



**Children's Trust Board Sponsor:
Derek Higton, Acting Corporate Director, Nottinghamshire County
Council Children, Families and Cultural Services**

CHILDREN'S TRUST ROADSHOWS MAY/JUNE 2015

Purpose of the Report

1. To feedback on the Children's Trust Roadshow events which took place in May and June 2015.

Information and Advice

2. Three roadshow events took place at venues across the county, with a total of 192 colleagues registering to attend from a variety of partner organisations.
3. The Acting Corporate Director for Children's Services provided an update based on the feedback from the last round of roadshows. Of particular note was the introduction of a new communications channel for children's services, via the County Council Email Me service. 454 colleagues have signed up to this service, with the first bulletin being prepared following the recent Ofsted inspection and completion of the roadshow events.
4. The format of the roadshows was then to focus on some key areas of interest, using facilitators to lead round table discussions on particular topics. Although demanding on the facilitators, feedback on this format was positive, as it gave the opportunity for more detailed discussion of experiences at an operational level.
5. The areas discussed were as follows:

Changes and developments in children's social care

6. Discussions focussed on the improvement journey of Children's Social Care and the experiences of colleagues in dealing with the service. Feedback received was that partners recognised the improvements which had been made, but there remained issues around the referral process, in particular lack of feedback and thresholds with early help services.

An evolving education landscape

7. The focus of this topic was the role of the Local Authority in Education, particularly in the context of increased autonomy for schools. Table discussions focussed on the main drivers for education services, which were to focus resources on the most vulnerable children in schools. This included the Closing the Gap strategy, work on Children Missing Education and the development of Education, Health and Care Plans.

Developments in how we deliver early help services

8. Attendees liked the way the presentation described the levels in the Pathway to Provision, and there was good discussion about the potential gap at Level 2 with Family Service focusing on Level 3 and above. There was some discussion around thresholds more generally, and some experiences around referrals being declined, even though the referrer felt that they met the threshold.

The direction of travel for children's health and wellbeing services

9. The discussions were built up from the fundamental importance of children's health, and the fact that health problems in childhood and adolescence are strong predictors of poor outcomes later in life. Some of the issues raised by colleagues were in relation to transitions between child and adult health services, access to health services for Looked After Children, care leavers and gaps in health provision and issues with mental health and wellbeing including CAMHS.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Children's Trust Board supports a further round of roadshows in the autumn 2015.
- 2) That the Board considers and inputs to the development of content for future roadshows. Based on the recent events, this may include thresholds for services following the introduction of the new Family Service in November, and gaps in health provision.

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