



8 July 2013

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES

ANNUAL OFFICER GROUP REPORT FROM NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST AND REFRESH OF THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES PLAN

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the Committee's approval of the 2013-14 annual refresh of Nottinghamshire's Children, Young People and Families Plan 2011-14, attached as **Appendix 1**. Subject to approval by the Committee, the updated Plan will be published in July 2013.
2. To provide an overview of the performance and activities of Nottinghamshire Children's Trust, between April 2012 and May 2013.

Information and Advice

Context

3. Nottinghamshire Children's Trust is a partnership of organisations that commission or provide services to children, young people and families in Nottinghamshire. It was established to meet the requirements of the Children Act 2004, which identifies a number of 'relevant partners'. Under this Act, the County Council is the lead partner with statutory responsibility to make arrangements to promote cooperation to improve children's wellbeing.
4. Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board is an officer group which coordinates the work of the Children's Trust and acts as the children's commissioning sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board for Nottinghamshire, responsible for strategic oversight of the integrated commissioning of services to promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people. It is chaired by the Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services, and its membership includes representatives from the County Council's Children, Families and Cultural Services, Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England, District Councils, Nottinghamshire Police and the community and voluntary sector, as well as the Chair of Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board.
5. The Children's Trust Board has a key role in promoting the wellbeing of children and young people, and reports to Nottinghamshire's Health and Wellbeing Board. It oversees the activities of integrated commissioning groups with responsibilities for children and young people's health and wellbeing. The Integrated Commissioning Hub for children will

report to the Children's Trust Board, as detailed in a report to the Children and Young People's Committee on 10 June 2013.

6. Nottinghamshire's Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Plan 2011-14 is the single overarching strategic plan covering services for children and young people in Nottinghamshire, as represented by partners to the Children's Trust. The Plan focuses on the development of integrated planning and commissioning to improve outcomes for children and young people.
7. The Plan was developed by the County Council and partner agencies through the Children's Trust, and in consultation with the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB). The main evidence base was the children's chapter of Nottinghamshire's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA), which was refreshed in 2010 to include demographic analyses and consultation with service users. Planning was also informed by data on the performance of the County Council's services, and of partner organisations, as well as inspection findings.
8. The County Council approved the CYPF Plan 2011-14 in September 2011 and the Plan is included in the Policy Framework of the County Council. Approval was also given to the intention to refresh the Plan annually.
9. The Plan identifies seven priorities for action, which describe specific activities that partners will undertake. These priorities are to:
 - continue to improve our early help services to ensure that children, young people and families in the greatest need receive appropriate support
 - sustain and build on improvements made in safeguarding
 - improve effectiveness of services for disabled children
 - implement the Child and Family Poverty Strategy for Nottinghamshire
 - reduce achievement gap at all key stages
 - raise achievement at age 16-19 years and promote the employment of young adults aged 18- 24 years
 - improve children and young people's emotional well-being.
10. This report presents the 2013-14 annual refresh of the Plan for the approval of the Children and Young People's Committee. This annual refresh has been developed in consultation with Children's Trust partner agencies, and primarily consists of an update to the annual action plans which take forward the seven priorities within the Plan. The priorities themselves remain unchanged.
11. This report also provides an overview of the work of the Children's Trust between April 2012 and May 2013 towards achieving the priorities within the CYPF Plan. The overview comprises:

- an annual review of performance using the performance indicators identified in Nottinghamshire's CYPF Plan 2011-14 (2012-13 annual refresh),
- a summary of the activities and achievements of the Children's Trust Board and integrated commissioning groups that report to it.

Children, Young People and Families Plan 2011-14: annual refresh for 2013-14

12. A copy of the 2013-14 annual refresh of the Plan is attached as **Appendix 1**, for the approval of the Children and Young People's Committee. Once approved by the Committee, the Plan will be published on the County Council's website.
13. The sections of the Plan which provide contextual information on the Children's Trust and which outline its seven priorities for action remain largely unchanged, with minor updates to ensure that supporting information is up-to-date. In contrast, the annual action plans for each priority, in Section 3 of the Plan, have been completely refreshed. These include summaries of activities undertaken in 2012-13, and the key actions which are to be delivered in 2013-14. All changes within the Plan are indicated in underlined italic text in the attached document for ease of reference.
14. Although the priorities for the Children's Trust have not changed, the Children's Trust Board has agreed that actions within the priority to improve early help services will now encompass work towards reducing child poverty or mitigating its effects, as well as partnership work towards reducing the achievement gaps, raising achievement at age 16-19 years and promoting the employment of young adults. The commentaries within the action plans for these priorities reflect this change.
15. This is the final annual refresh of the CYPF Plan 2011-14. Over the summer and autumn of 2013, development and consultation work will take place to produce an updated CYPF Plan for 2014-16. The evidence base for this update of the Plan will include the children and young people's chapter of the Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA), which is being refreshed with updated data and analysis during the spring and summer of 2013. The updated Plan will be aligned with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Nottinghamshire.

Nottinghamshire Children's Trust: annual performance review for 2013-14

16. The Children's Trust receives progress reports on the implementation of the seven priorities identified in the CYPF Plan. For each priority, a number of performance indicators are used to track progress and assess impact for children, young people or families. The majority of the performance indicators are also included as part of the Children, Families and Cultural Services' quarterly performance reporting to the Children and Young People's Committee, but there are a number of additional health-related indicators.
17. Children's Trust performance reports are produced six-monthly and the most recent report summarises progress from April 2012 to March 2013. **Appendix 2** provides an overview of performance, including the most recent data available on Nottinghamshire's performance and on national and statistical neighbour performance (where available).

18. In summary:

- a. Of the 16 performance indicators where comparison information is available, Nottinghamshire performance exceeds the national average in 11. These are:
 - obesity in primary school age children in Reception Year
 - percentage of overall absence in primary, secondary and special schools
 - initial assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within timescales (annual performance only)
 - core assessments for Children's Social Care carried out within timescales (annual performance only)
 - re-referrals to Children's Social Care
 - children who are subject to a child protection plan for two years or more
 - dependent children in households whose income is below 60% of the national average
 - early years foundation stage attainment
 - achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent (including English & mathematics)
 - participation in education, employment and training in academic years 12-14
 - percentage of young people in years 12-14 not in education, employment or training.
- b. For five performance indicators, Nottinghamshire performance does not meet the national average. These are:
 - the number of children requiring statutory child protection interventions
 - children becoming the subject of a child protection plan on more than one occasion
 - breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks, including mixed feeding methods
 - attainment gap at age 16 years between pupils taking free school meals and the rest
 - percentage of young people who have attained a full Level 3 qualification by 19 years.

19. The Children's Trust Board aims to improve performance across all work areas identified in the CYPF Plan, with an emphasis on those areas where performance could be improved. The work to further improve Early Help arrangements and deliver a clear Pathway to Provision for support services to children and families is aimed at improving a range of outcomes. Effective early support is considered to be one way in which the numbers of children needing statutory intervention for child protection issues can be reduced. Work to promote breastfeeding is being further developed through Children's Centres and health services working in partnership.
20. The Board has also identified how it can support the work to improve educational attainment and reduce attainment gaps; for example, identifying how partner organisations, including health services, early help and targeted support services, could promote the uptake of free school meals among those eligible, ensuring children receive the support to which they are entitled.
21. Further information about activities undertaken by the Children's Trust is provided in **paragraphs 23 - 30** below.

Nottinghamshire Children's Trust: Activities and Achievements

22. Over the last year, the Children's Trust Board has provided partnership oversight of a number of key initiatives, offering support and challenge to those leading on these initiatives, and considering the role of partner organisations in taking action forward. These initiatives have been in work areas that contribute to the achievement of the priorities for action defined in Nottinghamshire's Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Plan 2011-14. Further detail about the activities undertaken to take forward each priority is provided within Section 3 of the attached CYPF Plan 2011-14 (annual refresh for 2013/14). This section provides a summary of these activities.
23. Key initiatives supported by the Children's Trust were:
 - Nottinghamshire's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
 - transformation of the County Council's Children's Social Care provision
 - Nottinghamshire's Pathway to Provision: as well as including this development as a regular discussion item, the Children's Trust supported Stakeholder Conferences across Nottinghamshire, during October and November. These launched this initiative, alongside the MASH, to managers and practitioners from a wide range of organisations
 - the developing new Early Help Strategy, due to be published in autumn 2013. This has been a regular discussion item, including reviews of progress and identification of how partners work can work together to deliver early help services
 - a partnership approach to preparing for the revised Ofsted inspection framework for the inspection of local authority arrangements for the protection of children
 - work on a Multi-Agency Autistic Spectrum Pathway.

- the Healthy Schools Network
 - partnership activities towards closing the educational attainment gaps
24. During this time, the Children's Trust has reviewed and given its partnership approval to:
- Nottinghamshire's Youth Homelessness Strategy
 - Nottinghamshire's Looked After Children Strategy
 - The annual refresh of the Nottinghamshire Joint Commissioning Strategy for Disabled Children, including an updated needs assessment
 - The annual refresh of Nottinghamshire's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy
25. The Integrated Commissioning Group for Children with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs reports to the Children's Trust Board. Activities of this group during 2012-13 have included:
- training of front-line staff in the delivery of the multi-agency Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Pathway for 0-19 year olds
 - the development of the Integrated Community Equipment Service as a multi-agency adult/children's approach to the commissioning and allocation of specialist equipment for disabled children and young people
 - establishing arrangements to identify and track children and young people in out of authority placements and to monitor that reviews and transition plans are in place.
26. The CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) Integrated Commissioning Group also reports to the Children's Trust Board and during 2012-13 this group has worked to achieve the local priorities set out in its CAMHS Strategy 2011-13. Its activities have included:
- developing new approaches to the delivery of mental health support services in schools, implementing the recommendations from the Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) Programme.
 - delivering activities to enable the implementation of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Pathway (0-19 years), including developing a practitioner toolkit, delivering multi-agency training and developing support materials for parents and carers
 - developing a community-facing CAMHS Day Service, implementing findings from a pilot project.
 - work on a Multi-Agency Autistic Spectrum Pathway.
27. In addition to its role in overseeing partnership strategic planning in the County as a whole, Nottinghamshire Children's Trust also supports Locality Management Groups, which operate in each of Nottinghamshire's seven districts. The County Council's Early Years and Early Intervention Service has responsibility for leading and coordinating Locality Management Group activity. The Children's Trust receives reports on progress

and considers how partners can work together to support this work. Locality Management Groups are in an early stage of development and their relationship with the Children's Trust is evolving.

28. All of these Locality Management Groups have met two to three times in the last six months, with many hosting additional Stakeholder events or Early Help briefing sessions. Membership of all groups is increasing.
29. The focus of the work of Locality Management Groups has been to:
 - share information about the work of individual services, through briefings about priorities and changes and individual service profiles
 - develop a shared understanding of local needs to inform planning
 - progress actions identified in their individual local plan, which have included embedding Early Help processes and supporting actions from the Child Poverty strategy.
30. Locality Management Groups consider that their main successes so far have been:
 - improved understanding of local services available to support vulnerable families
 - stronger connections between partners
 - evidence of improved joint working in some areas, such as joint visits to families by Gedling Homes and children's centre staff
 - links established with the Clinical Commissioning Group in Newark and Sherwood
 - promotion of strategic priorities to wider partnership group, such as Newark Town Closing the Gap initiative.

Other Options Considered

31. The activities reported on here contribute to the implementation of the CYPF Plan, which was developed after consideration of alternative options.
32. The CYPF Plan 2011-14 was approved by the County Council in September 2012. At that time, the possibility of operating without a joint strategic plan was considered, but it was considered that this would have created the risk that co-operative working would have been uncoordinated and ineffective.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

33. The report provides members of the Children and Young People's Committee with an update on the activities of an officer group, in line with reporting requirements within the County Council's Constitution.

34. The CYPF Plan 2011-14 was devised on the basis of a rigorous needs analysis and with extensive consultation across the Children's Trust and has been approved by the County Council. This process included agreement to an annual review of this Plan.

Statutory and Policy Implications

35. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, 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.

Implications for Service Users

36. The principal service users affected are children, young people and their families, as the CYPF Plan identifies the Children's Trust's over-arching partnership strategy and associated action plans for the delivery of services to them in 2011-14.

Equalities Implications

37. Due regard has been given to the Public Sector Equality Duty.
38. The development of the CYPF Plan included an Equality Impact Assessment. This concluded that the plan was likely to have a positive impact for service users, as it aims to reduce inequality across all protected groups, by identifying need and working together to address this, within available resources.

Crime and Disorder Implications

39. The CYPF Plan identifies the Children's Trust commitment to supporting work to address crime and disorder, while recognising that responsibility for this work rests with the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.

Safeguarding of Children Implications

40. The CYPF Plan identifies how partner organisations within the Children's Trust will work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the overview of the performance and activities of Nottinghamshire Children's Trust between April 2012 and May 2013 be noted.
- 2) the 2013-14 annual refresh of the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2011-14 be approved.

Anthony May
Corporate Director for Children, Families and Cultural Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Maggie Pape
Executive Officer, Planning, Performance and Quality Assurance
T: 0115 9774074
E: margaret.pape @nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LM 21/06/13)

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

Financial Comments (KLA 17/06/13)

42. There are no financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers

The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2011-14 – report to County Council on 22 September 2011
Review of the Children, Young People and Families Plan – report to Children & Young People's Committee on 10 September 2012

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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0245