

19 May 2014**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST PARTICIPATION STRATEGY
2014 - 2016****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Committee of the updated Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Participation Strategy for 2014 – 2016.

Information and Advice

2. Nottinghamshire Children's Trust has demonstrated its commitment to the participation of children and young people in the development of services, since the first Participation Strategy was implemented in 2006. A revised strategy was approved in 2009, and the strategy attached as **Appendix 1**, approved by the Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Board on 10 January 2014, represents a further updated strategy for 2014-2016.
3. The right of children and young people to participate is enshrined in the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child, and there is a strong expectation in regulatory frameworks such as Ofsted inspection frameworks, that local authorities and their partners evidence the effective involvement of children and young people both in individual decisions which affect their lives and in wider service design.
4. The key change to this refreshed strategy from the previous iteration is in the inclusion of families within the scope of the strategy, in recognition of the important role that parents and carers can play in shaping services.
5. The strategy identifies a number of areas for development in improving the participation of children, young people and families, as well as highlighting areas of good practice across the partnership.
6. The areas for development are as follows:
 - To embed our strategic commitment to the participation of children and young people in the Nottinghamshire Children, Young People and Families Plan.
 - To build on our current strengths of consultation and evaluation of services to create regular opportunities for children, young people and their families to participate in designing services.

- To ensure we have a workforce which regularly creates environments for children, young people and their families to be offered the opportunity to participate.

7. It is proposed that progress against the areas for development identified the strategy will be reviewed by the Participation and Positive Activities Group on behalf of the Children's Trust Board and that six monthly updates will be provided to the Board.

Other Options Considered

8. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. This strategy will enhance the participation of children, young people and their families in the design and monitoring of services provided for their benefit.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) That the updated Nottinghamshire Children's Trust Participation Strategy 2014 – 2016 be noted.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Chris Warren
Group Manager, Young People's Service
T: 0115 9774430
E: christopher.warren@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (KLA 25/04/14)

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

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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