



Terms of Reference

Cross-Party Working Group - Review of the Governance Arrangements of the Council's Looked After Care Settings

Purpose

To review the current governance arrangements for all children in the care of Nottinghamshire County Council, i.e. those placed within internal and external residential and foster care settings. This will include undertaking an evaluation of the current Children's Homes Governance Board.

To present proposals to the Children's and Young People's Committee recommending arrangements which would provide the most effective and robust governance and scrutiny.

Background

In the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse's (IICSA) 'Children in the care of the Nottinghamshire Councils' (July 2019) report, the inquiry made reference to the Council's governance and scrutiny arrangements in regard to children in the Council's care, stating that in the 1980s and 1990s there was a "serious failure of scrutiny and governance".

In order to ensure that Nottinghamshire County Council's ongoing governance arrangements are effective in regards to children in the care of the Council, the Council's Policy Committee on the 18th September 2019 agreed to there being a review of the governance arrangements of its looked after care settings.

Membership

The Chair and Party leads of the Children and Young People's Committee will select members to sit on the working group. The membership will include the following roles:

2 Conservative Councillors (1 would Chair)

2 Labour Councillors

1 Mansfield Independents Councillor

1 Ashfield Independents Councillor

Service Director, Commissioning and Resources, Children and Families Services

Head of the Virtual School

Group Manager, Looked After Children, Leaving Care and Fostering

Group Manager, Residential Care

Group Manager, Historical Abuse / IICSA

Chair of the Children in Care Council



Timelines and Outcomes

First meeting of the group will be in February 2020, meeting over three months, in order to produce a set of recommendations for the Children and Young People's Committee in July 2020.

Administration

Administration will be provided by Philippa Milbourne.

The agenda and papers will be sent to the membership one week before the meeting is held. All enquiries should be sent to philippa.milbourne@nottscc.gov.uk.