

17 June 2019

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

YOUR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUR FUTURE – DEPARTMENTAL STRATEGY SIX MONTH REVIEW OF PROGRESS (OCTOBER 2018 – MARCH 2019)

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides the Committee with an overview of performance against the Children and Families Departmental Strategy at the end of quarter 4 of the year 2018-19.

Information

2. The Council Plan - Your Nottinghamshire, Your Future - sets out the strategic ambition for the future of Nottinghamshire and the Council. It is focused on the future of Nottinghamshire as a prosperous place where people want to live, work, visit and invest.
3. The Council Plan is the core component of the Council's Planning and Performance Framework. The Framework sets out that delivery of the Council Plan will be through four Departmental Strategies detailing the activity and key measures to achieve the Council's strategic ambition. The first four Departmental Strategies – for Adults, Children's, Place and Resources - were developed during 2017 and agreed by Policy Committee in January 2018.
4. The Planning and Performance Framework also sets out how the Council will plan and manage its performance. The approach and format for reporting this was agreed by the Improvement and Change Sub-Committee on 12 March 2018. As part of that approach Members agreed that progress against the four departmental strategies will be reported to committee every six months. This is the second of those updates.

Review of Progress from October 2018 – March 2019

5. The Dashboard set out at **Appendix 1** provides an overview of performance for the key activities and measures set out in part 3 of the Children and Families Departmental Strategy. The Dashboard is focused on the 12 Council Plan commitments and covers the second six months of October 2018 to March 2019.
6. During this period the Council has continued to operate in a challenging financial landscape with ongoing change to local authority funding coupled with many Council services experiencing continued increases in demand.

7. Progress has been made against the Children and Families Departmental Strategy, with the actions contributing across the range of Council Plan Commitments. Highlights include:

Commitment 1 – Families prosper and achieve their potential

- The Future in Mind plan was published on the Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group websites in Autumn 2018. Following publication the format of the CYP Mental Health Executive has changed to ensure task and finish groups report into one strategic group aligned to the strategic action plan.

From December 2018, Nottingham North and East and Rushcliffe have piloted mental health support teams in schools, ensuring an increase in the level of support available for children and young people. Evaluation of the pilot will follow and inform future commissioning.

Commitment 2 – Children are kept safe from harm

- Adoption East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency (AEM RAA) went live on 3 April 2019. AEM is responsible for recruiting adopters and finding adoptive families for the children of Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, and for providing adoption support in these same areas. This means Nottinghamshire children with adoption plans can be matched with a wider pool of adopters, recruited and supported by AEM RAA. This should result in timely local matches, and when a suitable family is not available, AEM RAA will work with partners in the region to find a family.

There is a now consistent adoption support offer across the region to support those affected by adoption, which will contribute to lifelong positive outcomes for children.

- Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership was formed on 1st January 2019, and intends to build on the strengths of the previous arrangements under the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). Through the introduction of new arrangements the partnership is seeking to provide a streamlined structure, reducing duplication and lessening the demand on safeguarding leads to attend meetings.

Commitment 3 – Children and young people go to good schools

- A new "Improving Educational Opportunities for All" Strategy is being developed which, in time, will replace the Closing the Gap Strategy. The draft Strategy was shared at head teacher briefings and a formal consultation will take place in June and July 2019. Final outcomes in 2018 indicate that the gap for children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM6) at both Key Stage 2 (KS2) and Key Stage 4 (KS4) have narrowed. Gaps for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) have widened slightly at KS2 but narrowed at KS4. Children from Black Minority Ethnic (BME) groups outperform non BME children at KS4 and have narrowed the gap at KS2. Looked After Children (LAC) in Nottinghamshire outperform LAC nationally at KS4 whilst the gap at KS2 has widened - this group remains statistically a very small cohort. All groups, except LAC at KS2, have improved attainment at KS2 and KS4 since 2017. A summary table in the appendix shows that, as a result of the inspections over the last term, Nottinghamshire continues to remain above the national average for all schools and secondary schools in terms of the proportion of good or better schools and is well above

the East Midlands average in all three areas. Nottinghamshire remains above the East Midlands average, but below the national average in terms of the proportion of primary schools that are good or better.

8. Further progress is expected to be made against the actions in the Departmental Strategy over the next six months. Particular attention will be given to any commitment where delivery of an action has not yet been matched by a change in the measure of success linked to it. This will include:

Commitment 2 – Children are kept safe from harm

- Progress on mobilising the Social Impact Bond has stalled during the latter part of the current period, following the withdrawal of the social investor from the provider-led delivery consortium. The provider remains committed to the programme and is actively seeking a replacement social investor. Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, and Derby City Councils continue to support this process in liaison with The Big Lottery Fund which will provide financial support to the programme once it gets underway.
9. The Committee is invited to consider the progress reported in **Appendix 1** and any further information that it might require.

Other Options Considered

10. The matters set out in the report are intended to provide effective and proportionate performance management reporting to the Department and the Committee. This approach was agreed by the Improvement and Change Sub-Committee in March 2018 and no other options were considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

11. The Council's Constitution requires each Committee to review performance in relation to the services provided on a regular basis. The recommendation contributes to this requirement.

Statutory and Policy Implications

12. 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

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

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Committee considers the performance issues outlined in the report and whether any additional information or actions are required in relation to them.

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Constitutional Comments (EP 21/05/19)

14. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required, it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SAS 23/05/19)

15. 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.

Departmental Strategies – report to Policy Committee on 24 January 2018.

Your Nottinghamshire Your Future – Departmental Strategy six month review of progress (April to September 2018).

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1248