval is given to continue to apply, as a guide only, a scale of payments for allowances granted under the exceptional circumstances category up to a maximum of £50 per qualifying pupil: 25% of the full allowance for infant school children, 50% of the full allowance for junior school and year 11 children and 75% of the full allowance for other secondary school children. Individual circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining the amount.

John Slater
Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Marion Clay
Group Manager, Support to Schools Service
T: 0115 9772073
E: marion.clay@nottsgov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SLB 22/05/15)

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

Financial Comments (SS 15/05/15)

12. As the recommendation is to continue with existing arrangements, there are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/atoz/s/school-clothing-grants/

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0620

15 June 2015

Agenda Item: 08

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION - UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to provide the Committee with an update on the impact of the Children Missing Education (CME) Action Plan 2014-2015 which is attached as **Appendix 1**. The report also outlines the development of new ways of working across Nottinghamshire County Council teams to ensure that vulnerable children and young people access their full educational entitlement. Finally, the report identifies key priorities for the 2015-2016 CME Action Plan to ensure that all vulnerable children can be identified and supported into appropriate educational provision either within school or through high quality alternative education.

Information and Advice

2. The CME Action Plan focuses on known children and young people who are not accessing their full educational entitlement as a result of failing to secure a school place, refusing to attend their school place, on a school roll but accessing less than their full educational entitlement as well as any child or young person known to services without a school place or refusing to attend school. The CME Strategy, endorsed by this Committee on 23 April 2014 and by Policy Committee on 7 May 2014, has been underpinned by a strong corporate commitment to advocating for vulnerable children and young people who are not accessing their full educational entitlement. Schools continue to be challenged where there is evidence of 'grey exclusions' and applications to academies and other own admission authorities are closely monitored to ensure that all applications are processed within 20 days, in line with the Schools Admissions Code, revised in February 2014. Schools and academies who delay admission, even when cohorts are below the Published Admission Number (PAN), are challenged by the Fair Access officer.
3. The revisions of the Fair Access Process and the introduction of the CME Strategy have secured significant improvement in reducing the number of days a child is without a school place, with the average of 94 days in 2012-13 significantly reduced to an average of 29 days in 2013-14. It is expected that 'In Year' admission applicants will be allocated a school place within 20 days. Applicants who do not secure a place through normal processes are referred to the Fair Access Team who ensure that an appropriate place is fairly allocated by the relevant school based locality partnership.

Fair Access Termly Monitoring Data

	Acad Year 2012-13	Autumn Term 13	Spring Term 14	Summer Term 14	Acad Year 2013- 14	Autumn Term 14	Spring Term 15
Number of children at risk of being without a school place and facilitated back into school under the Fair Access Team	Unknown	56	55	82	193	96	80
Average days missed from school	94	25	30	32	29	29	27

NB. The school age population in Nottinghamshire is 116,125.

4. The Fair Access Team also accepts referrals from other local authority teams and schools when a vulnerable child or young person is unable to access their existing provision for complex reasons. Such children and young people are deemed to be at risk of becoming CME. In exceptional circumstances interim provision is arranged to help transition vulnerable children into appropriate educational pathways.
5. The increase in the number of children supported by the Fair Access Team is likely to be a reflection of more effective partnership working between LA teams and clearer processes for the identification of those children in Nottinghamshire who are vulnerable in terms of access to education.
6. Teams and service areas are increasingly identifying vulnerable pupils to ensure they do not become missing from education. The creation of the Vulnerable Children Education Commissioning, meeting on a monthly basis and chaired by the Fair Access Officer, has ensured that specialist resources can be effectively 'pooled' and focused on those at most of risk of CME (**Appendix 2**). The Service Director for Education, Standards and Inclusion meets on a monthly basis with group managers and other senior officers from Targeted Support, SEND, Admissions and Support to Schools to review service data and focus on cases causing significant concern.
7. Children Missing Education remains a key priority for the department. Children who miss education pose a significant safeguarding risk including risk to child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Other Options Considered

8. The County Council remains statutorily responsible to ensure that all children and young people of statutory school age access full time education. Therefore, the CME Strategy endorsed by the Children and Young People's Committee on 23 April 2014 and Policy Committee on 7th May 2014 continues to be implemented to ensure that every school aged child should be on a school roll, with the exception of those who are electively home educated. No other options have been considered

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. Members will wish to be assured that the Council's statutory duty to provide full time education for all children and young people of statutory school age is being properly fulfilled.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. 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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee notes:

- 1) the update on the impact of the Children Missing Education (CME) Action Plan 2014-2015 which is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 2) the development of new ways of working across Nottinghamshire County Council teams to ensure that vulnerable children and young people access their full educational entitlement.
- 3) the key priorities for the 2015-2016 CME Action Plan to ensure that all vulnerable children can be identified and supported into appropriate educational provision either within school or through high quality alternative education.

John Slater

Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Marion Clay
Group Manager, Support to Schools Service
T: 0115 9773736
E: marion.clay@nottscc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 29/05/15)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0652

Support to School Service

Impact of 2014-2015 Service Plan

Priority	Children Missing Education
Summary Impact report	<p>Action 1 – Development of corporate culture around inclusion and CME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicit corporate commitment to CME now evident across the department (evidenced by monthly CME Monitoring Meeting now in place and internal services now strategically aligned around cross service provision for CME – see space ship diagram) • Service Director for Education, Standards and inclusion leading on the implementation of the strategy. (evidenced by Action Plan monitoring at monthly monitoring meeting and also by DLT. In addition, CME data reported monthly to CFCSLT performance meeting) • Director’s Report to Governors distributed (evidenced by the completion of CME report for Autumn term 2014 governing body meetings and mediated at the September 2014 Heads and chairs Briefings. CME also the focus of a workshop at the March 2015, Governor Conference which had a focus on vulnerable children) <p>All actions completed and evidenced by a developing departmental culture which places vulnerable children and families at the centre of relevant service/team plans. As a consequence of this developing culture, there has been increased challenge of schools, particularly secondary academies in relation to issues around CME by both operational officers working directly with schools as well as group managers and the service director).</p> <p>Since the 2014-2015 Action Plan was drafted (March 2014), there has developed a corporate commitment to advocating for CME and challenging schools where poor practice and ‘grey exclusions’ have been identified. Analysis has identified secondary schools whose practice is of particular concern and meetings between senior officers, including the Service Director and academy sponsors or Executive head teachers have taken place.</p>

	<p>Action 2 – Development of a Nottinghamshire CME Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A CME Policy was developed in partnership with key internal partners informed by consultation with all schools (evidenced by inclusion of policy consultation through the primary and secondary Headteacher Summer 2014 term briefings (6 primary events and 1 secondary event).) • The CME Policy mediated with key stakeholders including the Dioceses, school based teachers and senior leaders and internal teams such as HRET, Ed Psychs, SEND. In addition, the policy has been mediated with and discussed at the Governors’ Board, Primary Trust Board, Secondary Trust Board, Place Planning and Admissions Board Chaired by Cllr Peck, Termly Diocesan Meetings chaired by Cllr Peck <p>Action 3 – all services to incorporate CME into 2014-2015 Service Plans</p> <p>The Service plans for 2014-2015 were reviewed and the following teams incorporated key actions within their respective 2014-2015 service plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Assurance(Jon Hawketts) • Targeted Support and Youth Justice (Laurence Jones) • Admissions and Fair Access (Marion Clay) • Children’s Social Care (Amanda Collinson) <p>Group Managers have also been held to account for CME through the monthly Monitoring meeting chaired by Service Director for Education, Standards and inclusion.</p> <p>Action 4 – Present guidance to schools regarding CME</p> <p>Guidelines and advice to schools was distributed during the spring and autumn terms as planned. As a result of the focus on CME, the Fair Access Officer, working in partnership with the Children Missing officer, reviewed the guidance to schools regarding missing children and the process for reporting them to the LA.</p> <p>In addition, the advice regarding the context in which statutory school aged pupils could be removed from a school register, was also confirmed again with schools. Evidence of impact has been seen in significantly increased challenge by relevant officer, including advisers in relation to the illegal</p>
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	<p>removal of children from registers. When officers become aware of such illegal removal from registers, actions are taken as a matter of urgency. There is some evidence that school leaders are accepting the challenge of operational officers as a result of the increased support of the most senior officers.</p> <p>As a result of knowing the CME cohort in more depth and the analysis undertaken to identify the barriers impeding the admission and full attendance and access of their full entitlement at school, the Education Psychology Service has developed new guidance, training and are in the process of implementing a new process in relation to anxiety related nonattendance. (this action to be carried forward to 2015-2016 CME Plan)</p> <p>Action 5 - Analysis of CPC and CIN Plans</p> <p>This action is ongoing. As a result of the work being completed by information and systems for the Ofsted Annexe A analysis, information is collected from both Framework and Capita 1 identifying children who are currently subject of a CIN or CPP where non-attendance or non-access to education are issues. These cases are then directed to the relevant teams by the information and systems team. However, this action is ongoing and will be a key action in the 2015-2016 CME Action Plan.</p> <p>Action 6 – Tracking and reviewing of pupils not on a school roll or accessing full time provision</p> <p>A tracking system is now in place to capture high and medium concern cases. An individual pupil monitoring sheet now captures key information from all services including CSC. This sheet also presents a clear chronology that allows senior officers to monitor difficult cases and agree actions to be allocated to group managers and other senior officers. These actions are monitored at the monthly monitoring meeting.</p> <p>In addition, the Information and Systems team now collect from schools termly a list of pupils who are not accessing their full educational entitlement. This data collection also requests information about the school based plans to ensure the child returns to a full entitlement in a timely and appropriate manner. This information is monitored on a termly basis at the monthly monitoring meeting and where there is a lack of clarity about the school's plan for individual pupils to return to</p>
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	<p>full time education, this is appropriately challenged. (Key actions to be carried forward to 2015-2016 will include the further development of systems that will allow the sharing of pupil level data related to admissions, and full entitlement.)</p> <p>Action 7 – Governance and monitoring arrangements</p> <p>There are clear monitoring arrangements in place to monitor CME throughout the year. Rather than bi monthly, the CME monitoring meeting is chaired by the Service Director for Education, Standards and Inclusion on a monthly basis April 2014-April 2015. (This monthly meeting will continue throughout 2015-2016)</p> <p>Key strategic meetings around the CME agenda have also included the strengthening of the AVC Meeting which is also now chaired by the Service Director. This has harnessed key services from education, health, and CSC and has also included school representatives. The further development of the Vulnerable Children Education Commissioning group has also emerged during the year to allow key services to identify high concern cases to agree a multi-agency plan ‘pooling’ their existing resources thus ensuring the best value of limited resource.</p>
Impact	<p>Children Missing Education (See Appendix – Bev to capture impact data for the 2014 - 2015)</p> <p>In July 2014, there were 329 children identified as missing education. This included children on a roll but not accessing their full entitlement. In February 2015, 347 children and young people were identified. Whilst a direct comparison between July and February cannot be made because throughout this period, the criteria was being developed and refined. However, as of April 2015, there is a shared understanding of the criteria for inclusion which includes:</p> <p>Red – These are children without a school place and/or not accessing appropriate full time provision and where support teams have been unable to progress the case.</p> <p>Amber – These are children with an appropriate plan in place but their provision is below 11 hours</p> <p>Green – These are children and young people with over 15 hours of support and are then monitored</p>

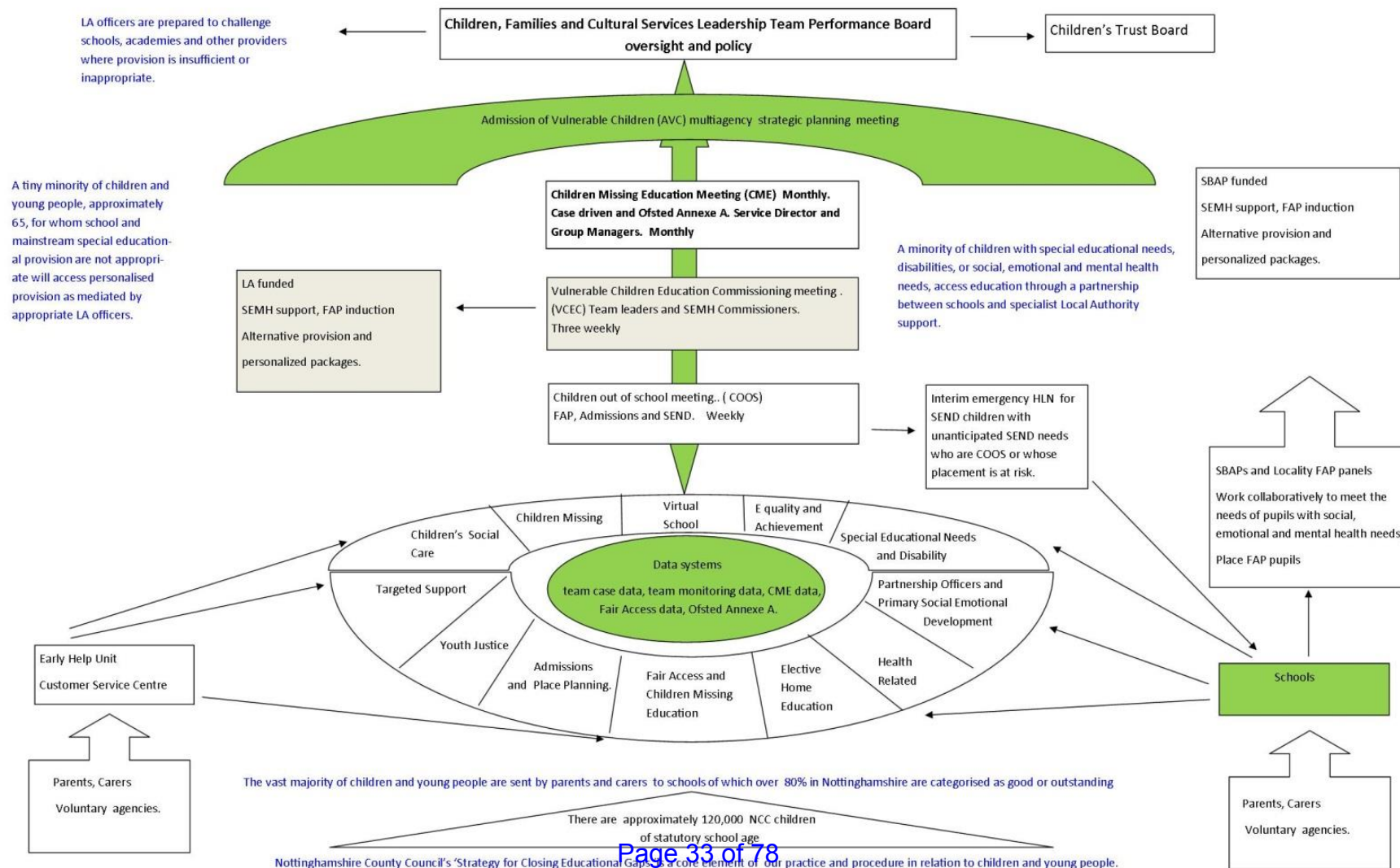
	<p>for 3 months with the expectation that there will be an increase of hours.</p> <p>Children without a school place and monitored by the fair Access team (Appendix 2 comparative COOs data 2013-2015)</p>
Actions that should be carried forward to 2015-2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anxiety related non-attendance guidance to be mediated with internal partners and schools, particularly secondary school absences 2. To further develop a greater understanding within CSC of the importance of securing a plan for education before closing a case open to CSC.
Possible key development priorities for 2015-2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To further refine the monitoring of vulnerable children and young people subject to a CIN or CPP to ensure that social workers inform the relevant Fair Access officer where there are concerns about education. 2. Approximately 12% of the cohort is in the primary phase. To further develop the work of the primary behaviour partnerships to develop early intervention to address early behaviours. In addition, further improve the transition of vulnerable primary aged pupils at the point they move into key stage 3. 3. To continue to work with all school and academies to ensure they continue to develop good practice in relation to supporting vulnerable learners to access appropriate education by monitoring attendance, referring appropriately to Targeted Support and other services, share information early when there are concerns. and strategies to avoid 'grey exclusions'. 4. Continue to work with governors 5. To further develop good practice to support pupils with anxiety related issues 6. To develop further learning for internal services to further strengthen the processes for CME 7. Further refining the data collection and expand the sharing of this information across teams 8. Further develop LA action in relation concerning part time timetables
Other reflections	CME has made a significant contribution to the safeguarding of vulnerable children.

Nottinghamshire County Council

Securing Full Educational Entitlement by Preventing Children from Missing Education

LA find and fix to safeguard CME in exceptional circumstances

School and LA partnership working, to predict and prevent CME incidents



15 June 2015

Agenda Item: 09

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S SMALL SCHOOLS WORKING GROUP****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the focus and progress of the small primary schools working group currently being developed across the County. The Committee is also asked to note the achievements of small schools and the report highlights some of the particular challenges faced by small schools at this time.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire's small schools are successful and popular with parents. Moreover, small schools are an integral part of Nottinghamshire's school provision and play an essential role in ensuring that the Nottinghamshire County Council meets its statutory duty to provide a school place for every primary aged child
3. As of October 2014, there are currently 283 primary schools in Nottinghamshire of which 69 have cohorts of less than 150. 40 schools have fewer than 105 pupils and 20 schools have 60 or fewer pupils. These schools primarily serve small rural communities. However, a number of small schools are in urban areas geographically close to many other neighbouring, larger schools. This contrasts to rural small schools that are quite geographically spread in some cases. There are 5 schools with a net capacity of 150 or less, or, schools with a total number on roll of 150 or less in Ashfield, 28 in Bassetlaw, 5 in Broxtowe, 8 in Gedling, 4 in Mansfield, 18 in Newark and 9 in Rushcliffe (**Appendix 1**)
4. Small schools are an integral part of Nottinghamshire's provision of primary school places. Approximately 25% of primary schools are small (under 150 pupils). Small schools have the total capacity to provide approximately 9,000 school places. As of October 2014, 7,363 pupils attend small schools. Whilst some small schools are full and oversubscribed, taking the small schools as a whole, there is capacity in many. Many families select out of catchment small schools because they are seeking a nurturing environment for their child. Most small schools are Faith schools; there are currently 29 Church of England Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled schools and 1 Roman Catholic small school across the County.
5. In December 2013, a delegation of small school head teachers requested a meeting with the Director of Children's Services to outline their particular concerns. These head teachers focussed on four key areas:

- Finance – particularly the impact of the changes to the lump sum allocation to all schools
 - IT – particularly in relation to the cost of broadband to small schools
 - SEND – particularly in relation to the funding arrangements for pupils with SEND
 - Governance – particularly in relation to exploring alternative leadership models in relation to partnership working, collaborations and federations.
6. Following this meeting with the Director of Children's Services, 15 small school head teachers volunteered to join a working party to explore with officers their concerns. As a result, a series of small group interviews were undertaken by these head teachers with relevant lead officers in the relevant services. Following this series of meetings a report was taken to the February 2015 meeting of the Schools Forum.
 7. Whilst the paper to the Schools Forum presented a summary of suggested actions, two particular issues were identified as key challenges: the funding formula for all schools and its impact on small schools in particular and, secondly, the pressing need for small schools to explore alternative leadership models other than the traditional, one school, one head teacher model. The formula for all schools has been adjusted locally, following the direction from the Department for Education (DfE) that a greater proportion of the overall quantum available should 'follow the child'. This greater emphasis on the 'per capita' funding element has disadvantaged small schools. In order to compensate for this reduction impacting disproportionately on small schools, the Schools Forum agreed to raise the 'lump sum' paid to all primary schools to £100,000, an increase of £11,000 above the figure initially proposed by officers. As this sum is the same for all schools, irrespective of their size, the effect is to compensate small schools for some of the impact of the government required move to greater 'per capita' funding.
 8. In March 2015 and May 2015, two twilight workshops were arranged in partnership with the Southwell Diocese and the small schools working group, to reaffirm the commitment of the County Council to Nottinghamshire's small schools and also to invite chairs of governors in particular to engage with the pressing need to explore alternative leadership models in some small schools, particularly when a head teachers either retires or moves to another school. Case studies of successful school to school partnerships, collaborations and federations were presented by head teachers and chairs of governors.
 9. As we look to the future where demand for school places will increase, the vital role played by small schools in providing essential, high quality school places is acknowledged. However, at times of such financial constraint within the public sector, it is also recognised that small schools face particular financial challenges. Therefore, supporting chairs of governors and small school head teachers to actively explore alternative models of leadership and governance, such as partnerships, collaborations and federations, has the potential to create more sustainable and cost effective leadership arrangements.

Other Options Considered

10. This report seeks to update the Committee on the key role that small schools play in Nottinghamshire to ensure that pupils living in rural areas, in particular, can access their local small school. In more urbanised settings, the small school provides an alternative

preference to parents who wish a smaller and nurturing environment for their child. As such, no other options were considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. Within Nottinghamshire, small schools are highly valued and play a fundamental role in ensuring that every child has a school place. Effective small schools provide high quality personalised education, appropriate to the needs of individual pupils.
12. Ensuring every child in Nottinghamshire is able to access a preferred school, near to their home, remains a key priority for the County Council. Completing statutory primary education ensures that each child has the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to access the secondary curriculum and therefore to become a responsible citizen within society with the confidence and skills to secure economic independence.

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.

Crime and Disorder Implications

14. Pupils who become disenfranchised from education as a result of poor attainment and progress are at risk of involvement in criminal activity. Therefore ensuring that every child accesses high quality education, particularly in rural settings, and is able to succeed, plays a significant role in reducing their likelihood to engage in crime and disorder.

Financial Implications

15. No additional funding is requested in this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) notes the focus and progress of the small primary schools working group currently being developed across the County
- 2) notes the achievements of small schools and the particular challenges faced by small schools at this time.

John Slater
Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Marion Clay
Group Manager, Support to Schools Service
T: 0115 9773736
E: marion.clay@nottsgov.uk

Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 02/06/15)

17. There no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0645



Appendix 1

Schools with a Net Capacity of 150 or less or Schools with a Total Number on Roll of 150 or less

Bassetlaw Number on Roll Oct 2014:

Mattersey - 33	Ranby CE (VC) - 92
Sutton-cum-Lound CE (VA) - 55	Beckingham - 88
St Matthew's CE (VC) - 52	St Luke's CE (VA) - 111
Rampton - 67	Cuckney CE (VC) - 106
Elkesley - 68	Everton - 111
Walkeringham - 64	Gamston CE, Retford (VA) - 76
North Wheatley CE (VC) - 73	Clarbrough - 124
St Peter's CE, Gringley (VA) - 79	Dunham CE (VC) - 107
Sturton CE (VA) - 74	East Markham - 115
Hallcroft Infant - 84	Kingston Park - 161
Haggonfields - 76	Ranskill - 119
St Patrick's Catholic - 82	St Swithun's CE (VA) - 97
Leverton CE Academy - 81	St Mary & St Martin (VA) - 110
Misson - 79	Tuxford Primary Academy - 170

Mansfield Number on Roll Oct 2014:

Birklands - 136
Eastlands - 117
John T Rice - 132
Netherfield Infant - 116

Ashfield Number on Roll Oct 2014:

Westwood Infant - 42
Selston CE Infant (VC) - 57
All Saints CE (VA) - 88
Healdswood Infant (VC) - 128
Skegby Junior Academy - 149

Gedling Number on Roll Oct 2014:

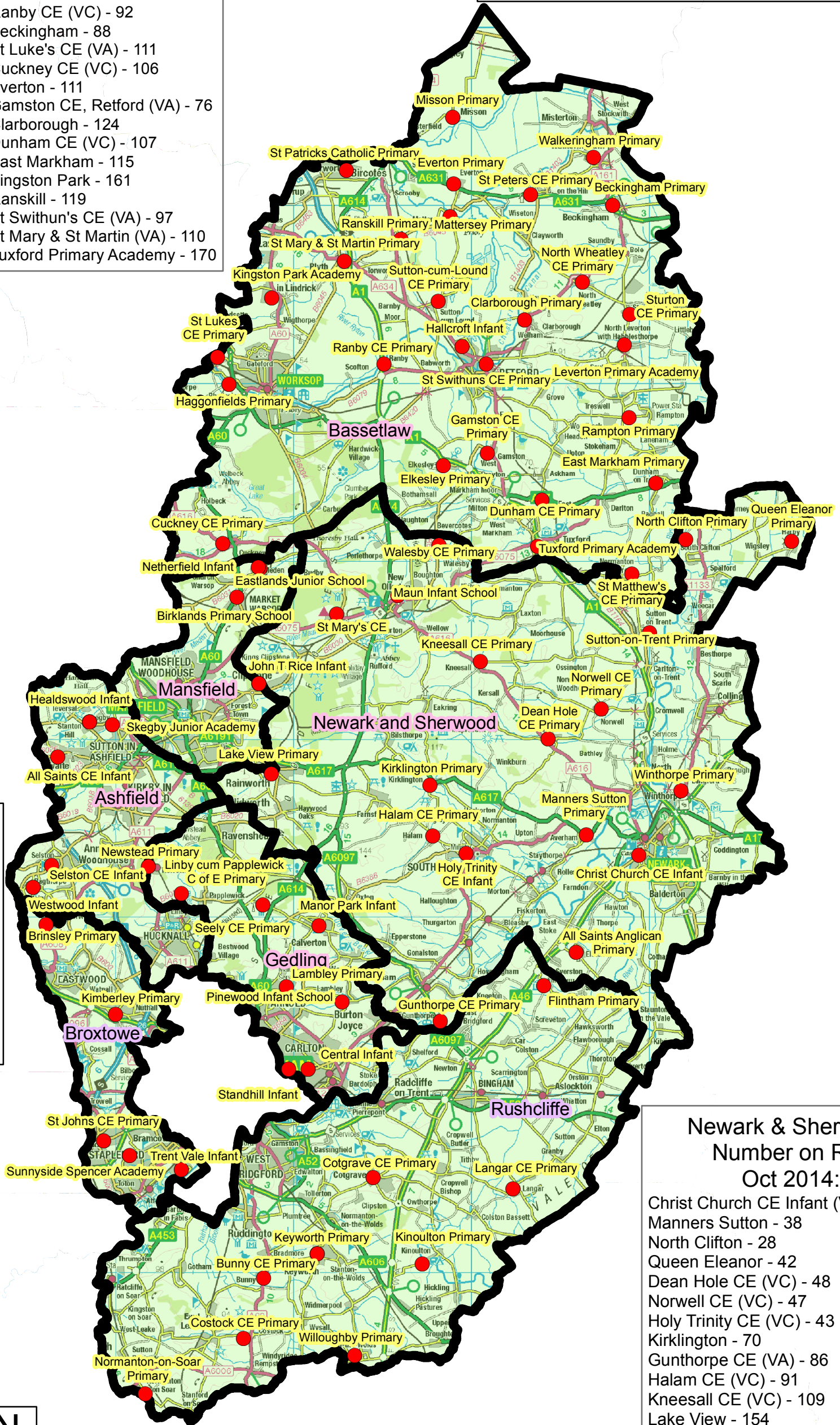
Seely CE (VA) - 90
Newstead - 102
Central Infant - 138
Lambley - 118
Linby cum Papplewick (VA) - 121
Manor Park - 125
Pinewood - 151
Standhill - 136

Broxtowe Number on Roll Oct 2014:

Sunnyside Spencer - 89
St John's CE (VC) - 85
Brinsley - 131
Kimberley - 132
Trent Vale - 151

Rushcliffe Number on Roll Oct 2014:

Willoughby - 48
Normanton-on-Soar - 67
Costock CE (VC) - 78
Bunny CE (VC) - 81
Cotgrave CE (VA) - 93
Keyworth - 116
Kinoulton - 117
Langar CE (VC) - 102
Flintham Primary - 104



Newark & Sherwood Number on Roll Oct 2014:

Christ Church CE Infant (VA) - 37
Manners Sutton - 38
North Clifton - 28
Queen Eleanor - 42
Dean Hole CE (VC) - 48
Norwell CE (VC) - 47
Holy Trinity CE (VC) - 43
Kirklington - 70
Gunthorpe CE (VA) - 86
Halam CE (VC) - 91
Kneesall CE (VC) - 109
Lake View - 154
Maun Infant - 136
St Mary's CE (VA) - 97
Sutton on Trent - 115
All Saints Anglican Methodist (VA) - 103
Winthorpe - 87
Walesby CE (VC) - 140

15 June 2015

Agenda Item: 10

**REPORT OF THE ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN, FAMILIES
AND CULTURAL SERVICES****THE IMPACT OF EARLY HELP IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update to the Committee on our current assessment of the impact of our approach to Early Help in Nottinghamshire.

Information and Advice

2. The Early Help Development Plan 2013-16, approved by Policy Committee in October 2013, aligned key strategies across the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust and acts as an umbrella for existing work that is underway through the Child Poverty, Early Years and Closing the Educational Gap strategies. Since the approval of the plan there have been significant developments in the consistency and scale of data available and in gaining insight into what impact the measures outlined within the plan are having. This is now being captured in a quarterly Early Help Impact Statement.
3. Nottinghamshire has adopted Professor Munro's definition of early help, meaning help provided early in the life of a child and early in the emergence of a problem. The range of items reported on in the Impact Statement is reflective of this wide approach to preventing problems escalating for children, young people and their families.
4. The production of the Impact Statement is overseen by the Early Help Leadership Team and reports to the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust. It will be presented to the Children and Young People's Committee each quarter. The Impact Statement for 2014/15 Quarter 4 is attached as an **Appendix**.

Other Options Considered

5. No other options have been considered. The benefits of well-coordinated early help are widely recognised and the plan supports the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust ambition of Nottinghamshire being a place where children are "safe, healthy and happy, where everyone enjoys a good quality of life and where everyone can achieve their potential".

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. The Early Help Development Plan brings together key strategies across the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust workforce and continues to support work to achieve

better outcomes for children, young people and families through the improved coordination of evidence based interventions. The Impact Statement assesses how far the plan is delivering on the stated priorities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. 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 update on the current assessment of the impact of our approach to Early Help in Nottinghamshire be noted.

Derek Higton

Acting Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Laurence Jones

Group Manager, Targeted Support and Youth Justice Service

T: 01623 520109

E: laurence.jones@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 01/06/15)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Early Help Development Plan 2013-16 – report to Policy Committee on 16 October 2013

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0654

Nottinghamshire

Early Help Impact Statement

2014-15 Quarter 4

What is the Impact of Early Help in Nottinghamshire?

Quarter 4 2014-15

The Early Help Development Plan has been developed to further improve the multi-agency early help offer to children, young people and families across Nottinghamshire. The activity driven by this plan is intended to improve outcomes for children and young people and reduce the need for specialist or statutory interventions. The plan brings together work across the Children's Trust to ensure that all agencies coordinate their activities to provide a coherent and seamless service to children and families and the annual summary of actions will be contained within the emerging "Help and Protection Plan".

Early help as defined by Eileen Munro is that provided early in the life of a child and early in the emergence of a problem. In Nottinghamshire, services are considered to be providing Early Help when the child or young person's needs are assessed to be at levels 1 to 3 within the Pathway to Provision (Universal, Early Intervention and Targeted Services).

Our ambition is for children, young people and families to receive the most appropriate support to meet their needs at the earliest opportunity. This supports the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust ambition of Nottinghamshire being a place where children are "safe, healthy and happy, where everyone enjoys a good quality of life and where everyone can achieve their potential"

Services that provide Early Help to children and families in Nottinghamshire include children's centres, Targeted Support Services, Young People's Services (youth service), early years settings, schools, colleges, services for children with special educational needs and disabilities, midwives, health visitors, school nurses, GPs, Family Nurse Partnership, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, community paediatrics, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, contraceptive and sexual health services, the police, and voluntary and community sector providers. These services provide a range of support and interventions to children and families including evidence based parenting programmes, breastfeeding support, learning support, help to find education.

What is the Impact of Early Help in Nottinghamshire?

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1. Children and Young People Having their needs met through the EHAF Process

Target: Increase

Baseline: 54% of presenting issues to early help are fully resolved (2014 calendar year)

National Average: Not measured / available

Outcomes are measured using three descriptors at case closure:

- **Fully Resolved** - The child or young person has moved down at least one level on the Pathway to Provision and the child's needs are significantly improved.
- **Partially Resolved** - The child or young person remains on the same level on the Pathway to Provision but there has been an improvement in some of the child's needs.
- **Not Resolved** - The child or young person has moved up a level on the Pathway to Provision **Or** The child or young person remains at the same level on the Pathway to Provision but they or their family have not engaged and the evidence is that the child's needs remain unmet.

Over the last 12 months we can see that the number of cases "fully resolved" by early help services has risen during the year with the latest two quarters showing a 65% and 58% success rate compared respectively to 55% which is the figure for the 2014-15 year as a whole. The number of cases not resolved due a family disengaging has also dropped considerably with 11% during the latest quarter compared 16% over the full twelve month period. The number of cases that early help staff have needed to escalate into social care has remained at relatively low levels over the last two quarters.

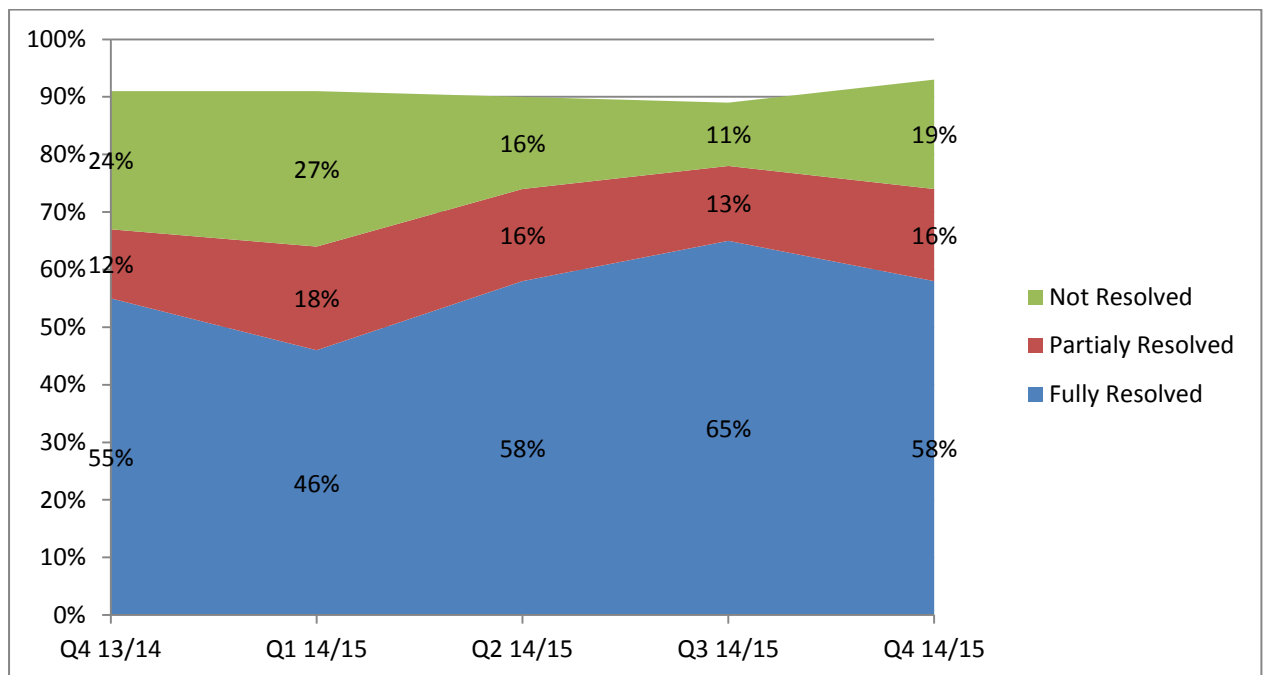
Overall this shows that early help services are becoming more skilled and confident in dealing with cases and better at engaging and retaining families and young people in services. There is still scope for improvement and we have set the following targets for the 2015-16 financial year:

- 70% of early help cases to be fully resolved at the point of closure
- For no early help cases to be closed with the outcome "not recorded"

What is the Impact of Early Help in Nottinghamshire?

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	Q1 (2014/15)	Q2 (2014/15)	Q3 (2014/15)	Q4 (2014/15)	Aggregate %
Fully Resolved	46% (457)	58% (302)	65% (372)	58% (338)	55% (1469)
Partially Resolved	18% (174)	16% (86)	13% (76)	15% (90)	16% (426)
Not resolved -Escalated to Children's Social Care	4% (36)	2% (12)	2% (13)	5% (31)	3% (68)
Not resolved child/family disengaged	23% (228)	14% (71)	11% (69)	11% (64)	16% (432)
Transferred to another service	4% (35)	2% (10)	3% (15)	3% (17)	3% (77)
Moved out of Notts	4% (39)	4% (23)	1% (9)	2% (13)	3% (84)
Not recorded	2% (18)	4% (19)	3% (17)	6% (33)	3% (87)
TOTAL	987	523	571	586	2667



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2. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Referrals to Early Help

Target: 25% of enquiries from the MASH to result in an appropriate referral to early help services during 2015-16.

Baseline: 20% (MASH NFA) / 10% (referred to early help) (2014/15 financial year)

National Average: Not available

During 2014-15 less than 6% of enquiries to the MASH resulted in a referral to early help services whereas 35% resulted in “no further action” although some will have been offered advice and guidance, including signposting to other agencies. Our assessment is that there is scope for improvement given the low numbers referred from the MASH to early help as opposed to being closed NFA and also taking into account the number of initial assessments resulting in NFA, which as 2014-15 stood at 43%. A concerted effort during quarter 4 of the year saw the numbers referred to early help increase to 10% and NFAs reduce to 20%. The provision of early help services is in all likelihood helping to reduce the level of re-referrals to the MASH as alternative referrals are made, although clear evidence for this is currently lacking. Re-referrals are lower than statistical neighbour and England averages in 2012-13 and 2013-14. However, given that there were 26% re-referrals to the MASH during 2014-15 there is significant scope to intervene earlier in these cases. We have introduced a stretching target in our 2015-16 Service Plan for **25% of enquiries from the MASH to result in an appropriate referral to early help services.**

	Q1 14/15	Q2 14/15	Q3 14/15	Q4 14/15
MASH Enquiry closed NFA	34%	43%	38%	20%
Passed to Early Help	1%	4%	5%	10%
Assessed by CSC	49%	43%	45%	42%

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3. Volumes of Early Help Activity

Target: Reduce

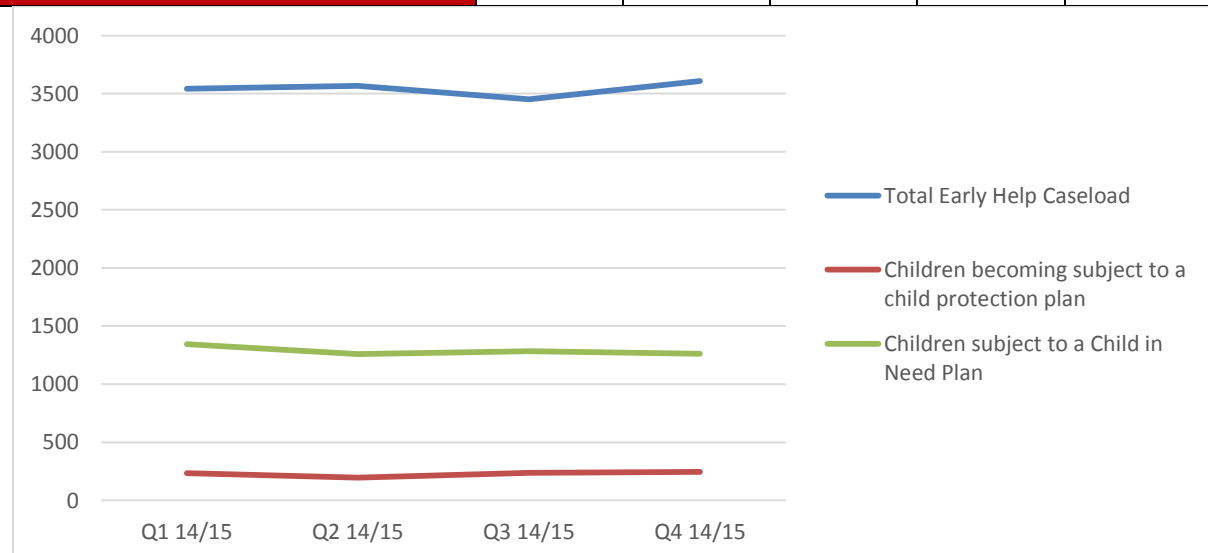
Baseline: 36.4 (2013/14)

National Average: 42.1 (2013/14)

The effectiveness of Early Help Services can significantly reduce the number of children who need to be subject to formal social care interventions through providing the right support to a family to address issues swiftly and before the emergence of serious safeguarding concerns when possible. Over the 15 months for which consistent data is available the number of children becoming subject to Child Protection or Child in Need plans has reduced as the volume of cases in early help has risen.

The current rate of Child Protection Plans per 10,000 of 35.9 is in line with the rate for statistical neighbours and England average with the latest data available (31.5 and 37.9 respectively). The early help caseload grew from 2710 at the end of December 2013 to 3452 at the end of September 2014, a rise of 27%.

<i>Quarter end snapshots</i>	Q4 13/14	Q1 14/15	Q2 14/15	Q3 14/15	Q4 14/15
Early help cases open CCs (Level 3 /CAF assessed)	700	879	675	879	967
Early help cases open CCs (Level 2)	616	532	827	668	722
Early help cases open TS	1419	1316	1270	1204	1333
Early help cases open SF	726	816	795	701	587
Total Early Help Caseload	3461	3543	3567	3452	3609
Children subject to a Child in Need Plan	1679	1345	1258	1283	1263



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4. First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System

Target: Same or lower than 2014-15

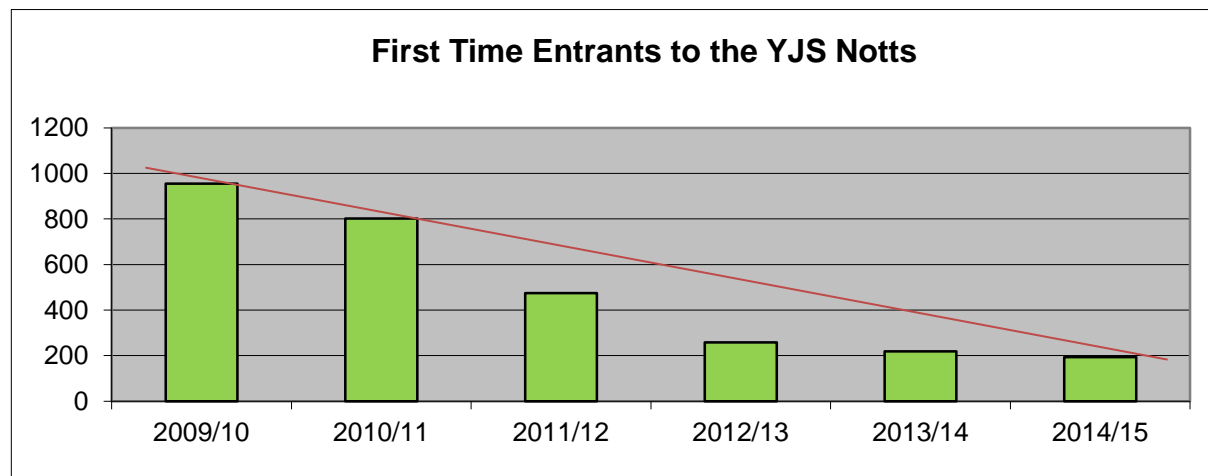
Baseline: 351 (2012/13)

National Average: 533 per 100,000 of youth population (2013-14)

During 2014-15 193 young people (or 269 per 100,000 of youth population) were first time entrants, a 12% decrease on the previous year. In 2013-14, the latest figure for which national comparators are available, Nottinghamshire had 298 first time entrants to the youth justice system (per 100,000 of youth population) compared with 553 per 100,000 nationally.

Nottinghamshire has been providing early help services in the form of parenting interventions and direct support to young people aged eight and above for many years using a variation on the Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) methodology through our Youth Offending Teams. Outreach youth work schemes also seek to identify and engage young people in community settings. This work has led to long term reductions in the numbers of young people in the youth justice system supplemented by Youth Service and Targeted Support provision. 474 children and young people received a preventative intervention by the Youth Offending Teams during 2013-14.

We have also worked to provide more intensive work with children in communities that are high crime areas to prevent them becoming the next generation of offenders. Three specific examples of this include the delivery of two Youth Inclusion Projects (commissioned with public health and delivered in partnership with Barnardo's) in Coxmoor (Ashfield) and Manton (Worksop) and a Positive Futures project delivered with Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club in Hawtonville (Newark).



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5. Under 18 conception rate (rate per 1000 females aged 15-17)

Target: Decrease

Baseline: 24.2 (2013)

National Average: 27.7 (2012)

Nottinghamshire historically has achieved well in reducing teenage conceptions, comparing well with statistical neighbours and across the region. The teenage conception rate is calculated by identifying the number of conceptions per 1,000 females aged 15-17 in an area. Under 16 conception data is also provided but has not been used to assess progress nationally.

Teenage Conception Data is measured annually and this annual teenage conception rate for under 18's has been the main target for teenage pregnancy strategies and Children's Trust partnerships. The latest annual data published is for 2013. Teenage Conception data is provided by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and the Department of Health (DH). The provisional 2013 under 18 conception rate for England is **24.3** per 1,000 girls aged 15-17 – a decrease of 12.3% from the 2012 rate and the lowest rate since 1998 (15 years ago). Since 1998 (baseline year), the under 18 conception rate has fallen by 47.9% (from 46.6 per 1,000 in 1998).

The 2013 under 18 conception rate for Nottinghamshire was **24.2** per 1,000 females aged 15-17 – a decrease of 17.7% from the 2012 rate of 29.4%, and a decrease of 47.8% since the 1998 baseline year. The number of under 18 conceptions in 2013 was 340, a reduction of 274 per year compared to the 1998 baseline number of 614.

In 2013, Nottinghamshire has a lower under 18 conception rate than both the England value (24.3) and the East Midlands value (24.6) although this difference is not significant at the 95% statistical confidence level.

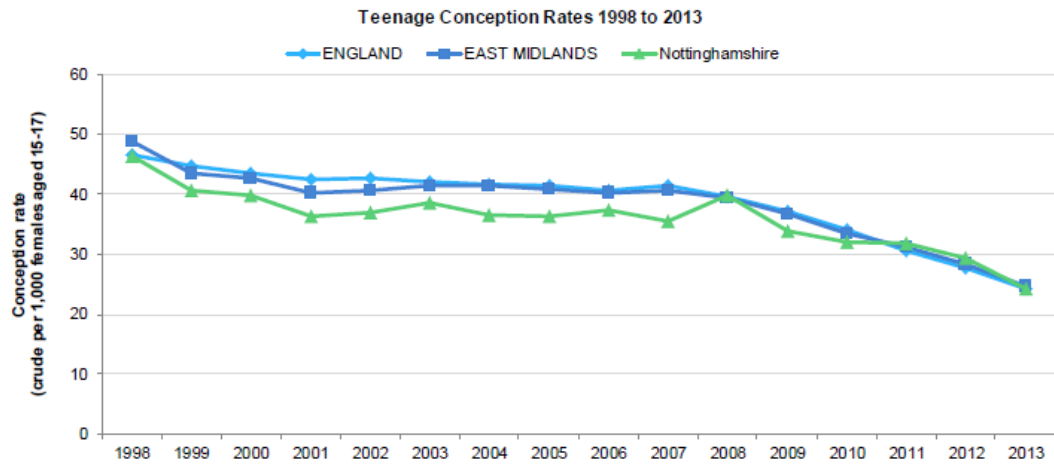
Currently Nottinghamshire's overall reduction of 47.8% against the 1998 base rate compares broadly similar with the national reduction of 47.9% and the East Midlands reduction of 49.6%.

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a licensed, evidenced based, intensive nurse-led prevention and early intervention programme for vulnerable first time young parents and their children. It is the first part of the preventive pathway for the 2-5% of most disadvantaged children. The Nottinghamshire programme was launched in April 2013. The latest data indicates that the number of clients who used contraception every time or most of the time at 6 months infancy has increased from 60% (the baseline) to 89% and remains at 76% at 12 months.

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Figure 2.1: Teenage conception rates 1998-2013 for Nottinghamshire and National, Regional comparators



Source: ONS Conceptions Statistics 2013 (published 2015)

What is the Impact of Early Help in Nottinghamshire? Quarter 4 2014-15

6. Dependent children living in households whose income is below 60% of the national average

Target: Decrease

Baseline: 16% (Aug 2012 snapshot)

National Average: 18.6% (Aug 2012 snapshot)

Early Help services can have some impact in reducing poverty but also have a key role in helping those in poverty manage better for example by helping with money management, putting families in touch with those who can help them find training or work and through advice on food and nutrition. All of these elements have been championed by Early Help Improvement Groups and are integral parts of the Child Poverty Action Plan (October 2014 – October 2015).

The Troubled Families Programme, delivered as a key part of Nottinghamshire's Early Help Offer, is performing well in getting families achieving progress towards work and retaining continuous employment when compared to other similar areas, as shown in the chart below. This has been achieved through close working with the DWP and a proactive approach by workers in engaging families around this agenda.

Children centres engage with parents to build confidence, skills and qualifications through their local children centres either through volunteering or undertaking family learning or adult learning. Last year the centres engaged 1447 adults from low income households in adult education and 292 from low income households into volunteering. 86% of mothers being assisted through the Family Nurse Partnership are in education, training or employment at 12 months infancy.

Troubled Families – progress information concerning employment as at February 2015

Area	Total number of Families	% of families achieving progress to work as at the end of February 2015 ¹	% of families achieving continuous employment result as at the end of February 2015
Essex	2220	1%	3%
Nottinghamshire	1580	10%	18%
Lincolnshire	1370	11%	12%
Derbyshire	1355	5%	5%
Cumbria	1050	4%	5%
Gloucestershire	900	5%	8%
Worcestershire	900	2%	3%
Northumberland	650	1%	5%
National	117,910	7%	8%

What is the Impact of Early Help in Nottinghamshire? Quarter 4 2014-15

7.Youth Homelessness

During 2015-16 there were 549 referrals made to Early Help for young people (aged 16-21) presenting as homeless. On average 84 referrals each quarter are from 16 and 17 year olds making 336 each year. There is potential for all of these young people to become looked after.

The success of the Early Help mediation has meant that young people that can remain at home are doing so with the support of appropriate professionals. On average approximately 20% of referrals are successfully mediated each quarter meaning that an average of 67 young people do not have to be accommodated by the local authority each year.

For young people placed in supported accommodation their needs are recorded when they enter the accommodation and the resolution is recorded at the end. Key areas of recording include economic wellbeing, community involvement, physical and mental health and self-efficacy. In all cases data shows that significant improvement is seen across the population by the time they leave the scheme, accepting that not all of the reasons for leaving will be positive. Some example data is shown below.

Young People's Accommodation

Outcome	% with need at reception	% where need is resolved at exit
Managing debt	34%	59%
Participating in ETE	66%	68%
Accessing appropriate community services	46%	93%
Physically healthy	51%	93%
Mentally well	26%	87%
Not harming self	11%	88%
Managing substance use	41%	51%
Confident, involved and in control of own life	77%	87%

Teenage Parents

Outcome	% with need at reception	% where need is resolved at exit
Managing debt	43%	90%
Participating in ETE	88%	75%
Accessing appropriate community services	64%	81%
Physically healthy	20%	100%
Mentally well	36%	89%
Not harming self	16%	100%
Managing substance use	4%	100%
Confident, involved and in control of own life	100%	88%

What is the Impact of Early Help in Nottinghamshire? Quarter 4 2014-15

8. Youth Service Engagement

The Youth Service delivers Nottinghamshire's Youth Offer of high quality, safe and enjoyable positive social education activities outside of the school day including targeted provision for young people with a disability or those from the Looked After Cohort. The service also supports the delivery of the Council's Early Help strategy for young people, through open access activities prioritising delivery in communities of highest need. This is to ensure the delivery the Council's statutory requirements under Section 507B of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 as it relates the duty to secure services and activities for young people aged 13-19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, to improve their well-being. In Nottinghamshire we also provide access to Junior youth work provision for young people from Y6 to age12 to support their transition to both formal and informal education opportunities.

The service facilitates a structure for young people to voice their opinions and to shape the services provided for them by the Council and its partners, also to increase the opportunities for the positive representation of young people in the media. This is to support the delivery of the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust's Participation Strategy 2014-16 and contributes to the NSCB Business Plan (2014-16) and the Children, Young People and Families Plan (2014/16). Effective communication and engagement with children and young people through formal arrangements with the Nottinghamshire Young People's Board (including the Children in Care Council), Elected Members of UK Youth Parliament.

Delivering appropriate access to contraception and sexual health information, through the implementation and development of the C Card Scheme, prioritising teenage pregnancy hot spot wards contributes to delivering the outcomes of the Nottinghamshire Children, Young People and Families Plan and the Health & Wellbeing Board Strategy (2014-17) Increasing young people's understanding and tolerance of each other's personal circumstances or life choices including; age, race, culture, nationality, religion, sexuality, disability, education, employment and interests, also those of their wider community. An example of the work that contributes to this is the establishing of LGBTU open access groups across the county.

Performance of the Youth Service 14/15

Youth Service	Total Unique (individuals) directly engaged in positive activities	Total attendances of those Unique individuals in positive activities
Open access Youth Provision operated by NCC	21,446	145,442
C Card	8,000	16,000
Duke of Edinburgh Award NB this Scheme transfers to the OEE Service on 1/4/15	2,400	48,000
14/15 Total Youth Service	31,846	209,442

9. Children's Centre Performance

REACH

Domain	Performance Indicators	County	Districts	Cummulative	2013/14 Actual				Trend 13/14	2014/15 Actual				Trend 14/15
				2014/15 Targets	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
REACH	A1.1 Focused Reach Registered (monthly)	County		80%	79%	80%	77%	79%		82%	85%	99%	100%	
			Ashfield	82%	83%	83%	78%	81%		89%	90%	105%	105%	
			Bassetlaw	79%	78%	79%	79%	78%		79%	81%	95%	98%	
			Bracklowe	82%	81%	84%	78%	80%		85%	87%	99%	98%	
			Gedling	78%	81%	81%	75%	78%		82%	83%	97%	97%	
			Mansfield	82%	79%	80%	81%	82%		81%	86%	100%	102%	
			Newark & Sherwood	79%	78%	77%	78%	79%		79%	84%	99%	100%	
			Rushcliffe	65%	59%	60%	61%	63%		58%	71%	81%	88%	
	A1.2 Population Registered (monthly)	County		75%	71%	72%	71%	73%		74%	78%	91%	93%	
	A2.1 Focused Reach and Seen (monthly)	County		66%	28%	42%	48%	57%		28%	46%	58%	71%	
			Ashfield	66%	24%	41%	49%	57%		33%	52%	62%	75%	
			Bassetlaw	66%	29%	42%	50%	58%		30%	48%	61%	68%	
			Bracklowe	68%	42%	48%	52%	59%		29%	45%	54%	73%	
			Gedling	65%	27%	44%	48%	53%		28%	42%	50%	67%	
			Mansfield	65%	29%	41%	49%	55%		28%	48%	60%	72%	
			Newark & Sherwood	68%	28%	42%	48%	62%		24%	42%	56%	70%	
			Rushcliffe	65%	18%	28%	32%	38%		13%	34%	54%	69%	
	A2.2 Population Seen	County		55%	25%	33%	41%	54%		23%	40%	51%	62%	
	A3.1 Targeted Group Sustained Contact	County		50%			37%	48%		22%	58%	66%	78%	

Focused Reach

As a County **24867** or **100%** of all children under 5 who live in low income areas are registered with the Children's Centres, exceeding the **80%** target. All the districts have exceeded their registration target for 2014/15. This reflects improved systems in place for gaining consent by the health visitors in registering children with their local Children's Centre. Where figures show over 100% this is for a number of reasons including the fact that the denominator uses historical data as set by NCC, the birth rate has increased and those who have turned 5 in the year are counted if they were seen before they turned 5.

Population Registered

Activity for Quarter 4 shows County registration levels for all children under 5 have now risen to **41967 children or 93%**

Focused Reached and Seen

Due to the hard work and the plans put in place by the District Managers, improved consistency and increased numbers of children have been seen in all districts. **All 7 districts have exceeded their target set for 2014/15.** All districts have increased their seen figures considerably from the end of the last financial year by between 8% and 31% (Rushcliffe).

Population Seen

62% of the whole population have been seen, higher than in Quarter 4 2013/14 which was 54%, again a good increase of 8% and exceeds the target set of 55%

Targeted Group – Sustained Contact

Sustained contact has increased to **76%**, now exceeding the target which was set at **50%**. This equates to **10697** number children who have been seen 5 times or more in a Children's Centre. This illustrates that interventions by the centres are meeting the families' needs.

Service User's Voice

'I first came to Sure Start shortly after having my first baby girl. I was a young mum at 17 and my daughter was 5 weeks old. I got told about Sure Start by my Health Visitor, so one day I got ready and decided to check it out. My first visit was to a young parent's group. I was so nervous I went on my own. I didn't know anybody and felt pushed out and a bit neglected by the other mums. I stuck it out an hour, went through for snack time with the other parents and sat on the other side of the room. It was horrible. I felt left out and hurt. Shortly after, I got my things together and was ready to leave with the feelings that I never wanted to go back. I don't know why I felt like that, then a member of staff came behind me as I was leaving to see if I was ok, clearly noticing I wasn't. She offered me some support and asked if I would like her to come round for a chat. She was a support worker. I left her my number. A week later I had a phone call and it was her. She arranged to come round the following Friday. I was sceptical at first but at that point I needed someone and some help. The first visit had arrived and the worker came in for a coffee and a chat. All I remember was being very emotional. I explained why I left, how I felt at that point that I was dealing with depression. She sat back and listened and gave me other groups she thought might be good to attend. I didn't go back to the centre for a while but still had the support nearly every week from home.

I was then due to have my second child. I didn't know how to feel about it. I was probably more petrified on my second as I felt I couldn't cope with the first. When she was born it was ten times more difficult to cope with, being in the house all day. I still saw my family support worker and decided to give Sure Start another go. My youngest was about 8 weeks when I went back with my eldest being about 18 months. I went to the Stay and Play session. A worker came up to me as soon as the girls had settled in, she introduced herself and asked me about myself and the girls. She made me feel really welcome. She helped me when she saw I was struggling. It was so different from my first visit. From that day, I grabbed a timetable and started attending more groups like the library singing group and a new young mum's group. I got to know a lot of the staff well and started making friends. I was still having a lot of difficulties at home. My family support worker was leaving so she introduced me to a new family support worker. She was just as kind and supportive. I got offered a lot of support and guidance by her. I was having doubts at the time about keeping my youngest. I loved her so much, but at that time I didn't think I did, or could cope. A lot of support and help was given and I came through the rough patch.

After a while I started attending adult learning courses. The girls attended crèche and I felt happy and confident to leave them. I made more friends and my confidence was growing. I was feeling happier within myself. Things were getting thrown at me too but I felt I could cope with the help I was receiving. As my life got better and I felt happier, I started to think about going to work. With support from the support worker, I did a CV and handed them out. I eventually got a job. Now I am a working single mum and couldn't be happier. Without the help of Sure Start I wouldn't be where I am today and I'm very grateful. Sure Start is my second home and they all do a fantastic job'.

15 June 2015**Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF THE ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN, FAMILIES
AND CULTURAL SERVICES****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ISSUING FINES FOR PUPIL
ABSENCES – AMENDMENT TO THRESHOLD****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks to provide an update on the use of Penalty Notices for non-attendance at school and to obtain approval to reduce the threshold for issuing a Penalty Notice Fine in the Nottinghamshire's Code of Conduct to 20% from September 2015 and the insertion of a clause that will inhibit families from taking multiple unauthorised leave of absences during the academic year for the purpose of a family holiday or other reason which does not meet the definition of exceptional circumstances.

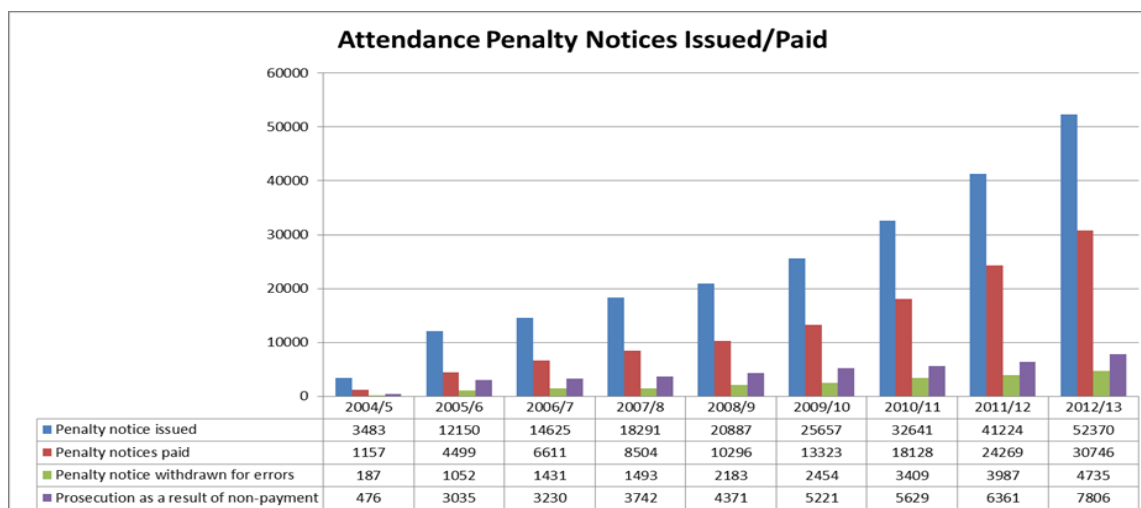
Information and Advice

2. The threshold in Nottinghamshire for issuing a parent/guardian with a Penalty Notice is outlined in the Authority's Code of Conduct as 25% absence over a 6 week period. This equates to 15 missed sessions or 7.5 days of absence over 6 weeks. It was set at this level to ensure any use of fines is fair, proportionate and focused on regular and persistent absence. The threshold is the same regardless of whether the unauthorised absence is general in nature or for the purpose of a family holiday during term time. The Nottinghamshire Code of Conduct was consulted on with schools in the spring of 2013 and no changes were made to the threshold at that point or since then.
3. Since September 2013 head teachers are only able to agree a leave of absence during term time in exceptional circumstances. The Department for Education removed the discretion for head teachers to agree up to 10 days leave during term time for a family holiday. This change was introduced following the 'Improving attendance at school' report (Taylor, C: 2012) which emphasised the impact of school absence on attainment and outcomes for children. In particular, Taylor underlined the need to tackle the issue of parents taking children out of school for a term-time holiday or for an occasional day off. As a result of his recommendations, the Education (Pupil Registration) Regulations (2006) were amended so that head teachers can only agree a leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. What constitutes an exceptional circumstance is not nationally defined and remains at the discretion of individual head teachers although the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has issued some general guidelines.

4. From September 2015 the persistent absence definition will change nationally from 15% to 10%. As a result from the beginning of the 2015/16 academic year any pupil with less than 90% attendance will be defined as being persistently absent from school.
5. In light of these two significant changes the decision was taken to conduct a benchmarking exercise to compare Nottinghamshire's use of fines for non-attendance with other local authorities. This was done in order to determine whether Nottinghamshire had set its current threshold at an appropriate level and if not to ascertain what would be a proportionate and effective level at which to set the threshold for issuing fines within the Nottinghamshire Code of Conduct. The benchmarking exercise compared Nottinghamshire against a number of other local authorities both regionally and nationally by looking at the threshold level itself, the application of fines and the absence rates for those authorities. The payment rates for fines were also looked at.
6. Overall pupil absence rates in England across both primary and secondary phases combined have been falling over the last five years from 6.0% during the 2009/10 academic year to 4.5% in 2014/15. As the table below indicates overall absence rates have also fallen in Nottinghamshire and they remain in line with the England and Regional averages.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14*
England	5.1%	5.3%	4.5%
East Midlands	5.1%	5.4%	4.5%
Nottinghamshire	5.0%	5.4%	4.5%

7. Similarly, the national picture shows that persistent absence rates have been steadily falling since the 2008/09 academic year. Over the last three academic years persistent pupil absence rates across England for the primary and secondary phases combined have fallen from 5.2% (2011-12) to 4.6% (2012-13) and 3.6% (2013-14). The reduction in persistent absence rates across Nottinghamshire during the same period was from 4.9% (2011-12) to 4.8% (2012-13) and 3.5% (2013-14).
8. Although Nottinghamshire remains broadly in line with the England and Regional averages for both overall and persistent absence rates across the primary and secondary phases combined, there are some differences between the two phases. For the 2013/14 academic year Nottinghamshire persistent absence rate for state funded primary schools (1.8%) was below the England average (1.9%). Conversely during the 2013/14 academic year the persistent absence rate for state funded secondary schools in Nottinghamshire (5.7%) was above the England average (5.3%).
9. The chart overleaf underlines that since the 2004/05 academic year there has been a steady increase in the number of fines issued for pupil absence in England.



10. During the 2013-14 academic year 184 fines were issued across Nottinghamshire. So far this academic year, over 200 Penalty Notices have been issued to parents.
11. As part of the benchmarking exercise, a total of 23 local authorities from across England were approached for information about their Code of Conduct and their use of Penalty Notices to address pupil absence. From an analysis of the information received, the following trends were identified:

- **Nationally pupil absence rates have been steadily falling at the same time as the use of fines for absence has increased.**

Since the 2008/09 academic year, overall absence rates across England have steadily fallen from 6.3% (2008/09) to 4.5% (2013/14). Similarly over the same period persistent absence rates have also been declining, falling from 7.4% (2008/09) to 3.6% (2013/14).

At the same time the use of Penalty Notices increased across England by 60% from 20,887 (2008/09) to 52,370 (2011/12). Whilst the use of fines to address pupil absence is likely to be only one of a series of interventions schools and local authorities use, this data does suggest a correlation between the use of penalty notice fines and any reduction in absence rates.

- **There are considerable variations in Penalty Notice Thresholds across different authorities.**

From the 17 responses received it is immediately apparent that there is very little consistency in the thresholds set by individual local authorities within their local Code of Conduct. Most local authorities had thresholds equating to on average about 17% over a fixed period (usually 6 or 12 weeks). Even at that the application of the threshold could be quite nuanced with the use of warnings and monitoring periods before a fine was eventually issued.

Nottinghamshire's threshold is currently 25% over a 6 week period.

- **There are significant variations in the volume of fines used by different local authorities**

Regardless of the level at which the threshold is set, there are significant variations in the numbers of penalty notices issued by individual local authorities. Nottinghamshire currently issues fewer fines than many other local authorities even where the threshold is set at a similar level. In some cases the difference was very significant.

- **A high proportion of Penalty Notices are unpaid**

A significant proportion of penalty notices are not paid and not all cases where the fine is unpaid then proceeded to court action for the original offence. Charlie Taylor's (2012) report indicated that about 40-50% of fines were unpaid. More recent data from the Department for Education covering the academic years from 2004/05 through to 2012/13 confirm a payment rate of 53%.

Experience suggests that penalty notices are usually less effective with families where there are longer-term or persistent absence issues and/or significant underlying factors that need to be addressed. Examples of underlying factors that can impact on attendance include poor parental mental health, acute anxiety for the child, parental alcohol or drug misuse, domestic violence, involvement in crime or anti-social behaviour and long term unemployment.

- **There is mixed evidence that having a much lower threshold and issuing a much higher number of fines results in a bigger reduction in absence rates**

Finally and most importantly from the responses received there appears to be mixed evidence that having a much lower threshold and/or issuing much higher numbers of fines results in a bigger reduction in absence rates compared to authorities with higher thresholds and a record of issuing fewer fines.

12. During the Spring of 2015, head teachers in both maintained schools and academies (primary and secondary) were provided with the results of the benchmarking exercise and asked to comment through an online survey on a proposal to alter the Penalty Notice threshold in Nottinghamshire's Code of Conduct to 20% from September 2015. Twenty four head teachers responded to the survey. Of these just over 85% were in favour of amending the threshold. Four head teachers stated a preference for the Nottinghamshire threshold to mirror the government's revised Persistent Absence rate of 10% from September 2015 as this was the expectation placed on schools by Ofsted. Two schools also raised a concern about the potential for parents to take their children on multiple holidays during the school year and requested that the threshold in the Code of Conduct needs to address this potential issue.
13. It is important to note that Nottinghamshire's pupil absence rates are in line with the England and regional averages. Our overall and persistent absence rates have fallen in line with the national trend. However, in view of the imminent national change to the persistent absence definition from September 2015 and in light of the findings from the benchmarking exercise there is a case for altering the Nottinghamshire threshold.

14. The proposal is for a more modest reduction in the threshold to 20% which will provide head teachers with increased opportunity to use fines to address regular and persistent absence in their schools without setting the threshold at a level that might become overly punitive. It is recommended that 20% will establish the threshold for Nottinghamshire at a level which will:
- Be effective in addressing regular and persistent absence,
 - Support schools and their own strategies to improve attendance,
 - Be fair, proportionate and will meet the “*public interest*” test ,
 - Retain public confidence,
 - Be consistent with the principles set out in the Local Authority’s Enforcement Policy, and
 - Complement the Early Help offer across Nottinghamshire.
15. It will also harmonise the threshold arrangements for issuing fines with those for prosecuting cases in court.

Other Options Considered

16. Consideration was given to reducing the threshold to a level more in line with the new Persistent Absence definition of 10%. However, this would have set the threshold at a level that was inconsistent with Nottinghamshire’s arrangements for prosecuting cases in court. It might mean that families where a child has had as little as three days absence in a monitoring period without the means to pay the fine could find themselves being prosecuted in court. It would also be incongruent with the principles set out in the Enforcement Policy and as such could set the threshold at a level that was overly punitive and would not command sufficient public confidence.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. To ensure that the Nottinghamshire Code of Conduct remains fit for purpose and is effective in addressing pupil absence rates within Nottinghamshire and more closely reflects the planned change to the Persistent Absence definition from September 2015.

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 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

19. Any change to the threshold is likely to result in an increase in demand for fines from schools and possibly court work where fines are not paid. Whilst it is uncertain at this stage what the overall impact will be, we aim to meet any increase in demand as a result of the proposed change within our existing resources. We will need to keep this under review. By introducing a more modest change to the threshold we will mitigate against the

likely need for the authority to increase capacity very significantly to deal with a much greater increase in requests for fines from schools as a result of a larger change to the threshold.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) notes the update on the use of Penalty Notices for non-attendance at school
- 2) gives approval for the Penalty Notice threshold to be amended to 20% from September 2015 and the insertion of a clause that will inhibit families from taking multiple unauthorised leave of absences during the academic year for the purpose of a family holiday or other reason which does not meet the definition of exceptional circumstances.

Derek Higton

Acting Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Denis A McCarthy

Targeted Support Operations Manager

T: 07867373932

E: denis.mccarthy@nottsccl.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SLB 26/05/15)

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

Financial Comments (SS 02/06/15)

21. The financial implications of this report are contained within paragraph 19 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.

Full Report – Review of Penalty Notice Code of Conduct Threshold

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0649

15 June 2015

Agenda Item: 12

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILDREN MISSING OFFICER POST AND JOINT FUNDING FOR SPECIALIST POLICE OFFICER POST

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Committee approval to establish the following post:
 - Children Missing Officer post (1 full-time equivalent at Scale 5) to sit within the Safeguarding and Independent Review Service Area.
2. The report also seeks Committee approval to jointly fund with Nottinghamshire Police the following post established within Nottinghamshire Police:
 - Specialist Police Officer role for Looked after Children and Child Sexual Exploitation (1 full-time equivalent).

Information and Advice

Children Missing Officer (CMO) post

3. There are two distinct elements to the work of the CMO; the first being children who go missing from care and home and the second those who are missing from education. Both of these areas of work are high profile and will be subject to scrutiny by Ofsted. They are also governed by national statutory guidance.
4. The CMO is the central point of contact for all notifications in relation to children missing from home and care. The CMO receives daily notifications from the police which amounted to 1,845 during 2014/15. The CMO processes these notifications identifying which ones need a return interview or a multi-agency meeting in line with the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) protocol governing this work. The CMO then monitors and tracks the compliance with these requests which provides an element of quality assurance.
5. The CMO is also instrumental in arranging monthly multi-agency meetings to discuss children who are high profile or prolifically missing and contributes to the development of the missing from home and care response including through delivering training.
6. The second element of the work is in relation to children missing from education. During 2014/15 437 referrals were received from Nottinghamshire schools and other local

authorities in addition to a significant number of enquiries from schools. The referrals and enquiries predominantly relate to situations where the whereabouts of children, and hence where they are being schooled, becomes unknown.

7. The CMO has also been heavily involved in developing this service and promoting good practice by agencies.
8. Both areas of work require a significant level of engagement with other agencies.
9. There is a capacity issue with regard to exercising the functions of the CMO given the increased volume of work. The post was originally solely a children missing education role but was significantly expanded to include children missing from home and care. This work has also increased as the volume of missing notifications has increased following revisions to the statutory guidance.
10. The singleton nature of the post can leave the service vulnerable during times of leave as there is no capacity to cover the work. Attempts to provide cover through business support services have not to date been successful due to changes of staff and the different skill set required.

Specialist Police Officer role for Looked after Children (LAC) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

11. Nottinghamshire Police has proposed that Nottinghamshire County Council Children's Social Care jointly fund a specialist Police Officer post. There is a similar role in Nottingham City which has been widely praised by Ofsted and other agencies.
12. It is proposed that a Police Officer will be based within Children's Social Care (CSC) Looked After Children team and jointly supervised by the Police and CSC.
13. The priorities for the post holder will be jointly agreed between the Police and CSC but the initial priorities will generally and specifically include:
 - Support effective liaison between the Police and CSC
 - Contribute to audit and development work as agreed

CSE

- Contribute to developing a 'concerns network' intelligence sharing model
- Support awareness raising with local businesses and communities
- Contribute to managing risk and disruption work for individual looked after children

Missing from Care

- Support the work of the Multiple Missings and Hotspots meeting
- Link closely with NCC residential homes and block purchase contract
- Link to other private providers and Independent Fostering Agencies via events
- Promote positive relationships between the Police, looked after children and local communities.

Other Options Considered

14. With regard to the CMO role there are no other options or capacity for cover within the service area. Efforts to provide some limited cover through business support have not proved successful.
15. The Police Officer role is a specialist Police role and therefore there are no options available within the Local Authority except for not supporting the request. The Police have requested funding to jointly establish this role.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

16. All aspects of the CMO role are covered by statutory guidance and are high profile safeguarding areas of work. There is insufficient capacity within the service area to support the full scope of work.
17. The Police Officer role will improve communication, joint working and development work.

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 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

19. The Children Missing Officer role is a Grade 5 post and with on-costs is £30,794.
20. Nottinghamshire's contribution to the joint funding for the Police Officer post is £20,000.
21. The funding for the posts will be found from within the Children, Families and Cultural Services budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the establishment of a 1 fte Children Missing officer post (Scale 5) be approved
- 2) joint funding with Nottinghamshire Police of a 1 fte Specialist Police Officer role for Looked after Children and Child Sexual Exploitation, established within Nottinghamshire Police, be approved.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Children's Social Care

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Terri Johnson
Service Manager, Safeguarding Children (Strategic)
T: 0115 97 73921
E: terri.johnson@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LM 27/05/15)

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

Financial Comments (SS 01/06/15)

23. The financial implications of this report are contained within paragraphs 19 to 21.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0656

15 June 2015**Agenda Item: 13****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS AND
LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS TO SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODIES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To note new appointments to Authority governor vacancies and re-appointments of Authority governors who reach the end of their term of office during the period 1 March to 30 April 2015 and have indicated their willingness to serve a further four year term of office.
2. To note the appointment of parent, Authority, community and staff governors to the shadow governing body of Burton Joyce Primary School.
3. To note the nomination and appointment of Local Authority governors to reconstituted governing bodies.

Information and Advice

4. The Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services has delegated authority to approve school governor appointments for which the Council has responsibility. This includes Authority governors in schools which have not yet reconstituted and academies. He is required to report the decisions quarterly to the Children and Young People's Committee.
5. Under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended by the School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 governing bodies of maintained schools must reconstitute to a skills-based model of governance by September 2015 and are allowed one Local Authority governor on the reconstituted governing body. For this model of governance, governing bodies may set eligibility criteria for, and appoint, the Local Authority governor. Nominations are made by the County Council, in accordance with the eligibility criteria provided by the governing body, and are then considered by the governing body for appointment. This report includes appointments made by governing bodies during this period.

6. Nottinghamshire County Council has the statutory duty to establish a shadow governing body for schools in transition from an Interim Executive Board, as set out in “The School Governance (Transition from an Interim Executive Board) (England) Regulations 2010”.
7. The Interim Executive Board of Burton Joyce Primary School made recommendations on the skills required for the shadow governing body. The governors appointed to the Burton Joyce Shadow Governing Body have the required skills to:
 - support the school’s general strategic development
 - Identify the strengths and challenges of the school
 - address the future development of the children and their individual and group needs
 - ensure the financial stability of the school.

Authority governor appointments and reappointments to school governing bodies

8. In line with the procedures set out in the Local Authority’s governor recruitment procedures officers sought new nominations to outstanding vacancies from political parties and from school governing bodies.
9. A number of Authority governors who were approaching the end of their term of office were identified and each governor was asked whether he or she would be willing to serve as an Authority governor for a further term of four years. Those governors re-appointed had indicated their willingness to be re-nominated.
10. The new appointments and re-appointments of Authority governors, which are made subject to the successful completion of appropriate checks, are as listed below:

New appointments

BASSETLAW	
St Anne’s CofE (Aided) Primary (Worksop)	Mr Matthew James Smith
NEWARK	
Lowe’s Wong Anglican Methodist Junior	Mrs Penelope Mary Holland

Reappointments

ASHFIELD	
Greenwood Primary and Nursery	Councillor Linford Gibbons
GEDLING	
Robert Mellors Primary and Nursery	Councillor John Michael Parr
NEWARK	
Blidworth Oaks Primary	Mrs Susie Adele Bergenroth

RUSHCLIFFE	
Kinoulton Primary	Mr Peter John Foale

Appointment of parent, Authority, community and staff governors to the shadow governing body of Burton Joyce Primary School

GEDLING	
Burton Joyce Primary School	<p>Authority governor: Mrs G Lane</p> <p>Community governor: Dr L Morley</p> <p>Parent governors: Mrs Tracey Ann Anderson Mrs Catherine Sally Fletcher Mr Lyndon Wyn Williams Ms Zoe Mouter</p> <p>Staff governors: Mr Phil Palmer Mrs Jenny Cook</p>

Local Authority governor nominations and appointments to reconstituted governing bodies

11. Local Authority governors nominated by the County Council and appointed by school governing bodies during the period 1 February to 31 May, 2015 are as follows:

ASHFIELD	
Jeffries Primary and Nursery	Mrs Sandra Jean Ryl
BASSETLAW	
Ranby C of E VC Primary	Mrs Dorothy Ellen Hayes
BROXTOWE	
Round Hill Primary	Mrs Hilary Margaret Craik
MANSFIELD	
Nettleworth Infant and Nursery	Mr Terry Harris-Ellis
RUSHCLIFFE	
Crossdale Drive Primary	Councillor John Elliott Cottee

Other Options Considered

12. There are no other options. The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure governor vacancies are filled without undue delay.
13. Nottinghamshire County Council's strategy for recruiting and retaining school governors includes the re-appointment of existing governors. The County Council sees many advantages in retaining experienced governors and actively seeks to encourage governors approaching their end of term of office to stand again either in the same school or in a different school. The appointments made ensure the retention and supply of experienced governors.

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.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

15. New nominations have been encouraged and received from a broad range of sources. We welcome applications from all types of people, especially those from ethnic minority communities and other under-represented groups such as disabled people.
16. All existing Authority governors approaching the end of their term of office have had the opportunity to put themselves forward for re-nomination.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) new appointments to Authority governor vacancies and re-appointments of Authority governors, who reach the end of their term of office during the period 1 March to 30 April 2015, for schools who have not yet reconstituted, as listed in paragraph 10, are noted.
- 2) the appointment of parent, Authority, community and staff governors to the shadow governing body of Burton Joyce Primary School, as listed in paragraph 10, is noted.
- 3) the nomination and appointment of Local Authority governors to reconstituted governing bodies, as listed in paragraph 11, are noted.

John Slater
Service Director, Education Standards and Inclusion

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Leonie Meikle
Team Manager, Governor Services
T: 07843 502867
E: leonie.meikle@nottscg.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 01/06/15)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

Completed Authority governor nomination forms

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Kirkby-in-Ashfield North	Cllr John Knight
Worksop West	Cllr Kevin Greaves
Misterton	Cllr Liz Yates
Beeston North	Cllr Steve Carr
Carlton East	Cllr Nikki Brooks and Cllr John Clarke
Arnold North	Cllr Pauline Allan and Cllr Michael Payne
Mansfield North	Cllr Joyce Bosnjak and Cllr Parry Tsimbiridis
Blidworth	Cllr Yvonne Woodhead
Southwell and Caunton	Cllr Bruce Laughton
Keyworth	Cllr John Cottee

C0653

15 June 2015**Agenda Item: 14****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****WORK PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2015.

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:

Alison Fawley
Democratic Services Officer
T: 0115 993 2534

Constitutional Comments (HD)

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

Financial Comments (NS)

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

Background Papers

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
13 July 2015		
School Capital Programme update	Six month update report	Derek Higton
Accessibility Strategy		John Slater
Revised offer for Arts and Music Services for Young People		Derek Higton
Outcomes of the Youth Justice Service inspection		Derek Higton
Transfer of Junior Attendance Centres from the Ministry of Justice to the Local Authority		Derek Higton
Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy annual performance report	Annual update	Derek Higton
Countywide youth work activity		Derek Higton
Youth Service and Outdoor Environmental Education revised staffing structure	For decision	Derek Higton
Children's Social Care Court Service		Steve Edwards
Policy & process guidance for Discretionary Payments towards the provision of major adaptations to service users' homes	For decision	Steve Edwards
Rota Visits to children's homes	Six monthly report	Steve Edwards
Update on the Development of Early Support Services to Children and Young People with Disabilities and their families		Steve Edwards
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 CAMHS Pathway Review update	Quarterly information report	Kate Allen
Proposed remodelling of school nursing service	For information	Kate Allen
Nottinghamshire Children's Trust	Annual officer group report	Derek Higton
Members' visit to Outdoor & Environmental Education residential centres	For decision	Derek Higton
Work Programme		Derek Higton

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER
To be placed		
Remission scheme for activities delivered by Arts and Sports for Children and Young People team		Derek Higton
Social Work Retention Strategy		Steve Edwards
Integrated assessment framework	For noting	Derek Higton
Child Sexual Exploitation – Members scrutiny arrangements		Steve Edwards
Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub – information sharing		Steve Edwards
Establishment of a Social Care Centre for Knowledge and Practice development		Steve Edwards