

Children and Young People's Committee

Monday, 01 November 2021 at 10:30

County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1 | Minutes of the last Meeting held on 13 September 2021 | 1 - 8 |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
| 4 | Adoption East Midlands Annual Report 2020-21 | 9 - 14 |
| 5 | Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2020-21 | 15 - 44 |
| 6 | Foster Carer Items | |
| 7 | Child Poverty and the Impact of Covid 19 | 45 - 54 |
| 8 | Child Obesity Trailblazer Update - Tackling Food Insecurity | 55 - 72 |
| 9 | Childcare Sufficiency Assessment - the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Nottinghamshire | 73 - 106 |
| 10 | Best Start Strategy 2021-2025 Progress Update | 107 -
118 |
| 11 | Outcomes of Ofsted Inspections - Termly Update | 119 -
128 |

12	Extended Duties of the Head of the Virtual School	129 - 136
13	School Capital Programme Progress Report and 2022-23 School Building Improvement Programme	137 - 150
14	Elective Home Education Update	151 - 158
15	Local Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Health - Update	159 - 168
16	Local Authority Governor Appointments to School Governing Bodies during the Period 19th June to 30th September 2021	169 - 172
17	Work Programme	173 - 178

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 Martin Gately (Tel. 0115 977 2826) 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 13 September 2021 (commencing at 10:30 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with an 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Tracey Taylor (Chairman)
Sinead Anderson (Vice-Chairman)
Sam Smith (Vice-Chairman)

	Matt Barney		Roger Jackson
	Anne Callaghan	A	Johno Lee
A	Samantha Deakin		Andy Meakin
	Errol Henry		Michelle Welsh

Substitute Members:

Chris Barnfather
Daniel Williamson

OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Maureen Dobson

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

4 Vacancies

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Marion Clay	Service Director, Children and Families Services
Steve Edwards	Service Director, Children and Families Services
Laurence Jones	Service Director, Children and Families Services
Lucy Peel	Group Manager, Children and Families Services
Neil Gamble	Group Manager, Place
Martin Gately	Democratic Services Officer, Chief Executive's

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 26 July 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2021 having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and have been signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Barnfather substituted for Councillor Lee for this meeting, and Councillor Daniel Williamson substituted for Councillor Deakin.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

4. ELECTED MEMBER OVERSIGHT OF CHILDREN IN LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE: CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER GOVERNANCE BOARD – TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

RESOLVED 2021/068

That:

- 1) the terms of reference for the Children Looked After Governance Board, attached as Appendix 1, be agreed.
- 2) the annual report on sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour involving children in the care of the Council be presented to the Children Looked After Governance Board.

5. CHANGES TO THE STAFFING ESTABLISHMENT AT ADOPTION EAST MIDLANDS

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

RESOLVED 2021/069

That:

- 1) the following changes to the Adoption East Midlands establishment be approved:
 - disestablishment of 0.1 FTE Team Manager (Band D) post
 - disestablishment of 0.1 FTE Panel Manager (Band C) post
 - disestablishment of 1 FTE Social Worker (Band B) post
 - establishment of 2 FTE Social Work Support Officer (Grade 4) posts

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CORE DATA SET – PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE FOR QUARTER 1 2021/22

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

RESOLVED 2021/070

That:

- 1) No further actions were required in relation to the performance information on the Council's services for children and young people for the period 1st April to 30th June 2021.

7. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES FOR FIRST ADMISSION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL AND TRANSFER FROM INFANT TO JUNIOR/PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2022, AND FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2023-2024

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

RESOLVED 2021/071

That:

- 1) the publicity campaign to inform parents and families about applying for school places for September 2022 for children starting school for the first time (reception) and transferring from infant school (year 2) to junior/primary education (year 3) be approved.
- 2) the proposal to consult on Nottinghamshire County Council's school admission arrangements 2023-2024 be approved.
- 3) the communication strategy to inform stakeholders about the statutory consultation on Nottinghamshire County Council's proposed school admission arrangements 2023-2024 be approved.

8. FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL STATUTORY CONSULTATION UPDATE

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

RESOLVED 2021/072

That:

- 1) Policy Committee be requested to consider the consultation response and the revised Fair Access Protocol at its meeting on 14 October 2021 in order that it can be effective from that date.

9. OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF NORTH CLIFTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND RESPONSE TO PETITION TO KEEP THE SCHOOL OPEN

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

RESOLVED 2021/073

That:

- 1) North Clifton Primary School governing body's commitment to secure the viability of the school during 2021-22 be supported in order to inform the Committee's decision on this matter in June 2022 when further information will be available.
- 2) the lead petitioner be informed of the outcome of the Committee's consideration and that this be reported back to Full Council.
- 3) a review of the small school estate be undertaken in partnership with the dioceses to ensure that rural schools can be sustainable into the medium and longer terms.

10. PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CARLTON LE WILLOWS ACADEMY

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

RESOLVED 2021/074

That:

- 1) approval be given to increase the available funding for this project, through the Grant Funding Agreement, £10,922,640 to a total maximum sum of £13,984,719.

11. PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ACADEMY

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

RESOLVED 2021/075

That:

- 1) the completion of a funding agreement with the Redhill Trust to provide funding to a maximum of £1,950,000 for the expansion of South Nottinghamshire Academy to five forms of entry in a form to be agreed by Legal Services.
- 2) the commissioning of Arc Partnership to undertake an assurance role through the course of the funding agreement at a cost of £40,0000 be approved.

12. PROPOSED CONSULTATION ON THE USE OF RETFORD CENTRAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE

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

RESOLVED 2021/076

That:

- 1) the pending consultation exercise which will inform the change in the use of the Retford Central Children's Centre building to become a Family Hub (Option 1) or a Maternity Hub (Option 2).
- 2) the findings of the consultation exercise be reviewed at the December meeting of the Committee and recommendations made to colleagues in Property and Estates to progress a lease if the preferred option is to create a Maternity Hub.

13. CHANGES TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE STRUCTURE

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

RESOLVED 2021/077

That:

- 1) the establishment of the posts detailed in paragraph 4 of the report be approved.
- 2) the revised staffing structure for the Young People's Service, attached as Appendix 2, be approved in order to provide a responsive youthwork model which will enable the service to fill posts on a fixed term basis once funding has been secured.

14. CHANGES TO THE STAFFING ESTABLISHMENT IN THE MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB AND THE EARLY HELP UNIT

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

RESOLVED 2021/078

That:

- 1) the establishment of the following posts in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and Early Help Unit on an initial six-month, fixed term basis:
 - 1 FTE Children's Services Manager (Front Door Development) (Hay Band E)
 - 2 FTE Children's Social Work Team Managers (Hay Band D)
 - 6 FTE Social Workers (Hay Band B)
 - 2 FTE Advanced Practitioners (Hay Band C)
 - 3 FTE Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Officers (NJE 4)
 - 3 FTE Early Help Officers (Hay Band C)
 - 1 FTE Project Manager (Hay Band C)
 - 1 FTE Project Officer (Hay Band A)
 - 1 FTE Business Systems Analyst (Hay Band C)
 - 1 FTE Business Intelligence Report Developer (Hay Band B).

15. UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN AND FORMER UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN CARE LEAVERS – RE-MODELLING SERVICE PROVISION AND PRACTICE

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

RESOLVED 2021/079

That:

- 1) the current service provision for asylum seeking looked after children and care leavers be re-modelled as detailed in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report.
- 2) the development of a focused Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children team with immediate establishment of the following posts
 - 1 FTE Team Manager (Band D)
 - 2 FTE Social Workers (Band B)
 - 3 FTE Leaving Care Personal Advisors (Grade 5)
 - 0.5 FTE Business Support Administrator (Grade 3).

16. WORK PROGRAMME

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

Mr Edwards confirmed that an update report on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub would be received in six months.

Mr Jones confirmed that data on the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children could be added to the quarterly performance report.

RESOLVED 2021/080

That:

- 1) No further amendments were required to the work programme.

The meeting closed at 12:34 pm.

CHAIRMAN

1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 4

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND SOCIAL WORK

ADOPTION EAST MIDLANDS ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an annual update on the activity of Adoption East Midlands, which is hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council, and is the Regional Adoption Agency of Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Information

2. This is the second year of operation for Adoption East Midlands, and an increase in adopter approvals and children matched has been achieved. The support offer has been refined to ensure accessibility, and clarity for staff and families. The staff group has remained relatively stable, with most changes being for promotion or retirement. Adoption East Midlands maintains a presence in office space in the four local authorities, however, this has been impacted by Covid. The service continues to be provided with budget underspend, which is partially redistributed, and partially saved in reserves. Adoption East Midlands is proud of its achievements in this second year of operation and expects to build on this base in the third year of operation.
3. The aims of the Regional Adoption Agency, as recorded in the business case, are as follows:
 - provides all children with an adoptive family that meets their needs
 - ensures that those affected by adoption receive the information, support and advice that they need to understand their adoption journey
 - ensures that Regional Adoption Agency families are well prepared, enabled and supported to care for the children with plans for adoption
 - delivers improved outcomes for children for whom adoption is the preferred plan for permanence
 - delivers the new service at no additional cost to the partner local authorities.
4. Covid impact: since March 2020 staff have been working from home, most services have been delivered virtually, and when restrictions allow, visits to families are undertaken. All meetings are virtual. It is felt necessary to have some level of physical visits with adopters,

and these have been built in. Events for adopters such as seminars, information events and peer support groups have all been virtual, as have adoption panels.

5. Once the technology was accessible, there have been proven benefits to virtual working, such as better attendance at meetings, higher levels of involvement of both parents and less time lost driving. There are also challenges of adapting to these different ways of working, and teams physically meeting will be of benefit when this is possible.
6. Partnership working, the operations meeting which involves service managers from fostering and children's permanence in the local authorities, is a regular meeting, well attended and an opportunity to check Adoption East Midlands is meeting need, and works collaboratively on best practice.
7. There are regular meetings with placing team managers, to ensure that everyone adopts the most efficient practice. There are sound working relationships which enable constructive challenge both ways. Adoption East Midlands is also increasing working with the six Regional Adoption Agencies across the Midlands and the three Voluntary Adoption Agencies operating in the same area. This is with the aim of placing children as locally as possible, recruiting adopters to meet children's needs, and offering a consistent adoption support service. Again, best practice is shared, plus collaborative problem solving.

Adoption support

8. The last year has been one of significant change and development for the Adoption Support Team which has raised a number of challenges but has ensured the service is now in a position to deliver a more responsive, sustainable and equitable service to families across the Region. A clear vision is now in place and embedded, where early support intervention and focused support at key points of transition and development are accessible and where adoption support needs are understood and supported by all front-line staff and managers within Adoption East Midlands.
9. Ongoing development work around the service offer has continued and gathered pace over the last 12 months which has resulted in the launch of the new Pathway to Support which is now fully operational. Significant changes to the way in which services are delivered utilising a graduated response to support, will mean that the support needs of more adoptive families can be met in a much quicker time frame, regardless of where they live in the region. Importantly, it reflects a much more pro-active post order support offer which delivers a strong universal offer to all as well as the introduction of a consultation model of support which will empower families to access support when they need it without having to have an allocated social worker.
10. A new Information Line has been set up (replacing the former Duty Line) which will be the first point of call for all families and which will be able to carry out Tier 2 assessments over the phone in order to commission a therapeutic service, book into individual and group consultation sessions, and to book families on to relevant information and training seminars. Seminars are provided by our own social work staff, but Adoption East Midlands is also working closely with therapeutic providers to co-deliver and have collaborative working arrangements in place with all four local authority Virtual Schools.

11. To support these new and exciting developments, Adoption East Midlands has worked with the Council's Mosaic Development team and have undergone a massive overhaul of the current Mosaic processes and workflow and now have a workflow and relevant forms that are fit for purpose and meet the needs of the service being delivered. The assessment framework used is relevant to adoption support needs and is trauma and attachment informed, enabling robust analysis and informed decision making around supporting needs. As a result of this extensive development work, Adoption Support will be able to report on key performance measures going forward to aid workflow management as well as providing the data for future areas of development need.
12. The 12 months operating under the impact of Covid-19 has represented a significant challenge for the Adoption Support Team; whilst adapting to new ways of working there has been felt a sense of disempowerment amongst the workers. It is positive however, that in the early days of the lockdown, Adoption East Midlands was able to access additional funds from the Adoption Support Fund, specifically to access packages of support of its own choosing to quickly meet the needs of families within the Region during the pandemic.
13. Adoption East Midlands was quick to access this support and commissioned services for prospective adopters (specialist support groups) as well as pre-order and post-order families. Bulk purchasing of packages ensured that there could be a quick response to need for families which enabled them to sustain relationships and ultimately avoid spiralling into a crisis situation. As well as direct therapeutic support for children and families Adoption East Midlands was also able to fund 500 memberships of the National Association of Therapeutic Parents, early intervention support for children and their families placed during the lockdown period and a number of Peer Support Packages from Adoption UK. The success of the packages and feedback from adoptive families has been extremely positive and has proved a good evidence base for the continued development of group and peer support as well as the effectiveness of utilising virtual methods of communication to deliver support, both of which Adoption East Midlands has and will continue to build into the Pathway to Support.
14. As well as support for adoptive families, Adoption East Midlands was also able to use part of the Covid funding to commission a package of support for eligible families with a Special Guardianship Order in place from Grandparents Plus. This package gave all eligible Special Guardianship Order families across the four local authority areas access to a free 12-month annual membership to their Kinship support community, offering specialist information and advice, peer support and virtual support groups. In addition, 20 one-to-one support packages were purchased to be used across the Region for families in acute need.
15. Adoption East Midlands has continued to work with Adopter Voice (part of Adoption UK) this year and they have consulted on our behalf to gain feedback on the Covid support packages that Adoption East Midlands provided as well as the new Pathway to Support. This is a great way to gain independent feedback, however Adoption East Midlands has also developed its own internal feedback mechanisms including those that ensure it is proactive in gaining the voice of the child and their feedback when working with families.
16. This year 95 adopter households have been approved, an increase of 16%, and there have been 82 households starting stage 2, an increase of 17%. There is now an Adoption East Midlands Facebook page which allows the promotion of national recruitment campaigns. This also gives a healthy level of enquiries and, like all adoption agencies, Adoption East

Midlands is promoting the need to place siblings together. There are insufficient adopters for siblings, boys, and mixed ethnicity children; however, Adoption East Midlands is able to partially meet need and use other agency placements to fully meet need.

17. An ongoing area of work is the development of the website, so all resources are in one place, and readily accessible to adopters and those interested in adoption.
18. Adoption East Midlands has matched 153 children this year, an increase on 134 in year one, and is sufficient for approximately 80% of all placements when the placements into agency are taken into account. This meets the business plan target; however, the aim is to exceed this target. The age range of children matched is less than one year old, to over 16, the shortest time from placement order to match was 18 days, and the longest was 1,353 days. This year has seen more children than last year matched who had waited over two years. 23 sibling groups have been matched, some of three children. 30% of children matched are not white British, some are matched with Adoption East Midlands carers, but due to sufficiency, some are placed with other agencies. There have been 27 foster carer matches, and 14 Fostering for Adoption matches this year.
19. At any one time there are approximately 100 children in home finding stage, but very few with no match; this has usually been less than 10 most of the year. The total number in the home finding stage has fallen from over 150 when Adoption East Midlands began. This indicates placing some of the children who have waited the longest and maintaining sufficiency for new placement orders.
20. There has been delay in proceedings due to Covid, so cases are taking longer, but it is not anticipated that there will be an overall reduction in placement orders, and nationally a small pool of adopters waiting for children is expected.
21. Adoption East Midlands is responsible for panels on behalf of the four partner local authorities. Panels make recommendations on all adoption applications assessed by Adoption East Midlands workers, as well as all matches for children within the four local authorities and all plans for relinquished children.
22. Adoption panels continue to be scheduled to occur five times per month, hearing a maximum of five cases on each day and thus allowing for 25 cases to be heard each month. Initially panels were extremely busy, and most slots were utilised, however, it has not always been necessary to hold five panels to meet the demand for panel time.
23. Adoption East Midlands panels have heard 221 cases over the year, a rise from last year: a total of 98 adoption applications, three adoption plans for relinquished children and 121 matches, which includes 28 interagency placements that have been used to ensure some of the harder-to-place children have found an adoptive family. There has been a total of 23 sibling groups matched.
24. Of the 98 applications heard by Adoption East Midlands panels in 2020-21 most of the adopters were heterosexual couples, there were nine same sex couples and 15 single adopters. There were 15 applications from second time adopters, two from third time adopters and 15 applications by foster carers. The number of applications by foster carers has significantly increased compared with last year. Like matches, applications were overwhelmingly successful.

25. There are currently 34 panel members on the central list, which includes five independent chairs and five vice-chairs. There are 10 medical advisers that due to the Covid-19 pandemic have been unable to be voting members on the panels over the last year, however they have continued to provide written advice and have remained supportive to panels by being available for further discussions when needed. The medical advisers are keen to return as voting members as soon as their work commitments allow.
26. Panel managers have been able to conclude the recruitment process that was initiated in March 2020 and have successfully recruited eight new panel members, and have again tried to increase the diversity of the panels.
27. Panels offer feedback to social workers after every panel, commenting on issues with paperwork, presentation in panel and regulatory compliance. Panels have seen a steady improvement in the quality of paperwork presented over the last year.
28. Feedback is invited from all panel attendees (social workers and applicants/prospective adopters) via an electronic link; the take-up rate has significantly improved over the last year and Adoption East Midlands actively responds to feedback to improve the panel experience; an example of this is the implementation of a 'welcome to panel' document that is provided to applicants before they attend panel with information about who they will be meeting on the day. This has been positively received.

Other Options Considered

29. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

30. It is a requirement of the adoption agency regulations to produce an annual report, and to forward a copy to Ofsted.

Statutory and Policy Implications

31. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- 1) approves the annual update on Adoption East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency activity for 2020-21
- 2) agrees to receive an update report in the next 12 months and that this be included in the work programme.

Steve Edwards
Service Director, Youth, Families and Social Work

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Shelagh Mitchell
Adoption East Midlands
T: 0115 9774169
E: Shelagh.mitchell@adoptioneastmidlands.nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LPW 06/10/21)

33. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (LCD 07/10/21)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1510

1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 5

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Purpose of the Report

1. The report informs Members of the content of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Annual Report 2020/21, which is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report, and asks the Committee to consider whether there are any further actions it requires in relation to the information contained in the report.

Information

2. Under statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018¹, the safeguarding partners (local authority, police and clinical commissioning groups) have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.
3. The safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period. The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.
4. The NSCP Annual Report 2020/21 has therefore been prepared in accordance with the guidance and agreed by the NSCP Strategic Leadership Group. In line with local policy the annual report is being presented to the respective governance arrangements for each of the safeguarding partners. The report has also been published on the NSCP website and a copy provided to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the What Works Centre for Children's Social Care.
5. The Annual Report includes an addendum which provides the Independent Scrutineer's assessment of the effectiveness of the leadership by the safeguarding partners.
6. A Joint Strategic Leadership Group with the Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnership meets annually to identify and coordinate any cross-cutting issues for the Partnerships. This group has reviewed learning from both Partnerships in relation to Covid-

¹ Published in June 2018

19, it has also considered responses to national reviews, and identified emerging safeguarding issues. The group has reflected on learning from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) and effectiveness of the response by relevant agencies. Opportunities for strengthening joint work around safeguarding training and tackling child exploitation have also been considered and taken forward.

7. A Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group, with senior representation from across the partnership, has monitored safeguarding performance and coordinated a significant amount of improvement work which is detailed fully within the report.
8. During 2020/21 the NSCP multi-agency training programme of courses and seminars were redesigned and adapted to be delivered virtually. Participation in training delivered through the NSCP has increased with 2,840 practitioners attending virtual events (compared with 2,346 the previous year). Completion of E learning modules has also increased significantly with 13,625 completions this year compared with 8,060 the previous year.
9. A key responsibility for the NSCP is to commission and undertake case reviews according to national criteria. An initial Rapid Review is undertaken in relation to all serious child safeguarding cases and where necessary a more in-depth Child Safeguarding Practice Review is commissioned to identify any improvements to practice that are needed. During the reporting period, eight Rapid Reviews have been completed and submitted to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel. Three Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews have been commissioned during the reporting period, one (SN20) has been completed and is awaiting the conclusion of other legal processes before publication and two others are ongoing. The National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has agreed with the findings and decisions from all the Rapid Reviews undertaken and the learning identified, and action taken in response, is detailed within the report.
10. The safeguarding partnership strategic priorities for 2021/23 are set out within the final section of the safeguarding arrangements annual report.

Other Options Considered

11. No other options have been considered as the publication of an annual report is a statutory requirement.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

12. The report provides the opportunity for the Committee to consider any further actions arising from the information contained in the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That Committee considers whether there are any actions it requires in relation to the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, attached as **Appendix 1**.

Colin Pettigrew
Corporate Director, Children and Families

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Service Manager, Partnerships and Planning
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Constitutional Comments (ELP 21/10/21)

15. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its frame of reference.

Financial Comments (CDS 07/10/21)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1516

NSCP Annual Report 2020/21

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ARRANGEMENTS FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Contents

.....	1
Introduction	2
Safeguarding partnership activities and progress	3
Priority 1 - Preventing neglect	3
Priority 2 - COVID – 19	3
Priority 3 - Improving the initial multi-agency response to safeguarding concerns.....	9
Priority 4 - Contextual safeguarding	11
Priority 5 - Information sharing.....	13
Priority 6 - Developing how the Partnership engages, listens, and responds to the views of children and families.....	14
Priority 7 - Providing inclusive and accessible services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children	15
Review of the use of restraint within Clayfields	15
Case reviews	16
Multi-agency training, guidance, and procedures.....	19
Strategic Priorities for 2021 -2023	21
Addendum to NSCP Annual Report.	24
Independent Scrutineer Overview.....	24

Introduction

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

Vision and values

The Partnership has set out its vision: -

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

The Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will:

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

This report sets out what the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has done over the past year. It provides an update on progress in relation to the safeguarding priorities for 2020-23 and identifies key areas of work to take forward. A summary is included of the decisions made in relation to local case reviews, the learning from those reviews and action taken in relation to them and the two national thematic reviews that have been published. The effectiveness of the safeguarding arrangements in practice is commented on throughout the report. Evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers is included. Examples of the ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision are also included.

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

Safeguarding partnership activities and progress

The following priorities were identified in the NSCP Business Plan for 2020-23 - details of the activities of the Partnership in relation to those priorities, achievements, impact of the work completed and further action that is needed are detailed below.

Priority 1 - Preventing neglect

Child neglect has a lifelong impact on a person's wellbeing, and it is vitally important that as a Partnership we do all we can to prevent it. Both the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Partnerships recognise that tackling neglect must be a priority if we want to improve our children's life chances and prevent poor outcomes later in life.

A new [Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Child Neglect Strategy for 2021-2024](#) has been developed which identifies three key objectives:

- **Recognise** – ensuring that neglect and the impact of neglect on children is understood and identified.
- **Respond** – ensuring that good quality, multi-agency support, and intervention is available and makes a difference for children experiencing neglect.
- **Reflect and Review** – ensuring that we work together with children, families, and communities to continue to monitor the impact of our work and continue to develop our partnership response.

The Child Neglect Strategy was launched at a Joint Partnership Forum led by members of the Strategic Leadership Group. Shared priorities for the Partnerships under each objective have been agreed and partners are now developing action plans to take forward this work within their organisations.

Key work to take forward

- Review completed partner action plans and monitor progress through the formation of a Joint Child Neglect Working Group
- Develop a comprehensive and clear set of measures, which effectively demonstrates the impact of our work on neglect in the short and long term. Early indicators of success will evidence improvements in the identification of neglect and in the quality and reach of services for children.

Priority 2 - COVID – 19

Ensuring that we understand and respond to the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on children and young people. Monitoring the impact of any changes to service provision and supporting the retention of good practice developed during the pandemic.

The Safeguarding Assurance and Improvement Group (SAIG), on behalf of the Partnership, monitored the impact of COVID 19 on services for children and provided a sense check of revised operational arrangements to ensure that multi-agency safeguarding work was as effective as it could be. The SAIG moved to virtual meetings and increased the frequency of them to enable it to keep a current overview of the changing situation, meeting 16 times over the past year.

At each meeting the SAIG reviewed how well safeguarding practice was working focussing on key elements of safeguarding practice. It considered the impact of any new working practices, their impact on children and for partnership working. It also sought to identify emerging challenges.

Impact assessments

Impact Assessments were completed by partner organisations to understand the implications of COVID 19, these focussed on: -

- The impact of COVID 19 on children and families
- Organisations abilities to maintain normal service
- Any changes being implemented and details of how they are being communicated to children and families
- Any negative impacts which may increase safeguarding risks and steps taken to mitigate them
- Any positive impact of new working arrangements and how they are going to be taken forward

The completed Impact Assessments were reviewed by the NSCP Independent Scrutineer and informed his COVID 19 Safeguarding Evaluation which was presented to the SAIG. The Independent Scrutineer concluded that 'professionals individually, agencies and the Safeguarding Partners have responded excellently to the challenges whilst in lockdown and were preparing for the issues which may be ahead'.

Demand data

Quantitative demand data was provided to each SAIG meeting including early help decisions, MASH enquiries, strategy discussions, domestic abuse trends, child protection conferences, children on a child protection plan, repeat child protection plans and children who are looked after.

Outcome

The qualitative and quantitative data outlined above allowed the SAIG to maintain a current understanding of the impact of COVID 19 on services for children and families. It also provided an insight into the effect of the pandemic on children and families; however, it is appreciated that the long-term impact is not fully known at this stage.

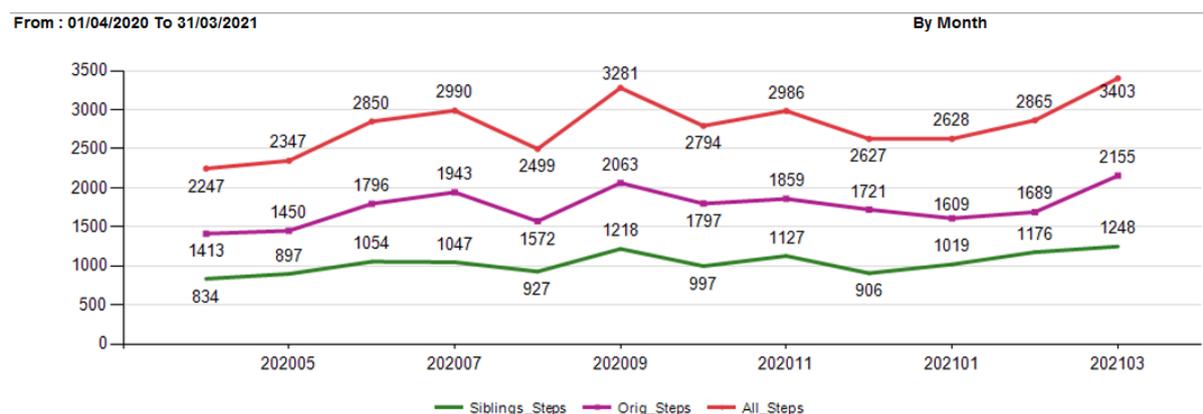
There was no easement or disapplication of statutory requirements around safeguarding children. Thresholds for early help, social work assessment and support and Education, Health and Care plans remained the same.

The SAIG monitored the number of enquiries made to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – **33,517** safeguarding enquiries (including the original child and siblings) were dealt with by the MASH during the course of the year compared with **34,499** the previous year. MASH enquiries fluctuated more than is usually the case due to periods of lockdown and this was largely due enquiries from schools falling during those periods.

Similarly demand for medical assessments initially dropped during the first lockdown period however these were seen to return to more normal levels providing some reassurance that safeguarding concerns were being referred appropriately.

Following the return of schools there was anticipated increased pressure on the MASH, which was highlighted with partners. Action was agreed with partners to enable the effective management of risk with use of the online referral system unless immediate action was needed. Feedback from social work teams, supported by the workflows of partner agencies, indicated that cases being referred during periods of increased pressure were more complex than was previously the case which may reflect children experiencing hidden harm during lockdown.

Mash Enquiries – 2020/21



Safeguarding systems were monitored throughout and shown to be continuing to operate effectively with timely responses to new concerns. Use of technology supported multi-agency working with reports of increased engagement. An audit of social work practice during the pandemic concluded that many families have had a positive experience of the use of technology to engage with them.

Virtual conferences were introduced by the Independent Chair Service and their effectiveness monitored and supported by the SAIG. Professionals responded well to the need to provide their reports prior to the meeting to aid distribution with Chairs reporting that health, police, and education colleagues were providing reports 24 hours before conferences. Excellent participation was reported with professionals joining the calls promptly and reporting positively about the effectiveness of the meetings. Confidential information was also shared ahead of the meetings appropriately.

All families receiving early help or social work support were risk assessed to determine the level of support required. Risk levels determined whether visits were face to face or via phone/videoconference. All families received at least weekly contact.

Child protection

As at 1st April 2021 **698** children were subject to a child protection plan in Nottinghamshire (compared with **798** at the same point in 2020). Initial concerns at the start of the pandemic about difficulty in progressing child protection plans leading to increasing numbers of children on a plan did not materialise as professionals found innovative ways of taking this work forward.

Initial Child Protection Conferences - **605** conferences took place with **96.7%** within timescales. The conferences related to **1,175** children of which **27** had disabilities.

Review Child Protection Conferences - **1,194** review conferences took place with **98.8%** within timescales.

This evidences that key child protection multi-agency frameworks continued to operate effectively, child protection plans were regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that the children continued to be protected.

Support for Vulnerable Children and Families including Schools Early Years, School and College Settings

Education, Learning and Skills (ELS) staff from Nottinghamshire County Council Partnership and Fair Access organised into COVID Crisis Locality Teams to support Headteachers and mediate provision for key worker and vulnerable pupils.

ELS, Social Emotional Mental Health staff were deployed to provide additional guidance and support to schools around vulnerable children. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) visited publicly funded schools in Nottinghamshire and the feedback from those visits was that the risk assessment process in the schools was found to be “excellent and exemplary”. In particular their knowledge of the guidance and implementation of controls, and the role of support pathways from the County Council in controlling the risks and infection barriers.

Many schools supported vulnerable families in a range of ways including delivering food, providing activities, and contacting or visiting children they considered most vulnerable.

Partnership working took place with headteachers and academy CEOs to develop contingency hub plans to ensure that provision continued to be offered to vulnerable pupils if individual school sites had to close.

Special School Staff worked together to ensure a continuity of provision for vulnerable pupils who require special school provision and provided additional guidance to mainstream colleagues around SEND pupils whose needs were challenging to manage through the COVID crisis.

Attendance at school throughout the pandemic remained broadly in line or better than national attendance data as produced by the Department for Education. For example, as of 6th October 2020, **92.2%** of children on the roll in the county were attending school compared with a national average of **90.2%**. Figures from the 23 February 2021, while schools were closed to most pupils, showed **21%** of children on the roll in the County were attending school onsite compared with a national average of **16%**.

ELS led and coordinated the ‘Wellbeing for Education Return’ initiative. The webinars, ran over 7 sessions at district level, involved colleagues from Mental Health Support Teams, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and the Family Service, with representation from Parent and Carer Forum. Topics included ‘Resilience & Recovery – Whole School Approaches & Resources’ ‘Supporting Anxiety & Low Mood’ and these were backed up with online resources.

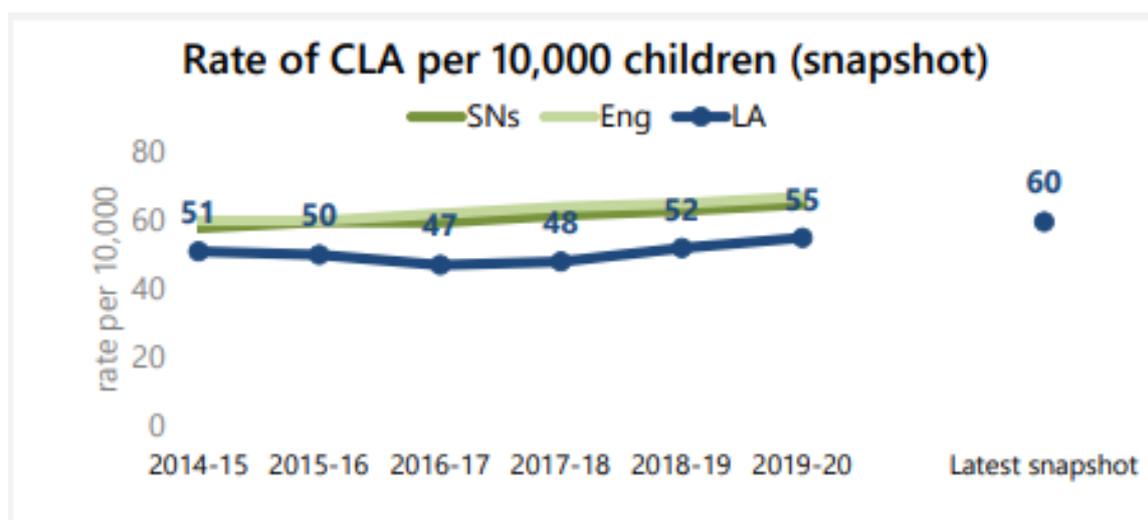
It is clear that significant efforts have been made by schools and other services, to support vulnerable children and families and children of key workers. National reports have identified that those hardest hit by the school closures had regressed in basic skills and learning. Some children had lost stamina for learning and fitness levels and there was also concern around the regression of some young children who had been potty trained and had returned to settings in nappies. A particular concern to Ofsted was vulnerable children being out of sight of schools with falling referrals to social care, raising fears that domestic violence, neglect, exploitation, or abuse has been undetected.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ofsted-covid-19-series>.

The universal Catch-up premium for all pupils and the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) which can provide additional targeted support for disadvantaged children and young people who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic will be used strengthen education provision moving forwards. Schools in the most disadvantaged areas will also have access to academic mentors. These are trained graduates who can provide intensive catch-up support to pupils.

Children who are looked after –

As of 1st April 2021, there were **996** children in care, compared with **923** in April 2020. The number of children looked after in Nottinghamshire has increased, however rates of children looked after children have been lower than statistical neighbours and the England average for some years and current comparable data is not available at this time.



Children who are in care have continued to be encouraged and supported to express their wishes and feelings in care planning processes. There were **2,635** looked after children reviews during the year with children attending and participating in over **43%** of them - sometimes with the support of an advocate. A further **49%** of reviews had the views of children who did not attend conveyed through others on their behalf. Independent Reviewing Officers are working in collaboration with the Children in Care Council to develop a film to explain to children and young people which adults will support them through their looked after journey and the reasons why. Progress has been delayed due to the pandemic, but it is planned to complete the work during the summer of 2021.

COVID 19 has impacted on children in care with the vast majority of children in care contact with birth families arranged to take place remotely during lockdown restrictions. Staff numbers in local authority residential homes were also affected by COVID 19 and support was provided through flexible working by suitably qualified staff from other services, particularly the Youth Service.

The Independent Scrutineer, Dr Mark Peel, was asked to review Nottinghamshire's approach to the use of unregulated children's homes for children under the age of 16 by the SLG. Dr Peel found clear evidence of both the highest standard of professional safeguarding practice being applied to these circumstances, and a view that such placements must only be used in extremis, and usually where to do otherwise would be contrary to the best interests of the individual child.

Children who are looked after –

Initial Health Assessments (IHA) for children who are looked after provide a comprehensive assessment which is then used to make recommendations regarding the child's future health.

During COVID 19 restrictions, IHAs have been undertaken by telephone and the impact of this approach, and the need for follow up if required, was raised at the SAIG along with ongoing challenges around the timeliness of IHAs. This includes IHAs for children placed out of area that are completed by an external health provider.

The increase in children being taken into care in Nottinghamshire and placements by other local authorities has impacted on the health service providers and their ability to support and further work is required to consider this issue. Assurances have been provided to the SAIG regarding arrangements for follow up and the Nottinghamshire CIC Service Improvement Forum (SIF) is overseeing a partnership approach to improve the timeliness of health assessments. The progress with this work will continue to be monitored by the SAIG.

There has been a noticeable unwarranted variation in CAMHS provision nationally that is impacting on our looked after children placed out of area. Many areas will not/are reluctant to provide a service for other local authority children placed there. As part of the Nottinghamshire Children in Care Service Improvement Forum a locally agreed escalation pathway has been written to support when concerns are raised by the local authority (social workers) around CAMHS provision externally. This has resulted in the Designated Nurse for Looked After Children and commissioners having greater awareness of this issue and being able to challenge barriers and support on a case by case basis. This issue has also been escalated to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnerships for ongoing monitoring.

Priority 3 - Improving the initial multi-agency response to safeguarding concerns
Strategy discussions

Case reviews, audit and inspections have identified the need to improve multi-agency working in relation to strategy discussions which play a key part in coordinating the initial response to safeguarding concerns. A joint working group, led by a Group Manager from Nottinghamshire Children’s Social Care, was formed to coordinate this area of practice improvement.

A new pathway for engaging health professionals in strategy discussions has been implemented and this led to a significant improvement in compliance with the requirements set out in statutory guidance. The MASH Health Team now represent health at strategy discussions for all new safeguarding concerns and this accounts for the majority of the improvement in performance.

Latest performance data -

The Assessment Service (North and South) are responsible for organising almost **60%** of the strategy discussions

27.5% of strategy discussions result in a joint investigation between children’s social care and the police

*Involvement of agencies**

Education	Health	Police	Social Care	Voluntary sector
17.1%	51.2%	97.7%	91.7%	4.3%

Prior to the action being undertaken by the Joint Working Group, health involvement in strategy discussions averaged **11.8%** so there has been nearly a **40% increase** in health involvement in strategy discussions as a result of the action taken.

*Working Together to Safeguard Children states a local authority social worker, health practitioners and a police representative should, as a minimum, be involved in the strategy discussion. Other relevant practitioners will depend on the nature of the individual case.

Communications pathways were also strengthened so that social workers could more easily identify and engage with appropriate police representatives when concerns involving children already open to children’s social care emerged. Back up arrangements were also introduced for when front-line police officers are not available for strategy discussions.

Business information systems have also been improved so that performance management measures can now be easily monitored. This has enabled areas of practice to be targeted for further work.

Impact on outcomes - Timely strategy discussion with the right people involved secures disclosure, leading to the conviction of the perpetrator and protection of children –

A 12-year-old girl disclosed sexual abuse from an extended family member whilst in school. The child was clear that she wished to make a statement to the Police. An urgent strategy meeting involving children's social care, police and health took place to coordinate agency responses and consider whether a medical assessment was appropriate. A joint visit was made to see the child in school, she made a clear disclosure which resulted in a conviction. Had there not been a swift and joint approach to this case then the child may have retracted her statement due to having second thoughts, being persuaded by family members to withdraw or in the belief that the disclosure was not being taken seriously.

An information leaflet has also been developed for parents/carers of children who may be asked to undergo a medical assessment. The leaflet explains why a referral for a child protection medical assessment is made, the rights of children/parents and carers, what the medical assessment involves, and what happens next.

Multi-agency training needs were analysed in relation to Strategy Discussions/ joint investigations/ Child Protection medicals and a training package has now been developed. Initially, three events have been planned targeted at those most likely to be involved in strategy discussions. The Child Protection Enquiries chapter of the interagency procedures has been updated to provide further guidance and clarity around strategy discussions.

As a spin off from this work Partnership Liaison Meetings have now been introduced. These help facilitate discussions and problem solving between operational staff from the police, social care, and health organisations, to tackle any difficulties they may be experiencing in partnership work.

The work to improve the effectiveness of strategy discussions has highlighted the benefit of gaining a full understanding of the issues impacting on practice by engaging with frontline professionals and gathering detailed data to inform analysis. The Partnership will use this learning to tackle other difficult safeguarding practice issues.

Key actions to take forward

- The development of a communications sheet/pathway to help District and other Children's Social Care teams engage with appropriate health representatives when the need for a strategy discussion is identified outside the MASH i.e. concerns emerge about children already open to children's social care or where cases have not been flagged within the MASH.
- Implementation of the multi-agency training programme.
- Further exploration of decision making around joint and single agency investigations

Priority 4 - Contextual safeguarding

Contextual safeguarding is a complex area of safeguarding relating to risks from outside the home which may overlap. To help develop its approach to protecting children from those risks the NSCP submitted a joint bid with Nottingham City and the Violence Reduction Unit to the Tackling Child Exploitation Programme. The bid was successful and the Partnership has worked with the Tackling Child Exploitation Programme¹ which supported the partnership through facilitated sessions which focus upon exploration of local partners experiences of current child exploitation and extra familial harm pathways and processes, geographically aligned governance arrangements and partnership working across the city and county landscape. The Project Learning Report can be found here: [TCE-Project-Learning-Report-Nottingham- FINAL.pdf \(researchinpractice.org.uk\)](#)

A Cross Partnership Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Management Group has been formed and will take forward the learning from the Bespoke Support Project. The priority for the group is to develop a roadmap towards the integration of the response to child exploitation and extra-familial harm. The group has also been given responsibility for taking forward the learning from the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Report – ‘It’s hard to escape’. The learning from this review also featured in a joint Partnership Forum in which John Drew, author of a Serious Case Review for Waltham Forest, provided a thought-provoking presentation on his findings which the Partnership has been able to use in a number of seminars.

Key action to take forward

- Complete work required to enable an alignment of responses to child exploitation and extra familial harm across the two children’s safeguarding partnerships and further explore opportunities for integration of current pathways for child criminal exploitation and extra familial harm

Harmful Sexual Behaviour

An area of contextual safeguarding that has been a focus for improvement work for the NSCP is the response to concerns about Harmful Sexual Behaviour (HSB). The multi-agency HSB Steering Group has been leading this work and undertook an audit of cases to assess progress since the previous audit in 2018. Good and outstanding practice was identified with improved practice and progression in the quality of practice. Identification of HSB from a range of professionals from different backgrounds had improved with prompt referrals being made. In some cases, very good relationships were established with the young person and these had a positive effect on the outcome. There was also evidence of the HSB Panel making a positive contribution towards the management of risk and improving outcomes for young people.

Providing therapeutic support and preventing further harm - A 14-year-old boy was convicted of harmful sexual behaviour against a child within the family and sentenced to a 12-month community order. The case was jointly assessed by the Youth Justice Service and Children’s Social Care and presented at the HSB panel where roles and responsibilities were agreed. The case was held by Youth Justice Service and joined by Head2Head (CAMHS) to complete an additional assessment as well as specialist therapeutic work around HSB. Intervention was delivered over the course of 12 months where support was offered to the family as well as direct work with the young person. The young person returned to the family home, returned to school, there were no further instances of HSB and the case was closed to all services.

¹ The TCE Programme is a joint initiative by the University of Bedfordshire, Research in Practice and The Children’s Society

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Panel – effective interventions –

A review of the 24 HSB cases that have been referred to Head2Head (CAMHS) within the past 2 years (since the introduction of HSB panels) revealed that there have been no cases where there has been a new offence or proved allegation of HSB. In one case an historic allegation has come to light which is being investigated by police and, in another case, there are continued concerns around HSB and risk to the public which are being managed.

This is in line with the national picture and what research suggests where it is thought that the recidivism rate is less than 5% where intervention is delivered.

Areas for improvement included consistency in the use of the appropriate pathway once HSB concerns are identified, accessing expert advice at the right time and use of specialist assessments. Whilst multi-agency work was on the whole good greater engagement with health colleagues was needed in some cases.

HSB procedures have been updated with expanded guidance on the continuum of sexual behaviours, aligned to NSPCC resources, and greater clarity on pathways to follow.

Key actions to take forward

- HSB Steering Group to continue to practice development work and undertake a follow up organisational audit

Missing children

Children missing from home or care may be vulnerable to a range of extra familial risks. Local case reviews have indicated good multi-agency practice in this area of work with robust systems for information exchange and follow up Return Interviews. The SAIG agreed to strengthen practice further by adopting the Philomena Protocol which ensures that information is captured about children at risk of going missing when they came into a residential setting. Whilst current practice is good at collating information to assist finding a missing child adopting the protocol will lead to more consistent recording across the country which will assist if a child moves areas.

Key action to take forward

- Implementation of the protocol with foster care providers and other residential settings

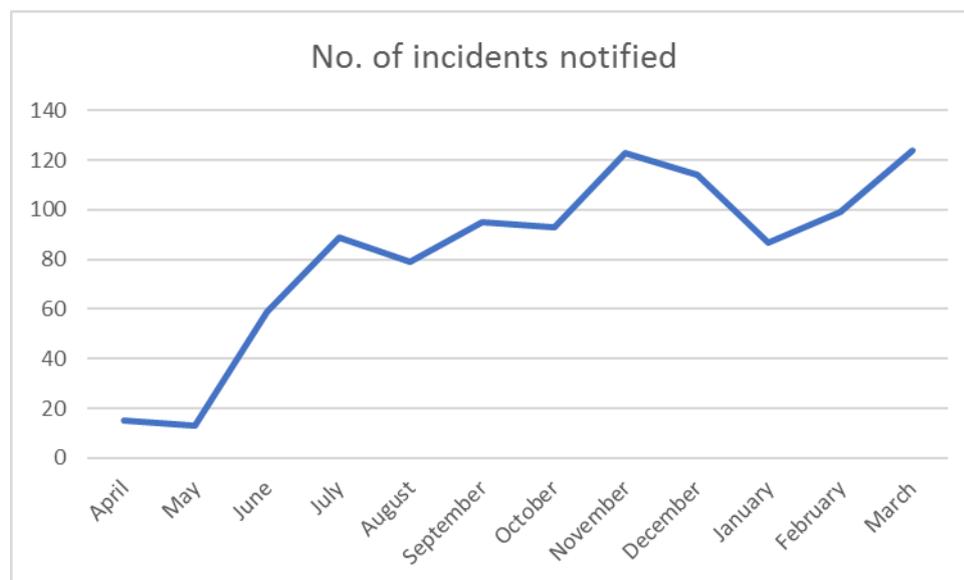
Priority 5 - Information sharing

Enabling information sharing between partners

Child Protection Plan – children’s social care/police information sharing

Details of children on a child protection plan are provided to the police so that if they attend an address where a child lives who is on a plan, they can be alert to anything that may increase concerns. If the police attend an address where a child protection ‘flag’ exists an automatic notification is sent to children’s social care with brief circumstances of the incident. This does not replace the need for the police to make appropriate safeguarding referrals but provides the social worker with an up to date knowledge of potentially relevant incidents which they can then use to inform their overall assessment of the child’s safety and wellbeing.

Notifications received by children’s social care about incidents attended by the police



On average **over 80** incidents per month are attended by the police at addresses where children are living subject to a child protection plan. Through a semi-automated system these are notified to the social worker who is working with the family who can decide if they need to take any further action. An examination of a sample of cases revealed that often the social worker for the child would make contact or visit the child after a notification to check on the child’s welfare. Sometimes this included offering support where the family had been subjected to threats or abuse. On other occasions it prompted the social worker to find out more information from the police about the incident.

‘Without the information (provided through the incident notification) we would have no understanding of the true circumstances G (2 yr. old girl) was living in’ Social worker who received a notification of anti-social behaviour reported at an address where a 2 year old girl on a child protection plan was living.

A combination of technical issues and the first lockdown impacted on the number of notifications in the first quarter.

Key actions to take forward

- Develop technical solution for providing child protection plan data to the police which increases the frequency and timeliness of the data being provided
- Identify what information sharing systems that need to be in place to support a multi-agency approach to child criminal exploitation

Priority 6 - Developing how the Partnership engages, listens, and responds to the views of children and families

Strengths-based practice

The Partnership has supported the implementation of a strengths-based approach to practice initiated by Nottinghamshire County Council Children and Families Department. Child protection conferences were identified as a priority area for embedding strengths-based practice and a phased roll out of the new approach began in late 2020. By adopting a restorative and relational strengths-based practice framework to conferences, the aim is to:

- move away from a deficit and compliance culture towards practice underpinned by high challenge and high support
- identify strengths and resilience as well as needs and risks.
- build meaningful relationships
- hear the voice of the child and let that voice have an influence

A new agenda was introduced for conferences with a greater focus on participation and building on the child, family, and community strengths to promote positive and sustained change. Increased use of advocates and strengthening engagement with parents prior to conferences ensuring information was available to them ahead of the conference and creating opportunities to discuss issues with them.

Key actions to take forward

- Further roll out of strengths-based practice across the Partnership

Re-imagining services based on need rather than thresholds

The SAIG and Partnership Forum have started to take forward discussions around how to coordinate access to all partner services differently and this has included exploring Relational Practice models that would potentially support strengths-based approaches.

The Pathway to Provision has been in existence for 11-12 years and the use of risk-based thresholds had meant a lot of onward referral or going back and signposting people.

Some other authorities were working on the idea of multi-agency front-door action based on need rather than risk thresholds and the SAIG held an initial workshop to explore what that would look like and how it would differ from what was being done currently and what that might mean for organisations.

A workshop session at the Partnership Forum included an input from Steve Walker, Director Strengthening Families Protecting Children Programme at Leeds City Council and this was followed up by a session at the SAIG which explored different organisations' perspectives.

Key actions to take forward

- Roll out of strengths-based approaches in child protection conferences and expansion of strengths-based practice to other areas of partnership work
- Further exploration of needs-led access to services

Priority 7 - Providing inclusive and accessible services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

A review has been undertaken of the Partnerships response to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), so called honour-based violence, forced marriage, children, and families from abroad, ritual abuse and racist bullying.

The review included an appraisal of the current procedures and guidance, consultation with training leads from across the Partnership and discussions with representatives from the local authority and health organisations that had lead roles in relation to these issues.

With the exception of two areas of practice the current guidance and procedures appropriately addressed the issues concerned. Further work is underway to consider guidance on responding to ritual abuse and to consider whether further, more specific, guidance is needed in relation to racist bullying. Operational work in relation to FGM and so-called honour-based violence was well supported through the appointment of designated leads in a number of partner organisations.

Research undertaken through the Learning and Workforce Development Group and by the NSCP Training Coordinator has identified a number of potential options for strengthening the Partnership's training in relation to diversity and race. These include understanding and supporting diversity in safeguarding work with children and families, working with Black, Asian and minority ethnic children and families and unconscious bias training.

Key action to take forward

- NSCP Training Programme to be strengthened in relation to diversity and race

Review of the use of restraint within Clayfields

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

A comprehensive report and presentation have been provided to the Partnership by the Centre Manager and Independent Monitor providing details of the legal framework for Restrictive Physical Interventions, Data on the use of restraint, quality assurance governance and staff support. The SAIG agreed with the conclusions that:

- Staff are trained to a high standard using the Management of Actual or Potential Aggression (MAPA) form of physical intervention from the Crisis Prevention Institute.
- Internal and external monitoring of physical interventions are thorough, and the internal quality assurance regime is robust.

It should also be recognised that in the most recent Ofsted Inspection Clayfields House was judged overall as being good – including their health and protection arrangements.

Case reviews

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

Nottinghamshire Rapid Reviews have continued to be subject of positive feedback from the NCSPRP. This is a reflection on the quality and timeliness of information provided for the review by all partners and organisations involved in the process and the support provided through the NSCP Business Unit.

"We thought that your rapid review was thorough with good practice identified and a number of single agency and partnership actions to take forward." (National CSPR Panel feedback)

Nottinghamshire is committed to learning as much as possible through Rapid Reviews. Only where it is necessary will a Child Safeguarding Practice Review be commissioned with the aim of further developing the findings from the Rapid Review. In their 'Annual review of LCSPRs and rapid reviews' the NCSPRP used a Nottinghamshire Rapid Review and CSPR as a case example of good practice in relation to progression from Rapid Review to LSCPR.

What have we learned through Rapid Reviews?

The added vulnerability of children whose first language is not English and who are subject to abuse or neglect was highlighted by two reviews. The importance of effective communication with children and families and the use of language line and interpreters was recognised and actions in relation to this have been completed.

Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) featured in two reviews. The findings from those reviews correlated with those in the National CSPR. In particular the added risk of SUDI for babies born to families with children already considered to be at risk of significant harm and the risk of co-sleeping when under the influence of drink or drugs. The work of the Safer Sleeping Group in relation to the national review 'Out of Routine' is described later.

Strong multi-agency working involving key partners including the Youth Service, Police Schools Liaison Officers and Safer Neighbourhood Teams in cases of children at risk of criminal exploitation (CCE) was recognised in two reviews. The value of targeted interventions on a geographical basis in areas with high levels of gang related violence/knife crime etc. in the form of Police led Neighbourhood Safeguarding

CASE REVIEW DECISIONS

A total of 8 Rapid Reviews undertaken

- 5 - no further review needed
- 3 – Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPR) commissioned

NSCPR agreed with the decisions of all 8 of the Rapid Reviews (100%) compared with 69% nationally

7 out of the 8 Rapid Reviews were completed within 15 days (87.5%) compared with 21% nationally

The quality of NSCP Rapid Reviews have continued to be subject of positive feedback from the NCSPRP

Learning from reviews is embedded in the NSCP Learning & Improvement Framework

Positive engagement with family members during CSPRs

1 CSPR (RN19) published following the completion of other parallel processes

Disruption meetings. Learning from those reviews was shared with the strategic contextual safeguarding group to build on good practice.

Abuse of children who are looked after was an issue in two reviews highlighting the need to ensure that good safeguarding practice continues beyond the point at which children are placed in care.

Whilst good practice in relation to strategy discussions was identified in some case there continues to be issues with the effectiveness of strategy discussions where a child is already open to children's social care. The work described earlier in this report is now focussing on this area of practice.

Actions taken as a result of Rapid Reviews

- A Local Authority Commissioning Officer now acts as a single point of contact for the Clinical Commissioning Groups in relation to children discharged from detention under the Mental Health Act. Joint working arrangements have been developed involving the LA and CCGs in respect of a review of Continuing Care for Children, particularly in relation to the assessment and response to “challenging behaviour.”
- A standard approach and terms of reference for Primary Care Liaison Meetings has been agreed through work by Named GP, CityCare and NHCT 0-19 services. These meetings consider the needs of families where safeguarding concerns have been identified (commonly referred to as ‘think family’ or ‘red card’ meetings). These have been circulated to GPs and reinforced at GP safeguarding Lead workshops.
- Multi-agency Neighbourhood Safeguarding Disruption Meetings have been developed, led by Police Neighbourhood Policing Teams in geographical areas identified at high risk of youth violence associated with gangs.
- Communication aids when dealing with families whose first language is not English have been promoted with health practitioners.
- Learning from reviews has been fed into the strategy discussion workstream described earlier and this has included the introduction of a ‘prompt’ to ensure the Youth Justice Service is involved in strategy discussions when appropriate. Revised guidance and training to Police and CSC staff in relation to single and joint Section 47 enquiries leading to better decision making and more effective investigations.
- A new process has been introduced by NCC Education Department for monitoring and intervening when young people in the care of the Local Authority are at high risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) with the aim of reducing such occurrences.

Actions taken in response to National Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

1. It was hard to escape: Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation

Work within NSCP to consider the recommendations of this review has been remitted to the Cross Partnership Contextual Safeguarding Strategic Management Group – further details of the work in relation to contextual safeguarding is included within the Partnership Priorities section.

2. Out of routine: A review of sudden unexpected death in infancy (SUDI) in families where the children are considered at risk of significant harm

The SAIG considered the learning from this review and agreed that work to develop the “prevent and protect” model for SUDI would be carried forward by the existing cross partnership “Safer Sleep Working Group”.

The work is ongoing however early progress has been made. A benchmarking exercise against the review has been completed. The NSCP Pathway to Provision, thresholds document has been updated to reflect risk of SUDI at all levels. The NSCP/NCSCP Interagency procedures have been updated to include guidance related to the risks of unsafe sleeping. Child Protection Chairs have been briefed to include safer sleep as part of the Child Protection Plan for any unborn and infant under 1 year.

A 3-tier training plan is in development in line with the “continuum of risk” as outlined in the national review. The learning from review is also being disseminated across midwifery and Healthy Family Teams.

A mapping exercise has been completed to identify all current contacts where safer sleep advice is routinely provided in order to identify and fill any gaps. A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment tool for safer sleep is available via the interagency procedures and was highlighted as best practice in the national review.

Impact on outcomes –

Raising awareness that everyone can play a role in preventing sudden infant deaths – A Children’s Social Care Worker used the knowledge gained via the training to successfully get a young mother and her baby re-housed. The tiny flat they were living in was not big enough to get her bed and the babies cot in the same bedroom and this indirectly encouraged “unsafe sleeping” practices. The Social Worker had learnt during the training that ‘*The safest place for your baby to sleep is a separate cot or Moses basket in the same room as you for the first 6 months, even during the day*’. This was not possible in the small flat and so the proactive action in getting the family re-housed allowed for mother and baby to sleep in the same room so reducing the risk of SUDI.

Key actions to take forward

- Three Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews commissioned during the year are ongoing and require completing
- Since the requirement to undertake Rapid Reviews was introduced (1st July 2018) Nottinghamshire has completed 23 reviews (as at 21/6/21) and a thematic review of those reviews is now planned for Autumn 2021 to support the dissemination of learning and inform future safeguarding improvement work
- Completion of the Safer Sleeping Working Group action plan

Multi-agency training, guidance, and procedures

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

Following the introduction of lockdown and social distancing measures due to the COVID 19 pandemic all training courses provided by the Partnership were redesigned and adapted to be delivered virtually. The first updated events started to be delivered in June 2020. Participation in training has increased with **2,840** practitioners attending virtual events this year compared with **2,346** attending face to face events in 2019/20. Completion of E learning modules has also increased significantly with **13,625** completions this year compared to **8,060** the previous year. New E learning modules were developed including:

- Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines,
- Children Missing from Home and Care and
- What Makes a Good Quality MASH Referral?

Training provided through the partnership is directly related to the learning from case reviews, audits, inspections, and inquiries. The following provides some examples from the training programme delivered during 2020/21 along with impact evaluations

Harmful Sexual Behaviour training through virtual events has been provided to **197** practitioners. The training disseminated the learning from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), the findings from a local case review and areas for practice improvement from audits. The course content has been adapted to reflect the changes in availability of the Brook Traffic Light Tool with alternative resources signposted. Interagency guidance and procedures have been reviewed and updated to provide clarity on the continuum of sexual behaviours and appropriate responses. Prior to attending the course only **19%** of delegates described themselves as having good or very good knowledge of how to identify and respond to concerns of harmful sexual behaviour and this rose to **90%** after completing the course.

Training to raise awareness of child criminal exploitation (CCE), how to identify and respond to it, has been developed and delivered to **425** practitioners. The training incorporates the learning from; a national thematic review, a case review involving a Nottinghamshire child who died in another area and two Rapid Reviews (RR1/21, RR2/21). A local e learning module was also developed with **541** course completions during the year. Prior to attending the courses only **32%** of delegates described themselves as having good or very good knowledge of CCE and this rose to **87%** after completing the course.

NSCP TRAINING 2020/21

13,625 E learning courses completed

2,840 practitioners attended virtual training events

Courses redesigned and adapted to be delivered virtually from June 2020

Responsive to the current concerns about safeguarding children

Impact of lockdown on children incorporated into courses

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Training adapted

Child Criminal Exploitation training introduced both virtual events and a new e learning module

Course evaluations demonstrate significant increases in knowledge and confidence in dealing with issues as a result of attendance

Virtual seminars on learning from case reviews

Cross partnership support for the delivery of training with 35 colleagues delivering events

Neglect training has been provided through virtual events to **207** participants. Neglect continues to be the primary reason for children in Nottinghamshire being on a child protection plan. An external expert is commissioned to deliver this training which will be further developed as part of the Partnerships new Child Neglect Strategy. Prior to attending the courses only **38%** of delegates described themselves as having good or very good knowledge of neglect and this rose to **97%** after completing the course. E learning related to awareness of abuse and neglect has **2,253** module completions with a further **642** completions of the more in-depth module.

Working Together to Safeguard Children is the core training course to develop multi-agency safeguarding work. Delegates on the 12 courses that were held during the year were asked about their levels of knowledge & skills relating to working together effectively – prior to the course **33.7%** rated themselves as good/very good, which then improved to **93.3 %** after completing the course.

“I had knowledge of the pathway to provision and multiagency working but had gaps in my knowledge. This course definitely helped to fill these gaps in and made everything very clear” – delegate who attended a Working Together course

Whilst the amount of training provided has increased compared with the previous year the pandemic does appear to have adversely affected the availability of health staff to attend courses with a **50%** reduction which is unsurprising in view of the extraordinary demand on those services.

Key actions to take forward

- Plan for option to include some face to face events or blended events when circumstances allow
- Develop training options in relation to understanding and supporting diversity in safeguarding work with children and families, working with Black, Asian and minority ethnic children and families and unconscious bias training
- Further strengthen use of Rapid Reviews as a resource for disseminating learning

Strategic Priorities for 2021 -2023

Moving forward, the priorities for the NSCP have been reviewed and re-aligned to provide a more strategic focus:

Priority 1 Understanding and developing the role of the Safeguarding Partnership in evolving system arrangements

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System (ICS) is a partnership between the organisations that meet health and care needs across our area and which now includes Bassetlaw. The ICS seeks to coordinate services and to plan in a way that improves population health and reduces inequalities between different groups. Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will seek to understand and develop its role within the context of the ICS to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Domestic abuse is a cross-cutting issue which has a significant impact on children at risk of harm. New legislation, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, places statutory duties on agencies which will be overseen by Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board and the NSCP will work with strategic partners to support work to protect those affected by domestic abuse.

Enablers

- Ensure safeguarding priorities are considered in the development of the Integrated Care Partnership and the strategic plan.
- Increased coordination and working with other strategic partnerships to maximise impact.
- Engagement with and representation on the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board

Priority 2 Preventing abuse and neglect

Child neglect has a lifelong impact on a person's wellbeing, and it is vitally important that as a Partnership we do all we can to prevent it. All partners should ensure that neglect and the impact of neglect on children is understood and identified. Good quality multi-agency support and intervention should be available and make a difference for children experiencing neglect.

We are committed to working together to ensure children, young people and families receive the right support at the right time. We know that timely support provided early in the life of the child, or soon after the emergence of a problem, prevents problems escalating and maximises opportunities for children to thrive. Early Help Services function as part of a complex system of universal, targeted and specialist support which works together with families and networks and we have set out priority areas to improve those services for children and families in Nottinghamshire.

Everyone has a responsibility to help prevent child abuse and neglect. We will work to broaden the reach, and increase the influence, of the safeguarding arrangements in faith groups, sports clubs, and the voluntary sector to support them to identify and respond to abuse and neglect.

The NSCP will develop restorative and relational strengths-based practice to work with children, young people and families. We will explore options for multi-agency front-door action based on need rather than risk thresholds and look at how multi-disciplinary/agency teams could better safeguard children and young people.

Enablers

- Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Child Neglect Strategy 2021-2024
- Nottinghamshire Early Help Strategy 2021-2025
- Development of strengths-based approaches

- Faith groups, sports clubs, and the voluntary sector action plan
- Alignment of responses to child exploitation and extra familial harm across the two children's safeguarding partnerships and further explore opportunities for integration of current pathways

Priority 3 Improving safeguarding practice

The Partnership will utilise its Performance Management Framework to identify areas of safeguarding practice to focus improvement activities. Having identified areas for development it will coordinate a partnership approach towards practice improvement and monitor the impact that work is having on outcomes for children and families. The NSCP Training Programme will be integral to this work, responding to the learning needs of the multi-agency workforce and supporting practitioners to work together effectively.

Enablers

- Rapid Review Thematic Analysis
- Developing understanding of diversity when working with Black, Asian and minority ethnic children and families in a safeguarding context
- Strategy Discussion Working Group Action Plan
- Child Protection Conference Participation Action Plan
- Safer Sleeping Working Group action plan
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour Steering Group



Rosa Waddingham (NSCP SLG Chair)



Colin Pettigrew



Nicola Ryan



Peter Quinn



Addendum to NSCP Annual Report.

Independent Scrutineer Overview

I am very pleased to see that despite another year that has been greatly circumscribed by the pandemic, that safeguarding in Nottinghamshire continues to be consistently and safely delivered by the Partnership, as evidenced in this annual report.

From my independent perspective I can confirm that this report is a fair reflection of what I have seen directly over the past year, and would take this opportunity to thank officers at all levels and across the Partnership as a whole for their outstanding commitment and professionalism in unprecedented circumstances.

I will go on here to outline a small number of circumstances I have selected from a much wider pool, that I feel are especially indicative of the health of the Partnership in Nottinghamshire, that also represent positive developments over the course of the last year, before going on to look briefly at some of the issues that face us in the course of the next.

1. Completing Rapid Reviews (RR's) and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (LCSPR's) are both statutory responsibilities for the Partnership, and must be completed to strict deadlines, be of high quality and are the subject of national scrutiny. It is also essential that RR's and LCSPR's focus on learning and improvement, such that safeguarding practice in Nottinghamshire is both reflective and responsive, and the Partnership can grow and develop smartly.

I have directly observed the rigor and sensitivity with which RR's and LCSPR's are taken forward in Nottinghamshire; deadlines are adhered to, a clear focus is evident on learning and feedback from the National body continues to be positive and complementary.

But more than this I have seen willingness on the part of all involved to use these opportunities to think creatively, and keep the wellbeing of children and young people in the County at the centre of all our safeguarding activity. What is exceptional here, I would suggest, is that all this is done on the basis of a truly multi-agency perspective, without evident single agency agenda or defensiveness. A sign, I would argue, of a mature and engaged Safeguarding Partnership.

2. I talked, in the annual report last year, about the response to Covid 19 with respect to safeguarding in Nottinghamshire, so I will not repeat those observations here. Other than to note that, despite the length of the emergency and the understandable tiredness of staff; safeguarding continues to be a high priority, is being addressed through creative use of all available technology and new ways of working and has served to draw the Partnership together in an unprecedented way.
3. The Executive of the NSCP effectively drives the safeguarding agenda in Nottinghamshire; selecting priorities, signing off on RR's and LCSPR's and perhaps most importantly serving as a forum in which senior officers from the three agencies with statutory safeguarding responsibilities, can develop an overarching orientation to safeguarding that is the genesis of Partnership working.

Chairing of the Executive has recently rotated to Health (with Rosa Waddingham taking over from Colin Pettigrew) and new Police representation is also now in place (Peter

Quinn), again these changes are indicative, I would suggest, of a mature and balanced Partnership

4. Over the past year I have negotiated with Police and Health Colleagues to extend the 'apprenticeship' scheme offered to Looked After Children (Our Children) to incorporate additional opportunities in the Police and Health, which opens up significant opportunity for this most disadvantaged of groups. I was most impressed with the positive and collaborative attitudes I encountered in this process, to the extent that it seemed I was 'pushing against an opening door'. This development, and shared sense of responsibility, speaks volumes about the health of the Nottinghamshire Partnership, and about a common commitment to 'do better' for Our Children.

Challenges for the Future

I will be looking at children placed in residential schools and unregulated children's homes (including semi-independent accommodation) over the next year. The impact of the pandemic has made it very difficult to progress this agenda remotely as I had wished, but it is my hope as restrictions ease, to progress this directly. I will liaise with my opposite number for the City of Nottingham (Liz Tinsley) to bring a joined-up approach to this matter if at all possible.

Secondly, as we emerge from the strictures of the pandemic, a delicate balance needs to be struck between maintaining much of the creative developments put in place (especially with regard to better use of technology) whilst also 'getting back' to direct contact and engagement with families and children.

I am also minded, to consider the possible impact of remote (home) working on opportunities for the sort of 'soft supervision' and professional reflection that working together in a shared office space permits.

It promises to be a busy year, and I look forward to meeting as many of the individuals involved in safeguarding across the County as possible.

Dr. Mark Peel

Independent Scrutineer NSCP

August 2021

1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES

CHILD POVERTY AND THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

Purpose of the Report

1. To share the findings of the recent review of the impact of Covid-19 on child and family poverty in Nottinghamshire and request that the subsequent actions be allocated to the 'Improving Life Chances for Children and Families Partnership'.
2. To seek approval to allocate £2.3 million of the new Household Support Fund for the provision of vouchers to children and young people eligible for Free School Meals for October half term, the Christmas holidays and February half term.
3. To seek approval for the transfer of responsibility for the remainder of the Household Support Grant not distributed as a result of the recommendations in this report to the relevant Committee, subject to continued oversight by Children and Young People's Committee on any decisions involving funding for children and young people. Such oversight to be exercised by the Chairman of Children and Young People's Committee or their nominee from time to time.

Information

4. The report stemmed from a request at Children and Young People's Committee to provide an update in relation to child poverty and the impact of Covid-19 on outcomes for children and families previously identified as experiencing poverty. This follows on from the report presented to Committee in June 2021 on child poverty levels in the County which also reviewed the local action plan which aims to address child poverty.
5. As described at the Children and Young People's Committee in June 2021, the impact of Covid-19 on child poverty levels is not yet known because of the time lag of when low income families data is published. The latest data available is from 2018/19, prior to the pandemic, however there is have locally held data which can be used as proxy indicators.

The Impact of Covid-19 on Income levels

6. Child Poverty data cannot evidence the trends in relation to the pandemic although it is understood nationally that child poverty levels have increased since the pandemic started

in March 2020. However, there are some local measures which have been suggested as a proxy indicators of child poverty so are considered within this report.

7. **Free School Meals¹ (FSM)** have been a high-profile issue during the pandemic. Children are eligible for FSM if their parents/carers claim certain welfare benefits including Universal Credit and other legacy benefits.
8. Nottinghamshire School Census data has identified that the number of children claiming FSM in April 2020 was 19,783 compared with 23,649 in April 2021, showing a 19.5% increase. It is unclear however if these families were eligible for FSM prior to the pandemic and chose not to claim previously. Updated data is due during the Autumn.
9. Between October 2020 and January 2021, the take up of Free School Meals increased by 1,205 children overall, rising from 18.4% of primary school children and 17.6% of secondary school children in October 2020, to 19.8% of primary and 18.2% of secondary children three months later. Five years previously the rate was 12.4% for both primary and secondary children.
10. **2-year olds from low income families²** are eligible for 15 hours of funded early education per week. The funding is available from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and eligibility is based on the welfare entitlements a family claim. Each term the DWP provides local authorities with the details of eligible 2 year olds so that they can be approached and supported to access childcare.
11. DWP data shows that in November 2019, there were 2,501 eligible 2 year olds compared with 2,547 in November 2020, and 2,478 in April 2021. This data does not show any trend relating to Covid. In Summer 2021 there were 2,484 children eligible with 1,857 taking up their funded place – a rate of almost 75%.
12. **Early Years Pupil Premium** is a top up payment made to early years settings who provide childcare places for 3 and 4 year olds whose families are accessing certain welfare benefits. The number of eligible children increased by 20% from Spring 2020 to Spring 2021 with the highest increase in Mansfield (32%). Further exploration of this data will be useful as this increase has not been reflected in the 2 year old data.
13. **School Pupil Premium** data is also a local indicator of the changing level of need for children and families. This top up fund is awarded to schools to provide additional support for children from low income groups to narrow the educational attainment gap. From January 2019 to January 2020, the numbers of eligible children and young people were fairly stable with 23,951 children (21.9% of the school population) in January 2019, compared with 23,849 (21.5%) the following January. The trend over the last five years has been stable, however data for January 2021 has yet to be published and it is anticipated that the number of children eligible for Pupil Premium will increase due to the pandemic.
14. We cannot conclude from this data that levels of child poverty have increased in Nottinghamshire since the latest published data of 2018/19, or since the Covid-19 pandemic began; but we can say that more families are claiming entitlements such as FSM. Further

¹ [Free school meals and milk | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

² [Funded childcare places for two-year-olds | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

work to analyse data with statistical and regional neighbouring local authorities will be useful.

15. **Young people aged 16-17 who are Not in Education, Training and Employment (NEET)** are a priority group for many organisations and services including schools as they are at risk of longer-term economic inactivity. In 2020/21 the proportion of young people who were NEET in Nottinghamshire was 1.6% compared with the England average of 2.7%. This proportion has decreased in Nottinghamshire from 1.8% in 2019/20 compared with 2.6% in England.
16. The coronavirus outbreak has particularly impacted on the labour market status of young people, with a large fall in employment and a rise in unemployment amongst 16-24 year olds. Data for Nottinghamshire is not yet available, so we are unable to confirm the impact on local young people. Many of the initiatives that have been put in place in response to the outbreak have been targeted at young people. Some of the policies in place that aim to reduce the number of people who are NEET include the kickstart scheme, further incentives for employers to take on apprentices and trainees, expanded job support for young jobseekers and funding for selected level 2 and 3 qualifications for school or college leavers.
17. **Employment data** - according to the Office of National Statistics (ONS) bulletin in April 2021, nationally 56,000 fewer people were in pay rolled employment in March 2021 when compared with February 2021. Locally, all districts, except for Newark and Sherwood, show a reduction in the employment rate for 16 – 64 year olds in 2020, compared with 2019.
18. The UK **unemployment rate** was estimated at 4.9%, 0.9 percentage points higher than a year earlier. Locally all districts showed an increase in the unemployment rate in 2020, compared with 2019 with the largest increase in Mansfield.
19. **Universal Credit** claimants from March 2020 to March 2021 have increased in the County, corresponding to the increase in the unemployment rate and the move from legacy benefits over to Universal Credit. Claimants in Nottinghamshire have doubled since 2020 from 12,985 to 24,795. We cannot identify any changes specifically for families from the published data, however.

National Research and Reports

20. Child Poverty data cannot evidence the trends in relation to the pandemic although it is understood nationally that child poverty levels have increased since the pandemic started and outcomes for many children, young people and families have deteriorated.
21. A summary of some of the national literature in relation to the impact of Covid is available at [Child poverty | Nottinghamshire County Council](#).

What do Children and Families say?

22. During Summer 2021 a consultation was promoted over a six-week period on the Council's Citizen Space platform to hear directly from families regarding the impact of the pandemic, particularly in relation to child poverty. This was promoted by all relevant stakeholder organisations and resulted in a total of 86 responses from all seven districts. A detailed report on the findings is available at [Child poverty | Nottinghamshire County Council](#).

23. Key findings of note include:

- a) The majority of the respondents were employed or employed part-time and over 50% had a partner who worked full-time. When asked about income levels, in most cases income increased except for those earning over £50,000.
- b) 74% of parents stated that their child's education and learning had deteriorated because of the pandemic.
- c) 9% of respondents had no access to a computer, laptop, tablet, or Wi-Fi, with 30% stating that they had access 'some of the time'.
- d) 74% of respondents stated that their children missed the social aspects of school and 55% stated that home schooling had a negative impact on their child's emotional wellbeing. 9% of respondents stated that home schooling was beneficial for their children with many stating that the first lockdown was easier for both parents and children compared with the second.
- e) 60% of parents responding to the survey felt their child's emotional health and wellbeing was worse due to the pandemic, with a further 11% being unsure. This compares with 53% of parents who felt their child's physical health and activity levels were worse during the pandemic.
- f) 78% of respondents had not requested extra help or support from organisations or services, showing that many families were self-reliant or were not aware of services available to them, or how to access them.
- g) Even though many of the respondents had found the pandemic challenging, 60% of the parents responding felt that there had been some positive experiences, as illustrated in the selection of comments listed below:
 - *"Working from home has given me a better work/life balance and I have enjoyed more family time. I have also felt that I was better able to keep my family safe."*
 - *"More time to work with the children on things they wanted to learn or find out about. During the first lockdown they actually found that they could love learning again!"*
 - *"I truly believe our resilience was strengthened"*
 - *"I really enjoyed having my children at home, we had lots of time together which we wouldn't normally get".*

What do Stakeholders say?

24. To coincide with the survey for families, the Council also consulted with local organisations and services who provide support to children, young people, and families. A total of 26 organisations or services responded, including 6 from within the Council and 7 from the education sector. A detailed report on the findings is available at [Child poverty | Nottinghamshire County Council](#).

- a) 58% of the respondents saw an increase in the number of families being referred to their service, with 84% reporting that the complexity of the issues these families faced were more challenging than pre-pandemic.
- b) 58% of the respondents stated that the families they were working with were struggling financially.
- c) 93% reported that mental health and emotional wellbeing was a key issue for the families their organisations were supporting, compared to little change linked to physical health issues.
- d) 84% of the organisations had increased their use of phone calls to provide support, with 61% increasing their online offer.

25. Organisations told us:

- *“Most of the parents on my case load have emotional health and wellbeing difficulties - stress levels have been heightened in the prolonged Covid - lockdowns.”*
- *“Families normally budget to their income. When the income stream was reduced or stopped people struggled to pay bills and buy essentials such as food and fuel. Even when normal work was able to be resumed debts had accrued.”*
- *“Lack of income due to reduced income or loss of jobs. Families struggling due to children being at home more resulting in increased food costs. This was particularly shown more in those families who did not qualify for Free School Meals.”*

Support and Funding provided to Children and Families

26. There have been a range of national measures created to reduce the impact of Covid on both the economy and on households who may be struggling financially because of Covid. The table below includes some of the schemes that have been made available.

National schemes
Business grants and loans
Business Rate relief
Coronavirus Emergency Funding for Local Government - MHCLG
Covid Local Support Grant - DWP
Covid Winter Grant Scheme - DWP
Funding for Food Banks (DEFRA)
Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme - DfE
Household Support Grant - DWP
Humanitarian Action funding to LAs
Job Retention Scheme (Furlough) – DWP
Kickstart Scheme - DWP
Local Council Tax Support Grant
Self-employed Grants – DWP
Uplift of Healthy Start Voucher - DH
Uplift of Universal Credit - DWP

Household Support Grant

27. In October 2021, the Department for Work and Pensions launched the Household Support Grant³ which replaced both the Covid Winter Grant Scheme and Covid Local Support Grant.
28. Nottinghamshire County Council has received £5.6 million to deliver the scheme until 31st March 2022. At least 50% of the funding is for vulnerable households with children (under 19 years). The remainder of the funding (up to 50%) is available for vulnerable households without children (including individuals). Due to the wider age groups involved, it is proposed that future decision making regarding the remainder of the grant not distributed as a result of the recommendations in this report will be made by the most appropriate Committee rather than the Children and Young People's Committee which has been responsible for the two previous grant schemes. Children and Young People's Committee will be consulted on all decisions to distribute grant funding that involves children and young people.
29. As with preceding schemes, a key intention is to provide vouchers for children and young people eligible for free school meals during the school holidays. Guidance was issued by the Department for Work and Pensions on 7th October, so an urgent decision was needed to enable the distribution of vouchers for half-term which started on 18th October 2021. This left only six working days to notify educational establishments and to set up processes with colleagues in finance, procurement, the Customer Service Centre, and Communications.
30. This report asks Committee to support the decision made for October half-term to provide vouchers, and to approve the proposal to also provide this support for the Christmas holidays and February half-term to the value of approximately £2.3 million to reach up to 27,500 children.

Other Options Considered

31. No other options have been considered.

Reasons for Recommendations

32. As the obstacles to social mobility are multi-faceted and impact on so many areas of children and young people's lives, their life chances can only be improved by taking a multi-agency approach. The Improving Life Chances for Children and Families Partnership will use the learning from the recent consultation and literature review to shape future service delivery and priorities.
33. Children living in low income families are at risk of a range of poor outcomes and it is nationally recognised that the Covid pandemic has had a negative impact on outcomes of children and families from a range of socio-economic groups, not just those in low income households. The report highlights feedback from families not eligible for welfare benefits, as they told us that they struggled financially through income reductions which were often linked to working parents not being eligible for support such as business grants or having to isolate at home.

³ [Government launches £500m support for vulnerable households over winter - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-500m-support-for-vulnerable-households-over-winter)

34. Tackling food insecurity is a key priority of the new Household Support Grant and Nottinghamshire County Council has invested in the provision of free school meal support previously. The Grant will be overseen by the most appropriate Committee; however, the Children and Young People's Committee is asked to approve the intention to provide support during the school holidays.
35. A decision on use of the Household Support Grant for October half-term was made by Officers and the Lead Member on 7th October when the draft Department for Work and Pensions Grant conditions and guidance were published. As stated in **paragraph 29**, a swift decision was needed as this only allowed six working days to get vouchers and funds allocated and disseminated to enable educational establishments to inform parents and to distribute vouchers.
36. When previous grant schemes have been discussed at Committee there has been cross party support for the provision of vouchers for children eligible for free school meals during the holidays, having provided this support since October half-term 2020. Officers felt that this emergency decision would be supported and the desire to feed children from low income groups during the school holidays by Committee had previously been evidenced.

Statutory and Policy Implications

37. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

38. There is currently no direct funding for work to tackle child poverty and improve life chances; work relies on core funding streams from across partners with the exception of grant schemes made available by Government due to the pandemic.
39. The proposed funding breakdown for the remaining Household Support Grant not distributed as a result of the recommendations in this report will be approved at the most appropriate Committee once delivery plans are firmed up.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

40. National research indicates that there is a link between poverty and child abuse and neglect, which is why it is important to tackle child poverty. Safeguarding referrals have increased following lock downs; however, it is currently unclear if these referrals are mostly from low income groups.

Implications for Service Users

41. The impact of Covid and subsequent lock downs had an overall negative effect on children and families as is evidenced in the literature review and survey findings⁴. Feedback found that often it is families who are not claiming welfare benefits who say that they struggled more with living costs exceeding income levels. The deteriorating mental health of children and parents however is the largest concern of local families and professionals.
42. A phased approach has been taken to recovery planning by most services in line with public health guidance. However, this has resulted in some families feeling that recovery was not at the pace they would have wished for. Services have worked hard to ensure families receive regularly updated information in what at times felt like a constantly changing climate.
43. The Household Support Grant and other support will target families who are struggling financially, this will include those out of work but also those who are working but are considered 'just about managing.'

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

44. Economic regeneration is key to improving life chances, as access to sustained, well paid employment is still recognised as the key route out of poverty.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee:

- 1) notes the findings of the recent review of the impact of Covid-19 on child and family poverty in Nottinghamshire and tasks the Improving Life Chances for Children and Families Partnership to consider and address the issues identified in this report.
- 2) approves the proposal to allocate approximately £2.3 million of the new Household Support Fund for the provision of vouchers to children and young people eligible for free school meals for October half-term, the Christmas holidays and February half-term 2022.
- 3) approves the transfer of responsibility for the remainder of the Household Support Grant not distributed as a result of the recommendations in this report to the relevant Committee, subject to continued oversight by Children and Young People's Committee on any decisions involving funding for children and young people. Such oversight to be exercised by the Chairman of Children and Young People's Committee or their nominee from time to time.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

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⁴ [Child poverty | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Constitutional Comments (LPW 20/10/21)

45. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (CDS 20/10/21)

46. There is currently no direct funding for work to tackle child poverty and improve life chances; work relies on core funding streams from across partners with the exception of grant schemes made available by Government due to the pandemic.
47. However, given that the findings are primarily for noting, there are no financial implications directly arising.
48. £2.3 million of the new Household Support Fund would be used for the provision of vouchers to children and young people eligible for free school meals for October half-term, the Christmas holidays and February half-term 2022. The proposed funding breakdown for the remaining £3.3 million Household Support Grant will be approved at the most appropriate Committee once delivery plans are firmed up.

Background Papers and Published Documents

[Child Poverty Update – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 21 June 2021](#)

[Covid Winter Grant Scheme and Covid Local Support Grant Final Report - Children and Young People's Committee on 26 July 2021](#)

[The Impact of Covid on Children, Young People and Families in Nottinghamshire – Literature Review. October 2021](#)

[The Impact of Covid on Children, Young People and Families in Nottinghamshire –Results from survey with families. October 2021](#)

[The Impact of Covid on Children, Young People and Families in Nottinghamshire – results from survey with local organisations and professionals. October 2021](#)

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

All.

C1522

1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 8

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SERVICE
DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES**

**CHILDHOOD OBESITY TRAILBLAZER UPDATE – TACKLING FOOD
INSECURITY**

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Committee on progress and learning from the range of initiatives delivered in the first two years of Nottinghamshire's participation in the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme and the response to supporting families facing food insecurity.
2. To seek approval of plans to sustain successful elements of the programme using existing resources and the continuation of this partnership approach work by Early Childhood Services with Public Health and wider County Council services.

Information

3. A report providing information on the Nottinghamshire project as part of the government's Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme was taken to the Children and Young People's Committee in November 2019. Committee was asked to consider whether there was any further action or information it required and Members requested a further report and progress update in Year 3 of the programme.
4. Access to healthy nutritious food and eating a balanced diet is essential to child growth and development, school readiness and attainment, prevention of obesity, diabetes, and diet related disease in later life.
5. The COVID 19 pandemic highlighted and increased the issue of food insecurity, faced by families. Information for the UK from the Food Foundation report shows that as a result of the first few weeks of the March 2020 lockdown, millions of households with children reported loss of income, experienced food insecurity, skipped meals and ate less nutritious food.
6. During the same time period, the Trussell Trust, responsible for the running of nearly half the food banks in Nottinghamshire, reported an 81% increase in people needing support from food banks compared with the same time the previous year. National data shows a 121% increase in demand for food banks from families with children.

7. The latest published data (2019/2020) for Nottinghamshire shows the percentage of obese children was 9.0% in Reception children and 19.2% in Year 6 children, which is lower than that for England (9.9% and 21.0%). There is an upward trend in prevalence in children in Year 6 in Nottinghamshire in recent years, with high prevalence in Ashfield, Mansfield, and Bassetlaw Districts.
8. Obesity amongst children has been identified as an area of inequality within Nottinghamshire between the most and least deprived areas. This gap is high for the prevalence of obesity, and overweight children, for Reception year and Year 6. The scale of this gap is also high when compared with other local authorities. Inequalities within Nottinghamshire are in the highest 20% of all local authorities in England for both of these age groups and for both obesity and being overweight.

Overview of Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme

9. The [Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme](#) (COTP) is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care and managed by the Local Government Association. The programme aims to use a test and learn approach to help find out how local authority levers can be used to address causes of childhood obesity. The programme's objectives include sharing of learning and best practice with other local authorities and to identify actions which government can take to deliver change at scale. Therefore, the aim is not to reduce prevalence of childhood obesity across the target areas over the three years of the programme, but to evaluate what is delivered to inform how councils can take effective action for their communities. Public Health already commission weight management services for families in order to reduce childhood obesity.
10. Nottinghamshire County Council is one of five local authorities selected through a competitive process to take part in this programme from June 2019 to June 2022 and receive total grant funding of £300,000. Each local authority is focusing on testing out different approaches, such as food advertising, the planning system, and engaging families from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups.
11. The national programme was interrupted by the COVID pandemic and related restrictions. The Nottinghamshire project team has worked hard to continue the programme and adapt and align the interventions with the Local Resilience Forum COVID humanitarian response and recovery programme, in relation to ensuring food supply and addressing food insecurity issues for families. This approach has been endorsed and commended by the Local Government Association and national Programme Board.

Delivery of the programme in Nottinghamshire

12. The focus of the Nottinghamshire project is on food and nutrition for pre-school children and their families living in more disadvantaged areas of higher childhood obesity prevalence.
13. There are four objectives to the work:
 1. Making access to affordable healthy food easier for families
 2. Improving the quality of food provision through early years settings
 3. Enabling parents to develop good eating habits with their children
 4. Promoting consistent messages on healthy food for pre-school children.

Objective 1 - Making access to affordable healthy food easier for families

FOOD (Food on Our Doorsteps) Clubs

14. The project team initiated engagement with the national charity 'Family Action' to explore and test the FOOD Club concept in order to meet this objective and to test the concept the Children's Centre Service being used as a community food asset. The development of FOOD Clubs was also prioritised in 2020 with Local Resilience Forum Partners as part of the COVID humanitarian response, as a means of helping families facing food insecurity issues by providing an affordable and sustainable source of food.
15. The FOOD club programme aims to distribute quality food at a reduced cost to local families to help give families experience of different foods to improve families' diets, reduce food insecurity, reduce food waste, and increase disposable incomes for local families to support their wellbeing and increase life chances. The clubs also aim to increase skills through volunteering opportunities and be an access point for services available within the community. The FOOD clubs are managed by the Family Action charity and are hosted in community venues including Council buildings and are delivered by trained and DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) checked volunteers.
16. As the need for an intervention which supports families facing food insecurity increased during the pandemic, Public Health led a collaborative approach with District and Borough Councils, together with Family Action, to identify funding streams available to fund the projected three year costings associated for a total of 30 FOOD clubs across Nottinghamshire. This collaborative approach has led to securing funding to the amount of £68,000 from the County Council COVID Emergency Assistance Grant, along with contributions from District and Borough Councils and the Trailblazer grant to fully fund the implementation costs of these additional FOOD clubs.
17. The funding also factors in management of the whole programme of work by Family Action, including managing the risk of low uptake, poor quality of produce and project management. To do this effectively there have been two Nottinghamshire FOOD Club Co-ordinators (1.1 FTE) employed by Family Action and 6 FOOD Club Assistants, several of whom have been former Children's Centre Service volunteers.
18. As of October 2021, there are seven clubs hosted by the Children's Centre Service and eight clubs provided by community settings. The latest monitoring data from September shows that on average 317 families are accessing FOOD clubs weekly across Nottinghamshire. The planned roll-out of FOOD clubs in Nottinghamshire will see 30 clubs established by the end of March 2022, with a total of 14 in Council buildings and 16 in other community venues. The prioritisation plan for delivering this is included in **Appendix 1**.
19. The FOOD Clubs hosted by the Children's Centre Service have a focus on families with children under the age of 5, however clubs in other settings may decide their own criteria based on the needs of the community but are likely to have a family focus. In order to meet the needs of a local community, it may be necessary to expand the eligibility criteria to include all families within the local area who have school aged children and young people or look for alternative partners to host clubs.

20. Initial evaluation and engagement with families about their experiences of attending FOOD clubs has been positive; details of this and a case study are available to read in **Appendix 1**.

Healthy Start Scheme

21. A key element of the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme is to improve awareness and increase uptake of the national [Healthy Start scheme](#). The scheme provides support to families on low incomes to access free fruit, vegetables, milk and vitamins.
22. The project team has adapted to the changes throughout the pandemic and grasped opportunities to embed Healthy Start in local services. This concentrated effort has resulted in 436 more families across Nottinghamshire accessing the Healthy Start scheme in July 2021 than in October 2020. A 10% increase of uptake was seen, with 255 more families in Trailblazer priority areas (Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield) accessing the Healthy Start scheme in the same time period.
23. Whilst the increase in uptake is welcomed, the Nottinghamshire uptake of the scheme is 60.4% of eligible families. This is higher than neighbouring counties such as Leicestershire (55.8%), Lincolnshire (56.2%) and Derbyshire (60%) but not as high as Nottingham City (70%).

Healthier @ Home meal kit

24. This element of the programme was planned from the outset following consultation with parents and professionals and uses the concept of cooking at home with the ingredients provided in a kit. The kit has enabled the project team to test and prototype at small scale utilising the school meals supply chain in a different way, to provide food to families.
25. The 10-week pilot tested out how food could be ordered and delivered from school meal suppliers into a Children's Centre to be made into meal kits for families to take and cook at home. The meals the families cooked used recipes from the school meal offer.
26. The weekly evaluation completed by the 10 families involved in the pilot demonstrate many successes of this intervention and has helped plan the next steps. More details about this can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Objective 2 – Improving the quality of food provision through early years settings

Early Years Food Survey

27. With support from colleagues in Early Childhood Services, a questionnaire was sent out to all early years providers in Spring 2020. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gain a better understanding from the sector of the knowledge, skills, and capacity about food and what they feed children in their care. The questionnaire gave providers the opportunity to feedback where there are examples of good practice and also where they may need some support.
28. There was a good response to the questionnaire with almost a quarter of all providers in Nottinghamshire responding. The results provided the project team with the evidence for

where focus was needed for the programme, for example where barriers are perceived to providing healthy food, what daily challenges providers face and gaps in knowledge and skills.

29. Nearly half of the responses in the survey said they would be interested in learning more about how to tackle fussy feeding, this led to the work with Loughborough University and the training package delivered to 250 practitioners, as explained in **paragraph 33**. Additionally, half of respondents were not aware of the national Healthy Start Scheme and so the project team has ensured that early years providers regularly receive up to date information to support families in accessing the scheme.
30. The analysis of results can be seen in the [Early Years Questionnaire Report](#) and Nottinghamshire [case study](#) published on the Local Government Association website.

Food for Life in Nottinghamshire

31. Utilising the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme grant funding, the Council commissioned the national charity 'The Soil Association' to provide specialist support to seven early years settings (nurseries) to achieve the innovative [Food for Life Early Years Award](#). This award sets out criteria which when met supports settings to embed a culture of good food for children in the early years. The criteria are grouped under four themes: food quality, food leadership & culture, food education and communities/partnerships.
32. All seven nurseries are engaging well with the programme and the project team is working closely with these providers to understand the changes they are making and how these can be shared with other providers, details of which can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Objective 3 - Enabling parents to develop good eating habits with their children

Child Feeding Guide training for the sector in Nottinghamshire

33. Working in partnership with Loughborough University and utilising grant funding, staff from the Children's Centre Service and early years providers were invited to apply to gain access to this training which aims to improve practitioners' knowledge about food and nutrition of children under the age of 5 and help them better support families. 250 practitioners have been trained in good practice in child feeding. The impact of this is being evaluated in year 3 of the project.

Objective 4 - Promoting consistent messages on healthy food for pre-school children

Community of Practice

34. The project team has established a Community of Practice for those stakeholders who can have influence in developing good child eating habits in the early years. The Community of Practice is a regular session where peers can meet, share best practice, challenges, and work collaboratively to support themselves to deliver a positive change.
35. The pilot focussed on the Ashfield district and has successfully engaged with 10-15 stakeholders at each meeting and facilitated four meetings throughout April to July 2021. Each meeting focused on two topics in detail, which had been highlighted as discussion

points and areas of interest in the results of the Nottinghamshire Early Years survey (see **paragraphs 28-30**)

36. Initial evaluation of the Community of Practice pilot indicates that this methodology of engagement with partners associated with early years is valuable. It enables the opportunity to provide specialist information on food and nutrition to early years providers, which is further enhanced by group discussions. Members of the Community of Practice indicated through an evaluation survey that there is an increase in confidence in having conversations about food and healthy eating within their settings as well as with parents and carers. The project team is now working on how the Community of Practice concept can be scaled up and delivered across the County.

Wider Support to Families Facing Food insecurity and wider

37. **Appendix 2** provides further detail of the services and activities in response to supporting families in addressing food insecurity as part of the COVID Response and Recovery.

Other Options Considered

38. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

39. Access to healthy nutritious food and eating a balanced diet is essential to child physical and mental development and prevention of obesity and diet related disease in later life. The work of the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer programme is aligned with the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) and new [Best Start Strategy](#). Work thus far has demonstrated the importance of concentrated effort and partnership working towards improving access to, and availability of healthy food, and enabling parents to develop good child eating habits in the early years.
40. The COVID 19 pandemic highlighted and increased the issue of food insecurity faced by families. The response to that by the local partners has developed an approach to better support families in Nottinghamshire to not only sustain food supply but influencing and supporting families to access healthier food.
41. The continued delivery of FOOD Clubs through the Children's Centre Service offers families with pre-school children a sustainable, local, healthy, affordable food supply, removing many barriers they may face. However, these clubs are currently not open to families with older children. If the roll out continues to be successful, FOOD clubs will be well placed within new Family Hubs which are for families with children aged 0-19. In the meantime, it may be necessary to expand eligibility criteria for these FOOD clubs or to look for other venues.

Statutory and Policy Implications

42. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability

and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

43. The Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme is funded by a grant from the Department of Health and Social Care and is managed by the Local Government Association. Nottinghamshire County Council has received an annual grant of £75,000 for the three years of the programme. Additionally, annually a further £25,000 is available to be utilised on specialist support. The grant is received and managed within Public Health.
44. The initial four FOOD clubs were funded by the grant. Nottinghamshire County Council, District and Borough Councils secured funding from the County Council Emergency Assistance Grant to fully fund the implementation costs of additional FOOD clubs for year 1 (April 2021 – March 2022), year 2 (April 2022 – March 2023), deficit costs (should any FOOD club make a loss) and with projected profits in year 3 (April 2023 – March 2024).
45. This fully funded model covers all associated costs of the FOOD clubs over the three-year period with no cost to Nottinghamshire County Council. It is projected that after three years all 30 FOOD clubs will have the membership and attendances required to cover all associated running costs.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

46. Volunteers who are facilitating the FOOD clubs are fully trained and have gone through the DBS check.

Implications for Service Users

47. FOOD clubs hosted by the Children's Centre service enhances the service offered to local families by offering access to affordable, healthy food on a weekly basis.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

48. The Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme of work is aligned to the County Council's commitment to reducing food waste in the Environment Strategy as demonstrated through the redistribution of food within FOOD clubs.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) approves the continuation of this partnership work by the Early Childhood Services with Public Health and wider County Council services to improve access to and availability of healthy food, and enabling parents to develop good child eating habits in the early years, and support families facing food insecurity.

- 2) approves the continued delivery of approaches as part of this work such as FOOD Clubs through the Children's Centre Service and other Council services where feasible and accessible for target groups.

Jonathan Gribbin
Director of Public Health

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning & Resources

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Constitutional Comments (EP 19/10/21)

49. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (NC 20/10/21)

50. The Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme is funded by a grant from the Department of Health and Social Care and is managed by the Local Government Association with support from Public Health England.
51. Nottinghamshire County Council receive in total £300,000 of which £75,000 is received annually for the three years of the programme. In addition, £25,000 is available annually to be utilised on specialist support. The grant is received and managed within Public Health.
52. Provided all costs over the three years are covered by the grant funding there will be no cost to Nottinghamshire County Council.

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.

[Childhood Obesity Trailblazer - report to Children and Young People's Committee on 18 November 2019](#)

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

All.
C1520

Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Progress Report

FOOD (Food on our Doorstep) Clubs

The FOOD Club intervention has 4 key objectives:

- To distribute quality healthy food at a reduced cost to local families to help reduce food insecurity
- To reduce food waste through the partnership with Fare Share, ensuring less food waste from supermarkets and wholesalers is going to landfill
- To increase aspiration and employment skills through training and support offered to volunteers delivering the FOOD clubs
- To be an access point for services that are available within the community (e.g. welfare rights, debt advice, health promotion, adult learning etc.)

The FOOD clubs are managed by Family Action and are hosted by the Children's Centres Service and other community venues. Fare Share delivers excess produce that would normally go to landfill into these host buildings on a weekly basis, with the FOOD Club being delivered the following day in each of the locations. The clubs are delivered by trained and DBS checked volunteers. This helps volunteers gain valuable skills (customer service, banking, team working and confidence building) to support them into employment.

The FOOD club requires families to register as a member in order to access the weekly club. This membership costs £1 and entitles the family to access the club for 1 year. Membership is limited to 70 families per club to ensure each family can access the club on a weekly basis within the 2-hour opening time. Families are provided with a randomly selected 10-minute time slot each week. After one year's membership, the idea is that a further 70 families are provided with the chance to become a member.

On arrival to the club, volunteers meet and greet the individual. Allergy information would have been recorded on registration/membership to the scheme and this information would be available to volunteers. Volunteers take payment of £3.50 and in return families receive £15-£20 worth of food or enough to prepare 3-4 healthy meals.

As the need for an intervention which supports families facing food insecurity increased during the pandemic, Public Health led a collaborative approach with District and Borough Councils, together with Family Action to identify funding streams available to fund the projected 3 year costings associated for a total of 30 FOOD clubs across Nottinghamshire. This collaborative approach has led to securing funding to the value of £68,000 from the County Council COVID Emergency Assistance Grant, along with contributions from District and Borough Councils and the Trailblazer Grant, to fully fund the implementation costs of these additional FOOD clubs. The funding factors in management of the whole programme of work by Family Action, including managing the risk of low uptake, poor quality of produce and project management. To do this effectively there has been two Nottinghamshire FOOD Club Co-ordinators (1.1 FTE), employed by Family Action and 6 FOOD Club Assistants, several of whom have been former Children's Centre Service volunteers.

As of October 2021, there are 7 clubs hosted by the Children’s Centre Service and 8 clubs provided through other community settings. The latest monitoring data from September shows that on average 317 families are accessing FOOD clubs weekly across Nottinghamshire. The planned roll-out of FOOD clubs in Nottinghamshire will see 30 clubs established by the end of March 2022, with a total of 14 in Council buildings and 16 in other community venues. By the end of March 2022, Nottinghamshire will have the largest network of FOOD clubs of any local authority area. The prioritisation plan for delivering this is below.

District/ Borough	Location / Host Organisation	Launch Date	Club Running Day	Club Running Time	State of Play	Target age range
Mansfield	Ravensdale Children's Centre	launched	Friday	10:00 - 12:00	Club Active	Families with children aged 0- 5 & Expectant mums in local area
Bassetlaw	Harworth & Bircotes Children's Centre	launched	Tuesday	10:00 - 12:00	Club Active	Families with children aged 0- 5 & Expectant mums in local area
Mansfield	Trowell Court Community Centre (previous Children’s Centre building), Bellamy	Launched	Friday	13:00 - 15:00	Club Active	Universal
Mansfield	Oaktree Lane Surgery	Launched	Friday	13:00 - 15:00	Club Active	Universal
Mansfield	Dallas Street	Launched	Tuesday	15:30 - 17:30	Club Active	Universal
Ashfield	Summer House Children's Centre	Launched	Wednesday	10:00 - 12:00	Club Active	Families with children aged 0- 5 & Expectant mums in local area
Newark and Sherwood	Lifespring Church Ollerton	Launched	Thursday	13:00 - 15:00	Club Active	Universal But working with Children’s Centre so 50% membership allocated to Families with children aged 0- 5 & Expectant mums in local area
Mansfield	Mansfield Woodhouse Children's Centre	Launched	Friday	10:00 - 12:00	Club Active	Families with children aged 0- 5 & Expectant

District/ Borough	Location / Host Organisation	Launch Date	Club Running Day	Club Running Time	State of Play	Target age range
						mums in local area
Mansfield	Crescent Primary School	Launched	Friday	13:00 - 15:00	Club Active	focused on families with Primary aged children but open to all
Gedling	Netherfield Children's Centre	Launched	Thursday	10:00 - 12:00	Club Active	Families with children aged 0- 5 & Expectant mums in local area
Broxtowe	Eastwood Children's Centre	Launched	Thursday	13:00 - 15:00	Club Active	Families with children aged 0- 5 & Expectant mums in local area
Newark & Sherwood	The Community Centre, The Circle, Clipstone	Launched	Thursday	13:00 - 15:00	Club Active	Universal
Bassetlaw	Manton Children's Centre, Worksop		Friday	09.30 - 11.30	Club Active	Families with children aged 0- 5 & Expectant mums in local area
Mansfield	APTCOO Learn, Work and Earn Centre	12th October	Tuesday	10:00 - 12:00	Setup ongoing	Universal
Ashfield	St John's Church, Titchfield Street	18th October	Monday	13:00 - 15:00	Setup ongoing	Universal
Broxtowe	Hope House, Beeston	2nd November	Tuesday	tbc	Setup ongoing	Universal But working with Children's Centre so 50% membership allocated to families with children 0-5
Ashfield	Summit Centre and Kirkby East Children's Centre	Mid - November 2021	Tuesday or Wednesday	tbc	Setup ongoing	Hosted by Summit Centre so open to families with children aged 0- 19 years

District/ Borough	Location / Host Organisation	Launch Date	Club Running Day	Club Running Time	State of Play	Target age range
Mansfield	Lifesprings Church, Church, Warsop	November 2021	tbc	tbc	tbc	Universal
Newark & Sherwood	Hawtonville Children's Centre, Newark	October 2021	tbc	tbc	tbc	Venue tbc as may not be hosted in CC due to space. If location changes this will move focus from families 0- 5 to universal
Rushcliffe	Bingham Children's Centre or West Bridgford Children's Centre TBC	November 2021	tbc	tbc	tbc	Venue tbc so may not be hosted in CC due to space. If location changes this will move focus from families 0- 5 to universal
Mansfield	Woodlands- (Folk House)	November 2021	tbc	tbc	tbc	Universal
Broxtowe	Chilwell Children's centre	December 2021	tbc	tbc	tbc	Venue tbc so may not be hosted in CC due to space – If location changes this will move focus from families 0- 5 to universal
Newark & Sherwood	Beanblock Café	December 2021	tbc	tbc	tbc	Universal
Gedling	Killisick Children's Centre, Arnold	January 2022	Monday	tbc	tbc	Venue tbc so may not be hosted in CC due to space. If location changes this will move focus from families 0- 5 to universal
Gedling	Arnbrook Children's Centre	January 2022	tbc	tbc	tbc	Venue tbc so may not be

District/ Borough	Location / Host Organisation	Launch Date	Club Running Day	Club Running Time	State of Play	Target age range
						hosted in CC due to space. If location changes this will move focus from families 0-5 to universal
Mansfield	Newlands TBC	January 2022	tbc	tbc	tbc	Universal
Gedling	Newstead Village	February 2022	tbc	tbc	tbc	Universal
Newark and Sherwood	The Green Community Centre, Bilsthorpe	August 2021	tbc	tbc	Delayed – new venue being scoped	Universal
Ashfield	Butlers Hill Children's Centre, Hucknall	March 2021	tbc	tbc	tbc	Families with children aged 0-5 & Expectant mums in local area
Gedling	Calverton Children's Centre	November 2021	tbc	tbc	tbc	Families with children aged 0-5 & Expectant mums in local area

The Trailblazer evaluation team undertook interviews with FOOD club members in July 2021. The following themes have been highlighted as initial findings of the evaluation:

- **Motivation factors** – the main motivator for joining was financial, however combatting food waste was also recognised as a motivator to join.
- **Changes to eating habits** – Participants commented that the boxes encouraged them to try different ingredients, importantly the fresh items that people would not typically buy e.g. variety of vegetables.
- **Addressing isolation and impact on well-being** - The impact of the FOOD Clubs on well-being was far reaching by tackling isolation, encouraging participants to get out of their house, and prompt a return to 'normality' after lockdown. Some participants told us how receiving the boxes had become something of a highlight in their household particularly during the second national lockdown.
- **Connecting to the Children's Centre Service**- Most participants interviewed at both sites had found out about the service through their Children's Centre Service. Their comments indicated how much they valued the connection to the service and had seen the FOOD Club as an opportunity to (re)connect during and following lockdown

- **Stigma** - It was acknowledged by some participants that there was a degree of stigma attached to attending Children's Centre Services and accessing the FOOD Clubs. However, some participants were able to acknowledge a difference between how food banks and the FOOD Clubs are perceived.
- **Future** – Overwhelmingly, participants in the FOOD clubs felt the initiative should be rolled out further, so others can benefit from it, including those with older children and those without children.

The following case study from a current Harworth Children's Centre FOOD club member describes the impact the club has had on this member's family.

FOOD Clubs Participant Case Study

Harworth Children's Centre (Bassetlaw)

"It's been a God send. I've worked all my life but was made redundant. My son's got ADHD and my wife is a senior carer, so her shifts are never the same. Then there's school. I couldn't get a job back in the field I was in, so I had to make the conscious decision to be a stay at home Dad.

We went from having a lot of money to being on the bones of our arse at one point.

Things like this have been an absolute Godsend, the guys in there [Harworth Children's Centre] are brilliant.

We are eating healthier because we don't like waste. If you go to the supermarket you can see the prices of things keep going up and up, particularly the fresh fruit and veg. You find yourself buying more processed stuff because it's cheaper and you need to have food in the cupboards even though you know it's not healthier. This gives you fresh fruit and veg and it's nice to have the occasional treat too.

I've always worked. The day after I did my last exam I started my first job. I started in a supermarket, became a supervisor. I wanted to become an NVQ assessor so I did. I got made redundant and the only assessor jobs available now is in health and social care. We get tax credits that's it. I refuse to be a statistic. We struggle through.

They put the ingredients in so you can make proper meals then you can go online and have a look at recipes. Anything that is left if we can freeze it, we freeze it.

We try new things. My wife is quite experimental. We have been cooking different things.

It can impact your wellbeing. If you've got kids and find yourself with less money, it can be stressful. There's a bloke out there I know that has to choose between bread or milk each week and that's heart breaking. If you take something like this away, then that stress is there and it's real. With everything that's going on, mental health in this country is suffering and it's not talked about, but this can help. Even if you have a really bad week this gives you the peace of mind that you have something to rely on. If you lose work because of having to isolate which means you have less money coming in, this can be a Godsend.

If you could roll the scheme out, I think a lot more people would benefit from it. Whoever's idea this is, it's a good one.

It does encourage people to eat better and tackle obesity".

Healthier @ Home kit

The weekly evaluation completed by the families involved in the pilot demonstrate many successes of this intervention;

- innovative way of utilising the school meal supply chain
- introducing families to what their children may eat when they attend school
- catalyst for families to eating healthier and improving meal planning.

Further work is now planned in Year 3 to understand if this intervention can be delivered at scale, how this could practically work and the impact this could have on improving access to affordable healthy food for families.

Food for life in Nottinghamshire

[Food for Life Early Years Award](#) helps settings work towards embedding a culture of good food for children in the early years. The criteria are grouped under 4 pillars: food quality, food leadership & culture, food education and communities/partnerships.

By gaining the award, settings can demonstrate that they are a beacon of best practice, meeting the Government's voluntary food & drink guidelines, provide evidence for Ofsted, and evidence the focused effort of the whole setting towards food and nutrition whilst enriching the curriculum and impact on both the home and community food environment.

All 7 nurseries are engaging well with the programme and the project team were delighted to find out that Kidsgrove Nursery in Mansfield Woodhouse has completed all of the criteria within the award.

Creative Hands Nursery (Broxtowe) has moved from frozen meals delivery to cooking from scratch. This is a substantial change, significantly impacting the quality of meals experienced by the approx. 108 children on roll at the nursery. At baseline, Creative Hands was having pre-prepared frozen meals delivered by company, but now have their own kitchen and are creating new menus in line with FFL standards and the [Voluntary Food and Drink Guidelines](#).

Services and Activities Response to Supporting Families in addressing food insecurity

Integrated Wellbeing Service – Your Health, Your Way

The Public Health team commissioned a new Integrated Wellbeing Service, 'Your Health, Your Way', which commenced in April 2020 and is provided by A Better Life (ABL). The service model brings together health behaviour change functions into one service, including smoking cessation, all age weight management, physical activity, alcohol brief advice and wellbeing.

Your Health, Your Way provided the nutritional knowledge to create the recipe cards used in the FOOD Clubs (see below) and the [recipe book](#) used to accompany the initial Holidays Activity Food (HAF) programme, the Covid Winter Grant scheme and Covid Local Support Grant.

Shepherd's Pie

INGREDIENTS

SERVES 4

- 500g minced beef
- 1 onion diced
- 1 tin of mushrooms sliced
- 1 tin of mushy peas
- 1 tin of tomatoes
- 2 large potatoes and 1 celeriac

peeled and cut into chunks

Optional:

- 1 tin of dried mixed herbs
- Stock cube
- Black pepper
- Milk

TOP TIP

Not used (optional) before? It looks unusual but it really works to prevent and ease peeling tasks. Soak in a big pot of water. Using a knife simply remove the top and bottom of a tin lid. Then cut down the sides to remove the skin and chop into chunks.

Not free to share in any other way you have available to help a lot and make it even more nutritious e.g. some chopped peppers, carrots or courgettes.

METHOD

1. Cook the potatoes and celeriac in a large saucepan of boiling water until tender (about 20 mins)
2. Meanwhile add the mince to a non-stick frying pan and cook on a medium heat for 5 minutes or until browned, using a wooden spoon to break it up. Drain off any fat.
3. Add the onion and etc, cooking for 3-4 minutes or until it has softened.
4. Then add the sliced tomatoes, mushrooms, and mushy peas. Add 1 tin of dried mixed herbs (optional) and etc.
5. Add 200ml of water (and a stock cube if using), bring to the boil and then lower the heat and simmer for 15-20 minutes or until the sauce has thickened. Stir occasionally.
6. Meanwhile drain and mash the potatoes and celeriac. Season with black pepper and add a drizzle of milk for a creamier mash (optional)
7. Transfer the mince to a large baking dish and spoon the mash on top of this. Spread it out evenly using a fork.
8. Place the pie in a preheated oven at 180°C or gas mark 4 for 30 minutes or until the topping is crisp and golden in colour. Serve and enjoy!

FREE fruit, veg, milk and cereals for you and your family if you qualify for Healthy Start. Find out more by visiting healthystart.nhs.uk or phoning 0345 607 6823

2 ...giving children the best start

Nottinghamshire County Council in partnership with Your Health Your Way

Your Health, Your Way have also collected FOOD club parcels and used the food to film some recipe ideas for families which have been promoted through social media channels and the Nottinghamshire County Council website. Meals include [Steak and Sweet Potato Fries](#) and [Chicken Nuggets](#). The service has also filmed recipes which were made from using the Healthy Start voucher allowance. Examples of this can be viewed on their YouTube channel [Healthy Start Potato and Pea Soup](#) and [Healthy Start Pasta Bake](#).

Children's Centre Service

The Children's Centre Service was central to the initial consultation and listening activities which helped to secure the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme status, ensuing ideas were co-produced with local families. Once the grant was secured, the service continued to be intrinsic to the delivery of several of the initiatives, providing venues for the FOOD Clubs, staff and volunteers to run the clubs and ensuring that vulnerable families are encouraged to join. This also includes being on the steering groups for those delivered from community venues.

Butlers Hill Children's Centre in Hucknall was the location for the Healthier @ Home meal kit pilot, giving valuable support and information to guide plans for the future roll out of this initiative.

The Children's Centre Service has also been heavily involved in the promotion and distribution of the Healthy Start vitamins and wider programme.

This builds on the food and nutrition interventions already included in the service's core offer, such as the targeted Fun, Food and Families programme and Holiday Hub sessions, aimed at addressing holiday hunger.

Families Information Service and Notts Help Yourself

The Families Information Service (FIS), through the Notts Help Yourself platform has been used as the universal channel for families and professionals to access information on food and nutrition, hosting the information supplied by Your Health, Your Way along with information from national campaigns such as Marcus Rashford's Full Time Meals and Change for Life, along with wider information relevant for parents/carers and professionals. [Parent/Carer Zone: 0-4 Years | Notts Help Yourself](#)

In addition, the FIS countywide Facebook page has regularly been used to promote Healthy Start and the range of programmes aimed at raising awareness of healthy eating and the support that is available.

HAF @ Home

The engagement with the COTP supported the delivery of HAF by ensuring food was healthy, balanced and filling. The Children's Centre Service has supported the Young People's Service to deliver the initial HAF programme (Spring 21) and subsequent HAF@Home programme (Summer 21), using Children's Centre buildings and Young People's Centres, as a network to provide a local collection point for food packs for children eligible for free school meals.

Any packs not collected were given to local food banks, FOOD Clubs or families already known to the CCS or YPS. Based on the contingency packs for the Spring programme of 590 additional packs, each valued at £15, a boost of £8850 was provided to local food initiatives.

During the 4-week Summer 21 programme, over 900 children were supported with food and activity packs through the HAF@Home programme. These were the most vulnerable, children and young people who were unable to access the face to face provision delivered in partnership with the district and borough councils and the voluntary sector. The programme provided food for 4 meals per week per eligible child. Further information about HAF will be shared with Committee once the scheme has ended in the new year.

1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES

CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2021: THE EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE SECTOR IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Purpose of the Report

1. To share the findings of the 2021 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) and seek approval of the proposed recommendations which enable the Council to fulfil the statutory duty to provide sufficient high-quality childcare.
2. To share the findings of the assessment of the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on the position of Early Years and Childcare Provision in Nottinghamshire.

Information

3. The Childcare Act (2006) states that the local authority must make arrangements to secure sufficient early childhood services in their area that are provided in such a way that facilitates access to those services, and maximise the benefit of those services to parents, prospective parents and young children.
4. The Act states that local authorities must secure free places offering 570 hours of Early Education and Childcare a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year and up to 52 weeks of the year for every eligible 2 year old child in their area, and for all 3 and 4 year olds until the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday.
5. The Childcare Act 2016 amendment states that the local authority must also secure an additional 570 free hours of Early Education and Childcare a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year and up to 52 weeks of the year, for qualifying children of working parents.
6. Under section 6 of the Act there is a requirement on local authorities to produce an annual sufficiency report on the availability and sufficiency of childcare in their area. This information should be made available to parents and Elected Members.
7. The report is attached as **Appendix 1** and will be published on the Council's website subject to Committee approval.

Methodology

8. Information to shape the Childcare Sufficiency assessment was collected from:

- Summer 2021 Term Self Update from Providers delivering Funded places
- Early Years Consultation group online meetings
- contact with early years provision through the Early Childhood Services team
- data and information from work to track the progress of vulnerable children attending early years settings
- online survey of providers (5% sample)
- information and support for parents
- Families Information Service survey, January 2021.

Key Findings

Provision and supply of Early Years Places

9. There are 1,082 providers (September 2021) delivering Childcare and Early Education across Nottinghamshire. This represents a drop of 4% from the same time in 2020. There has been a national drop of 5%. Included in the description of Childcare and Early Years Providers / Settings are Day Nurseries, Pre-schools, Childminders and Schools offering Early Years provision for children under statutory school age.
10. Nottinghamshire continues to have sufficient childcare places for eligible 2 year olds, and all 3 and 4 year olds. According to the assessment this Spring, there were around 6,200 x 15-hour places for funded 2, 3 and 4 year olds vacant across the County. This is a steep increase on last year when there were 2,800 vacancies of the same type.
11. Over 50% of Early Years Providers who offer places to babies and toddlers under three years said they had vacancies in this age group. (This is a new measure in this year's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment).

Early Years Entitlements take-up

12. There was an increase in the numbers of eligible 2 year olds registered to take up their funded place in the Summer term compared with the same time last year (74.8% take-up Summer 2021). Nottinghamshire is ranked highest in the region for take up of 2 year old places, and fifth compared to statistical neighbours.
13. 96% of 3 year olds and 93% of 4 year olds are taking up their funded place.
14. Take up of the extended childcare offer has remained successful in recent years with a take up rate of 94% of children with an eligible 30 hours code accessing their extended hours in Nottinghamshire.
15. There has been an increase in the numbers of settings caring for the most vulnerable children accessing supplementary funding. This is particularly acute for children being identified as having emerging needs and inclusion funding allocations have risen by 19%.

Sustainability of the Early Years sector in Nottinghamshire

16. The pandemic has left the Early Years Sector nationally in an uncertain position. Although the Council does not have any reports of Provision closing because of Covid 19, as stated earlier, there are 4% few providers than last year.

17. 70% of businesses who responded to the survey said their business turnover had been lower than usual and 40% said their expenditure had been higher than usual. This was attributed to falling numbers of children and additional expenses for staff and Covid-19 related measures such as additional cleaning hours.
18. Other factors affecting the sustainability of the sector are:
- Providers report that the national Early Years Funding rate is a drop in real terms when taking into account business running costs
 - numbers of children attending is dropping due to changing family needs and working patterns, and the continued drop in the birth rate
 - parents are still not all confident about using childcare – 15% of parents the Council spoke to about using their 2 year old entitlement were waiting for Covid restrictions to ease further
 - settings are struggling to recruit to vacant posts which impacts on the numbers of children they can admit. 40% of the businesses who responded to the consultation said they were carrying vacancies and national research suggests that 7% of the workforce has left working in Early Years in the last year
 - businesses continue to operate in the wake of additional financial pressures following the Coronavirus pandemic, with debts accrued and loans to be repaid
 - the number of schools registering to deliver Early Years provision continues to rise, and it is an expectation that all new schools deliver Early Years places.

Actions and Recommendations (Summary)

19. The following actions and recommendations for Nottinghamshire County Council Early Childhood Services are summarised below:
- a) target business and sustainability support for providers who are concerned about their viability in areas of higher levels of disadvantage and where vulnerable children would be adversely affected if there were no provision available.
 - b) offer additional support for settings who are working with an ever-increasing number of children with high level needs and ensure they receive adequate supplementary funding to support eligible children (namely the Early Years Inclusion Fund, the Disability Access Fund and the Deprivation Fund).
 - c) support the Early Years Sector to encourage families “Back into Childcare” and promote the take up of childcare as a choice that benefits a child’s development.
 - relaunch the local campaign to target eligible families to increase the take up of funded places for 2 year olds.
 - continue to work with Corporate Communications to develop Notts Help Yourself and social media posts
 - engage the Children’s Centre Service to provide a brokerage role to encourage and enable families to access their childcare entitlements.
 - d) provide additional and targeted support for providers who need to change their operating models to accommodate changing parents’ needs, such as more parents

working from home, in order to remain viable by meeting the identified needs of local parents.

- e) continue to link with the Council's Economic Regeneration Team and the Life Chances Partnership to explore how business support can be provided to struggling providers, and to highlight the challenges faced by the Early Years Sector with District/Borough Councils and partners.
- f) work with the Council's Education, Learning and Skills Service to define what Early Years provision is required in cases of new schools opening so that oversupply does not put high quality established Private Voluntary and Independent Early Years providers out of business.
- g) work with prospective new providers including schools to ensure that the Council does not exacerbate the over-supply in some areas of the County.

Other Options Considered

- 20. No other options have been considered.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 21. Under section 6 of The Childcare Act (2006) there is a requirement on local authorities to produce an annual sufficiency report on the availability and sufficiency of childcare in their area. The Act requires local authorities in England to ensure a sufficiency of childcare and this information should be made available to parents and Elected Members.
- 22. The duties in the Act require local authorities to shape and support the development of childcare in their area in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. Following the Covid-19 pandemic there are concerns about balancing the supply of provision to ensure access for the most vulnerable children.
- 23. This year there are particular matters arising around the sustainability of the Early Years sector nationally and across Nottinghamshire, and there will continue to be so in the coming months.

Statutory and Policy Implications

- 24. 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 services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, 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

- 25. Funding for childcare places is provided from the Early Years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant which uses an Early Years Funding Formula to allocate funds to top tier local authorities. All councils can top slice 5% of the Early Years Block to pay for

administration, create an Inclusion Fund and Deprivation Fund. Nottinghamshire has historically retained less than the 5% and in 2021/2022, 3.3% of the Early Years block was being retained.

26. Most Council employees with responsibility for childcare sufficiency are funded by the centrally retained early years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, which is reviewed each year, totalling £504,744 for staffing. Campaign materials, practice development, resources and online tools to support the development of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment used by the Council are also funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant, totalling £60,000.
27. The provision of the Families Information Service is a statutory duty for top tier local authorities and supports the promotion of childcare entitlements, guides parents to find childcare and helps the Council to secure data for the sufficiency assessment using social media and the Notts Help Yourself website. This service is also funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant totalling £94,000, with additional Council funding allocated to maintain the Notts Help Yourself website (£9,000 per annum).

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

28. Safeguarding is a central focus for childcare providers. The increase in numbers of children accessing childcare will inevitably identify safeguarding concerns in greater numbers of children. Nottinghamshire County Council has facilitated a number of 'safer settings' and training events to ensure all Early Years providers have the skills and knowledge to tackle safeguarding.

Implications for Service Users

29. The supply of sufficient, high quality, affordable, sustainable, and accessible childcare and early education has huge benefits for both parent and child, including:
 - childcare that is flexible and accessible ensures parents can take up their entitlement at times that best support their child's learning and development, and at times which fit with the needs of parents to enable them to work or increase their hours of work if they wish to do so
 - a good quality pre-school experience supports children's cognitive and emotional development, aiding transition between home and school and improving school readiness
 - the Government's plan to improve social mobility through education [Unlocking Talent, Releasing Potential](#) states that good early years education is the cornerstone of social mobility and children with strong foundations will start school in a position to progress.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Committee approves the actions and recommendations of the Nottinghamshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021 as detailed in **paragraph 19** of the report.

Laurence Jones
Service Director, Commissioning and Resources

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Constitutional Comments (LPW 07/10/21)

30. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (CDS 21/10/21)

31. Funding for childcare places is provided from the Early Years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant which uses an Early Years Funding Formula to allocate funds to top tier local authorities. All councils can top slice 5% of the Early Years Block to pay for administration, create an Inclusion Fund and Deprivation Fund. Nottinghamshire has historically retained less than the 5% and in 2021/2022, 3.3% of the Early Years block was being retained.
32. Most Council employees with responsibility for childcare sufficiency are funded by the centrally retained early years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, which is reviewed each year, totalling £504,744 for staffing. Campaign materials, practice development, resources and online tools to support the development of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment used by the Council are also funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant, totalling £60,000.
33. The provision of the Families Information Service is a statutory duty for top tier local authorities and supports the promotion of childcare entitlements, guides parents to find childcare and helps the Council to secure data for the sufficiency assessment using social media and the Notts Help Yourself website. This service is also funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant totalling £94,000, with additional Council funding allocated to maintain the Notts Help Yourself website (£9,000 per annum).
34. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

None.

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

All.

C1512



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2021

A report on the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Nottinghamshire

Early Childhood Services

Children and Families Department

September 2021

Contents

1. Introduction
2. National and Local Context
3. Child population
4. Childcare Supply
5. District Sufficiency Assessments
6. Demand for childcare and take up
7. Vulnerable Children
8. Funding
9. Sustainability
10. Parents
11. Conclusions, Actions and Recommendations

1. Introduction

The Childcare Act (2006) states that the Local Authority must make arrangements to secure that early childhood services in their area are provided in such a way that facilitates access to those services, and maximise the benefit of those services to parents, prospective parents and young children.

The Act states that Local Authorities must secure free places offering 570 hours of Early Education and Childcare a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year and up to 52 weeks of the year for every eligible 2-year-old child in their area, and for all three- and four-year olds until the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday.

The Childcare Act 2016 amendment states that the Local Authority must also secure an additional 570 free hours of Early Education and Childcare a year over no fewer than 38 weeks of the year and up to 52 weeks of the year, for qualifying children of working parents.

These children are referred to as having a Funded Place

Under section 6 of the Act there is a requirement on local authorities to produce an annual sufficiency report on the availability and sufficiency of childcare in their area. This information should be made available to parents and elected members.

The 2021 report will focus largely on the position of the Early Years and Childcare sector in Nottinghamshire as the UK emerges from the Covid 19 Pandemic, and the impact this has on places available for children across the County.

Covering

- Supply and demand of funded places for 2,3 and 4 year olds
- The supply and demand for places for children and babies under two (New for this year)
- Main effects on business sustainability and therefore future supply of places, post Covid19

Methodology

Definition: Included in the description of Childcare and Early Years Providers / Settings are Day Nurseries, Pre-schools, Childminders and Schools offering Early Years provision for children under Statutory School age.

Information was collected from

- Summer 2021 Term Self Update from Providers delivering Funded places.
- Early Years Consultation group online meetings.
- Contact with provision through the Early Childhood Services team.
- Information on Tracking Vulnerable Children.
- Online survey of providers (5% sample).
- Information and Support for Parents
- Families Information Survey, January 2021

2. National and local Context

National Context

Looking back over the past year the Early Years and Childcare Sector has operated in a number of different ways depending on the course of the Pandemic and Government advice

Between March 2020 to June 2020, Settings were closed to all children with the exception of those of Critical / Key workers and the children classed as the most Vulnerable.

Early Years Settings and schools were advised that they could open to more children from 1st June 2020 within certain guidelines. The guidelines meant that children had to be kept in bubbles of 8 or 16 with consistent members of staff and minimising the mixing of the groups. This inevitably meant that settings had to “cap” the numbers of children in attendance and remodel their delivery to welcome back as many children as possible.

As of 20th July 2020, Early Years Provision was able to welcome back more children as the restriction on bubbles was relaxed and new Protective Measures were introduced

The UK entered a second National lockdown on 5th November 2020, and despite Schools being closed again to all but children of Critical Workers and vulnerable children, Early Years settings were expected to remain open.

In 2021, there have been a number of changes to the Actions for Early Years Settings (DfE guidance) but no further expectations that settings must limit the numbers of children they offer places to.

Local Context

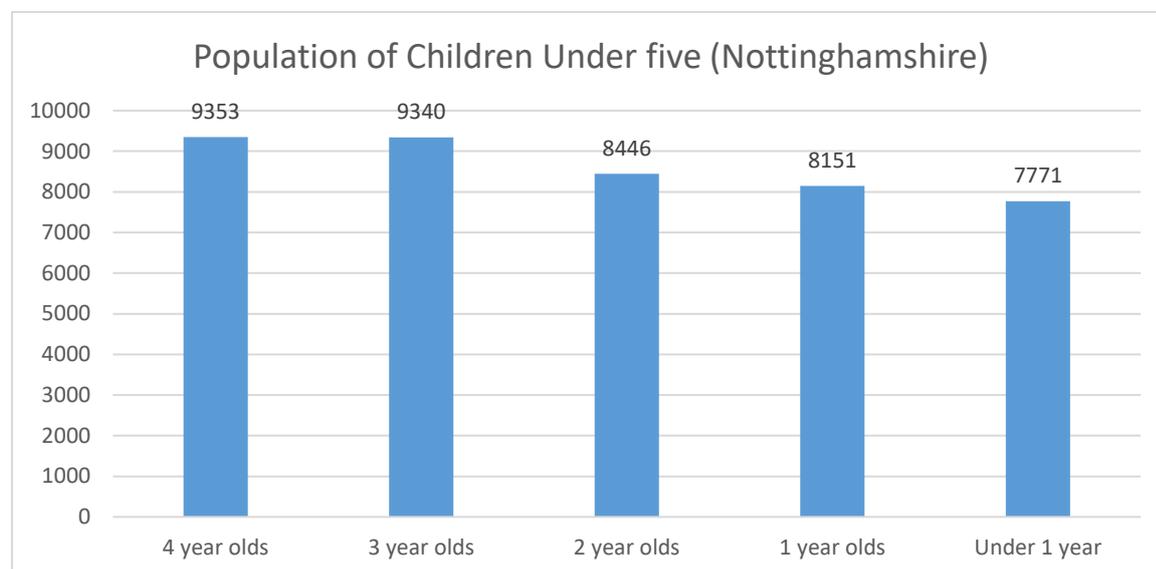
Between March 2020 and June 2020 approximately 8% of children attended Nottinghamshire settings, with an average over that period of 57% of settings remaining partially open.

By the end of July 2020, 73% of Nottinghamshire’s settings had re-opened and approximately 50% of children were back in attendance. and by the end of 2020 approximately 80% of settings reported being fully open.

Nottinghamshire entered Tier 3 restrictions in October with the UK entering the second National lockdown on 5th November 2020, and despite Schools being closed again to all but children of Critical Workers and vulnerable children, Early Years settings were expected to remain open. Since this time, on average each week, 90% of settings have been fully open. There have been some temporary closures due to cases of Covid19. Further detail is below in Section 4.

3. Childcare Population

According to the Office of National Statistics, the Mid Year population in 2020 for children under five was as follows:



The number of children aged under five continues to drop year on year as described in previous year's CSA reports.

4. Childcare Supply

There are 1,082 Ofsted Registered Early Years Providers, including Private, Voluntary, and Independent (PVI) Settings and schools (June 21) delivering Childcare and Early Education across Nottinghamshire. Of those 970 (90%) are registered to deliver funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

- 265 schools or academies are registered to provide Childcare and Early Education for 3 and 4 year olds in a nursery or reception class.
- Providing care in their own home, there are 554 Ofsted registered Childminders in Nottinghamshire most of which are registered to care for children from six weeks to eight years, and 455 (82%) are registered to deliver funded Places for 2,3 and 4 year olds
- Day Nursery settings provide care for children from six weeks to school age. There are 174 Day Nurseries operating in Nottinghamshire, all of whom deliver funded places for 2,3 and 4 year olds
- Generally, Preschools are used on a half-day or full-day basis and tend to operate only during term time. There are 80 preschools who all provide funded childcare places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds
- Out of school provision is defined as Breakfast club, after school, holiday care and out of school care, some of which offer Early years provision. There are 67 Ofsted registered holiday clubs and a further 30+ breakfast clubs in addition to the numbers of Early Years providers who deliver wrap around / out of school care as part of their Early Years provision.

Supply

All Early Years and Childcare Settings are now (September 2021) fully open to all children. However, due to the nature of Self-Isolation restrictions, some have previously suffered temporary partial or full closures because

- A child or staff member has tested positive for Covid19 and a bubble* has had to close
 - The setting is small and because of the above, the whole setting is classed as one bubble and therefore the whole setting has closed
- OR
- The whole setting has closed due to all bubbles being affected
- Childminders have had to self-isolate because of a close contact outside of their business and therefore cannot accept any children during that time
 - Early Years settings in Schools closed when the Schools were limiting numbers
 - Staff shortages due to positive cases or close contacts self-isolating have meant not all children can be safely cared for
 - They operated out a community building which closed because of National restrictions

In the last academic year, the number of Covid 19 incidences reported in PVI settings ¹ was 489, some of which were multiple cases at the same setting. Overall 389 adults and 472 Children have been reported as positive cases. Of these incidences, 175 bubbles closed, and 147 resulted in the total closures of a setting. However, 123 settings remained open despite a positive case because either the cases were reported over a holiday break or the positive case had not been in the setting for over 48 hours.

*Settings are no longer (September 2021) required to operate in Bubbles

The Number of Providers

Overall, the number of settings in Nottinghamshire has been largely static for a number of years, hovering around the 1,000 mark. However, in the last three years there has been an overall net decrease in PVI providers by 7%. (4% in the last year)

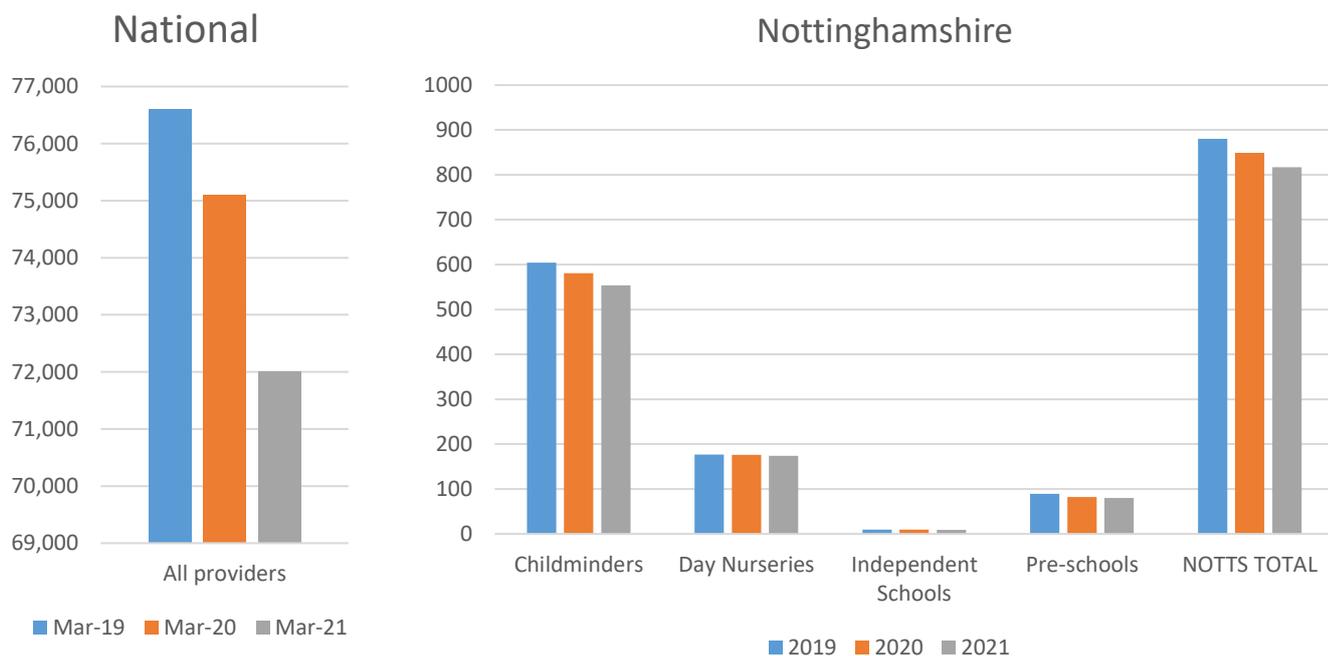
- There have been 99 Childminder resignations in those three years and 50 new registrations. Those Childminders who have stopped Childminding over the last year gave a number of reasons for their resignation, but half of them added that the Pandemic and restrictions had affected their choices.
- There have been 33 new Group Based (Nursery or Preschool) registrations, and 49 closures. The group based settings who have closed did not attribute their closure to Covid. Two preschools closed due to lack of numbers after the local school extended their offer to 3 and 4 year olds, and some simply found that there were not enough children in their community to make their setting viable, particularly those Preschools run by voluntary committees or charities.

According to a recent Government report², this reflects the national picture, Ofsted stating that there has been a 6% decrease in the number of providers in the last three years. (5% in the last year)

¹ Does not include Schools based Early Years Provision who report as part of a whole School

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-march-2021/main-findings-childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-march-2021>

Number of providers Nationally (England and Wales) and Nottinghamshire:



Number of Providers in Nottinghamshire by Provider Type:

Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector	2019	2020	2021	+/-	% change 2019 to 2021
Childminders	604	581	554	-50	-8.3%
Day Nurseries	177	176	174	-3	-1.7%
Independent Schools	10	10	9	-1	-10.0%
Pre-schools	89	82	80	-9	-10.1%
NOTTS TOTAL	880	849	817	-63	-7.2%

Schools

There has been an increase over the last three years in the number of school based Early years provision offering the extended entitlements. There are 215 Schools registered to deliver Early Years Places and 65% are now offering 30 hours of funded Early education and Childcare.

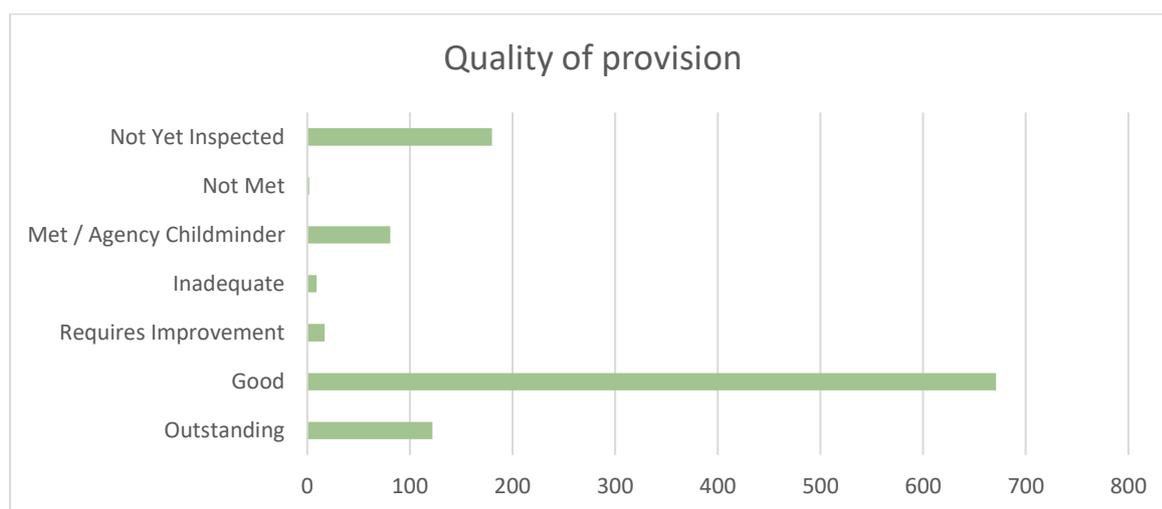
	2019	2020	2021	+/-	% change
Schools funded to deliver Extended (30 hours) offer	117	130	146	+29	+24.8%

Quality of provision

Below is a table showing the number of settings rated by Ofsted as Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. Ofsted have just (Summer 2021) resumed their inspections of Early years provision following a year of inspections being suspended due to the Pandemic.

	Ofsted Grading	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Met / Agency Childminder	Not Met	Not Yet Inspected	TOTAL
Notts TOTAL	Academy School	8	38	2	0	0	0	51	99
	Childminder	27	334	3	5	79	2	104	554
	Day Nursery	51	99	0	1	1	0	22	174
	Independent School	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Maintained School	23	130	11	1	1	0	0	166
	Pre-school	11	63	1	2	0	0	3	80
	TOTAL		122	671	17	9	81	2	180

75% of the inspected provision in Nottinghamshire is classed as Good or Outstanding with a further 9% judged as having Met³ all requirements for registration. Under 2% of providers are judged as Requiring improvement with just over 1% Inadequate or Not Met. 16% of provision is yet to be inspected. Ofsted halted all inspections during the Pandemic and only resumed in June 2021.



³ Some childcare providers and childminders may have no children on roll at the time the inspection is carried out, or may not have any children present, even though they have children on roll. As a result, no grades can be given against the 4 key judgements. The inspector will make a judgement only on the 'overall quality and standards of the early years provision', and offer a judgement as to whether this is Met or Not Met

5. District Sufficiency Assessments

Vacancies for 2, 3 and 4 year olds (Children funded by Early Education Entitlements)

In the Summer 2021 Self Update from Providers, they were reporting a total of 6,204 x 15 hour vacancies across the County. The number of reported vacancies has gradually increased year on year over the last few years, but this is a steep increase from last year.

Vacancies reported:

2018 CSA	2019 CSA	2020 CSA	2021 CSA
2,200	2,500	2,800	6,200



This rise in the numbers of spare places across the county could be attributed to a number of factors

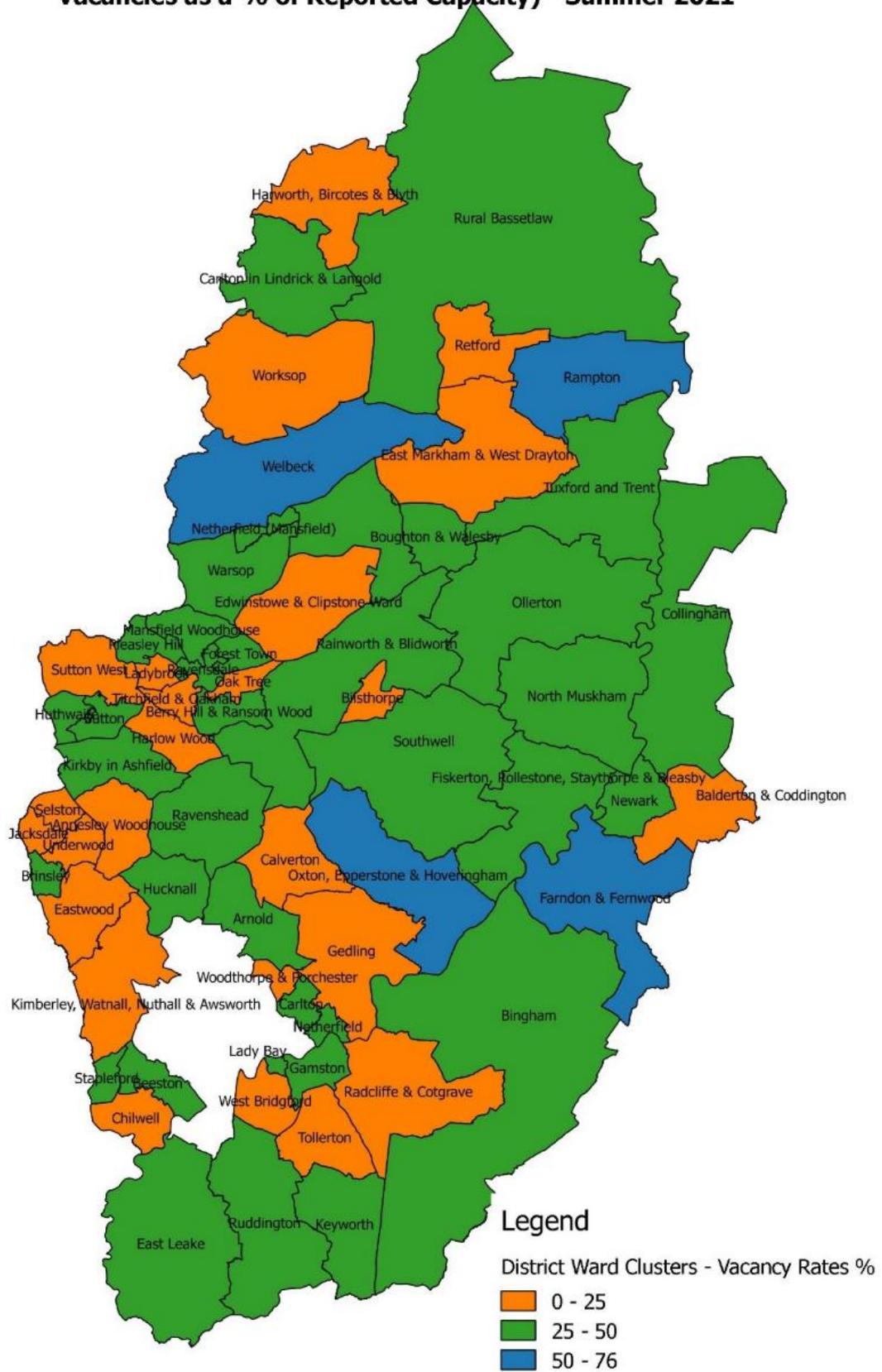
- Providers are more accurate with their reporting and data entries on the Self Update
- The birth rate in Nottinghamshire continues to drop, as notes in Section 3
- There's been an increase in the number of Schools based provision offering Extended (30) Hours
- New Schools opening all have Early Years provision in the School
- The number of children accessing a place has dropped, as noted in Section 9, when providers responding to our consultation said their usual numbers in attendance was lower than usual. This could be attributed to the changing needs of parents who
 - Are working from home due to the Pandemic restrictions
 - Are no longer working due to the impact of the Pandemic
 - Have sought alternative childcare arrangements during the temporary closure of settings due to the Pandemic

The map below shows at a glance the supply of FUNDED childcare by ward, and details vacancies reported as a percentage of places available

There are reported to be over 50% of available places that remain vacant	There are reported to be between 25% and 50% of available places that remain vacant	There are reported to be up to 25% of available places that remain vacant	There are reported to be no vacant places

There are no areas of the County where demand outweighs supply. There are four areas where there are more than 50% of available places that remain unfilled, which is a concern for the sustainability of providers in that area.

Nottinghamshire - District Ward Clusters and Vacancy Rates % (Reported Vacancies as a % of Reported Capacity) - Summer 2021



Children aged under 2 years and 2 year olds not funded by the 2 year entitlement

Many providers, particularly Childminders and Day Nurseries, offer places for children from aged 6 weeks to five years. In the latest Provider Self-Update, we asked our providers to indicate if they offered places to these non-funded children age 2 and under. This is new to this year's CSA and the data is presented separately. In future CSAs we hope to present data for all under-fives together.

327 providers (approximately a third) gave a response to this question, with just over half of them currently having vacancies for this age group, demonstrating sufficient places for babies and toddlers across the County.

	Currently have vacancies for non-funded children	Currently have no vacancies for non-funded Children	Do not offer places to non-funded children under 2
Childminder	68 (43%)	59 (37%)	32 (20%)
Day Nursery	69 (90%)	5 (6%)	2 (2%)
Pre-school	22 (55%)	11 (27%)	7 (17%)
School	8 (15%)	3 (5%)	41 (80%)
TOTAL	167 (52%)	78 (23%)	82 (25%)

	Currently have vacancies for non-funded children	Currently have no vacancies for non-funded Children	Do not offer places to non-funded children under 2
Ashfield	22	4	10
Bassetlaw	21	9	15
Broxtowe	20	12	7
Gedling	27	19	19
Mansfield	25	7	12
Newark & Sherwood	22	15	12
Rushcliffe	30	12	7
NOTTS TOTAL	167	78	82

6. Demand for childcare and take up rates

As mentioned, in March 2020 during the First National Lockdown, just 8% of children were in attendance at Early Years Settings. This rose to around 50% by the end of the 2020 Summer term. By the end of the Summer term in 2021, this had risen to normal, expected levels.

2 year olds

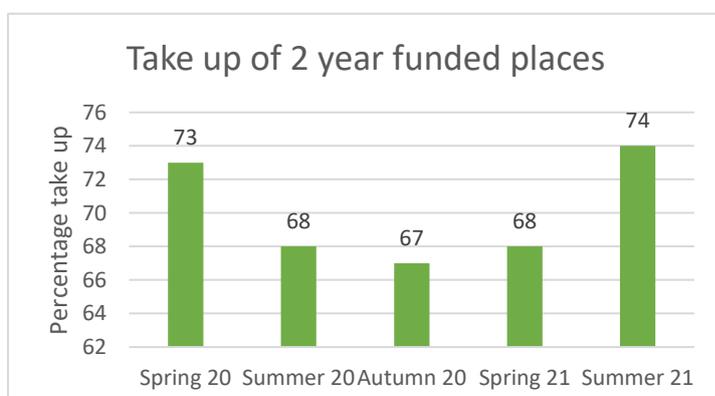
Two year olds qualify for a funded (15 hours) place if their home address is in Nottinghamshire, and

- if they are classed as a “looked after child”
- if they have left care through special guardianship or an adoption or residence order
- if they have an Education Health and Care Plan
- if their parents are in receipt of certain benefits .

Numbers of eligible children are identified through a list received from the DWP that details children who are in families in receipt of qualifying benefits.

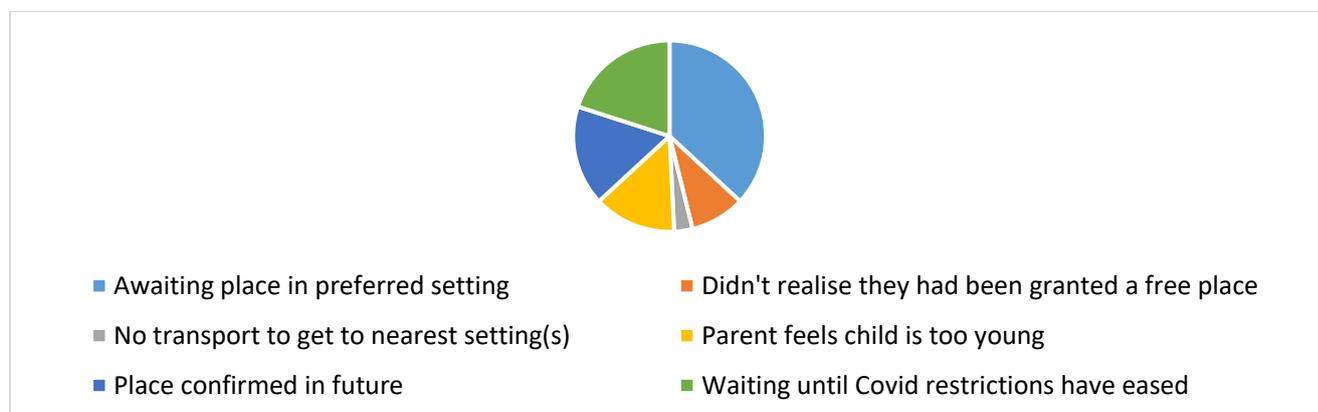
2 year old take up rates - Spring 2021 and Summer 2021 - numbers of children attending by location of provider

District (nos. of children attending at providers in these districts)	Nov 2020 DWP list	Numbers taking up Spring 2021	% take up by district	March 2021 DWP list	Numbers taking up Summer 2021	% take up by district	% increase in summer from spring 2021
Ashfield	536	343	63.99%	508	351	69.09%	5.10%
Bassetlaw	404	230	56.93%	372	234	62.90%	5.97%
Broxtowe	286	204	71.33%	284	203	71.48%	0.15%
Gedling	318	247	77.67%	298	277	92.95%	15.28%
Mansfield	434	292	67.28%	442	327	73.98%	6.70%
Newark & Sherwood	375	256	68.27%	394	273	69.29%	1.02%
Rushcliffe	194	168	86.60%	186	192	103.23%	16.63%
Totals	2547	1740		2484	1857		
% take up		68.3%			74.8%		
		31/03/21			16/08/21		



As reported in last year’s CSA, the numbers of children taking up their funded entitlements dropped considerably during the Pandemic. However, this is now increasing and at the end of Spring 2021, Nottinghamshire was ranked highest in the region for take up of 2 year old places, and fifth compared to our Statistical Neighbours.

In order to ensure all children who are eligible for a place, our Children’s centres follow up on any family where they have applied for a place but haven’t taken it up. In the Summer term, 89 parents were contacted and their reasons for not accessing their entitlement were given as follows, with most parents waiting for a place in their chosen setting, or have a place confirmed in the future. 15% of respondents said they were waiting for Covid restrictions to ease further.



3 and 4 year olds

ALL 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 570 hours of funded early years education per year. The tables below show take up rates for 3 and 4 year olds by district. The data source is the ONS Mid-Year population estimates and therefore is a snapshot and does not take into account a fluctuation in population. It is not clear from ONS which point in time the data is relevant.

District Name	Population of 3 year olds (1)	Population of 4 year olds (1)	3s taking place (2)	4s taking place (2)	% take up 3s	% take up 4s
Ashfield	1314	1569	1344	1399	102%	89%
Bassetlaw	1204	1385	1147	1246	95%	90%
Broxtowe	1096	1185	961	1076	88%	91%
Gedling	1177	1250	1109	1167	94%	93%
Mansfield	1232	1375	1159	1259	94%	92%
Newark and Sherwood	1224	1314	1191	1303	97%	99%
Rushcliffe	1199	1262	1183	1207	99%	96%
			8094	8657		
Out of county resident			594	468		
Grand Total	8446	9340	8688	9125		
Sources: ONS Mid year population estimates 2020 (1) Summer Term 2021 Headcount Data – Universal hours (2)			Overall % take up for county resident children		96%	93%
			Overall % take up including out of county resident children		103%	98%

Extended entitlement

3 and 4 year olds of working parents are entitled to an additional 570 hours paid at the same hourly rate. To be eligible each parent must expect to earn (on average) at least £120 a week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage). If either parent is on maternity, paternity, or adoption leave, or unable to work because they are disabled or have caring responsibilities, they may still be eligible. Children are not eligible if either parent expect to earn £100,000 or more per annum

Take up of the extended childcare offer has remained successful in recent years with a consistent take- up rate of 93% of children with an eligible 30 hours code accessing their extended hours in Nottinghamshire. The take up rate now stands at 94% (Summer 2021)

Proportions of Children Funded Extended Entitlement at Each Provider Type			
Provider Type	AUT20	SPR21	SUM21
Childminder	7%	7%	7%
PVI	64%	62%	63%
School	29%	31%	30%

7. Vulnerable Children

During the Covid Pandemic, all vulnerable children were still invited to attend their Early Years provision. We reported last year that between April and July, attendance for these groups doubled. In the last 12 months this has steadily increased back to normal levels. Our Early years Quality and Attainment Team monitor attendance of the most vulnerable children and support providers to meet their needs.

Additional supplementary funding is made available to support Early Years providers who are meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children. Details of the funding rates can be found below in Section 8.

Supplementary Funding take up

Inclusion Funding	24% of providers
Disability Access Fund for Children on DLA	13% of providers
Deprivation Fund for children known to Social Care	10% of providers
Early Years Pupil Premium	46% of providers
Do not receive any supplementary funding	51% of providers

85% of the providers who do not receive any supplementary funding were Childminders.

Early Years Inclusion Funding

This fund is available for children identified as having emerging, targeted and higher level needs. An application can be submitted for a 2, 3 or 4 year old child who is accessing a funded place and is living in Nottinghamshire.

Age	Number of Children 2020-2021	AUTUMN 20	SPRING 21	SUMMER 21
Nottinghamshire Total 2020-2021		94	122	176
2yrs	10	Autumn 19	Spring 20	Summer 20
3yrs	58	2019-2020 (for comparison)	95	119
4yrs	104	2018-19 (for comparison)	82	96
5yrs	4			119

Numbers of children accessing Inclusion Funding has risen by 19% since Summer 2020. This is attributed to Providers becoming more aware of the funding, and a clear targeted support offer for children identified earlier as having emerging needs. There has also been a marked increase in the number of applications received for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder characteristics and the number of children under five with identified high level needs continues to increase.

Deprivation Fund

Eligible children are those 2, 3 and 4 year olds accessing their funded entitlement and who are known to Children's Social Care (CSC), i.e. Child in Need (CIN), Child on a Protection Plan (CPP) or Looked After (LAC). Funding is to back-fill key staff to participate in multi-agency meetings held each month to plan suitable interventions designed to improve the child's outcomes.

NB Figures increase across the terms as children once in receipt of this payment remain eligible for payments until they reach school age.

District / Academic Year	Child in Need			Child Protection Plan		
	District	AUT20	SPR21	SUM21	AUT20	SPR21
Ashfield	28	35	46	26	33	33
Bassetlaw	17	27	30	10	12	17
Broxtowe	10	15	24	6	9	11
Gedling	11	18	22	9	8	14
Mansfield	27	31	36	36	42	50
Newark	11	17	26	13	22	20
Rushcliffe	4	6	11	3	4	10
Notts County Total 2021	108	149	195	103	130	155
Notts County Total 2020 for comparison	AUT19	SPR20	SUM20	AUT19	SPR20	SUM20
	99	121	177	58	90	144
Notts County Total 2019 for comparison	AUT18	SPR19	SUM19	AUT18	SPR19	SUM19
	89	145	206	54	79	109

In Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021 there was a significant increase in the number of children identifying as CPP. This was most notable in the district of Mansfield where numbers doubled in Spring 2021 (42 in Spring 21 compared with 18 in Spring 20) and in Autumn 2021 with numbers almost trebling (36 in Autumn 20 compared with 8 in Autumn19). Early Childhood Services extended

the eligibility criteria to include 2 year olds and Looked After Children in the Summer of 2020, hence the increase in the numbers.

Early Years Pupil Premium

For 3 and 4 year old children are eligible who meet the economic criteria for free school meals, and/or are Looked After by the Local Authority.

Numbers of Children receiving Early Years Pupil Premium (**Economic Factor**,) in Academic Year 2020-2021 by district (total number of children funded was 2617).

District	Autumn 20	Spring 21	Summer 21
Ashfield	310	434	524
Bassetlaw	210	295	383
Broxtowe	152	204	257
Gedling	147	202	275
Mansfield	265	375	481
Newark	234	336	390
Rushcliffe	77	119	150
Out of county	40	72	86
Notts total 2020-21	1435	2037	2546
Notts total 2019-20 for comparison	1244	1656	2237

* NB Figures vary across the terms as children may be funded for one, two or three terms.

Numbers of Children receiving Early Years Pupil Premium (*Children Looked After*) in Academic Year 2019-2020 by district (total number of children funded was 39) This figure includes Children looked after, previously looked after and adopted.

	AUTUMN 20	SPRING 21	SUMMER 21
Notts Total 2020-2021	20	28	36
	AUTUMN 19	SPRING 20	SUMMER 20
Notts Total 2019-2020 for comparison	21	29	32
	AUTUMN 18	SPRING 19	SUMMER 19
Notts Total 2018-2019 for comparison	15	22	26

* NB Figures vary across the terms as children may be funded for one, two or three terms.
District figures not reported as generally less than 5.

Disability Access Fund

Numbers of children accessing Disability Access Fund (for children on Disability Living Allowance) in Academic Year 2020-2021 by district.

District	AUTUMN 20	SPRING 21	SUMMER 21	Total
Ashfield	3	5	5	13
Bassetlaw	2	2	5	9
Broxtowe	2	4	2	8
Gedling	10	5	4	19
Mansfield	12	8	4	24
Newark	4	2	4	10
Rushcliffe	9	6	6	21
Notts Total 2020	42	32	30	104
District	AUTUMN 19	SPRING 20	SUMMER 20	Total
Notts Total 19-20 for comparison	42	32	13	87

The numbers of children accessing DAF has now returned to pre-Covid levels following a drop in children accessing provision in the Summer term 2020.

8. Funding

Early Years Funding rates for 2021-2022 in Nottinghamshire

Funding for childcare places is provided from the Early Years block of the Dedicated Schools Grant which uses an Early Years Funding Formula to allocate funds to top tier local authorities. All Councils can top slice 5% of the Early Years Block to pay for administration, create an Inclusion Fund and Deprivation Fund. Nottinghamshire has historically retained less than the 5% and in 2021/2022, 3.3% of the Early Years block was being retained.

	2020/21	2021/22
Early Years Base Rate:	Hourly Rate	
Eligible 2 year olds School & PVI settings	£5.31	£5.39
Eligible 3 and 4 year olds in PVI settings	£4.35 (£4.25 + temporary 10p uplift for one year *)	£4.31
Funding supplements:		
Early Years Pupil Premium for 3 and 4 year olds	£0.53	£0.53
LAC Early Years Pupil Premium (all ages)	£0.53	£0.53
Deprivation 3 & 4 year olds eligible for EYPP	£0.10 per hour	£0.10 per hour
Deprivation for 3 and 4 year olds	£406 per annum for monthly CIN/CPP & LAC Meetings	£406 per annum for monthly CIN/CPP & LAC Meetings
Deprivation for 2 year olds	£406 per annum for monthly CIN/CPP & LAC Meetings	£406 per annum for monthly CIN/CPP & LAC Meetings

Early Years Inclusion Fund (supported by recent consultation) (PVI settings)	£110,000 DSG per annum plus £135,000 from NCC revenue budget	£110,000 DSG per annum plus £135,000 from NCC revenue budget
Disability Access Fund (DAF)	£615 per annum	£615 per annum

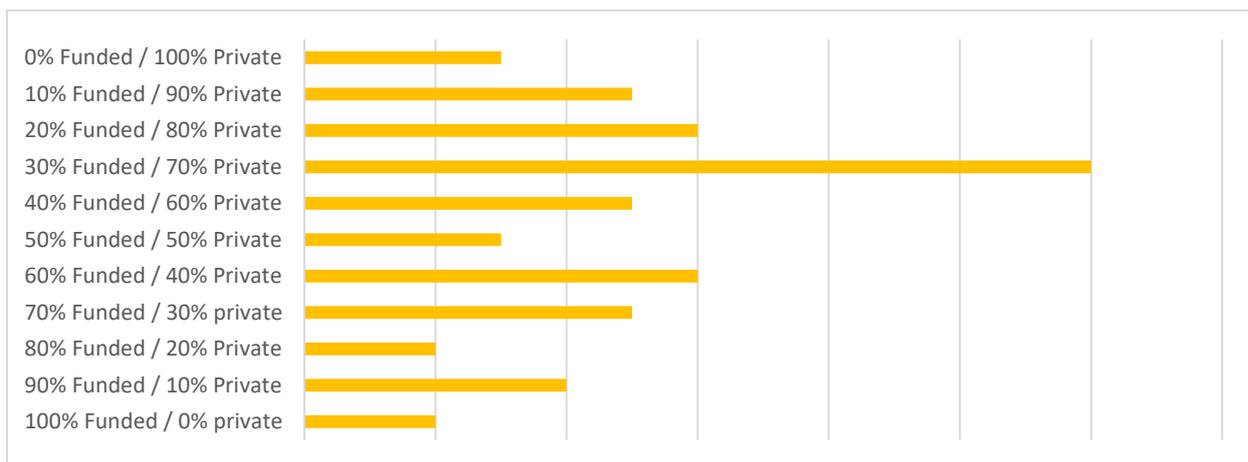
* In the financial year 2020/21 a temporary increase of 10p per hour for 3 and 4 year olds was agreed in anticipation of an identified trend of underspend due to the fall in numbers of children accessing this funding.

East Midlands Average Hourly rates (available for 2021 only)

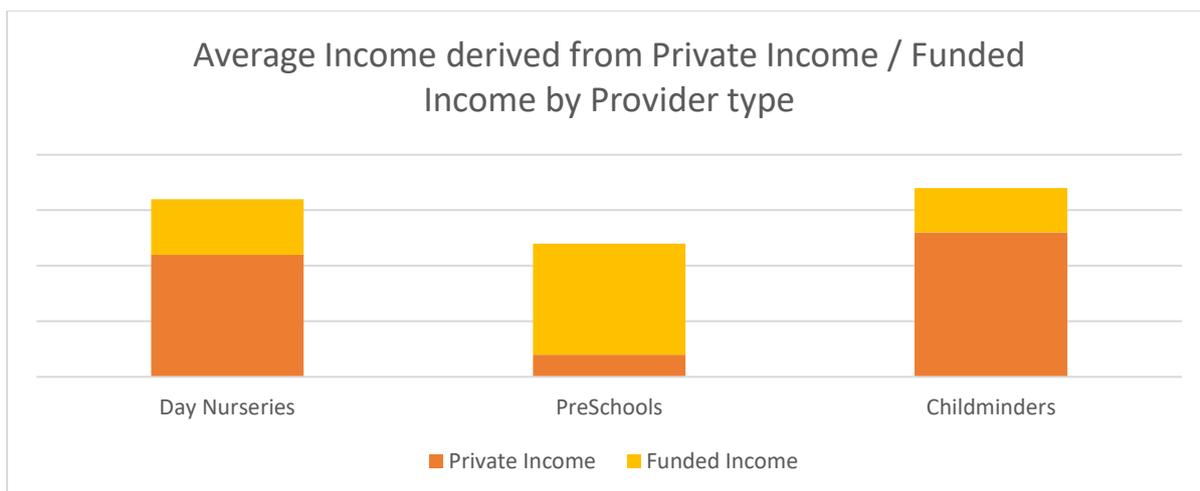
- 2 year olds £5.13
- 3 and 4 year olds universal entitlement £4.21
- Early Years Pupil Premium £0.53 (except Nottingham City who pay £1.00)

Fees and Parent Paid Income

We asked Providers to tell us approximately how much of their usual income was derived from Private / Parent Paid Fees, and how much from Nursery Education Funding as above. This has a significant impact on sustainability as described below in Section 9.



Broken down by setting type, Childminders and Day Nurseries typically derive most of their income from Private Fees, and Preschools derive most of their income from Early education Funding. (Responses from School based Provision and Out of School provision was too small a sample to measure.)



9. Sustainability

Despite our findings that Nottinghamshire’s supply of childcare remains stable and sufficient, we are hearing from our Consultation group and from our direct contact with providers, that there are concerns for the future sustainability of their provision. As described on Section 5 above, our statistics tell us that there is no area of the County where we are not able to provide a place for the children in that area. However, what is concerning is that there are a number of areas where there are over a quarter of Childcare places unfilled.

All of our Private, Voluntary, and Independent (PVI) provision relies on income from Early Years funding as well as fees paid by parents as described above in Section 8. In the last 18 months, Nottinghamshire County Council has continued to pass on all Nursery Education Funding to settings who were forced to temporarily close for Covid related reasons. However, Parents were not always expected to pay their Private Fees when they were not using their place. The impact on income for providers was severely affected by this, particularly for settings heavily reliant on Parent paid fees.

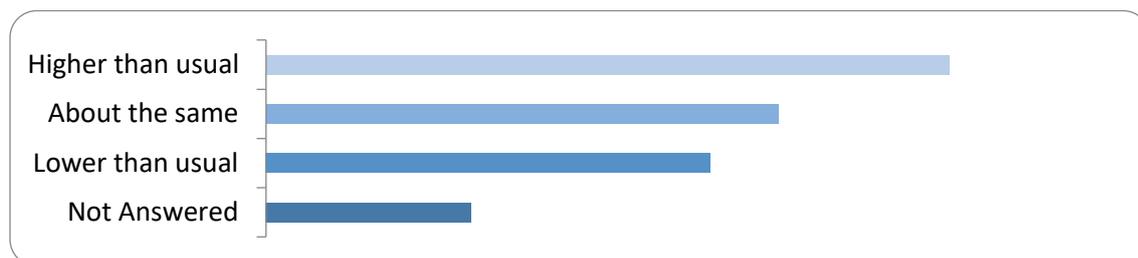
We asked providers, in the last accounting year, how they would describe their **business turnover**, and over 70% said it had been lower than usual.



This was largely attributed to **attendance levels** being lower, and we asked providers to tell us about their occupancy levels over the last year:

They were about the Same	27.78%
They were higher	11.11%
They were lower	59.26%

We also asked, in the last accounting year how would they describe their **business expenditure** and 40% said it was higher than usual.



The reasons for these increased expenses were attributed to

- Additional staffing for maintaining bubbles
- Additional Cleaning materials and cleaner’s time
- Additional costs associated with PPE

National Funding Streams

The Government introduced a number of schemes to support businesses and the self-employed over the course of the Lockdown and Recovery periods. In last year’s CSA we reported that 92% of providers had accessed some form of additional funding to support their business sustainability during this time, with the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-employment Grant being the most frequently accessed. As these schemes come to an end, some of the loans are outstanding, debts have been accrued and there is ongoing concern about future closures as Covid still continues to affect settings having to close temporarily.

This has had an ongoing impact on provision and Providers told us

- I have subsidised my business by taking out other finance / loans
- I have ceased some parts of my business (i.e. stopped delivering Out of school, or holiday care)
- We have covered a shortfall in income
- We’re only still in business because Furlough helped us and our and our landlord helped us out with our rent

Staffing and Recruitment

This year we have heard that Providers have had to take further, additional measures to ensure sustainability and 16% of providers who responded to our consultation said they had made staff redundant



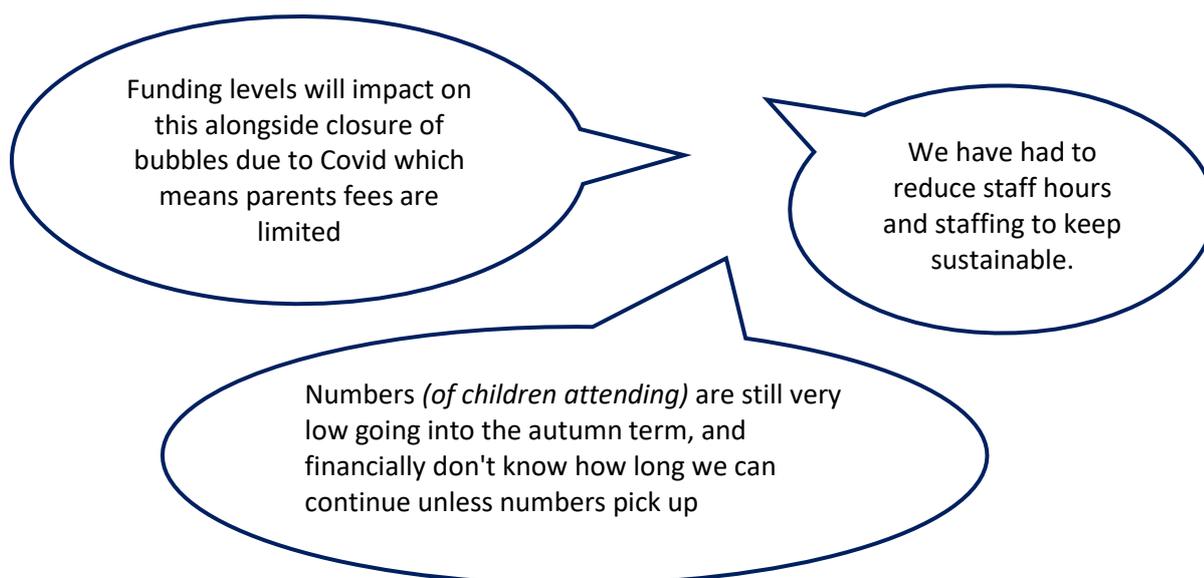
Additionally, we are hearing from the Early Years Sector that recruitment of new staff is a challenge, and this causes concern for the future of provision. From our consultation we found that

- 40% of businesses have vacancies
- 40% of those vacancies were for qualified staff and management
- A quarter of businesses reported finding it harder to recruit to vacancies than prior to the Pandemic stating:
 - “The removal of childcare GCSE has impacted on the experience of/interest in childcare that school leavers have”
 - “No ongoing acknowledgment for the sector leads to low morale and failure to want to enter the occupation”
 - “There are fewer applicants and the quality of applications can be poor”
 - “During August 2020 there were lots of applicants for vacancies but now we have had very few applicants even though we pay higher than National Minimum Wage”

Sustainability in the months ahead

We asked our providers how confident they were about the sustainability of their provision business in the coming months and years?

	Percent
I am very confident that I will still be operating in the usual way in 12 months	19%
I am confident that I will still be operating in the usual way in 12 months	33%
I am confident that I will still be operating, but in a different way in 12 months	15%
I am not confident I will still be operating in 12 months	20%
I am not confident that I will still be operating in 6 months	0.00%
I am unable to predict this at the moment	11%
Not Answered	2%



There are a number of challenges facing the sustainability of the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Nottinghamshire in the months ahead.

- Providers report that the national Early Years Funding rate is a drop in real terms when taking into account wage increases and pension contribution pressures.
- Numbers of children attending is dropping due to changing family needs and working patterns, and the continued drop in the birth rate.
- Settings are struggling to recruit to vacant posts which impacts on the numbers of children they can admit.
- Businesses continue to operate in the wake of additional financial pressures following the Coronavirus Pandemic, with debts accrued and loans to be repaid.

10. Information and support for Parents and Families

As well as Early Childhood Services own internal communications, we have worked closely with Notts Help Yourself, Families Information Service and Nottinghamshire County Council Corporate Communications teams to ensure parents and families are kept up to date with the situation in Nottinghamshire.

- **The Families Information Service (FIS)** exists to fulfil the statutory duty laid out in Section 12 of the Childcare Act 2006 to offer a service providing information, advice and assistance about childcare and other activities to benefit parents, children and young people up to the age of 20.
- **Notts Help Yourself** is a countywide website which provides a range of information for parents including childcare provision, wrap around care and holiday clubs. The information from the FIS data-base populates the website www.nottshelpyourself.org enabling parents to search for childcare in their local area.

Families Information Service Customer Survey 2021

A Survey Monkey survey was held between Monday 11th January and Sunday 31st January 2021. The response represented 348 children, of which 13% were reported to have Special Educational Needs / Disabilities.

We asked families what they had used Notts Help Yourself for. Those using the site to find childcare dropped from 29% to 8% which reflects the numbers of families accessing Childcare over the last year.



Notts Help Yourself refresh of childcare information pages



In the last year, we have refreshed the Childcare page on Notts Help Yourself to simplify and make the customer experience better and to update some of the information that's in the Parent/Carer Zone.

We have separated out the information to enhance the users experience and make it easier to find the sections on Finding Childcare, Childcare Funding, Types of Childcare, SEND, Working in Childcare, and linking to the Children's Centres information.



Taking your child to an early years setting: information for parents September 2021

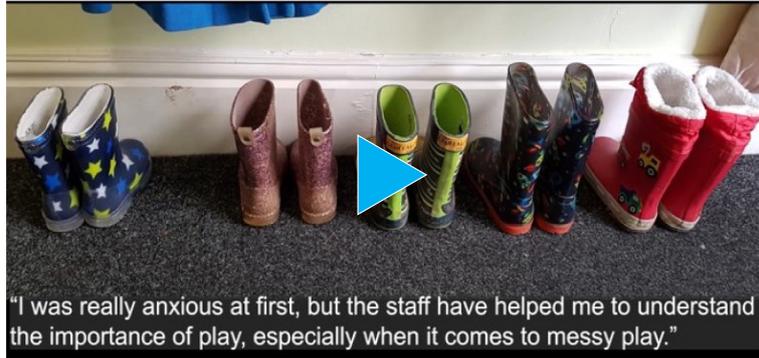
A key focus of our work with Parents and Families this year has been to encourage them to return their child to Childcare and promote the benefits of Early Education as well as supporting them to understand the latest Government Guidance and how settings are implementing Protective Measures to keep children safe.

We have produced a number of **Fact Sheets** for parents based on a summary of Covid 19 Government and Public Health guidance that have been distributed through our providers and via the public Nottinghamshire County Council Early Years and Childcare web pages [Early years and childcare | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Nottinghamshire County Council has been actively promoting the take up of childcare places through social media posts on Facebook and Twitter and have promoted positive messages from parents who have begun using childcare again. These have been done in video form and are being widely shared in the Autumn Of 2021

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/early-years-and-childcare/help-with-childcare





www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/early-years-and-childcare/help-with-childcare

11. Conclusions, Actions and recommendations

In order to fulfil the duties placed on us as a Local Authority there are a number of considerations for the forthcoming year which are reflected in the Early Childhood Services Delivery Plan. The following actions and recommendations for Nottinghamshire County Council Early Childhood Services are summarised below:

Childcare Supply

As noted, there is no concern about the supply of childcare across the County with an increasing number of vacancies apparent. However, this presents a further challenge to ensure that Providers, particularly in areas of disadvantage, do not close, leaving those **most vulnerable children** without access to Early Education. We will aim to:

- Target support for providers working in areas of high levels of disadvantage and where vulnerable children would be adversely affected if there were no provision available.
- Offer additional support for settings who are working with an ever increasing number of children with high level needs and ensure they access appropriate supplementary funding to support those children.

Demand for Childcare

As we have described above, for a number of reasons, there are less Families taking up their Early Years Education Entitlements. We will aim to:

- Support the Early Years Sector to encourage families “Back into Childcare” and promote the take up of childcare as a choice that benefits the child’s development
 - Revisit the 2 year old campaign and resources
 - Continue to work with Corporate Communications to develop Notts Help Yourself and Social Media posts.
 - Engage fully with Children’s Centre teams to provide a brokerage role to encourage and enable families to access their childcare entitlements.

Sustainability:

We have found, through consultation with the sector, continued meetings with the Early Years Consultation Group and our day to day contacts with Providers, that sustainability is the biggest challenge facing the Early Years Sector in the years ahead. This is reflected in national research

which suggest that the Childcare Sector is in a precarious situation at the moment as we emerge from the pandemic and settings struggle to recruit quality staff. We will aim to:

- Provide additional and targeted support for providers who need to change their operating models to accommodate changing parents' needs, such as more parents working from home, in order to remain viable
- Continue to link with the Life Chances Partnership and the Council's Economic Regeneration Team to explore how Business Support can be provided, and to highlight the challenges faced by the Early Years Sector with District and Borough Councils and partners.
- Work with the Council's Education, Learning and Skills Team to define whether Early Years provision is required in cases of new Schools opening and to consider what provision is already available in those communities so that oversupply does not put high quality established Private Voluntary and Independent Early Years providers out of business.
- Work with prospective new providers to ensure that we do not exacerbate the oversupply in some areas of the County.

Useful Reading and Resources:

The Coram Family and Childcare Survey 2021 ([available here](#)) recently carried out their annual childcare survey which showed that childcare fees have risen by an average of 4% in the last year.

Research by the Education Policy Institute and NDNA (The Covid Pandemic and Early Years Workforce, March 2021 ([available here](#))) suggests that around 7% of the National Early Years workforce left the sector voluntarily in Autumn 2020, and around 4% of the workforce have been made redundant.

Ofsted issued a briefing in Autumn 2020 ([available here](#)) which reported on children's development following the first National Lockdown.

Research published by department for Education ([Attendance in education and early years settings during the coronavirus](#) (COVID-19) outbreak. Sept 21) stated that there are approximately 76% of the usual daily numbers of Early Years Children attending Early years provision.

Coram Family and Childcare and the Nuffield Foundation recently conducted a series of interviews with 122 Local Authorities across the country to explore their views on the impact of the Pandemic on the Early Years Sector: They found that "Demand for parent-paid hours fell substantially during the first lockdown and stayed significantly below usual levels even after restrictions changed in June 2020 due to the shift to home working and parents reducing or stopping work temporarily" [Covid and Childcare: The Role of Local Authorities](#)

1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 10

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES

BEST START STRATEGY 2021 – 2025 PROGRESS UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. The report invites the Committee to review progress so far of the delivery of the Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy 2021 – 2025 and approve next steps for successful implementation.

Information

2. The Best Start Strategy 2021-25 was agreed by Policy Committee in February 2021 following previous endorsement by Children and Young People's Committee in November 2020 and the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2021. The Strategy is available at [Giving Children the Best Start in Life | Nottinghamshire County Council](#).
3. The Strategy was launched in February 2021 and began on 1st April 2021. This is the first six monthly report to Children and Young People's Committee, the frequency of which was agreed by Committee in November 2020.
4. The Strategy uses an early help approach and prioritises early childhood to improve outcomes for young children and their families. Giving children the best start in life is a fundamental part of improving health and reducing inequalities. The earliest years of a child's life have a significant impact on their long-term development and their life chances.
5. Investing in early childhood services has been shown to have a greater return on investment than many other economic development options. For example, for every £1 invested in quality early care and education, taxpayers save up to £13 in future costs; in addition, for every £1 spent on early years education, £7 would need to be spent to have the same impact in adolescence¹.
6. Giving a child the 'best start' begins before birth, with good pre-conception and maternity care. Pregnancy and the early years offer a unique opportunity to shape the lives of our children: if a child receives appropriate support during their early years, they have a real chance of maximising their potential.

¹ Early Intervention Foundation (2018a) Realising the Potential of Early Intervention [realising-the-potential-of-early-intervention.pdf](#)

7. On behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Best Start Partnership acts as the responsible body for the development, delivery, and performance management of the Strategy. The Partnership has met three times since April 2021.

Progress of the Best Start Strategy

8. The Best Start Strategy focuses on the achievement of the following 10 ambitions:
- i. prospective parents are well prepared for parenthood
 - ii. mothers and babies have positive pregnancy outcomes
 - iii. babies and parents/carers have good early relationships
 - iv. parents are engaged and participate in home learning from birth
 - v. parents experiencing emotional, mental health and wellbeing challenges are identified early and supported
 - vi. children and parents have good health outcomes
 - vii. children and parents are supported with early language, speech, and communication
 - viii. children are ready for nursery and school and demonstrate a good level of overall development
 - ix. children have access to high quality early years provision
 - x. parents are in secure employment.
9. Each ambition has (or will soon have) an action plan focussing on how the Best Start Partnership will achieve its goals. Each action plan is then delivered by the relevant Best Start Partnership sub-group or partnerships that are already in existence.
10. The following table provides an update on the progress so far for each of the 10 ambitions.

	Ambition	Summary of Progress
1.	Prospective parents are well prepared for parenthood	An action plan has yet to agreed. This ambition is due to be progressed at the next Best Start Partnership meeting on 23 rd November 2021.
2.	Mothers and babies have positive pregnancy outcomes	An action plan has yet to agreed however the following work is progressing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local maternity and neonatal system data dashboard is in development and key 'Best Start' indicators will be included. • Sherwood Forest Hospital Foundation Trust (SFHFT) are an early implementor for NHS England's new tobacco dependence maternity model, delivering an evidence-based pathway of care based on learning from Greater Manchester. The focus of the pathway is in-house, hospital-led treatment for tobacco dependence and the service will go live in Quarter 3 of 2021-22. • There has been a multi-agency approach to increasing uptake of Covid-19 vaccination in pregnancy, supported by a comprehensive communications campaign widely promoted across partners.

3.	Babies and parents/carers have good early relationships	<p>An action plan has yet to agreed however the following work is progressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health visitors are accessing Brazelton New-born Observation training in order to be able to assess the parent/infant relationship as part of the universal Healthy Child Programme offer. • A targeted offer to improve parent/infant relationships will be developed within the Healthy Families Programme during this financial year. Funding for this was approved by Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on 20th September 2021.
4.	Parents are engaged and participate in home learning from birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft action plan has been developed and was updated at the Best Start Partnership meeting in September 2021. • Home Learning opportunities have been promoted to families across Nottinghamshire through the Notts Help Yourself website, Children’s Centre Service, Families Information Service, and Inspire Facebook pages. • The additional resources created through lockdown restrictions have been shared with parents including ‘story time’ and activities to do at home. • The Bookstart programme delivered by Inspire has been successful in disseminating resources to families through Healthy Family Teams, Early Years providers and Children’s Centre Service teams. • The Home Talk speech, language and communication needs early help programme is being delivered in family homes to support home learning.
5.	Parents experiencing emotional, mental health and wellbeing challenges are identified early and supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-agency group has been working to strengthen the pathway of care for women with mental health needs in the perinatal period, with a particular focus on mild to moderate and emerging mental health need. • Additional training has been delivered to midwives and health visitors and referral pathways to mental health support strengthened.
6.	Children and parents have good health outcomes	<p>The UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) is an evidence based, staged accreditation programme supporting maternity, neonatal, health visiting and Children’s Centre Services to transform their care.</p> <p>The following organisations have recently achieved the BFI Gold Sustainability Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHT) • Nottinghamshire County Council Children’s Centre Service (May 2021) <p>The award is a recognition that these services are not only implementing the standards, but that they also have the</p>

		<p>leadership, culture, and systems in place to maintain this over the long term.</p> <p>From August 2021 the Best Start in Life Breastfeeding Partnership was established as a sub-group to the Nottinghamshire Best Start Partnership Steering Group of the Health and Wellbeing Board and improving breastfeeding rates is outlined as a priority in the Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy and Local Maternity and Neonatal System.</p> <p>A multi-agency project team is in place supporting delivery of the Nottinghamshire Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme. The three-year programme is now in its final year. Achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding secured to increase the number of Food on our Doorstep 'FOOD' Clubs in Nottinghamshire from the current 10 to 30 by summer 2022. The clubs will provide access to healthier, affordable food for up to 1,500 families on a weekly basis. • Increase in uptake of Healthy Start in all Trailblazer areas. Healthy Start vitamins are also now widely distributed at the beginning of pregnancy and at the birth visit. <p>A multi-agency Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Safer Sleep Steering Group is in place. A project plan has been developed following benchmarking in relation to the 'Out of Routine' national report. Actions over the last few months include: mapping of key points when Safer Sleep messages are given by practitioners to families; review of training; review of a risk assessment tool; and coordination of Safer Sleep messages to the public.</p>
7.	Children and parents are supported with early language, speech, and communication	<p>A multi-agency Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) Best Start sub-group has been established to lead on this ambition and an action plan is in development. Actions so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the Early Intervention Foundation SLCN self-assessment. • Creation of an integrated SLCN pathway for children under the age of 5 across Nottinghamshire (Bassetlaw not yet included). • The Home Talk speech, language and communication needs programme takes place in the home and continues to be commissioned by the Council, but is now part of a pooled budget arrangement with Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group who also commission specialist Speech and Language Therapy from the same provider. • SLCN tile on the Notts Help Yourself website is currently in development.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further developments will focus on improving the knowledge and skills of local practitioners to help identify and address SLCN and empowering parents to develop and support their children’s speech, language, and communication.
8.	Children are ready for nursery and school and demonstrate a good level of overall development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Years Attainment group oversees this priority, is well established, and has reviewed its terms of reference, including membership, to reflect the Best Start developments. • Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) data is unavailable this year as assessments were not carried out in autumn 2020. However, tracking data obtained via the Better Start module on Capita has been refined to reflect changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage, such data will provide the baseline for vulnerable groups of children which is tracked each term and used to inform service(s)/practice development. • A new Early Identification of Need Toolkit has been developed for use by Early Years providers and will be launched following consultation with the sector. • Transition arrangements for children with Special Educational Needs & Disability have been enhanced through the Early Years Inclusion grant and using technology during the pandemic to enable staff to participate more effectively. • A partnership group has been reformed to monitor and take necessary actions to increase take-up of eligible two-year olds for early years entitlement.
9.	Children have access to high quality early years provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This ambition is overseen by the Early Years Attainment Group. • The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for 2020/21 has been completed and highlights that there is currently sufficient high-quality early years provision across Nottinghamshire. • Take up rates for vulnerable 2-year olds is increasing and at now pre-lockdown levels. • In Nottinghamshire, 793 early years settings out of 1,082 have been rated as ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted. • 88% of the provision in Nottinghamshire is classed as Good or Outstanding with a further 9% judged as having met all requirements for registration. Under 2% of providers are judged as ‘Requiring Improvement’ with just over 1% Inadequate or ‘Not Met’ requirements. 16% of provision is yet to be inspected. • The Council has published its Early Years Training and Development Opportunities (TADO) offer to the early years sector which now includes both virtual and face to face training following learning from experiences during the pandemic.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new recruitment campaign is underway to encourage people to work in early years following recent recruitment and retention challenges faced by the early years sector.
10.	Parents are in secure employment	<p>The action plan has been agreed with members of the Improving Life Chances for Children and Families partnership group which is already well established.</p> <p>Successful work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of a local survey with families from low income groups to better understand the impact of Covid. • Successful delivery of Covid Local Support Grant Schemes; as well as the Holiday, Activities and Food (HAF) programme. • Working with Family Action, the creation of 10 'Food on your Doorstep' (FOOD) Clubs for families in areas of need with plans to extend this to 30 in the next year. • Increase in the take up of Healthy Start Vouchers. • Take up of funded childcare for low income children continues to rise post Covid. • Creation of a 'Work and Volunteering Tile' on Notts Help Yourself website.

11. The Best Start Partnership has also developed a Communications and Engagement plan, a one-page summary is included in **Appendix 1**. Work is currently underway with Communication and Engagement leads across the partnership as well as Healthwatch Nottinghamshire.

Nottinghamshire Best Start Partnership

12. The Strategy is overseen by the new Best Start Partnership which reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board on an annual basis.
13. Membership comprises senior management representatives from organisations working with expectant parents, and families with pre-school children. Membership is increasing as more partners engage and sign up to the Strategy. There are representatives from the following organisations:
- Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group
 - District and Borough Councils
 - Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
 - Healthwatch Nottinghamshire
 - Home Start (Voluntary Community Sector representative)
 - Maternity Voices Partnership
 - Mid Notts Integrated Care Partnership
 - NHS Nottingham and NHS Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
 - Nottinghamshire County Council
 - Nottinghamshire Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS)
 - Private Voluntary and Independent Childcare Sector

- Sherwood Forest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- South Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Partnership.

Next Steps

14. The Best Start Partnership discusses one of the 10 ambitions in depth at each of their meetings. They have already agreed priorities to address ambitions 4 and 5 and are/ will be carrying out further work on each of the ambitions which do not yet have agreed action plans.
15. Work is underway to secure engagement and buy in from Bassetlaw Integrated Care Partnership and the Bassetlaw and South Yorkshire Local Maternity and Neonatal System partnership following plans to assimilate the Integrated Care System with the remainder of Nottinghamshire.
16. Local authorities are waiting for Government guidance on the development of a new 'Best Start for Life Offer' which is promoted within 'The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days²' report led by Andrea Leadsom MP. The Best Start Partnership will be responsible for the development of a statutory Nottinghamshire Best Start for Life Offer.
17. Parallel work to progress the creation of 2-3 Family Hub pilots will also strive to address the ambitions within the Best Start Strategy. Once 2-3 priority neighbourhoods are confirmed, further work will take place with all partners to identify and progress Best Start activities through the new Family Hubs.

Other Options Considered

18. No other options have been considered.

Reasons for Recommendations

19. Work to enable children to have the best start in life spans a wide range of services and social issues. There has been no co-ordinated partnership strategy which brings together all key partners and activities which focus on antenatal and postnatal care, children's development, and support for families with pre-school children.
20. The Best Start Partnership will provide a cross-cutting solution to a complex set of problems and risks which face children and families. For this reason, the Strategy and Partnership will build links between many different parts of the system to provide joined-up and holistic services.

Statutory and Policy Implications

21. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability

² The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days'
[The best start for life a vision for the 1_001_critical_days.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

22. By using evidence-based practice to target and engage children at risk of poor outcomes, it is anticipated that longer term outcomes for children involved in offending behaviour will reduce.

Financial Implications

23. Partners in the delivery of the Best Start Strategy will use their own resources to help shape and improve services and interventions for pre-school children and their families; no additional funding has been provided to support the delivery of the strategy.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

24. Safeguarding children and families will continue to be a key priority within the Best Start Strategy and for all partners represented at the Best Start Partnership.

Implications for Service Users

25. Successful delivery of the Best Start Strategy will improve a range of outcomes for children and families including emotional health and wellbeing, healthy pregnancy, school readiness, speech, and language to name but a few.

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee:

- 1) acknowledges the progress made so far to deliver the new Best Start Strategy.
- 2) approves the suggested next steps for the effective delivery of the Best Start Strategy and improvement of outcomes for children and families.

Laurence Jones
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Constitutional Comments (EKH 21/10/21)

26. This report is appropriate to be considered by Children and Young People's Committee and they have the power to make any resolution resultant upon the recommendation.

Financial Comments (CDS 19/10/21)

27. Partners in the delivery of the Best Start Strategy will use their own resources to help shape and improve services and interventions for pre-school children and their families; no additional funding has been provided to support the delivery of the strategy.
28. 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.

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Chapter – 1,001 Days, Conception to Age 2 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 16th December 2019](#)

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Chapter – Early Years and School Readiness – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 16th December 2019](#)

[Giving children the best start: Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy 2021 – 2025 – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 30th November 2020](#)

[Giving children the best start: Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy 2021 – 2025 – report to Health and Wellbeing Board on 6th January 2021](#)

[Giving children the best start: Nottinghamshire Best Start Strategy 2021-2025 - report to Policy Committee on 10th February 2021](#)

Best Start Strategy 2021-2025 Equality Impact Assessment
[Completed Equality Impact Assessments \(EqiAs\) | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

All.

C1511

Vision: For every child in Nottinghamshire to have the best possible start in life, because we know that a good start shapes lifelong health, wellbeing, and prosperity.

Purpose of the Communications and Engagement Plan:

- To embed a partnership approach to develop and share information to provide the best start to children from conception to the age of 5 (with a particular focus on pregnancy and under 2s).
- Working towards greater engagement with families to help shape priorities, plans and service delivery.
- To outline how internal and external audiences will be informed of services, interventions, campaigns and strategic plans specific to the work of the Best Start Strategic Partnership.
- Communications will comprise of the dissemination of key messages including the purpose of the Best Start Strategy and local priorities.
- We will ensure that all communications are clear, consistent, inclusive, and informative. Engagement with key stakeholders, particularly parents and expectant parents, is central to our approach, based on consultation and ultimately co-production.
- As our plan develops, we will agree targets to enable us to measure our activity effectively.

Target Audiences – bespoke, consistent messages for specific audiences:

- Expectant parents, parents, potential/future parents, the general public
- Commissioners and service providers who offer a contribution towards the Best Start ambitions.
- County and District/Borough Councils

Best Start Strategy Ambitions:

Ambition 1: Prospective parents are well prepared for parenthood

Ambition 2: Mothers and babies have positive pregnancy outcomes

Ambition 3: Babies and parents/carers have good early relationships

Ambition 4: Parents are engaged and participate in home learning from birth

Ambition 5: Parents experiencing emotional, mental health and wellbeing challenges are identified early and supported

Ambition 6: Children and parents have good health outcomes.

Ambition 7: Children and parents are supported with early language, speech and communication.

Ambition 8: Children are ready for nursery and school and demonstrate a good level of overall development

Ambition 9: Children have access to high quality early years provision.

Ambition 10: Parents are in secure employment.

Communications: Consistent key messages linked to Best Start Ambitions 1-10 plus awareness of the strategic partnership group's functions and activity.

Engagement: Aspirational plans moving from consultation to co-production, ensuring that our plans and priorities are shaped by people that may benefit from them.

Communication and Engagement Channels and Resources:

As a partnership we will make best use of the following tools and resources:

- Engagement activities to include a range of tools such as focus groups, consultation exercises, feedback, mystery shopping, questionnaires etc.
- Linking with established engagement groups, forums and public engagement bodies such as Healthwatch.
- Best Start webpages.
- Notts Help Yourself website.
- Health for Under 5s website.
- Partner organisation websites and social media channels- Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc
- Nottinghamshire Citizen Space
- Families Information Service
- Partnership Customer Service Teams
- Multi-agency frontline professionals
- Proactive targeted communications e.g. newsletters, briefings.

More information:

earlychildhoodservices@nottsc.gov.uk

[Giving Children the Best Start in Life | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)



1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 11

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS**

OUTCOMES OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF SCHOOLS – TERMLY UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Committee of the outcomes of inspections of state funded schools over the Summer term 2021 and any actions being taken by the Council to support those schools identified as Requiring Improvement (RI) or Ofsted category of concern.
2. For the schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to Require Improvement, the report seeks approval for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services to write to the head teacher and chair of governors to inform them that the Committee will track closely their progress towards becoming a Good school and that the Education Improvement Service will work directly with them to provide a range of support packages aligned to the issues raised during the inspection. This support will continue until the school is judged to be securely Good. In relation to academies, the Chairman and Corporate Director will also write to the Regional Schools Commissioner.
3. For the schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to remain Good but declining, the report seeks the approval for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services to write to the head teacher and chair of governors to inform them that the Committee will track closely their progress towards remaining a Good school and that the Education Improvement Service will work directly with them to provide a range of support packages aligned to the issues raised during the inspection. This support will continue until the school is judged to be securely Good. In relation to academies, the Chairman and Corporate Director will also write to the Regional Schools Commissioner.
4. For schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to remain or become Good or Outstanding, the report also seeks approval for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services to write to the head teacher and chair of governors of Local Authority maintained schools to congratulate them on their achievement. Copies of congratulatory letters will also be sent to the Regional Schools Commissioner in relation to academies judged to be Good, remain Good or Outstanding.

Information

5. There is a time lag between inspection outcomes as known within the Council and the published summary data. This report will focus on published Ofsted reports for the Summer term, 2020-21 academic year.
6. This report draws on two main sources of data:
 - Ofsted's website www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted which publishes individual school inspection reports, usually within two weeks of inspection. However, this can take considerably longer for a school that is judged as Inadequate as Ofsted carries out increased quality assurance exercises. This can take up to two months to complete.
 - Ofsted's monthly management information <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-management-information-ofsteds-school-inspections-outcomes>. This is up to date as at 31 August 2021 and provides data on the proportion of Good schools at Local Authority level but not the proportion of learners attending Good schools. This provides an overall comparison of the performance of Nottinghamshire schools with those nationally.
7. All schools inspected across the Summer term 2021 were inspected under the revised inspection framework. The revised framework has brought some significant changes to the inspection process.
 - Schools are now graded on the areas that Ofsted believe matter most to parents:
 - the quality of education
 - behaviour and attitudes
 - personal development
 - leadership and management.
 - Inspectors look at how a school contributes to pupils' broader development, including their character, citizenship and resilience. They also look at how the school manages behaviour, low-level disruption and bullying, so that parents can be assured that the school is one in which pupils are safe and able to learn.
 - Inspectors check that school leaders are behaving with integrity by putting children's interests first. This includes checking that schools do not enter pupils for qualifications that are inappropriate for the child but that may have a positive impact on the school's published performance data.
 - Inspectors also check that schools are not removing pupils from the school's roll without a formal, permanent exclusion when this is not in the child's best interests. We refer to this as 'off-rolling'.
 - The reports are shorter and clearer. They tell parents what it is like to be a child in that school, what the school is doing well and what it could be doing better.
 - Ofsted have the current grading system of:
 - outstanding

- good
- requires improvement
- inadequate.

8. There are two types of inspection under the common inspection framework that are used to judge the performance of schools in England and both will be a two day inspection unless the school has less than 150 pupils when a section 8 inspection will be for one day only:

- the Section 5 inspection is a two day inspection of a school that provides judgements against the four key inspection areas (the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management) and the overall judgement for the school. If the school has an Early Years Foundation Stage or a 6th Form, these will receive additional judgements.
- the Section 8 inspection is a two day inspection of schools previously judged as Good by Ofsted (and for Outstanding special schools and Pupil Referral Units). This inspection evaluates whether the school remains at the same grade as at the previous inspection. If the Ofsted pre-inspection desktop analysis indicates that the inspection is likely to convert to a Section 5 inspection, the school will be informed at the initial contact telephone call that the inspection will be carried out as a section 5 inspection rather than a section 8. If inspectors are concerned that a particular area of provision has declined significantly then the inspection will convert and be deemed a section 5 inspection. This will mean that all the areas within the framework will receive a judgement as outlined above.

9. **Appendix 1** shows Local Authority inspections over the Summer term 2021. Inspections resumed on site in summer 2021, they were paused during the Autumn and Spring term due to the pandemic:

- there were 5 schools inspected in the Summer term which is less than usual but reflects a gradual return to the inspection cycle.
- all of the inspections in the Summer term were of Good schools. All of these schools retained their previous Good judgement.

10. **Appendix 2** shows the areas for continued development for each school.

11. The summary table below shows that, as a result of the inspections over the last term, Nottinghamshire is in line with all schools nationally. Nottinghamshire primary schools are performing 2% below primary schools nationally. All schools in Nottinghamshire remain above the East Midlands figure. Nottinghamshire secondary schools continue to perform well above the national and regional figures. Nottinghamshire primary schools are 3% above the regional figure.

Management Information for Schools 31 March 2020			
Number of Good or better schools	National	Notts	E Midlands
All Schools	86%	86%	83%
Primary	88%	86%	84%
Secondary	76%	84%	70%

Other Options Considered

12. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. To ensure Members of the Committee are aware of the steps being taken to ensure that all children in Nottinghamshire have the opportunity to attend a Good school.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

15. It is part of the Local Authority's statutory duty to support maintained schools which have been risk assessed as Requiring Improvement. Due to the Education Improvement Service annual risk assessment process these schools have already been identified as requiring additional support and the cost of this will be met from the Department for Education School Improvement Grant. The School Improvement Grant was £721,832 for 2020 - 21 (academic year) and a similar figure is anticipated for 2021 - 22.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) for any schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to Require Improvement, the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services write to the head teacher and chair of governors of Local Authority maintained schools to inform them that the Committee will track closely their progress to become a Good school and that the Education Improvement Service will work directly with them to provide a range of support packages aligned to the issues raised during the inspection. This support will continue until the school is judged to be securely Good. In relation to academies, a letter will also be sent to the Regional Schools Commissioner.

- 2) for any schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to remain Good but declining, the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services write to the head teacher and chair of governors of Local Authority maintained schools to inform them that the Committee will track closely their progress to become a Good school and that the Education Improvement Service will work directly with them to provide a range of support packages aligned to the issues raised during the inspection. This support will continue until the school is judged to be securely Good. In relation to academies, a letter will also be sent to the Regional Schools Commissioner.
- 3) for any schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to remain Good, or become Good or Outstanding, the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services write to the head teacher and chair of governors of Local Authority maintained schools to congratulate them on their achievement. A copy of this letter will also be sent to the Regional Schools Commissioner in relation to academies.

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Constitutional Comments (ELP 21/10/21)

16. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its frame of reference.

Financial Comments (NC 20/10/21)

17. It is part of the Local Authority's statutory duty to support maintained schools which have been risk assessed as Requiring Improvement. Due to the Education Improvement Service annual risk assessment process the cost of the additional support for schools is met by the Department for Education School Improvement Grant. The School Improvement Grant in 2020/21 (academic year) was £721,832 (paid in two instalments: October 2020 £431,777 and April 2021 £290,055). As of 20th October 2021 there has been no announcement of the allocation for 2021/22.

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.

[Outcomes of Ofsted Inspections of schools – Autumn 2019 and Spring 2020: report to Children and Young People's Committee on 2nd November 2020](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1515

Appendix 1

District	School type	School	Previous overall effectiveness	Current overall effectiveness	Date	Change from last inspection
PRIMARY - SUMMER 2020						
Bassetlaw	Community	Hallcroft Infant and Nursery School	2	2	06.07.2021	→
Browtove	Academy	Fairfield Primary Academy	2	2	29.06.2021	→
Gedling	Community	Manor Park Infant and Nursery School	2	2	14.07.2021	→
Mansfield	VC school	St Edmund's CofE Primary and Nursery School	2	2	29.06.2021	→
Mansfield	Academy	St Patrick's Catholic Primary, A Voluntary Academy	2	2	13.07.2021	→

School	Ofsted Judgement	What does the school need to do to improve? (Information for the school and appropriate authority)	Actions by LA
Hallcroft Infant & Nursery Bassetlaw	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders have rewritten the reading curriculum since the last inspection. They are in the process of making the final adjustments to the programme for teaching phonics. There are early signs that the revised approach to reading is having a positive impact on supporting pupils to make a strong start in learning to read. Leaders should ensure that, when finalised, the school's approach to teaching early reading and phonics enables pupils to develop as fluent readers. 	<p>EIS risk assessment indicates that this school does not require targeted support.</p> <p>Contact will be maintained through the small schools network and contact with the area lead.</p> <p>School has access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA's Universal Offer CPD offer through the sold service arm of the EIS (EM-ed)
Fairfield Primary Academy Broxtowe	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some pupils who are in the early stages of learning to read struggle to remember and apply what they have been taught when reading unfamiliar words. Books do not consistently match the sounds that pupils have learned. Those pupils do not quickly develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become successful readers. Leaders should ensure that the early reading curriculum enables pupils to read with fluency and accuracy. The history curriculum does not provide pupils in key stage 1 with the essential knowledge and skills that are appropriate to their age. Pupils in Years 1 and 2 currently learn subject content designed for older pupils. They struggle to understand concepts and read resources intended for older pupils. Leaders should ensure that the history curriculum sets out what pupils should know and remember in each year group, particularly so that younger pupils are well prepared for their further studies in key stage 2. 	<p>No actions for the LA The Trust will lead on the school improvement.</p>

<p>Manor Park Infant and Nursery Gedling</p>	<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum plans are not fully developed in all subjects. Leaders should ensure that plans identify the most important knowledge that pupils should acquire in each subject, so that all pupils, including those with SEND, know more and remember more. The approach to frequently checking pupils' knowledge and consolidating previous learning works in mathematics effectively. Leaders should develop a consistent approach to checking what pupils know and remember from the wider curriculum, while avoiding excessive workload. 	<p>EIS risk assessment indicates that this school does not require targeted support.</p> <p>School has access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA's Universal Offer CPD offer through the sold service arm of the EIS (EM-ed) <p>The LA will maintain contact with the school via the Area Lead.</p>
<p>St Edmund's CofE Primary and Nursery Mansfield</p>	<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resume strategic planning and monitoring activities in order to identify and address priorities for future school improvement. Develop a consistent approach to assessment in foundation subjects to ensure that teachers have a clear understanding of what pupils know and remember, and to identify gaps in their learning. 	<p>EIS risk assessment indicates that this school does not require targeted support.</p> <p>School has access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA's Universal Offer CPD offer through the sold service arm of the EIS (EM-ed)
<p>St Patrick's Catholic Primary Academy Mansfield</p>	<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In some subjects, curriculum plans are not sequenced carefully enough. Plans do not make clear the most important things that pupils need to know and remember. This means pupils, in some subjects, do not remember what they have learned over time. Leaders should make sure that curriculum plans in all subjects are well sequenced and set out the most important things that pupils need to know and remember. Curriculum plans for the early years do not make clear what children should learn and when. There are no indicators of what children should know and be able to do at different points during their time in the early years. Leaders should ensure that the curriculum for the early years sets out what children should learn and when. 	<p>The Trust will lead on any school improvement.</p>

1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 12

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

EXTENDED DUTIES OF THE HEAD OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval of the proposed use of the Extended Duties Grant by the Virtual School.

Information

Role of the Virtual School

2. The Virtual School's Senior Leadership Team oversees the strategic and operational working practices of the team. This leadership team currently comprises the Head of the Virtual School, who is also the Local Authority's Group Manager (Psychology Services), the Assistant Head of the Virtual School (job share) and the Senior Educational Psychologist for *Our Children*. The term 'Our Children' refers to the cohort of children and young people who are in Care to the Local Authority. It is synonymous with 'Children in Care' and 'Looked After Children', and is the preferred way that *Our Children* like to be referred to. The wider team includes a Virtual School Data Officer, and five Achievement Officers. The number of Achievement Officers has been increased from four to five as a consequence of the statutory extended duties supporting previously Looked After Children.
3. When compared with other local authorities, Nottinghamshire's Virtual School team remains relatively small in size. This is both the justification and the rationale for the Virtual School to be focused on building capacity in schools through strong partnership working, rather than the Virtual School carrying primary responsibility at an individual child casework level. Within an increasingly 'schools-led' and academised education system, it is essential that the Virtual School promotes a clear, shared vision for developing systems capacity and accountability through strong partnership working, thereby securing good quality educational provision and outcomes for Our Children. Headteachers and governing bodies retain the responsibility for the educational outcomes of Our Children, and the Virtual School holds them to account when progress stalls or provision is not meeting need.
4. In 2019 the role of the Virtual School was extended to include the provision of advice to the parents of children who had previously been in care. In Nottinghamshire the strategic response was to develop a website of resources which not only Designated Teachers in

schools could access, but also which young people and their parents and carers could access independently. This website provision was supplemented by additional Achievement Officer capacity so that advice and guidance could be sought during the week in office hours by phone and by email. The response to these requests for advice and guidance then informed the resources made available on the Virtual School website. Finally, the additional grant funding which came with these extended duties was used to extend the training offer made available to Designated Teachers.

The further extension to the role of the Virtual School (Head)

5. The extended duties of the Virtual School as they relate to promoting the educational outcomes of the cohort of children who were assessed as needing a social worker at any time due to safeguarding and/or welfare reasons, which includes all those subject to a Child in Need plan or a Child Protection plan. This includes children aged from 0 up to 18 in all education settings. At the time of writing this report, there are 1,058 children and young people subject to a Child in Need plan and a further 656 children and young people subject to a Child Protection Plan. Currently, Nottinghamshire's Virtual School has 988 0 to 18 children and young people on its roll. The new regulation will result in the Virtual School having responsibility for the education of 2,702 children and young people.
6. This came into effect from 1st October 2021. The guidance which accompanies the notification of this extended role refers to the Virtual School as being 'well positioned to enhance partnerships between agencies and raise aspiration for this cohort of children'. As such, the extended role is seen to be strategic, rather than operational, and is more in line with the extended duties to provide advice and guidance regarding children who have previously in care, than it is to the duties regarding children currently in care, i.e. Our Children and Young People.
7. The rationale for the extended role for this cohort of children with a social worker is described as: '...children with a social worker do worse than their peers at every stage of their education and poor outcomes persist, even after social worker involvement ends. Experiences of adversity and trauma can create barriers to education that affect attendance, learning, behaviour and wellbeing. However, with the right support in place, children can overcome these barriers to reach their potential.'
8. The extended role of the Virtual School will encompass early years settings, schools, colleges and social care leaders:
 - to make visible the disadvantages that children with a social worker can experience, enhancing partnerships between education settings and local authorities to help all agencies hold high aspirations for these children
 - to promote practice that supports children's engagement in education, recognising that attending an education setting can be an important factor in helping to keep children safe from harm
 - to level up children's outcomes and narrow the attainment gap so every child can reach their potential. This will include helping to make sure that children with a social worker benefit from support to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

9. The expectation is that the Virtual School will ensure that these outcomes are achieved by:
- enhancing partnerships between education settings and the local authority so agencies can work together
 - identifying the needs of the cohort and addressing barriers to poor educational outcomes and ensure pupils make educational progress
 - offering advice and support to key professionals to help children make progress, including through increasing their confidence in using evidence-based interventions.

Funding to support the extended role of the Virtual School

10. Nottinghamshire Local Authority has been allocated £139,430 under Section 31 grant rules in recognition of these extended duties. The Department for Education (DfE) will be commissioning research into how different Virtual Schools have met the challenge of these extended duties, but the DfE does not expect formal reporting of the use of this grant funding, nor is there an expectation that any unspent funds will be returned.
11. As the extended duties of the Virtual School are more strategic than operational, it is appropriate that the strategic capacity of the Virtual School is enhanced. Increasing strategic capacity will be achieved by:
- increasing capacity at the level of Assistant Head of the Virtual School from 1.0 fte to 1.6 fte. The current role of Assistant Head of the Virtual School is carried out on a job-share basis, split 0.6/0.4. The person providing the 0.4 fte capacity is in a position to increase their capacity to full-time. This increase in strategic capacity would cost circa £39,000
 - providing backfill capacity of 0.6 fte for an Achievement Officer role. As this is already part of the Virtual School establishment, there would be no additional costs
 - increasing strategic capacity (to provide support, advice and guidance to professionals supporting children who have had a social worker) across the team of five Achievement Officers by 20% each, backfilling the operational capacity by creating a further Achievement Officer role. This would cost circa £40,000
 - further developing the Virtual School website so that it can be readily used by a wider range of professionals, and especially by social workers. This would entail collaborative work with Children's Social Care colleagues to ensure that the content was accessible and useful to them. This would cost circa £10,000
 - further developing the Virtual School training offer to professionals working with the wider cohort of children, including to Designated Safeguarding Leads. The training offer with social workers would be co-created with social work teams. This would cost circa £20,000
 - extending the training offer to include consideration of collaboration between, if not combining, the Designated Teacher networks and the Designated Safeguarding Leads networks for the delivery of some training.

12. The approach taken by the Virtual School in its work with schools has a strong focus on the development of capacity in schools to better understand the needs of Our Children, and to have greater resilience and self-confidence in meeting the needs of Our Children. This is an approach which stands alongside schools in a supportive and at times challenging way, so that schools are able to exercise their primary responsibility for the attendance, progress and attainment of Our Children.
13. The proposal for the use of the extended duties grant builds on this approach in that:
 - it is not about direct work with or for named individual pupils, or
 - tracking of their progress through the Personal Education Plan and school data returns, or
 - of direct monitoring of educational interventions, for example in the use of Pupil Premium.

Rather, it is about:

- making visible the disadvantages of this cohort of pupils, by developing a shared understanding within schools of the need to be proactive in making provision in advance of this cohort experiencing failure
- promoting 'best practice' with schools and other colleagues, including the use of evidence-based interventions, and
- enabling those involved with this cohort of children to better support and challenge the quality of education they receive.

The proposal for enhancing partnerships

14. The Virtual School focused on promoting partnership working with educational settings over the last five years. This has been through the development of a consultation approach to the work of Achievement Officers, the establishment and development of Designated Teacher networks, and more latterly the extension of the termly monitoring meetings in secondary schools to local college settings.
15. A key role of the Virtual School has often been a 'bridge' between Children's Social Care teams and schools. An important tool in the facilitation of this bridging role has been the Personal Education Planning process. Over the last year the Virtual School has been working with Children's Social Care colleagues to shape the Personal Education Planning framework as a means of enhancing partnership working between schools and the wider group of Local Authority teams.
16. The Virtual School currently works with the Leaving Care Achievement Advisor, meeting termly with the further education college settings in Nottinghamshire where most of Our Young People are on roll. These meetings would provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the needs of the wider cohort of pupils for whom proactive consideration of their needs might support them to maintain their education, employment or training choices, to celebrate their successes, and to agree 'next steps'.
17. The Virtual School works with the University of Nottingham to organise webinars about going to university and the support which would be available to them. The aim of the

sessions is to raise aspirations for Our Young People, to share the support available at universities, and to hear from student ambassadors about their personal experiences of university. Again, this work would provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the needs of the wider cohort of students who have or who have had social worker involvement.

The proposal for identifying the needs of the cohort

18. Over the last five years the Virtual School has promoted an understanding of the needs of many of Our Children in terms of *trauma* and of the need to develop *trauma-informed* practice. Latterly this is referred to as a *relational approach*.
19. The organisational positioning of the Virtual School team within the wider group of Psychology Services has meant that where schools are educating any of Our Children, there is easier access to a range of additional educational support services.
20. The framework of Personal Education Planning is an essential tool for collaborative working around the needs and voice of Our Children. Colleagues in education support services have developed equivalent tools to shape the planning for pupils with special educational needs and/or disability. The proposal would be to co-create with social worker colleagues tools which they might use with the parents of children in need, an example of which is the Understanding Behaviour in Schools toolkit.

The proposal for offering advice and support

21. Over the last two years the Virtual School has provided a telephone and email consultation service for those responsible for the education of children and young people who were previously in care.
22. This consultation service was supplemented by the development of a comprehensive training offer, primarily focused on the professional development needs of Designated Teachers. By working hand-in-glove with colleagues from the Educational Psychology Service this training offer has expanded both in terms of content but also in terms of the range of people who impact on the lives of Our Children.
23. Over the last three years the Virtual School has developed a website as a source of resources for those involved in the education of Our Children.
24. Again, over the last three years the Virtual School developed, piloted and established support networks for Designated Teachers as a means of enabling them to learn from each other's experiences.

Other Options Considered

25. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

26. The report seeks approval for the proposed use of the Extended Duties Grant to enable the Virtual School to fulfil its duties by:

- increasing capacity at the level of Assistant Head of the Virtual School from 1.0 fte to 1.6 fte to provide strategic leadership to ensure Nottinghamshire County Council fulfil their duties to support the education of children who have or have previously had involvement with a Social Worker.
- creating an additional Achievement Officer role to enable shared capacity across the Virtual School Achievement Officer team to provide daily support, advice and guidance to Children’s Social Care colleagues, education settings and other partners through a dedicated duty phoneline and emails. In addition to extending website resource, training and network meetings to support Designated Safeguarding Leads in their role to support children who have or have previously had involvement with a Social Worker.

Statutory and Policy Implications

27. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

28. These proposals will be fully costed from within the additional duties grant provided by central government, and as such the staffing changes will be made on a fixed term basis. There are no financial implications arising from these proposals for the County.

Human Resources Implications

29. The implementation of the proposals in terms of recruitment and staffing will be made subject to advice from Human Resources.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee approves the proposed use of the Extended Duties Grant by the Virtual School as follows:
- increasing the capacity of the Virtual School leadership team from 1.0 to 1.6 fte Assistant Head of Virtual School role
 - increasing the capacity of the Virtual School team by 1.0 fte Achievement Officer role
 - improving access to information and guidance by the provision of a dedicated advice line run by the Virtual School team, and the development of the Virtual School team’s website, and
 - extending the training offer to Designated Safeguarding Leads alongside the existing Designated Teachers.

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

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Constitutional Comments (KK 14/10/21)

30. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

Financial Comments (NC 22/10/21)

31. Nottinghamshire Local Authority has been allocated £139,430 under Section 31 grant rules for the extension of the role of Virtual School Head duties. The additional costs are projected to be covered by the funding until March 2022. At the date of writing this there has been no announcement regarding funding for 2022/23 therefore these roles are fixed term positions.

HR Comments (BC 20/10/21)

32. The staffing implications are contained within the body of the report. Any new posts will be recruited to in line with the Council's vacancy control and recruitment procedures.

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1513

1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 13

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES

SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT AND 2022/23 SCHOOLS BUILDING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a progress report to Committee on the successes of delivering the various programmes of investment that comprise the Schools Capital Programme.
2. To present the projects identified as priorities for the 2022/23 Schools Building Improvement Programme (SBIP) and to seek approval to progress the projects to the feasibility stage.

Information

3. The Council receives annual School Capital Grant from Government comprising a number of funding streams including the Basic Need Grant and the Schools Condition Allocation. The Council discharges its duties pertaining to these allocations and provides capital improvements through its Schools Capital Programme, consisting of discrete programmes of investment.
4. The Council has also received a Higher Needs Capital Allocation (HPCA) for 2021-2022. Funding provides Specialist educational placements for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
5. The allocations are assigned to the various programmes or specific project budgets, and Policy Committee approves the inclusions into the budgets as part of the Council's annual budget process. Any budget variations are dealt with through Finance Committee. Finance Committee also considers the individual project or programme costs through Latest Estimated Cost reports which present the estimated costs following detailed design. Children and Young People's Committee approves the strategies for the programmes and approves the projects to be considered to deliver those strategies.
6. Alongside Government grants, capital funding contributions are also provided from new housing developments. Planning obligations, often referred to as Section 106 Agreements or Developer Contributions, are agreed as part of the planning approval process. These are legal obligations entered into to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal. For

new housing proposals, agreements will often include provision for additional school places which will arise from the new homes.

7. There are currently 214 live Section 106 agreements which include contributions for education purposes and a further 79 under negotiation. Depending on the scale of the development the planning application pertains to, these capital funding contributions range from relatively small sums that fund only a few additional school places, all the way to multi-million pound sums to provide major expansions or entirely new schools. S106 agreements can also contain an obligation for developers to provide sufficient land for a school build and will often specify the specific schools or school planning areas to be expanded.
8. The obligation to provide the additional places is dependent on the houses being built and the “triggers” within the agreements. The actual date that the school places will be required is not known in advance and therefore the progress of the developments has to be monitored and acted upon when required. The additional places are either delivered directly by the Council through projects commissioned to ARC Partnership, or through Grant Funding Agreements (GFAs) with Academies.
9. Options appraisals, feasibilities, and ultimately the construction projects themselves are funded from S106 funds. However, depending upon the specific agreements, forward funding from the Council’s Government basic need allocation is often required until the funds are received from the relevant Borough or District Council.

Additional School Places

10. The School Places Programme contributes to discharging the statutory duty of the Council to provide sufficient school places. It is an ongoing programme that delivers new schools and/or expansions to existing schools.
11. The programme is funded via government grant (Basic Need Grant) which allocates funding to local authorities on an annual basis as a result of data covering school capacities, the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) and the projected future demand for places. The programme is supplemented by additional funding from S106 contributions in respect of those places arising from new housing developments.

New Schools

12. **Chapel Lane, Bingham:** the Latest Estimated Cost was approved by Finance Committee in September 2021 and construction is now underway at Chapel Lane, Bingham, where a 210 place primary school is being built. This is due to be handed over to the Community Inclusive Trust, who will be operating the school, in August 2022.
13. **Rempstone Road, East Leake:** the need for this new school has arisen from two housing developments and has two associated S106 agreements. The phasing of the developments and the rate of housing builds and associated access arrangements has necessitated the build of a temporary learning village on part of the site, which will open in September 2022. In the meantime, work continues towards the detailed design of the 315 place new school which is due to open in September 2023 and will be handed over to the Spencer Academy Trust who will be operating the new school. Latest Estimated Cost

reports will be brought to Committee once detailed design has completed ahead of the project entering the construction phase.

Expansion Projects

14. The Basic Need Programme of School Expansion report is to be presented to Committee in December 2021. This will establish several projects to progress to feasibility stage to be undertaken in the coming year, alongside any expansion projects arising from S106 Developer contributions.
15. There are currently four school expansion projects in progress:
 - **Berry Hill Primary School** - feasibility is being considered for the creation of an outdoor classroom or forest school area.
 - **Leas Park Junior School** - an old mobile classroom is to be removed from site and a feasibility study is examining whether it is possible to create a permanent teaching space building elsewhere on the site.
 - **Wynndale Primary School** - this project will provide external play equipment for the early years curriculum and an internal library space.
 - **Portland Outwood academy** - this project will provide 300 additional school places; the project is being commissioned through the PFI provider for the site.
16. Recently completed projects are as follows:
 - **Albany Infants and Nursery School** - here, a much-needed hall extension has been built, right-sizing the hall so that all school pupils can be accommodated within the space. The project also incorporated additional works identified and funded through the Schools Building Improvement Programme. Works include replacing heating cabinets, new ceilings and lighting in some areas, re-roofing, a fire alarm upgrade and improved drainage and security fencing to the playing field. By grouping these works together, better value for money has been secured, as well as less disruption for the School.
 - **Radcliffe on Trent Junior School** - the School now has a new permanent modular building, providing three new classrooms, to replace the previous temporary provision, along with associated drainage works on the playing field.
 - **Woodland View Primary School** - a former caretaker's property has been converted into a nurture unit to accommodate and support pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs.
 - **Brookside Primary Academy** - an extra classroom has been delivered, through internal reconfiguration within the school building. This is as a result of an increase in pupil numbers in the area until the planned new school at the Rempstone Road site has been built.

Commissioning Monitoring Projects

17. There have been several academies requiring expansion to increase the number of pupil places they need to provide. Grant Funding Agreement funds are provided from the Council to the academies. The academies engage their own architects and building contractors to deliver the projects. Through Arc Partnership the Council then provides a monitoring role to ensure that what is provided is compliant and meets the necessary building regulations and County Council educational requirements. Projects recently completed or currently in progress are as follows:
- **Carlton Academy** has increased its Published Admission Number from 170 to 230 by constructing 10 new classrooms plus other specialist and ancillary facilities.
 - **Carlton Le Willows** is expanding from 8 forms of entry to 12, increasing its Published Admission Number from 226 to 360.
 - **South Nottinghamshire Academy** is expanding from 4 forms of entry to 5, increasing its Published Admission Number from 120 to 150.
 - At **Brunts Academy** the vacant caretaker's property is being converted into an enhanced provision unit for students with specialist needs.
18. In certain instances, as part of Section 106 Agreements, developers have chosen to provide and build the new school themselves rather than providing the Council with the capital funding. As with the expansion projects, ARC Partnership are commissioned to monitor these projects. There is currently one such project:
- **Teal Close, Netherfield** - the house builder Persimmon has chosen to construct the 210 place Primary School at this site. The School building is due to be completed and operational for September 2022 and will be operated by the Flying High Academy.

Department for Education (DfE) School Rebuilding Programme

19. The Department for Education School Rebuilding Programme is a national programme. So far across the country 100 schools have been selected to be rebuilt or have major refurbishments. A number of Nottinghamshire schools – both maintained schools and academies - have been included in the programme including: Yeoman Park, Sutton Bonington Primary, Ashfield Comprehensive, Kirkby College and Toot Hill School.
20. These projects are currently in the assessment and feasibility stage. The outcomes of this stage will determine whether the selected schools will be rebuilt or be given a major refurbishment and also will determine the construction plan for the works.
21. Associated with these projects there are costs which will fall to the Council to manage, such as any work relating to site boundaries and works external to the sites e.g. new road markings and other traffic management measures. As these costs become known, an allocation will be sought from the schools capital programme to enable the projects to proceed.

22. Discussions with the DfE are underway regarding additionality at two of the schools - Yeoman Park and Toot Hill schools - where the Council is seeking to include provision of additional places into the re-build projects. Toot Hill will incorporate S106 funding for additional places; at Yeoman Park the intention is to incorporate Higher Needs Capital Allocation monies to provide 28 Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Places.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Programme

23. The recently approved Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Place Planning Strategy supports the Council's statutory duty to provide an educational placement according to the type of provision (i.e. specialist or mainstream) named in a child's or young person's Education, Health & Care Plan. The Strategy has a work programme which is regularly reviewed and updated by officers and reports to Children and Young People's Committee. Since 2018, the Council has received an annual capital allocation from the DfE to fund increased specialist educational provision in Nottinghamshire. The Strategy identifies the numbers of additional specialist educational placements required in Nottinghamshire by September 2026. The numbers are based upon the growth in demand since 2016, which greatly outstrips the growth in population.
24. The number of specialist educational placements increased from 1,273 to 1,783 placements (510 in total) between January 2016 and January 2021, an increase of 40.0%. The expenditure on these placements is predicted to have increased by 61.7% between April 2017 and March 2022.
25. The Strategy identifies that between 285 and 490 additional specialist educational placements will be required over the next five years, with 243 of these required for September 2023. As well as considering the supply of places, the Council is also looking at how to reduce the demand for specialist educational placements. The Strategy's predictions will be updated annually.
26. Option appraisal and feasibility projects are currently progressing for the following:
- **Bracken Hill School** - where a permanent 2 classroom modular is in the design stage.
 - **Derrymount School** - a permanent 2 classroom modular classroom is in the design stage in order to provide 20 additional pupil places.
 - **King Edward Primary School** - where a potential partner has been identified to run a Special Educational Needs Satellite School from its current site providing 16-24 places; a design is now in progress for this.
 - The detailed design for the **Newark Orchard School's** planned extension is underway and will provide an additional 30 places for pupils.
27. A Latest Estimated Cost report for the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Programme will be presented to Finance Committee in early 2022, bringing forward priority projects to progress to the construction phase.
28. £2m of the Higher Needs Capital Allocation will be required to contribute to the Yeoman Park rebuild project for the provision of the additional spaces. The remaining £3.3m will be

insufficient to fund all projects currently in feasibility stage. Projects which cannot be accommodated within the available funds will be deferred to future funding allocations.

Schools Building Improvement Programme (SBIP)

29. The Council receives an annual Schools Condition Allocation from the DfE which provides for buildings improvements for the maintained school estate.
30. The SBIP delivers improvements across several workstreams, focusing on health & safety and maintenance issues which are most likely to result in a school closure if not addressed. The workstreams are as follows:
- **Boiler & Heating Pipework Replacement:** replacement of boiler and/or associated heating pipework. Pipework replacement predominantly affects Victorian and turn of the 20th century sites where the ageing heating pipework would not withstand the operating pressure of modern boiler installations.
 - **Drainage Works:** to address issues causing flooding, standing water or blockages to the foul drains.
 - **Roof Replacement:** where a roof is beyond economic repair, or the state of repair can become a risk through the possibility of falling slates or could result in major infrastructure damage particularly from water ingress and leaks.
 - **Kitchen Ventilation improvements:** Building Regulations require increased levels of ventilation where kitchens are improved or replaced, and gas appliances are changed. This programme will provide new mechanical ventilation installations where appropriate, although a move to replace with electrical appliances is first considered, where possible, as this removes the ventilation issues arising from the gas appliances.
 - **Compliance Matters:** particularly in relation to fire safety and water quality. The work stream focuses predominantly on the upgrade and replacement of fire alarms systems, and plumbing works to engineer out risk and provide safer water systems.
 - **Safeguarding:** some older school sites lack modern security and access control systems which ensure the safety of pupils and staff. This programme aims to rectify any identified safeguarding concerns.
 - **Structural and building fabric Issues:** structural works required to maintain the integrity of the building envelope including windows and doors.
31. Construction projects for the 2021/22 programme, agreed through two reports to Finance Committee in April and September 2021, have now been raised and are programmed to be completed over the next 18 months, depending on the complexity of the projects.
32. Over the last 12 months 29 projects have been successfully completed on site. Examples of recently completed projects are:
- **Albany Infants Heating System Replacement:** the existing boiler was nearing the end of its economic life (20 years). The project approach was to replace the existing

gas boiler with a high efficiency alternative and to replace the existing heating circulation pump, distribution heating pipework and heat emitters.

- **Pinewood Infants Drainage:** the School had experienced flooding to the hall from the playground. The topography of the site is such that water was directed to the entrance doors of the hall from the top playground. To alleviate potential flooding in the future approximately 20 metres of linear channel drain was installed to intercept water and convey it to the nearest suitable gully.
- **Stanhope Primary Roof & Ceilings:** the original roof membrane had come to the end of its life and was failing in several areas causing water ingress into the building. The existing waterproofing was overlaid with a high performance felt system and the insulation upgraded. All existing roof lights were replaced with triple skin polycarbonate glazed domes.
- **Maun Infants Kitchen Ventilation:** the ventilation in the school kitchen had been deemed to be inadequate under current Building Regulations. Improving the mechanical ventilation and converting the kitchen from gas to electric were both considered at feasibility stage. Converting the kitchen from gas to electric was considered the most appropriate option at this site. As well as replacing two gas ovens, the electrical distribution system was upgraded, asbestos ceilings replaced and lighting in the kitchen upgraded to LED energy efficient fittings.
- **High Oakham Safeguarding:** the School had concerns for the safety of pupils and staff due to the lack of reception at the main entrance. On entering the School through the main entrances, members of the public had the opportunity to go elsewhere in the School without being supervised. These issues were resolved by replacing the front and side external entrance doors so they could be fitted with secure access card / fob entrance systems and a new reception lobby with secure access control into the School was created.

2022/23 Schools Building Improvement Programme (SBIP)

33. With a significant backlog of maintenance and improvement works required across the school estate it is necessary to prioritise the works that can be undertaken.
34. Stock Condition surveys have been conducted across the school estate over the last five years. These condition reports form the basis of the prioritisation. Recommendations from other property records are also assessed and scrutinised particularly site risk assessments (including water quality, fire safety and asbestos management). On-site issues and requests from schools are also taken into consideration.
35. The 2022/23 School Condition allocation grant has yet to be announced. Confirmation is expected in April 2022. For the purposes of project planning the programme is working to the reasonable estimate of £5m in line with allocations for previous years. Should the allocation be significantly different to that expected, a revised programme report will be brought to Committee.
36. Alongside projects deferred from previous years, additional projects with a total value of circa £5m have been identified for the 2022/23 additions to the Schools Building

Improvement Programme. This is merely an initial estimate of cost and more robust estimates of the costs will be achieved through the feasibility stage. If the final estimates of the cost exceed the available funding then it will be necessary to defer projects to the 2023/24 programme. As well as available funding, decisions on the projects to be included have been made based on the urgency of the works required and assessment of the risk.

37. A Latest Estimated Cost report will be brought to Committee in Spring 2022 once the feasibility projects have been concluded, establishing the full costs for the prioritised projects of the 2022/23 programme before proceeding to the construction phase of the projects.
38. Due to the urgent nature of some of the works certain projects have already been raised to ensure the required works can be undertaken as soon as possible.
39. The full list of the projects to be considered for the 2022/23 programme is provided in **Appendix 1**. Not all projects identified will progress to construction phase, the feasibility projects will determine the extent of any works required and the best options for delivering the required improvements.

Schools Access Initiative and Academy Access Initiative

40. The Council's Schools Access Initiative (SAI) provides for adaptations to County Council maintained schools to ensure that pupils with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities can access education alongside and equal to their non-disabled peers. It enables them to obtain skills and qualifications necessary to enter further education and the job market on an equal basis to their peers. It also ensures that the Council and schools meet their legal duties under the Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty. The funding for the SAI is top sliced from the Schools Condition Allocation.
41. The Council is required by the DfE to provide adaptations to Academies where the pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan. This is provided by the Council's Academies Access Initiative (AAI). For recent adaptations funding has been provided from the Higher Needs Capital Allocation.
42. Over the last 12 months there have been 10 projects that have been successfully completed on site to meet the access needs of 30 children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities. Examples of recently completed projects are:
 - **Butler's Hill Infants:** this scheme provided a Special Educational Needs calming room for use by 7 pupils with conditions such as autism, extreme separation anxiety, non-accidental brain injury, global developmental delay and cerebral palsy. This scheme enabled the school to deliver the pupils' education in mainstream school rather than the pupils going into special school provision. The scheme future proofs the school to cater for an ever-increasing number of pupils with similar conditions thus taking the strain off special school places.
 - **Morven Park Primary School:** this scheme provided a hygiene suite facility in the Foundation Unit for 4 pupils. In the process of creating the hygiene suite it was possible to reconfigure the Foundation toilet layout to increase the number of toilet cubicles which were previously below DfE recommendations. The new hygiene suite layout

ensured that pupils with disabilities could be toileted whilst ensuring safe handling requirements were met for the staff.

- **Ash Lea School:** this scheme provided a hygiene suite for a pupil who had to have a dedicated sterile facility. Without this facility the pupil could not attend school.
- **Radcliffe on Trent Infant School:** this scheme provided a platform lift for a pupil who is a wheelchair user.

43. Currently, there are 23 projects either on site or in the pipeline, which will meet the access needs of 41 pupils.

Other Options Considered

44. The Council has an obligation to provide adequate spaces for pupils requiring education and to maintain its property portfolio, ensuring they are safe, compliant and fit for purpose. Therefore, no other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

45. The Council is committed to providing good schools with sufficient places for all Nottinghamshire children. The Schools Capital Programme is a key element of delivering this commitment.

Statutory and Policy Implications

46. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

47. Financial provision for the elements that comprise the Schools Capital Programme are reconciled annually as part of the Council's overall budget setting process. The reconciliation takes account of the most recent government grant and other forms of income that contribute to the overall funding of the Programme, against the anticipated actual spend across the range of projects. Realistic assumptions about future sources of external income/grants have been built into the overall financial planning for the Programme, and robust arrangements are in place to monitor these over the course of the Programme.

Human Resources Implications

48. Where schools expand, appropriate levels of teaching staff are appointed and funded from increases in the delegated school budget triggered by the increased number of pupils.

Human Rights Implications

49. The provision of additional school places in new and refurbished schools will facilitate parental preference via the schools admissions process.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

50. Children within the Local Authority area will be able to access school places locally. All new build schemes will meet requirements for disabled access and special needs, for pupils, teachers and members of the public/visitors. Adaptations will be carried out to existing Council schools and academies to meet the access needs of children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

51. All schemes will take account of safeguarding needs and requirements.

Implications for Service Users

52. The Schools Capital Programme seeks to ensure that there will be sufficient school places in school buildings which do not suffer from the need of essential maintenance to their fabric.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

53. Increasing the number of school places is demonstrated by sustainable demand. All capital projects are subject to the requisite planning and Building Regulations which reflect environmental and sustainability targets. By providing local school places the need for travelling by car can be reduced.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) considers the successes and progress that has been made in delivering the Schools Capital Programme.
- 2) approves the projects for addition to the Schools Building Improvement Programme for 2022/23 and approves the commencement of the project Feasibility stage.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Place & Communities

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (ELP 13/10/21)

54. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Children's and Young People's Committee by virtue of its frame of reference.

Financial Comments (GB 20/10/21)

55. The programmes set out in this report are all within the approved capital programme as follows – School Places Programme £11.2m in 2021/22 (£10.7m in 2022/23), School Building Improvement Programme £8.8m in 2021/22 (£8.2m in 2022/23), School Access Initiative £0.8m in 2021/22 (£0.3m in 2022/23), Special School Grant Programme £1.7m in 2021/22 (£4.3m in 2022/23), Chapel Lane Primary Capital Project £4.5m in 2021/22 (£3.3m in 2022/23). As set out in **paragraph 35**, the 2022/23 School Condition Grant allocation is yet to be announced. Should this allocation be significantly different than the estimated £5m allocation, a revised programme report will be required.

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.

[Schools Capital Programme Progress report and 2021/22 Schools Building Improvement Programme: report to Children and Young People's Committee on 30 November 2020](#)

[2021/22 Schools Building Improvement Programme \(SBIP\) Latest Estimated Cost \(LEC\): report to Finance & Major Contracts Management Committee on 19 April 2021](#)

[Nottinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Place Planning Strategy 2021 – 2026: report to Children and Young People's Committee on 26 July 2021](#)

[Nottinghamshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Place Planning Strategy 2021 – 2026: report to Policy Committee on 2 September 2021](#)

[2012/22 Schools Building Improvement Programme \(SBIP\) Additional Projects Latest Estimated Costs: report to Finance Committee on 6 September 2021](#)

[Latest Estimated Cost New School Chapel Lane, Bingham: report to Finance Committee on 6 September 2021](#)

[Proposed Expansion of Carlton le Willows Academy: report to Children and Young People's Committee on 13 September 2021](#)

[Proposed Expansion of South Nottinghamshire Academy: report to Children and Young People's Committee on 13 September 2021](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.
C1519

Appendix 1

01235	Annesley Primary	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments.	Ashfield
01435	Arnold View Primary	Replacement of the boiler and associated systems	Gedling
01904	Ash Lea School	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments. Mobile Classroom roof repair	Rushcliffe
02991	Beckingham Primary	Resolve Damp issues on internal walls	Bassetlaw
01061	Berry Hill Primary	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments.	Mansfield
01308	Bramcote Hills Primary	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments.	Broxtowe
01030	Brinsley Primary	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments.	Broxtowe
01501	Bunny Primary	Replacement Boiler, associated systems and decarbonisation measures	Rushcliffe
01501	Carnarvon Primary	Replacement Hall ceiling & improved LED lighting	Rushcliffe
01270	Dalestorth Primary	Replacement Boiler, associated systems and decarbonisation measures	Ashfield
01019	Dunham CE Primary	Replacement Boiler, associated systems and decarbonisation measures	Bassetlaw
01020	East Markham Primary	Remedy to damp issues in classrooms	Bassetlaw
01022	Everton Primary	Replacement Boiler, associated systems and decarbonisation measures oiler/Decarbonisation	Bassetlaw
01098	Forest Town Primary	Drainage works	Mansfield
01043	Hallcroft Infants	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments.	Bassetlaw
02910	Heatherley Primary	Repairs to external cladding	Ashfield
01133	High Oakham Primary	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments.	Mansfield
01261	Jacksdale Primary	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments.	
01531	James Peacock Infant	Roof replacement	Rushcliffe
01159	John Blow Primary	Replacement of the boiler and associated systems	Newark
01103	John T Rice Infant	Improvements to access and layouts to enhance site safeguarding measures	Mansfield
01252	Kingsway Primary	Conversion of the kitchen from Gas to Electric	Ashfield
01522	Kinoulton Primary	Replace Radiator valves to allow more control over temperatures	Rushcliffe
01106	Leas Park Junior	Replacement heating cabinets and conversion of the kitchen from Gas to Electric	Mansfield
01469	Linby Cum Papplewick Primary	Replace ceilings and improved LED lighting	Gedling
01029	Mattersey Primary	Replacement Boiler, associated systems and decarbonisation measures	Bassetlaw
01030	Misson Primary	Replacement Boiler, associated systems and decarbonisation measures	Bassetlaw

01253	Morven Park Primary	Replace heating pipework and cabinets	Ashfield
01108	Netherfield Infant	Roof replacement	Mansfield
01192	North Clifton Primary	Replacement Boiler, associated systems and decarbonisation measures	Newark & Sherwood
01042	Northfield Primary	Replace heating cabinets and Conversion of the kitchen from Gas to Electric	Mansfield
01436	Pinewood Infant	Conversion of the kitchen from Gas to Electric	Gedling
01465	Priory Junior	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments.	Gedling
01171	Queen Eleanor Primary	Replace heating pipework and cabinets	Newark & Sherwood
01528	Radcliffe-on-Trent Junior	Conversion of the kitchen from Gas to Electric	Rushcliffe
01064	St Annes CE Primary	Window replacement	Bassetlaw
01024	St Peters C of E Primary	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments. Including replacement boiler, associated systems and decarbonisation measures	Mansfield
01466	Stanhope Primary	Replacement Roof & Conversion of the kitchen from Gas to Electric	Gedling
01209	Sutton on Trent Primary	Replacement Boiler, associated systems and decarbonisation measures	Newark & Sherwood
01306	Trent Vale Infant	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments.	Broxtowe
01336	Wadsworth Fields Primary	Conversion of the kitchen from Gas to Electric	Broxtowe
01052	Walkeringham Primary	Conversion of the kitchen from Gas to Electric	Bassetlaw
01521	Willowbrook Primary	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments.	Rushcliffe
01477	Woodborough Woods Primary	Replacement of the boiler and associated systems	Gedling
01442	Woodthorpe Infant	Conversion of the kitchen from Gas to Electric	Gedling
01147	Wynndale Primary	Replacement of ceiling, including works to ceiling tiles, Lighting, fire alarm systems and incorporating works identified through the site risk assessments, also included is the replacement of the boiler and associated systems. Also the conversion of the kitchen from Gas to Electric.	Mansfield

1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 14

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION - UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. The report provides the sixth six-monthly report on electively home educated pupils to enable Committee to monitor the Council's delivery of support and discharge of statutory duty in this area.
2. The report seeks approval to continue to report to the Committee on a six-monthly basis.

Information

3. The last update report provided to this Committee was in November 2020 and this report is made following agreement of the recommendation that future reports should be aligned with the midpoint and end of the academic year in order that trends of deregistration and return to school can be more easily identified and understood. This report to Committee focusses on data available at the end of the academic year 2020-21.
4. Parents' legal rights and duties are set out in the Education Act 1996. The parent of every child of compulsory school age must ensure that he/she receives an efficient, full-time education, suitable to his/her age, ability and aptitude and any special educational needs that he/she may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. A parent/carer has the legal right to withdraw a child from school by delivering notification of that fact to the school. The school then has a duty to notify the local authority and to remove the child's name from the school register. The local authority records the child as being electively home educated, and parents/carers can choose whether to engage with support offered by the local authority. From that point, a child acquires elective home educated status and the parents/carers are elective home educators. The parent/carer then becomes completely responsible for the costs, provision, management and delivery of the education of that child. There are no curricular or other requirements incumbent on elective home educators, who are free from any educational regulation.
5. All parents registered as elective home educators in Nottinghamshire are offered at a minimum a yearly intervention visit with the intention of offering support to them in continuing to fulfil their responsibilities as specified by the Education Act 1996. During the pandemic visits have been conducted in a hybrid way with the majority of interventions

taking place virtually but visits are being made in person where this is needed. Parents/carers are under no legal obligation to see anyone from the Elective Home Education team and in this case the Local Authority writes to home educators on a yearly basis to make informal enquiries about the home education provision, supported by Department for Education non-statutory guidance '*Elective home education; Departmental guidance for local authorities*', April 2019. The Local Authority fulfils its duty to ensure that all children of compulsory school age in its area are being suitably educated and to act if it appears that any child is not receiving such an education through well-established working practices, as described in the Council's Elective Home Education Policy endorsed by the Children and Young People's Committee on 13th January 2020 and approved at Policy Committee on 12th February 2020. These are generally very well received because they have been influenced by the views of electively home educating families in Nottinghamshire. Parents/carers retain the right to apply for their child to return to a mainstream school whilst they are of statutory school age and can be reconnected to the Local Authority and other services should they wish to cease elective home education, where there is evidence of a safeguarding concern or they cannot demonstrate evidence that suitable home education is being provided.

6. Following the recent agreement of three permanent Elective Home Education Professional Practitioner posts to the staffing establishment, the current service structure is a Senior Professional Practitioner and three Professional Practitioners (one post vacant), supported by a Business Support team. The line management of the service sits with the Fair Access Team Manager.
7. A team of 11 Associate Advisers are commissioned to undertake specialist education support and guidance visits to families on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council. The Council's procurement process enables new applicants to be approved, ensuring that the team's capacity is sustainable. Associate Advisers meet termly with the Elective Home Education Senior Practitioner and Fair Access Team Manager with the purpose of ensuring that all Elective Home Education Advisers access relevant training to fulfil their role effectively, in line with the Council's policies and procedures and current legislation and guidance. Support and supervision is also available to all advisers.
8. The dashboard for elective home education (attached as **Appendix 1**) identifies groups of electively home educated children and the reasons behind the parental decision to become electively home educated as at 3rd August 2021. Information from the dashboard is used to inform decisions regarding the operation of the elective home education team and identify areas of possible concern in relation to deregistration from school to elective home education in order that they can be explored appropriately by Local Authority officers.
9. In Nottinghamshire, 1,079 children were registered as electively home educated on 3rd August 2021, an increase of 298 since 3rd August 2020, as reported on the relevant dashboard attached as **Appendix 2**. Of these 1,079 children, 767 were receiving Elective Home Education Adviser visits, while parents/carers of 312 children declined Local Authority involvement. It should be noted that there is an unknown number of parents who have always electively home educated and never enrolled their child/ren at school. These children are not recorded by the Local Authority as being in receipt of home education. The total number of children known to be electively home educated at some point during the 2020-2021 academic year was 1,475.

10. In addition, a further 185 children in year 11 were known to be home educated until the end of the 2020-21 academic year. These children are not reported on the dashboard as they left statutory education on 25th June 2021.
11. Whereas data presented to Committee prior to 2020 reported that registrations were impacted most significantly by withdrawals from school in Key Stage 4, comparison of the number of children known to be electively home educated by National Curriculum Year on 3rd August 2021 shows that the increase in number continues to be impacted by new registrations in all key stages. Comparing the dashboard data for 3rd August 2020 and 3rd August 2021, a significant increase in the number of registrations can still be seen at year 10 (+53), but also at year 7 (+45) and year 8 (+43) and for primary at year 1 (+36). There does appear to have been an impact from Covid on parental confidence in transition. Work continues to be undertaken to understand the data available to support in ensuring that children have access to the most appropriate educational route.
12. The patterns of age at which children became electively home educated continue to display sustained features. There is a spike at age 5, when pupils enter primary education. The number remains fairly constant, until age 11 when children transition to secondary school. Parents/carers of this group report a number of different reasons for the decision to home educate; anxiety about the ability of a secondary setting to meet their child's Special Educational Needs, cultural reasons and not gaining a place at their preferred school for secondary.
13. In all cases the Elective Home Education team work closely with young people, their parents/ carers and schools to ensure that decisions taken are in the best interests of the child. Where it is made clear that the intention to deliver elective home education is not the result of a positive choice, but is in fact the result of a breakdown in the relationship between the family and the school, the Elective Home Education team will offer to meet with both parties to mediate a positive outcome, ensuring that the young person can continue to access learning in school. Referrals to education support services are recommended where this is appropriate.
14. Reasons for withdrawal from school to home educate as stated by the parent or the school at the time of withdrawal were:
 - 15 school phobic or refuser
 - 11 response to legal attendance proceedings or prosecution
 - 25 bullying at or around school
 - 65 dissatisfaction or conflict with school
 - 39 emotional reasons, e.g. anxiety and mental health issues
 - 386 preferred method – i.e. parental choice
 - 538 not disclosed.
15. Of these, a total of 127 parents have cited Covid as a factor in their decision to home educate and this is in keeping with the reported trend of increased registrations due to Covid nationally.
16. Comparing these figures with those of 3rd August 2020, there is an increase of 100 parents/carers who cite that elective home education is their preferred method of education and a decrease of 25 citing emotional reasons. It is, however, difficult to draw meaningful

conclusions when nearly half of the cohort have chosen not to provide a reason for their decision. Improved data collection at the point of withdrawal from school is one of the key areas being supported by the Professional Practitioners in an attempt to better understand the needs of the electively home educated cohort in Nottinghamshire.

17. Of the 1,079 children registered as electively home educated in Nottinghamshire on 3rd August 2021, slightly more were female than male. 71% of electively home educated children were White British, 6% were of Gypsy, Roma or Traveller ethnicity and 6% Other ethnic groups. The remainder are unknown as parents/carers chose not to provide this information.
18. No children were on a Child Protection Plan and 16 had Child in Need status. For these children the Senior Practitioner for Elective Home Education is responsible for close monitoring and review of the suitability of their elective home education provision. Work has been undertaken to improve communication with Children's Social Care teams and review the support offered to children during periods of elective home education, which would only be supported for children on a Child Protection Plan if a joint decision was made that this was in the best interests of the child(ren) and would provide a safe and suitable education environment.
19. 20 children had an Education, Health and Care Plan indicating a significant level of identified Special Educational Need. This number compares with 15 on the same date the previous year. There are a number of children who have had an Education, Health and Care Plan issued whilst home educated, due to their significant level of Special Educational Need.
20. The level of need of some children and young people who are electively home educated in Nottinghamshire remains a concern. In the 2020-21 academic year there were 20 cases where continuation of home education was not felt to be appropriate and it was necessary to make provision via the Council's Educated Otherwise Than at School arrangements as a reintegration to mainstream provision was not possible.
21. During the course of the academic year 2020-21 162 children returned to school from elective home education. 82 of these children were primary age and 80 secondary age. In a number of these cases extensive transition planning and support was required and this is a role that will be undertaken moving forward by the Professional Practitioners now in post to ensure that for children who are returning to school this transition can be smooth and successful.
22. The changes to service delivery since 1st September 2021, namely utilising the elective home education budget in a different way through the addition of three new permanent posts to the team structure, enables closer working with children and families at the point where consideration is being given to elective home education to ensure that decisions are being made in the best interests of the child(ren) involved. Although this report focusses on data collated on 3rd August 2021, Members will be assured to know that the impact of this service change is being seen already and in seven cases since 1st September 2021, intervention by the Professional Practitioners has meant that children have appropriately remained on school roll with support from other Council teams in place where needed. The current move to Mosaic of all recording in relation to elective home education will allow for swifter sharing of information where needed across Council teams and ensure that

vulnerable children who are electively home educated can be safeguarded in a timely and joined up way.

23. Systems and processes have been reviewed to ensure swift action is taken in cases where the Local Authority is not confident that suitable education is being provided. Work is being undertaken by the Professional Practitioners to support positive engagement with families to ensure that a suitable educational route is identified. Where there are barriers to this there is an agreed process for referral to the Council's Family Service to consider whether a school attendance enforcement pathway is appropriate.
24. Further service developments planned include the creation of a public website for home educated young people and their families, offering education guidance and health and wellbeing support, including signposting to other avenues of support. As part of this work and the wider work of the Elective Home Education team, a young person and parent/carer engagement group is being established to ensure that the views of service users are considered effectively in decisions taken about delivery of the service.
25. Attendance at the regional home education forum continues and concerns about the rising number of children being electively home educated are escalated through this group to the Association of Elective Home Education Professionals. The recent Parliamentary Call For Evidence, to which Nottinghamshire County Council contributed, and associated report published in July 2021 '*Strengthening Home Education*', made recommendations for a statutory register, a set of clear criteria against which the suitability of education can be assessed and the ability to see children who are electively home educated.

Other Options Considered

26. The Council remains statutorily responsible for ensuring that all children and young people of statutory school age access full-time education. The Elective Home Education Policy approved by the Policy Committee on 12th February 2020 continues to be implemented to ensure this responsibility is met. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

27. Members will wish to be assured that the Council's statutory duty under s436a Education Act 1996 to make arrangements to identify children not receiving education continues to be fulfilled.

Statutory and Policy Implications

28. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

29. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That the Committee requests a further six-monthly report on elective home education.

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (KK 07/10/21)

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

Financial Comments (MDN 07/10/21)

31. The 2021/22 Local Authority budget for the Elective Home Education service is £251,814 and will be sufficient to cover the cost of the service and the service delivery revision that has been implemented as a result of the increase in registrations.

32. 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.

Education Act 1996, Published
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/contents>

[Revised Children Missing Education Strategy and Elective Home Education Policy – report to Policy Committee on 12th February 2020](#)

Elective home education; Departmental guidance for local authorities, April 2019, Published
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791527/Elective_home_education_guidance_for_LAv2.0.pdf

Strengthening Home Education, July 2021
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmselect/cmeduc/84/8402.htm>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1517

Children with Current Active Elective Home Education Involvements

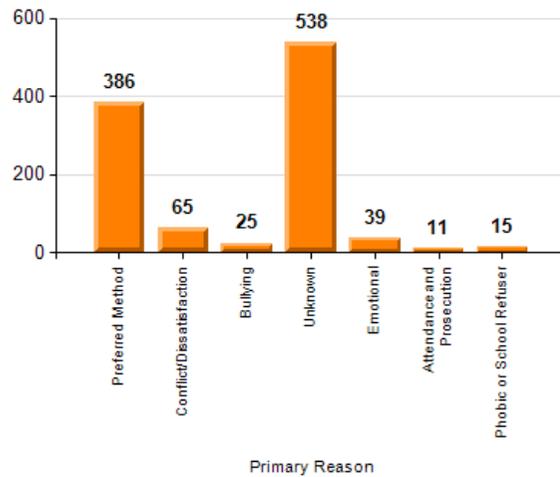
Data Quality Checks:

Current Number of Active EHE Involvements **1079**

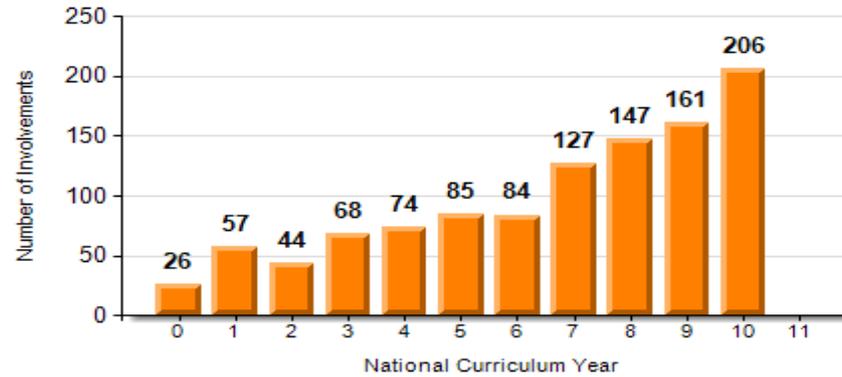
Number of EHE Children who are on a Child Protection Plan **0**

Number of EHE Children who are on a Child in Need Plan **16**

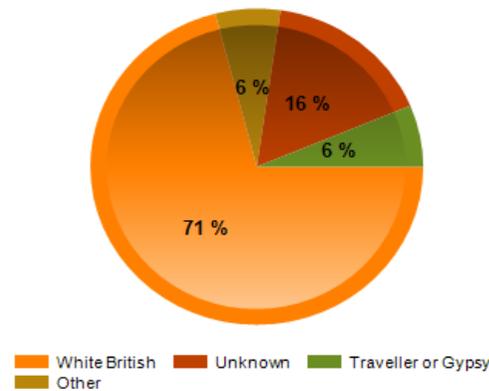
Number of EHE Children by Reason for Involvement



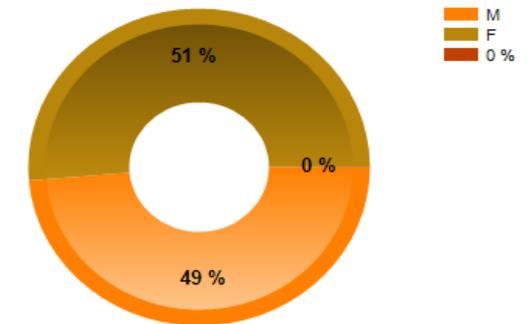
Number of EHE Children by National Curriculum Year (NCY)



Percentage of EHE Children by Ethnicity

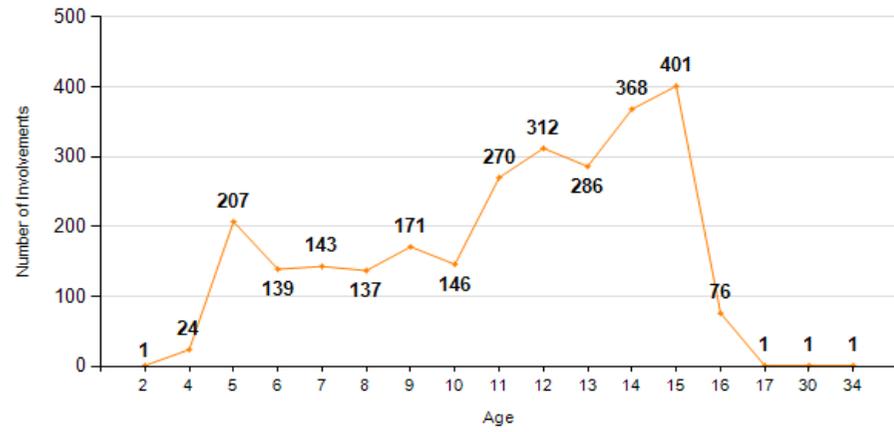


Percentage of EHE Children by Gender

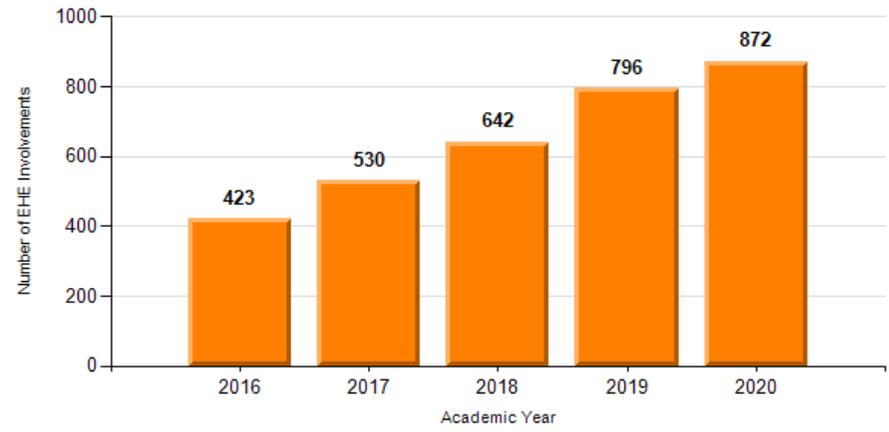


Number of Elective Home Education Involvements Over the Last Five Academic Years

Child's Age at which EHE Involvement Commenced



Number of EHE Involvements in the last 5 years on the 1st September

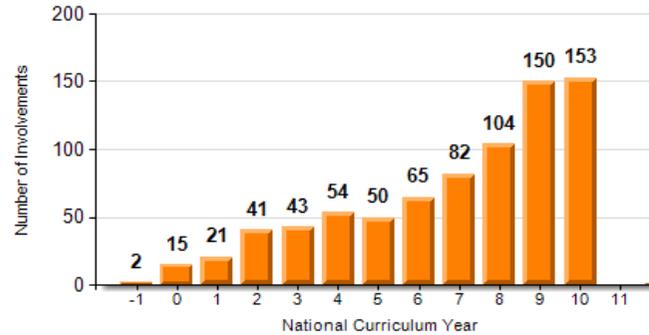


Children with Current Active Elective Home Education Involvements

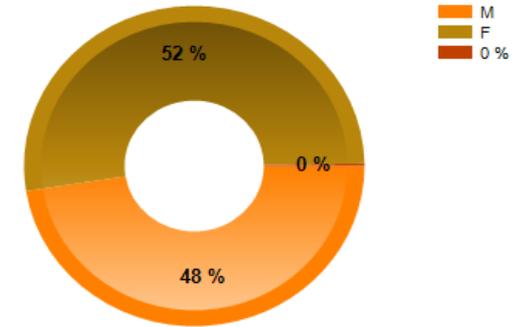
Data Quality Checks:

Current Number of Active EHE Involvements	781
Number of EHE Children who are Looked After	0
Number of EHE Children who are on a Child Protection Plan	2
Number of EHE Children who are on a Child in Need Plan	17

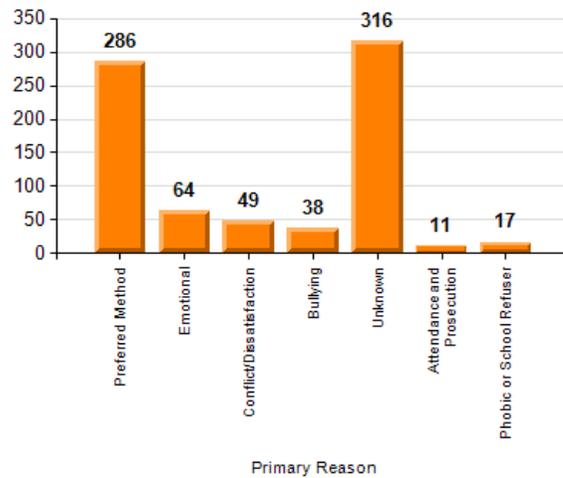
Number of EHE Children by National Curriculum Year (NCY)



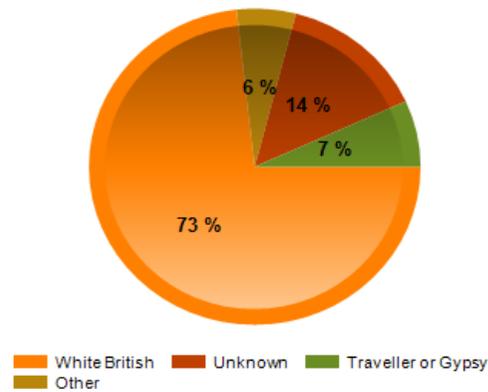
Percentage of EHE Children by Gender



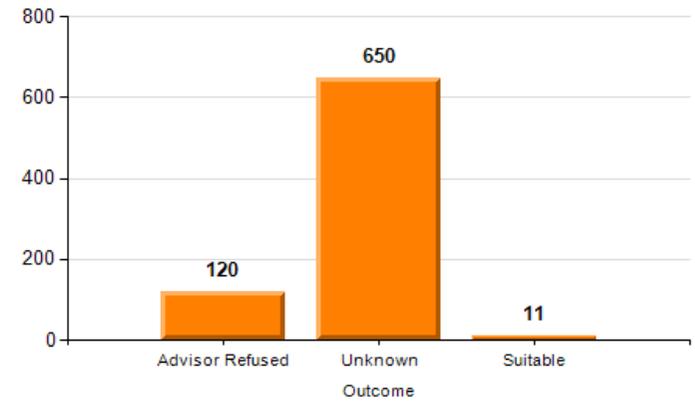
Number of EHE Children by Reason for Involvement



Percentage of EHE Children by Ethnicity

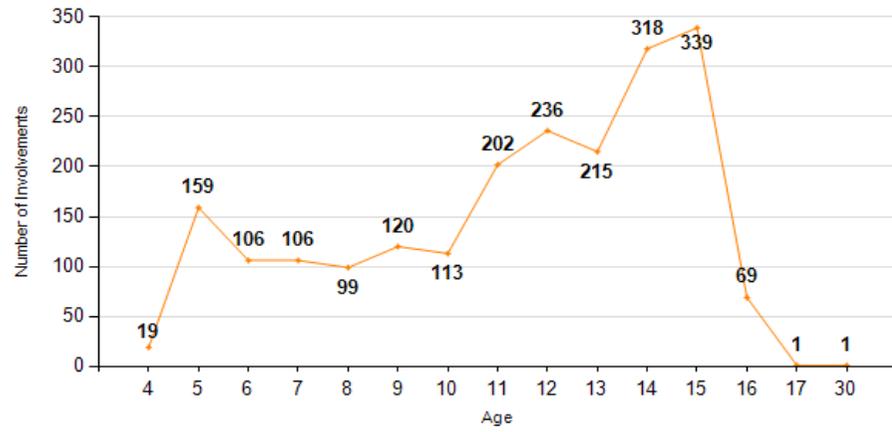


Number of EHE Children by Outcome of Involvement

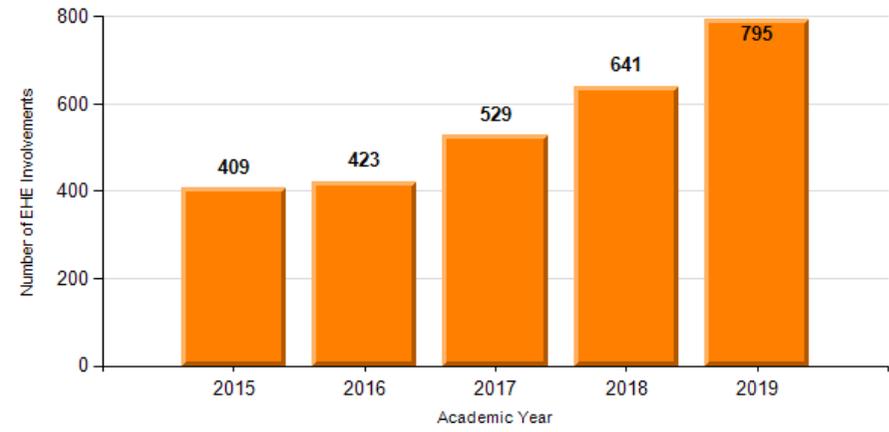


Number of Elective Home Education Involvements Over the Last Five Academic Years

Child's Age at which EHE Involvement Commenced



Number of EHE Involvements in the last 5 years on the 1st September





1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 15

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

LOCAL TRANSFORMATION PLAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH - UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the Committee with an update of progress on implementing the Local Transformation Plan for children and young people's emotional and mental health.

Information

2. Local areas, led by Clinical Commissioning Groups, have been required to have a system-wide local transformation plan for children and young people's emotional and mental health since 2015. The current Local Transformation Plan can be accessed here (<https://healthandcarenotts.co.uk/joint-local-transformation-plan>). This plan is the sixth iteration for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Nottinghamshire's Children's Integrated Commissioning Hub based in Public Health co-ordinates the implementation of the system plan. The plan was refreshed in September 2021 and provides a comprehensive overview of achievements, future commitments to improve provision and outcomes for children and young people's mental health. It also reflects on the impact of COVID-19, recovery and restoration plans, and updates on milestones to deliver the ambitions set out in the NHS Long Term Plan (2019), and also those identified locally.
3. The plan has been endorsed by the Children and Young People's Mental Health Executive, which comprises representatives from Clinical Commissioning Groups, Local Authority Children's Services, Public Health, local providers, NHS England and NHS Improvement and Elected Members from Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council. The Children and Young People's Mental Health Executive is responsible for delivering a comprehensive action plan which is aligned to the Local Transformation Plan. The endorsed paper has then been approved by the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System Health and Social Care Board and NHS England and NHS Improvement have reviewed and assured the Plan.
4. The plan is system-wide and covers services commissioned and provided by the two local authorities (Public Health and Children's Service functions), local Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England. Progress in implementing the plan is reported to Children and Young People's Committee in the context of the Local Authority's role in relation to

safeguarding and ensuring Nottinghamshire is achieving the best outcomes for children and young people.

Impact of COVID-19 and response

5. The impact of COVID-19 on children and young people's mental health is still emerging, however providers are reporting an increase in referrals to mental health services and an increased level of children and young people presenting with more serious and complex needs. Local mental health services responded quickly to the COVID-19 crisis and adapted their service offers to include both telephone and online support (where clinically appropriate this included group work). Providers have shared that some children, young people and families did not want to access telephone or virtual support. As a result, during the recovery period, services have moved to providing a blended service model offer of face to face and digital support. During the pandemic all services remained open to referrals and followed guidance released by NHS England.
6. Whilst COVID-19 has presented challenges in terms of service delivery, it has also expedited transformation, for example, children, young people and families now have access to a wider range of information and self-help tools online and more choice in their support method. Commissioners will continue to work with providers, to identify further opportunities and ensure they are embedded into service delivery, enabling young people to have more choice over how and where support is received.
7. It is recognised that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing health inequalities, particularly around mental health and wellbeing. A key recommendation from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapter [Emotional and Mental Health of Children and Young People \(2021\) - Nottinghamshire Insight](#) was to review access to services by minority groups and ensure systemic barriers are mitigated or removed using the framework outlined in the Advancing Mental Health Equality Framework. A Health Inequalities sub-group (of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Executive) was established to take this forward and the group will ensure alignment to wider system work taking place across the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System.

NHS Long Term Plan achievements and next steps

8. There has been progress in achieving the Long Term Plan deliverables, with plans for further transformation by 2023/24 in line with the NHS Long Term Plan (2019) agreed. They are as follows:
 - **345,000 additional children and young people aged 0-25 will have access to support via NHS-funded mental health services and school or college-based Mental Health Support Teams (MHST).** In 2020/21, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire achieved performance of 52.3% against an access target of 35%, thus exceeding the annual access performance target. In Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, this performance has been achieved by both improving data quality and expanding the existing commissioned provision available. In 2021/22 this has continued via Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group increasing investment in community Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), CAMHS crisis and other services and in 2022/23 early support services are planned to transform.

- **There will be 24/7 mental health crisis provision for children and young people that combines crisis assessment, brief response and intensive home treatment functions.** In April 2020, a 24/7 all ages crisis helpline was launched, ensuring children and young people have access to crisis support with no barriers to access. In 2021/22 the local crisis home treatment and acute hospital liaison team will recruit additional capacity, enabling the team to provide timely and responsive treatment in both the home and acute hospital. Enhancing both community and crisis teams will ensure children and young people have access to timely care and support within the community which should lead to a reduction in crisis and the need to go to hospital. The service model will be developed further this year with system partners including the East Midlands Provider Collaborative.
- **There will be a comprehensive offer for 0-25 year olds that reaches across mental health services for children and young people and adults.** A condition specific approach to this work has been agreed. The successful Eating Disorder transition worker model has been extended to wider community mental health teams and a young adult worker model is being tested. In the next year, early intervention support for young adults across a range of mental health presentations will be strengthened. A Clinical Commissioning Group led procurement of an Emotional Wellbeing Early Support Service Work is intended to better coordinate early support available locally including working with universities to support student mental health.
- **The 95% waiting time standard for children and young people's eating disorder service referral to treatment achieved in 2020/21 will continue to be maintained** The CAMHS Eating Disorder service is commissioned to meet the national waiting time standard. Where the waiting time standard¹ has not been met, exception reporting is obtained to inform further improvement. In line with regional and national trends, referrals to the local Eating Disorder services have doubled between March 2020 and April 2021. Additional funding had already been agreed increase the workforce and further recruitment options will be appraised if demand continues to rise.

An ARFID (Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder) pilot has been completed and work is underway to develop solutions to develop a service offer. This currently involves clinicians from paediatrics, CAMHS and GPs, with a view to developing a service offer for this group, who were not able to access support.

- **Children and young people's mental health plans will align with those for children and young people with learning disability, autism, special educational needs, children and young people's services, and Health and Justice.** The Children and Young People's Mental Health Executive will continue to strengthen alignment with other strategic partnership groups. A Learning Disability and Autism Children & Young People Steering Group oversees and ensures alignment of plans to improve care and support for this group. In 2021/22 the Keyworker role will be tested with a view to pilot how this role can support children and young people by ensuring they have timely support and an improved experience of care. The group will also improve the autism diagnostic pathway by strengthening the multidisciplinary input in line with National Institute for

¹ By 2020/21, 95% of young people with an eating disorder would receive NICE compliant treatment within 1 week of referral for urgent care and treatment and within 4 weeks for routine care and treatment to enable children and young people to have the best possible outcome and recovery.

Health & Care Excellence (NICE) guidance. The Special Educational Needs & Disability Accountability Board has been involved in the development of MHSTs and will continue to receive updates on emotional health and wellbeing from the Children and Young People's Mental Health Executive when appropriate.

- **100% of mental health providers to meet required levels of digitisation by 2023/24** Children and young people's mental health providers have developed digital support, including video consultations, online self-management resources and digitally enabled models of therapy. The principles established as part of the NHS England Children and Young People's Digital Engagement work will be used to inform future digital developments.
- **Deliver against multi-agency suicide prevention plans** Regular reporting between the Suicide Prevention Steering Group and the Children and Young People's Mental Health Executive has been established and an all age social media communications plan has been co-ordinated around suicide prevention. Mapping of the Suicide Prevention Action Plan against the NHS England Rapid Review of Evidence around children and young people's suicide has taken place to ensure the plan reflects an all age approach. Self-Harm pathway mapping work is being undertaken and the results of this work will be used to inform future commissioning plans.

Continued System Improvement

9. In November 2020 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group and partners undertook a System Optimisation Programme, led by NHS England and Improvement. The process reviewed how the local mental health system supports children against 10 'good practice' domains. The findings of the programme have been used to inform an action plan that sits underneath the Local Transformation Plan. Key actions that the Children and Young People's Mental Health Executive will oversee are:
 - developing a system wide access policy
 - developing a consistent menu of evidence based, digital interventions
 - developing single branding for all CAMHS, based on a many providers, one system approach
 - developing a common language around mental health, through embedding the THRIVE model. The THRIVE model ensures young people are supported to thrive by a variety of prevention and promotion initiatives in the community, along with more specialist support when needed
 - contributing to the children and young people's element of a shared Integrated Care System wide all ages mental health workforce strategy
 - further developing co-production work
 - strengthening young adults transition arrangements.

Communications

10. The communications sub-group of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Executive continues to coordinate communications activity around Mental Health Awareness Week, World Mental Health Day and World Suicide Prevention Day to ensure that the public are aware that services are open and accessible. The group continues to link with adult mental health commissioners and providers to support an all age approach to

mental health communications. The group has also supported the development of the NottAlone website and co-ordinated communications around Mental Health Support Teams in Schools. The group is now seeking to widen its remit to appraise communications across the whole mental health pathway. Since the onset of the pandemic, mental health services have considerably developed and improved their on-line presence, so children and young people can now access a wide range of information about services and support.

Co-production and engagement work

- All system partners remain committed to engagement, involvement and participation to ensure support delivered meets the needs of all children and young people, parents and carers and stakeholders. A wide range of activity has been undertaken by MH2K citizen researchers in the last year, including around the impact of COVID-19, improvements in early intervention services and work on the NottAlone website detailed in **paragraph 16**. This work has been used to influence plans and improve services. Future planned work includes work with Mental Health Support Teams in Schools to develop a new vision and values statement around children and young people’s mental health and improving transitions.

Emotional mental health and wellbeing support for school aged children

- In Nottinghamshire, Clinical Commissioning Group, CAMHS, Education and Local Authority partners have worked together to secure funding for eight Mental Health Support Teams, covering all localities in Nottinghamshire. The aim of the support teams is to ensure timely support is available to children and young people by providing them with early intervention and preventing the escalation of needs, where possible. Funding is fixed and protected for these teams until 2024/25. The service model was informed by local children and young people. A timetable for the rollout of the teams is outlined below in **Table 1**.

Table 1- MHST Mobilisation in Nottinghamshire

Wave	Coverage	Training and mobilisation period	Fully operational
Wave One	Nottingham North and East (One MHST) Rushcliffe (One MHST)	January 2019- December 2019	December 2019
Wave Two	Nottingham City (Two MHSTs) Mansfield and Ashfield (One MHST)	September 2019- August 2020	November 2020
Wave Three	Newark and Sherwood (One MHST) Nottingham West (One MHST) Bassetlaw (One MHST)	January 2021- December 2021	January 2022
Wave Four	Locality to be confirmed	September 2023	September 2024

Wave Five	Locality to be confirmed	January 2024	January 2025
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13. In total, approximately 150 schools will receive support from a MHST, as well as some pupils in alternative provision. These NHS funded teams will provide early intervention and support for children and young people with mild to moderate mental health needs on or near school sites. MHST staff have worked with schools during COVID-19 and have developed self-referral mechanisms to the teams for children and young people, parents and carers, whilst schools were closed. Whilst the operationalisation of the teams has been relatively recent and delivery has been interrupted by school closures, the teams are expected to increase timely access for children and young people to mental health support. In Bassetlaw, the Clinical Commissioning Group commissions the Talkzone counselling service and this provision has been expanded to support MHSTs but also to provide a mental health and wellbeing worker linked to schools.
14. Early evidence indicates the teams have had a positive impact on both schools and pupils. Feedback from children, young people and parents and carers indicates they value the service being offered locally, they found staff approachable and empathetic and that accessing the MHSTs helped them to feel less isolated and more able to deal with the challenges of school life, including academic pressures. Schools have also given positive feedback on work that has been completed during the pandemic, for example, workshops were delivered in the summer term around staff mental health and wellbeing and transition. This has now resulted in schools developing their own staff mental health and wellbeing policies, which will then enable them to effectively support their pupils. Schools also report the transition workshops were delivered at a key point of time and increased their understanding of how to incorporate wellbeing into transition planning and how to manage anxiety around transition. The workshop used a train the trainer model, which enables staff to cascade the learning in their schools.
15. MHSTs and CAMHS teams have also supported the development of the Wellbeing in Education Recovery programme since September 2020. Locally, this has been a City-County collaboration led by the Educational Psychology Services and has offered training to all schools around supporting children and young people's mental health via two webinars in autumn term 2020. Resources have been developed to support schools in the recovery phase with a focus on wellbeing for all [Wellbeing for Education Return Nottingham | The East Midlands Education Support Service \(em-edsupport.org.uk\)](#).
16. The Wellbeing for Education Recovery Steering Group has also worked to co-produce the NottAlone website with children, young people, parents and carers. [NottAlone](#) is a new website sharing local mental health advice and help for young people in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, all in one place. The aim of the NottAlone website is that it will facilitate self-help, as well as speedy access to support, thereby reducing reliance on higher tier services. The website went live in September 2021 and it will be formally launched in November 2021.
17. The Nottinghamshire-Nottingham City Wellbeing for Education Recovery consortium bid has also been successful in delivering Department for Education approved Senior Mental Health Lead Training for Schools. This training programme will be delivered to senior mental health leads in schools across the academic year 2021. All schools and colleges are eligible to apply for the [DfE grant](#) to fund this [training](#).

Other Options Considered

18. No other options have been considered. This plan is in line with NHS England planning requirements.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

19. Children and young people's emotional and mental health is an issue for all services working with children and young people across local government, health, schools, police and voluntary, community and independent sectors. This is reflected in the content of the Local Transformation Plan. It also falls within the Council's statutory duties in relation to safeguarding children and young people.

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

21. Implementation of this plan will contribute to reducing health inequalities for vulnerable children and young people.

Financial Implications

22. There are no additional financial implications arising directly from this report.

Implications in relation to the NHS Constitution

23. Implementation of this plan is in line with the NHS Constitutional Standards.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

24. Implementation of this plan will contribute to reducing health inequalities for vulnerable children and young people.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

25. Implementation of this plan will contribute to reducing the risk of harm to children and young people with emotional or mental health needs.

Implications for Service Users

26. Implementation of this plan will improve the response of services to children and young people with mental health needs and thus improve outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee considers whether there are any actions they require in relation to issues contained within the report.

Jonathan Gribbin
Director of Public Health

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Children's Integrated Commissioning Hub and Public Health Nottinghamshire
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E: Katharine.Browne@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (ELP 21/10/21)

27. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its frame of reference.

Financial Comments (DG 06/10/21)

28. There are no additional 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.

[Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformation Plan – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 17th June 2019](#)

Future in Mind - Department of Health (March 2015)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-mental-health-services-for-young-people>

Five Year Forward View for Mental Health – Mental Health Taskforce Strategy - NHS England (February 2016)
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Mental-Health-Taskforce-FYFV-final.pdf>

Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision: A Green Paper - Department of Health/ Department for Education (December 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/transforming-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-provision-a-green-paper>

Long Term Plan (2019)

<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-long-term-plan/>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1514

1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 16

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS**

**LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS TO SCHOOL
GOVERNING BODIES DURING THE PERIOD 19TH JUNE TO 30TH
SEPTEMBER 2021**

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee on the appointment of Local Authority (LA) governors to school governing bodies for the period 19th June to 30th September 2021 in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Information

2. 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 were required to reconstitute to a skills-based model of governance by September 2015, and are allowed one LA governor on the reconstituted governing body. For this model of governance, governing bodies may set eligibility criteria for, and appoint, the Local Authority governor.
3. Under these Regulations the County Council is responsible for nominating individuals as prospective governors. Nominations are made by the County Council, in accordance with the eligibility criteria provided by the governing body. When nominating new governors or re-nominating existing governors, the County Council must consider the skills and experience the governing body needs in order to be effective.
4. Local Authority governors nominated by the County Council and appointed by school governing bodies during the period 19th June 2021 to 30th September 2021 are as follows:

BASSETLAW	
The Primary School of St Mary and St Martin Blyth	Dr George Rice New appointment to the category of LA governor
Hallcroft Infant and Nursery School	Mr Anthony Tromans Re-appointment to the category of LA Governor

BROXTOWE	
Trent Rylands Federation	Councillor Kate Foale New appointment to the category of LA Governor
Banks Road Infant and Nursery	Mr Adam Statham New appointment to the category of LA Governor
GEDLING	
Arnold Mill Primary and Nursery	Mr David Shreeves New appointment to the category of LA Governor
St Wilfrid's Primary	Mr Mike Harris New appointment to the category of LA Governor
NEWARK	
The Newark Orchard School (Special)	Mrs Laura Redfern Re-appointment to the category of LA Governor

Other Options Considered

5. No other options have been considered.

Reasons for Recommendation/s

6. The constitution requires the Corporate Directorate to report governor appointments to Committee on a quarterly basis.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Data Protection and Information Governance

8. The information contained within this report is already within the public domain and a privacy impact statement is therefore not needed.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee receives further updates regarding future appointments on a quarterly basis in accordance with the Constitution.

Marion Clay
Service Director, Education, Learning & Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (AK 08/10/21)

9. This report falls within the remit of Children and Young People's Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (MDN 07/10/21)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

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

None.

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

Bassetlaw

Retford West

Councillor Mike Quigley

Broxtowe

Beeston Central and Rylands
Toton, Chilwell and Attenborough

Councillor Kate Foale
Councillor Richard Jackson
Councillor Eric Kerry

Gedling

Arnold North
Arnold North
Calverton

Councillor Pauline Allan
Councillor Michael Payne
Councillor Boyd Elliott

Newark

Newark East

Councillor Sam Smith

C1518

1 November 2021

Agenda Item: 17

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CUSTOMERS, GOVERNANCE AND EMPLOYEES

WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Committee's work programme for 2021.

Information

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.
5. The meeting dates and agenda items are subject to review in light of the ongoing COVID-19 period.

Other Options Considered

6. None.

Reason for Recommendation

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

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

1) That the Committee considers whether any amendments are required to the Work Programme.

Marjorie Toward
Service Director, Customers, Governance & Employees

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Democratic Services Officer
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Constitutional Comments (HD)

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

Financial Comments (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

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

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
13 December 2021			
Children and young people core data set - performance and finance for Quarter 2 2021/22	Quarterly performance report	Nigel Stevenson	Dave Gilbert/ Tom Pointer
Consultation outcomes and proposals to change the use of Retford Central Children's Centre		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Developing Family Hubs in Nottinghamshire		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Minster View Children's Home		Laurence Jones	Laurence Jones
Basic Need Programme of School Expansion		Marion Clay	Mike Sharpe
Progress on the Transformation Programme	Quarterly update	Laurence Jones	Laurence Jones/ Lucy Peel
Early Years & Schools Forum and Education Trust Board officer group report	Annual officer group report	Marion Clay	Marion Clay
Corporate Parenting items:			
Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers – annual report	Annual report	Marion Clay	Jo Mathieson
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards
17 January 2022			
Nottinghamshire school admission arrangements 2023-24: determination		Marion Clay	Claire Wilcoxson
Children Missing Education	Six-monthly update	Marion Clay	Sarah Whitby
Strategy for Improving Educational Opportunities for All – six monthly update		Marion Clay	Koni Rakhit
Additional staffing in the Children's Occupational Therapy Team and Short Breaks Team (Integrated Children's Disability Service)		Laurence Jones	Sandrina Mapletoft
Supporting Families update	Six-monthly update	Steve Edwards	Rachel Miller
Corporate Parenting items:			
Partnership Strategy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers 2021-2024		Marion Clay	Jo Mathieson

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards
7 March 2022			
Children and young people core data set - performance and finance for Quarter 3 2021/22	Quarterly performance report	Nigel Stevenson	Dave Gilbert/ Tom Pointer
Tackling Emerging Threats to Children Team		Marion Clay	Sarah Lee
Financial support for students in Post-16 education and exceptional payments for school clothing and footwear 2022/2023		Marion Clay	Claire Wilcoxson
Principal Child and Family Social Worker - annual report 2020/21	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Diana Bentley
Commissioning and Contracts Board annual report	Annual report from the Board	Laurence Jones	Jon Hawketts
Nottinghamshire Outstanding Achievement 4Uth Award 2021	Annual update report	Laurence Jones	Pom Bhogal
Local Authority governor appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report	Marion Clay	Sarah Sayer
Corporate Parenting items:			
Contact Service annual report	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Devon Allen
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards
25 April 2022			
Best Start Strategy Progress six month update		Laurence Jones	Irene Kakoullis
Outcomes of Ofsted inspections of schools		Marion Clay	Diane Ward
Elective Home Education update	Six-monthly update	Marion Clay	Sarah Whitby
Harmful Sexual Behaviour by children – annual report		Laurence Jones	Claire Sampson
Corporate Parenting items:			
Children Looked After Governance Board – six month update		Laurence Jones	Laurence Jones
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards
6 June 2022			
Children and young people core data set - performance and finance for Quarter 4 2021/22	Quarterly performance report	Nigel Stevenson	Dave Gilbert/ Tom Pointer
Local Transformation Plan for children and	Six monthly update	Jonathan Gribbin	Rachel Clark

REPORT TITLE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM	LEAD OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR
young people's emotional and mental health - update			
Local Authority governor appointments to school governing bodies	Quarterly report	Marion Clay	Sarah Sayer
Corporate Parenting items:			
Fostering Service: annual report and National Minimum Fostering Allowances for foster carers 2022/23		Steve Edwards	Sophie Eadsforth/Ty Yousaf
Independent Reviewing Officer Service annual report		Laurence Jones	Izzy Martin
Provision, achievements and progress of the Children in Care Council and participation of children and young people looked after 2021/22		Steve Edwards	Pom Bhogal
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards
18 July 2022			
Children Missing Education	Six-monthly update	Marion Clay	Sarah Whitby
Outcomes of Ofsted inspections of schools		Marion Clay	Diane Ward
Strategy for Improving Educational Opportunities for All – six monthly update		Marion Clay	Koni Rakhit
Corporate Parenting items:			
Child Sexual Exploitation and Children Missing from Home and Care: annual report 2021/22	Annual update	Laurence Jones	Joe Foley/ Hannah Johnson
Adoption East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency annual report 2021/22	Annual report	Steve Edwards	Shelagh Mitchell
Virtual School annual report	Annual report	Marion Clay	Sue Denholm
Foster carers items		Steve Edwards	Steve Edwards

